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THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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2005



21st Annual Korean War Veterans Association Convention

2-5 October 2005
Bossier City, Louisiana

Guest Speaker
The Honorable R. James Nicholson
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

At the
Isle of Capri Resort Hotel & Casino

Invitations & Reservations
INSIDE!

Don't miss coming to what should be the
Biggest & Best Convention Ever!



The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



The Graybeards is an official publication of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA), Camp Beauregard, Louisiana. Mailing address: 163 Deerbrook Trail, Pineville, LA 72360. Website: <http://www.kwva.org>. It is published six times a year for members and friends of the organization. It is not sold by subscription.

We Honor Founder William Norris

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From the President

Louis T. Dechert



Friends, Members, and Veterans,

I am certain that you were thinking “this *Graybeards* is different” before you even got to this page! You are right—different front and back, and all points in between.

I recently completed a whirlwind trip through two Departments and Chapters in five states. Our members in MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS, RHODE ISLAND, NEW YORK, and FLORIDA were almost 100% in **PRAISE OF THE NEW GRAYBEARDS—AND EDITOR ART SHARP**—as well as looking forward to the future of the KWVA.

As you read my remarks, and other news throughout the magazine—indicating how we are serving the five million veterans who have served in Korea, 1950 until this very hour—I ask that you stop and reflect on the fact that we do it all with one paid, part-time employee, a great editor, a great webmaster, a great Return Visit program, and with dedicated Directors, Officers, Appointees, Departments and Chapters of the KWVA.

Another program receiving very high marks was the **MEMBERSHIP, CHAPTER AND DEPARTMENT RECORDS MANAGEMENT** effort of Jake Feaster, Supervisor of Membership Records, and Jim Doppelhammer, the Webmaster at www.kwva.org. Jim is one of our newest members. He joined as an Associate Member last month as we launched our new “**Membership Recruiting Committee**.” **RETURN VISITS** also drew praise as the first trips this year approach. There was much interest in the **BYLAWS REVISION** process. And there was excitement over the **MEMBERSHIP GAINS** (six new chapters since July 27th of last year, and 495 new members since January 2005; eight new chapters are pending). Membership totals as of 5/17/05 were 17,355 total members, comprising 16,966 voting members and 389 associate members.

I saw and heard evidence that the word on the **RECRUITING TASK FORCE** was getting around. The first **BROAD SCALE DISTRIBUTION OF GRAYBEARDS** to American warriors engaged in the defense of the freedom wrested from communism in 1950-1953, a program begun by Member Kenneth Buckley on his own initiative, February, 2005, was praised.

There was also excitement concerning **LEGISLATIVE MATTERS** as we told the members at the grassroots level of the successes achieved in the legislatures and state houses (I met with Governors Romney, Mass, and Baldacci, Maine). Legislation developed and advanced in the area’s chapters—KWVA and KVA—has defined and extended veterans’ rights, a major achievement in the face of Washington, DC’s evident major interest

in cutting funding. These local successes are serving to spur our intentions and efforts for a **FEDERAL CHARTER** this year! You will hear more on this later.

There was also great interest and much talk about the Director **ELECTIONS** now underway. Don’t forget to vote!

In this issue, please carefully examine the pages concerning the **KWVA ANNUAL CONVENTION**, October 2-5, in Bossier City/Shreveport/Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. We expect the Convention to be outstanding. With the **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, THE HONORABLE R. JAMES “JIM” NICHOLSON KEYNOTING A BANQUET** where we will all be honored, attendance of up to 900 is expected. The Barksdale Annual Luncheon honoring the **PURPLE HEART VETERANS** held May 20th attracted several hundred, many of them Korean War wounded. The same hosts, Barksdale Retired Activities Office and Col Steve dePyssler, USAF, Ret, are hosting our Convention.

Finally, don’t miss two great presentations in this issue besides those already mentioned. The **KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION** is the custodian of our heritage and that of those who will yet serve in our nation’s wars, wherever situated—*Soldiering is cumulative*. I quoted on the website something that I read years ago which sums up this *cumulative nature of soldiering*, as I watched some of our young men soldiering in Korea today: *As they are, we were; and as we are, they will one day be*. Our MEMORIAL has great plans. They need our help; read fellow member Bill Weber’s pages concerning the MEMORIAL. He will have space in every future issue to discuss and promote our MEMORIAL.

The good of the Order. We often use the words and neglect the meaning. Read the comments of an admiring “outsider,” Attorney Jimmy Faircloth, For the good of the Order.

Read, enjoy, and gain a new resolve for the future of the KWVA. I will be seeing you on the road, on www.kwva.org, and in *The Graybeards*!

National KWVA Fund Raiser Flower Rose of Sharon

The Rose of Sharon is the National KWVA fund raising flower. The Rose of Sharon is sold by the dozen.

- Sample order is 4 dozen @ \$10 plus \$3.00 S/H.
- Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$50 plus \$5.00 S/H.

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Baltimore, MD 21234
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Make Checks payable to: **Maryland Chapter – KWVA**

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Military Shop - 4 color

COLOR AD



My Affair With Mel Ann Noma

A lot has happened since we last spoke. Although I don't like to discuss my personal life in public, I have to confess to having an affair with Mel Ann Noma, which affected you readers, albeit indirectly. Oh, it's okay: my wife, Betsy, knows about it. In fact, she is the one who uncovered it while on a recon mission. I am happy to report that it turned out all right, after a "quick strike" military operation...

I met Mel Ann Noma on March 10, 2005. That simple meeting led to a military operation that involved "Private" Rooms, "Corporal" Punishment, "Major" Surgery, "General" Anesthesia, sentinels, a "navel" invasion... Here is what happened.

My wife detected Mel Ann Noma hiding in my navel during a routine "junk on the bunk" inspection. She reported it to my primary care physician, who happens to be an old (not in terms of years) flight surgeon. He ordered a "navel" inspection, i.e., a biopsy.

Enter a surgeon who claimed to be a "minimally invasive" specialist. He invited me into his office, gave me a local anesthesia (I guess they call it local because I live near his office), excised the growth named Mel Ann Noma (although he called it a melanoma), and sent it out for tests. That began my separation from Mel Ann Noma. I felt like I was losing part of her and part of me as we went our separate ways.

The biopsy results came back positive. Cancer! Dr. Minimally Invasive ordered more tests, i.e., a CAT scan, lymphoscintigraphy. (Now there is a test everyone should take at least once in a lifetime. It is a nuclear medicine test in which the technician inserts six needles filled with a dye into the suspect tumor area. The needles are about the size of the lances used by the knights of old in their jousting contests. Apparently, the dye knows enough to go directly to the lymph nodes which are the first to accept the drainage from Mel Ann Noma. They are known as "sentinel" nodes—but they didn't do their sentinel duty once Dr. Minimally Invasive started digging around them. Then, a CAT-type scan identifies them in glorious living

Please submit to the editor any ideas or plans you have about library distribution of *The Graybeards* as a way to reach out to people who are unaware of the KWVA's existence

color.) The tests verified that Mel Ann Noma was malignant. The rest of her had to go.

So, it was off to the operating room. First, though, I made sure that I completed the March/April issue of *The Graybeards*. That was my first priority. "Then, and only then," I told the doctor, "would I be able to undergo the operation." I completed it, and submitted to the inevitable.

I went bravely to the OR, where I met the rest of my military team: "Major" Surgery "General" Anesthesia, "Private" Rooms et al. Dr. Minimally Invasive apparently hung me from a meat hook and performed surgery using a chain saw and an awl. He sliced me open with the saw to remove my belly button and punched holes a little farther down with the awl to extract the affected lymph nodes, the so-called "sentinel" nodes. These sentinels failed me. Never once did they ask the doctor, "Halt! Who goes there?" Obviously, they were not walking their post in a military manner, keeping always on the alert, and observing everything that took place within sight and hearing. They just let him slip through the lines without a password to continue his assault. I guess General Anesthesia outranked General Orders.

Once the two-and-one-half hour operation was over, the good folks at the hospi-

tal sent me to a "Private" Room for the night. When I woke up I had a dressing the size of a bed pillow covering my stomach—and Mel Ann Noma was gone completely. She had run away with my belly button! Fickle temptress! I felt worse physically than I did when my humane DIs practiced their unique brand of tough love, aka corporal punishment, at Parris Island oh so many years ago. But, I survived them—and I survived this "navel" operation as well.

Anyway, that was two months ago. During the recovery period, I neglected a few chores and put my normal work aside. I had to save my strength to get the next issue of *The Graybeards* out on time. That explains in part why so many of you who called and/or e-mailed me got to talk to Betsy instead of me. Apparently, that did not bother too many of you, several of whom have said—in a most patronizing and unconvincing way—that they were sorry they missed me, but "She was much nicer to talk to."

Well, I am back and my recovery is almost complete. I have received a clean bill of health. And, as you can no doubt see, I have been able to apply my efforts to put together this issue. Betsy has been very helpful. She has forgiven me for my affair, but I will never forget Mel Ann Noma. Sure, I hope I never see her again, but she will always be in the back of my mind—but *The Graybeards* will always be in the front.

Check Your Mailing Label

Membership Number
First two letters reflect membership type

Membership Dues Expiration Date. The example shows a dues date of January 1st, 2005

| |
|-------------------------------------------------------|
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| R012345 01/01/05 |
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Check your name and address (Apt./Bldg/Lot No.). Notify the Membership Chairman if you find an error. **If your zip code does not contain 9 digits (zip+4)**, your address is not correct according to the USPS. Contact your local Post Office for proper format.

Important: If barcode does not extend across full label, your zip code does not have 9 digits and your address is not correct according to the USPS. Contact your local Post Office for proper format.

Thanks for Supporting The Graybeards

Many members have responded to the suggestion to help underwrite the cost of publication of *The Graybeards* by making voluntary contributions. Remarkably, *The Graybeards* is still being printed despite cost restraints. Happily, a change of printers and mailers has allowed us to reduce the cost per issue—and upgrade your magazine in the process.

Your heartening response has made it possible to increase the quality of *The Graybeards*, and make desired changes in subsequent issues.

We greatly appreciate your help—and we invite you to continue your

generous support.

Make checks out to KWVA, Support of Graybeards, or to KWVA with a note in the memo (Or “for”) section at the bottom of the check “Support of Graybeards.”

Send checks to Richard E. Hare, 1260 Southampton Drive, Alexandria, LA 71303.

Every donation will be acknowledged in *The Graybeards*.

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| DiPalma, Anthony | New York | Newkirk, Floyd D. | Virginia | In memory of those who | |
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| | | Skipka, Edward | Ohio | | |

KWVA Executive Council Meeting

JULY 25-26, 2005

The Secretary of the Korean War Veterans Association of the USA announces a scheduled meeting of the Executive Council of the KWVA in Arlington, Virginia, July 24-28, 2005.

Unless notified otherwise by Committee Chairmen or the Secretary, all voting members of the Executive Council are expected to travel to the site on July 24, attend Committee Meetings on July 25, attend the Executive Council Meeting on July 26, attend the Memorial and Arlington Ceremonies and the Banquet on July 27, and travel on July 28.

HOTEL INFORMATION:

- Place:** Quality Hotel & Suites (a Choice Hotel) Courthouse Plaza
- Location:** 1200 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington, VA 22201
- Room Rate:** \$90.00 - Single & double occupancy
- Reservations:** Phone 1-888-987-2555.
Your code is: KOR 12.
- All reservations must be made by 5 July 2005.**

An additional Memo and Schedule will be mailed later to each Officer, Director, Appointee, Committeeman, and others who are expected to attend this Executive Council Meeting.

All questions should be addressed to KWVA Secretary.

Don Duquette, KWVA Secretary
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GRAYBEARDS SUBMISSION DEADLINES

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

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

Korean War Veterans Certificate

The beautiful, full color 11" x 17" certificate pictured on the right is now available. It is produced on parchment-like stock.

A special certificate is available to family members of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the Korean War or who died of wounds received. The individual request should have the date of death and place and be certified by the requester.

Veterans who want to have a certificate made up for the spouse or descendant of a fallen buddy and can certify to the event, may do so. Multiple copies of the same certificate can be ordered if you have a number of children/grandchildren. You may order certificates to give to members of your unit or provide them with an order form.



Please be sure all information is printed clearly or typed and include your serial number and unit designation while in Korea. In some instances, it may be necessary to abbreviate. Begin your unit designation with the smallest designation and list to the largest.

The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing tube and total cost is \$20.00 paid in advance. This beautiful certificate can be framed in a 16" x 20" frame with appropriate matting, mounted on a 12" x 18" placard or a walnut plaque.

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- I certify that I served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces in combat/support of the Korean War: 6/25/50– 7/27/53.
 I certify that I served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces in Korea (9/3/45 to present – if not during above period.)
 I served in: Army Air Force Navy Marines Coast Guard Other

I would like the following information on the certificate:

Rank (Optional) _____ First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____ Serial Number _____

_____ Spell out full unit starting with the smallest group (i.e., Company, Battalion and/or Regiment, Division)

Killed in action: Date & Place _____ Died of Wounds Received: Date & Place _____

Mailing Information:

Name _____ Telephone Number _____

Street Address _____ Apt No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 Code _____

Signature and date _____

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Send cash or make checks/money orders in the amount of \$20.00 for each certificate payable to N. C. Monson. Mail to: N. C. Monson, 5911 North 2nd Street, Arlington, VA 22203.

UPDATE

Recruiting in Korea

■ **Some said it Couldn't be done**

Maybe it can't, but KWVA leadership won't quit without trying! The Recruiting Task Force is already paying off - at Home and Overseas!

The following email received tells a big story...

From: Ross, Randy S. MAJ DIV INF 2 BDE
randy.ross@korea.army.mil]

Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 12:38 AM

To: Louis T Dechert; Jeff Brodeur

Subject: RE: IRON TRIANGLE / 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION / KWVA INFORMATION

Gentlemen,

Your response has been outstanding. Thank you all so much for coming up on the net. It makes great sense that we should have an active relationship between your organization and today's troopers in Korea. My commander responded back to me today that we have plenty that we can share with your Graybeards Magazine to keep you informed about the Army in Korea. I also intend to publicize the KWVA throughout the Second Infantry Division here and let our soldiers know that they're eligible for membership.

As you know South Korea is a fast changing place. The evidence of freedom and opportunity is everywhere as the country grows and prospers. The sacrifices of the Vets of past

years have helped to make this possible. Whenever we train up in the Chorwon or through any of the rugged hills and narrow valleys, especially in the dead of the winter cold or the steaming summer heat, we think and talk about how doggone tough those troopers that fought in these hills 50 years ago had to be.

Know that you have our respect. That will be part of the Iron Triangle Club; it will help to tell the story of the Soldiers and the units that served here and continue to serve here. I am also working with COL (RET) William Alexander, the curator of the 2ID Museum at Camp Red Cloud. He is always improving his position down there and has built a great exhibit on the Battle of Chipyong Ni.

To Jeff: Thank you for your letter and contribution of photos. We just closed Camp Garry Owen this past fall, along with all the camps in the Western Corridor. We're in the process of handing over the JSA mission to the Koreans. They are accepting more of their own defense tasks every day. 4-7 CAV now hangs its hat on Camp Hovey as part of the 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, as we transform along with the rest of the Army. I will share your photos and story with them. You know that the CAV is proud of its history and its troopers.

Thanks for taking time to bring us into the loop. I look forward to working with you all in the near future.

MAJ Randy Ross
Iron 2, President

NEWS FROM KOREA

KWVA members have succeeded in making contact with U.S. Army personnel currently stationed in Korea. That gives our members and their successors the opportunity to communicate directly. It also means that we will include in each issue of *The Graybeards* an update from Korea.

Let's start the procedure straight-away.

Dear Sirs,

My name is Maj. Randy Ross. I am the S2 of the 1st (Iron) Brigade/2d Infantry Division at Camp Hovey, Korea. We have recently made a decision to rename our club on Camp Hovey the Iron Triangle in honor of the US Army and 2d Infantry Division's proud history of service during the Korean War in the Iron Triangle Area. The Brigade Commander, Col. Michael Feil's wish is to create a place where soldiers can have a good meal or a couple of drinks surrounded by memorabilia of our division's and our brigade's proud history. We are working with the 2d Infantry Division museum to find photographs of 2ID soldiers who served in that area, but also realize that maybe some veterans might have photographs or artifacts that they may wish to contribute to this project. Also, if any of your 2D Vets have stories or observations of their time in the Iron Triangle that they wish to share, we would be happy to have them. Our brigade is now composed of the 2nd BN, 9th Infantry; 1st and 2nd BN, 72nd Armor; 1st BN, 15th Field Artillery; 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry; and the 302nd Forward Support Battalion.

If you could pass this along to your members I would greatly appreciate it. I hope to share the history of your service with our soldiers currently on the line. My contact information is below. Thank you for your time.

MAJ Randy Ross
Iron Brigade S2
HHC, 1st Brigade, 2ID
Unit 15596
APO AP 96224-5596
randy.ross@korea.army.mil,
randy.ross@us.army.mil

Death Notice of a Member of KWVA

The following notice is submitted for publication:

Name of deceased _____

Date of death _____

Department/Chapter _____

Address _____

Army Navy Marine Corps Air Force Coast Guard

Other _____
Primary Unit of service during Korean War

Submitted by _____

Relationship to deceased _____

Send to: Membership, P.O. Box 101238, Arlington, VA 22210



POW/MIA Update

by Marty O'Brien

On April 3, 2005, Veterans Radio (WAAM, Ann Arbor, Michigan) presented the second in a continuing series of talk radio shows covering the Korean War. <<http://www.veteransradio.net>>

The subject was Father Emil Kapaun, chaplain for the 8th Cavalry Regiment, who was captured in North Korea, on November 2, 1950, and died on May 23, 1951 in Camp #5 on the Yalu River.

The Reverend John Hotze, Archdiocese of Wichita, presented background information on the pending nomination of Father Emil Kapaun for sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church, based on his heroic actions on behalf of his fellow prisoners while in captivity. Lieutenant Colonel William Latham, US Army, a professor of history at West Point, skillfully presented the timeline for the political and military background leading up to the intervention of the Chinese Communist Forces in Korea in late October and early November 1950 and Father Kapaun's capture.

Ray M. "Mike" Dowe, Jr., who was in the prison camp with Father Kapaun, picked up on the story and spoke about Father Kapaun's love for his fellow prisoners and the love they returned to him. First Lieutenant Dowe was a member of the 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. A graduate of West Point, Class of '50, Mike was captured on November 4, 1950 by the Chinese and spent 34 months in captivity. He was a close friend of Father Kapaun.

Veterans Radio did an excellent job in putting together the April 3 program. All credit goes to Al Makkay of the Cape & Islands Chapter (Cape Cod) and Bob Gould of Veterans Radio for their great collaborative efforts to get this show on the air.

Meanwhile, Al and others continue their dedicated work toward Father Kapaun's sainthood and the award of the Medal of Honor.

On March 7, 2005, Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, Archbishop for the Military Services, Archdiocese for the Military Services, IL, USA, Washington, DC, sent a letter to the Army's Senior Decorations Board, c/o Lt. Gen. James Campbell, Director of the Army Staff, 202 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310, recommending that Father Kapaun be awarded the Medal of Honor.

On April 27, the US Federation of Korea Veterans Organizations, Alexandria, Louisiana, of which the Korean War Veterans Association and the Korea Veterans of America are members, also sent a letter of recommendation for the Medal of Honor, along with a resolution adopted by the USFKVO.

Now, a couple of significant deaths to report.

LTC Filmore W. McAbee

On April 23, 2005, former POW and retired Army LTC Filmore W. McAbee, 85, of Cummaquid, Massachusetts, died after a long illness. Twenty one members of the American Legion and the Cape & Islands Chapter, KWVA, provided the honors for the burial ceremony at Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne.

Retired Lieutenant Colonel McAbee was a highly decorated warrior; his numerous awards and medals included two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, and the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

In World War II, he commanded rifle companies in the 349th Infantry Regiment, 88th Infantry Division, and earned a Bronze Star and a Silver Star within a period of four months. In Korea, McAbee was a company commander in the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, and later served as battalion operations officer.

He earned his second Silver Star by leading a brilliant attack against a heavily defended hill during the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter.

On November 2, 1950 at Unsan, North Korea, Captain McAbee was severely wounded and captured by the Chinese and spent nearly three years in "Happy Valley," aka "Kapaun Valley," and Camps #5 and #2.

There, McAbee and others maintained discipline and kept the prisoners BUSY planning an escape if UN forces arrived. After the Chinese took control of Camp 5, McAbee was severely tortured because of his activities and because of his close relationship with Father Kapaun.

Father Philip Crosbie

KWVA member Tom Cacciola of Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, sent us some interesting material about the Columban Order of Roman Catholic missionaries in Korea. In the aftermath of the North Korean invasion of South Korea, 6 of its 41 priests were murdered by the Communists in the early days and months of the war; 3 were taken POW. One died en route to the prison camps. The other two survived the camps and the war. Father Philip Crosbie, a Columban missionary, was one of them.

Recently, Wilbert "Shorty" Estabrook wrote to tell us of the passing of his friend Father Crosbie in his native Australia on Tuesday, 22 March 2005, at age 89. Arrested by the North Koreans on 6 July 1950, Father Crosbie traveled with a group of civilian lay and religious internees who later joined a group of hundreds of soldiers on their way to Communist prison camps along the Yalu River.

Father Crosbie was the author of *Pencilling Prisoner*, Hawthorne Press, Melbourne, Australia, 1954, an account of his captivity based on his diary, also published under the titles *March Till They Die* and *Three Winters Cold*. In remembering "Tiger Survivor" Father Crosbie, Shorty wrote, "Father Crosbie had a long life and was a dear friend to all of us. He had a quick wit about him and suffered long and hard as a Civilian Internee Tiger Survivor. So, we think of you now Father Crosbie, Catholics and Protestants and Muslims alike. We miss you so very much."

More Information Available Re POWs/MIAs

There are numerous sources of information regarding POWs and MIAs which space does not allow us to print in *The Graybeards*. Many of them are available through our web site. Following is a list of articles that can be accessed via links on

that site. Access www.kwva.org/pow/mia

- Official U.S. Government website on personnel accounting and personnel recovery matters
 - Direct link to Korean War Resources Page
 - Direct link to Korean War POW/MIA (PMKOR) Database Page
- DoD News Releases listed below...

Announcements:

- Family buries remains of Korean War soldier five decades later (5/10/05)
- Veterans Radio Announces Show on Korean POW Experience in Korea (4/27/05)
- Many Groups Join in Effort to Award MOH to US Army Chaplain who Died as POW in Korea (4/24/05)
- U.S. Team Again Searching for Remains of MIAs in North Korea (4/22/05)
- Shepherd in Combat Boots - Father Emil Kapaun (UPDATE 4/20/05)
- Repatriation Ceremony Information (4/6/05)
- Father Philip Crosbie Given "Promotion to Glory" on Tue. Mar. 22, 2005 at age 89
- Air Force Captain Troy "Gordie" Cope of Norfolk, AR will be buried in Plano, TX on May 31 (3/7/05)
- ROK Daily: U.S., North to Meet Over War Remains (3/4/05)
- Special POW Report from Rick Tavares (2/27/05)

Resources:

- Advocacy & Intelligence Index For POWs-MIAs Archives (Andi Wolos' website)
- American Battle Monuments Commission - Korean War Honor Roll - Search Page
- Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing
- Korean War MIA Family Outreach Project
- Korean War Resources - KORWALD Reports (Korean War Aircraft Loss Database)
- Pennsylvania's POW/MIAs website

DoD News Releases:

- U.S. MIA Team Visit to North Korea Announced (DoD News Release 4/20/05)
- Missing Korean War Serviceman Identified (DoD News Release 2/25/05)
- U.S. Seeks Continued Chinese Cooperation on POW/MIA Issue (DoD News Release 2/24/05)
- U.S. – North Korea Reach Agreement on Recovery of U.S. MIA (DoD News Release 11/19/04)
- Remains of American MIAs Found in North Korea (DoD News Release 10/8/04)
- Remains of American MIAs Found in North Korea (DoD News Release 9/9/04)
- Remains of U.S. Servicemen Found in North Korea (DoD News Release 5/24/04)

Martin J. O'Brien, CavKVet50@aol.com, 27 Meadow Rd. #202, Augusta, Maine 04330 http://www.kwva.org/pow_mia/

Rumors About A Name Change

A couple members have contacted the editor recently with queries about the proposed name change for the KWVA. At this point, to paraphrase non-member Mark Twain, "Rumors about the name change are greatly exaggerated."

It is true that some members of the organization have been discussing the possibility of a name change. BUT, THAT IS ALL IT IS: A DISCUSSION, as President Lou Dechert points out in an e-mail to a concerned member.

The member wrote in an e-mail to the editor, with a copy to President Dechert:

This is a message I sent in regard to the "Changing the name of our organization."

I am sending the message so my thoughts can be shared with you. I do hope the name of our organization is never changed. Thank you for allowing me the time it took for you to read this message.

.....
Charles...

The President responded:

Dear Charles,

So far as I know there has been no official proposal to change the name of the KWVA, nor have there been proposals or suggestions in any official channels that would result in an official proposal to change the name.

You may be assured that everyone will be informed if we ever receive or make an official name change proposal. It is required in the Bylaws, would take a year to accomplish, finally going to the members in an annual meeting for their discussion – such as you have just done – and an up or down vote or other parliamentary action.

Members have discussed this among themselves for many years, most recently by a Director in an email to several of his acquaintances.

Thanks, Charles, for your service and your serious and constructive comment on this issue.

Lou Dechert

And there the matter rests.

COVER PHOTOS NEEDED

We are looking for cover photos for future editions of *The Graybeards*. The criteria are simple:

- ★ need color prints
- ★ portrait (vs landscape)
- ★ 8 x 10 size (ideally)
- ★ taken in Korea!

If you have any photos that fit those criteria, please let me know.

Thanks.

Art Sharp, Editor

'For the Good of the Order'

By Jimmy Faircloth

All organizations with elected leadership experience the tension between the good of the organization and the good of individual members or groups. The present state of our federal government is a prime example. This unavoidable consequence of democracy presents a delicate dance of potentially conflicting interests that must be balanced. And it's not unusual that the balance is temporarily lost. To survive, organizations must minimize and shorten the duration of these occasions. Failure to do so results in tyranny or anarchy, both of which doom the organization.

When KWVA President Lou Dechert first contacted me about representing the organization, he described classic symptoms of organizational decay, such as an overly active political environment, multiple disputed versions of bylaws, and allegations of election fraud, officer misconduct, and the wrongful expulsion of members, to name a few. I assumed the organization had simply lost its balance and, like any other organization, could be cured by a dose of formality and order. I was partially correct; the KWVA is indeed on the fast track to recovery. It is not, however, a typical organization. The difference is related to the traditional meaning of the parliamentary phrase often used by KWVA members and at meetings: "for the good of the order."

The "Order" of the KWVA

KWVA meetings are conducted in accordance with the parliamentary procedures provided by Roberts Rules of Order, the most widely accepted parliamentary guide. Roberts identifies "Good of the Order" as the last agenda item prior to adjournment. According to Scott A. Lukas, author of *Parliamentary Guidelines for Local Senates*:

This is a time, generally at the end of official business, in which members can make comments, offer commendations, or just "clear the air" in an "off the record" manner. The good of the order speaks to aims and values of the organization. It is often a good time for the [deliberative body] to come together, particularly after controversial or divisive business has been heard.

"Order," as used here, applies to any organization following Roberts, but it has roots directly to the sacred and noble Orders of the middle ages, which suggests there must be a higher cause uniformly committing the members, something unselfish. The *American Heritage Dictionary* provides 30 definitions for the noun usage of "order." The most fitting is "an organization of people united by some common fraternal bond or social aim," which seems to exclude organizations united by recreational interests.

In preparation for the KWVA Executive Council and Membership meetings in Knoxville last fall, I read dozens of contentious e-mail messages published on the Ad Hoc, and I could only assume the meetings would be equally as adversarial. In fact, the meetings were surprisingly civil and productive. Yet, there was something ironic and uniquely disturbing about the political tension. I figured it out during the presentation of the Colors at the Membership meeting, when patriotism suddenly filled the room and there was absolute unity for a single unselfish

cause. You could feel it, or at least I could, because I had never felt it so strongly. At that moment I realized the KWVA is not a typical organization; it's an Order in the traditional sense, rooted in the fraternal bond of patriotism. The irony was the fact that an organization - an Order - committed to such an unselfish cause had lost its way amidst so many personal conflicts.

Restoring order to the "Order"

Respect for rank and authority is equally as important to corporate success as to military success. Formality, as stuffy as it may be, is the most proven method to maintain authority and promote confidence in, and respect for, leadership. Not simply ceremonial formality, but formality in the creation of rules and authority, and in the administration of that authority.

President Dechert and the Executive Council have made major strides toward removing from the leadership decision-making process the personal conflicts that had become such a dominant part of the equation. Two of the most substantial steps have been the proposed revision of the Bylaws, the entirety of which was published in the last issue of the *Graybeards*, and the creation of the Ethics and Grievance Committee to investigate complaints. Both deserve close review by the membership.

The Proposed 2005 Bylaws

The Bylaws Committee, chaired by Director Bill Mac Swain, was the workhorse for this enormous undertaking. The Committee was tasked with making recommendations for amendments to the standing Bylaws (the 2000 version) based on numerous modifications proposed during the past five years. Many proposed recommendations were analyzed and debated at length in Committee meetings and the March 15, 2005 meeting of the Executive Council (which will be known as the Board of Directors if the proposed revisions are ratified). Careful consideration was given to curing problematic language which caused or contributed to many past disputes, especially those involving membership rights, the election of officers, the appointment of Committees and terms of office, among other things.

The Ethics and Grievance Process

The 2000 Bylaws provide that "the Executive Council by a two-thirds vote of those in attendance may suspend or expel a member for just cause after an appropriate hearing" and that the decision must then be voted on at the "at the next general membership meeting." There is no description of how a complaint reaches the Executive Council in the first place, or of what constitutes "just cause" or an "appropriate hearing." The lack of detail in this important grant of authority has contributed to several hotly contested disputes.

Following the 2004 elections, President Dechert received numerous allegations of misconduct and demands for action. To promote objectivity and fairness, the Ethics and Grievance Committee (E&G Committee) was created. This Committee has no authority to discipline. It merely investigates allegations and makes recommendations to the President, who then decides whether to refer the matter to the Executive Council for formal disposition.

The E&G Committee made several recommendations to President Dechert prior to the March 15th meeting, which were then tendered to the Executive Council for consideration. The recommendations were either accepted or rejected, in whole or part, or returned to the E&G for further investigation. Director Harley Coon's resignation from the Council (for health reasons) mooted several issues referred by the E&G, and President Dechert wisely exercised his discretion to decline to refer those matters for formal Executive Council consideration.

The E&G process has removed the President as the referee for grievances, and it provides the Executive Council a reliable evidentiary basis on which to consider charges. But, above all else, it serves as a barrier to prevent personal motives and politics from corrupting the disciplinary process.

At present, the E&G Committee serves as a special committee appointed at the pleasure of the President, under Article III of the 2000 Bylaws. The proposed 2005 Bylaws will formally authorize this process within Article I, by providing: "Charges shall be investigated by an Ethics and Grievance Committee following the guidelines in the Standard Procedure Manual. Facts will be referred to the Board of Directors for their discipline action." The findings and recommendations of the E&G Committee are privileged and, hence, will not be disclosed to members unless and until referred to the Executive Council for disposition.

It is strongly recommended that this process be maintained and that the work of the E&G Committee continue to be held in confidence. Anonymity is important to protecting objectivity. This is akin to the grand jury process used by all states and in the federal system, where allegations of misconduct are reviewed in confidence as a predicate to formal charges. There are statutory privileges protecting grand jury proceedings and felony charges for those who violate those privileges. The fundamental difference between a grand jury and the E&G Committee, however, is that a grand jury has the authority to indict (i.e., formally charge), while the E&G can only make recommendations.

The only detractors to this process seem to be those who desire to air allegations directly to the Executive Council or to directly confront the E&G Committee and challenge its findings. Such personal motives do not justify abandoning a process that so clearly benefits the collective good of the Order. In any event, the current bylaws implicitly provide for direct filing by a member of the Executive Council, although procedures and safeguards from that point are not addressed.

E-Mail - A Threat to Civility

Finally, having reviewed hundreds of e-mails published on the Ad Hoc by KWVA members, I offer a brief commentary on a related subject that plagues my profession, and which apparently threatens the KWVA as well.

Lawyers are supposed to act like Gregory Peck's character in *To Kill a Mocking Bird* - tenacious but gracious, firm but compassionate. But, that's only in the movies. In reality, it is difficult at best to balance adversity with civility, and many lawyers fail miserably. The internet has made this balance even more difficult by providing a semi-formal medium to say things that are too bold or outrageous to say either face to face or in letter. I have

attended seminars where lawyers are lectured on the proper etiquette for e-mail communications.

The right to free speech is the cornerstone of democracy. But, it can provide for much mischief, unless exercised with discretion. There are many things I'd like to say on a variety of topics, but choose not to say because of concern about personal embarrassment or professional repercussions. Although discretion is a matter of personal choice, and varies from person to person, most people share a common understanding about which thoughts should be shared and which should be held. E-mail appears to distort discretion, by emboldening the writer with a false sense of anonymity, leading to loosely exchanged threats, criticisms and, often times, slanderous accusations about others. I have seen these on the Ad Hoc.

The internet is a valuable tool for exchanging ideas about the KWVA. For the good of the Order, I encourage members to exercise discretion when using it, lest you'll be reduced to acting like a bunch of lawyers.

Biography

Jimmy R. Faircloth, Jr. is managing partner of the law firm Faircloth, Vilar & Elliott in Alexandria, Louisiana. He is a graduate of Georgia State University College of Law (J.D., 1989) and Emory University Law School (LL.M., 1990), and is Board Certified in Civil Trial Advocacy by the American Board of Trial Advocacy. He practices primarily in the areas of corporate and governmental law and litigation and has represented numerous private and governmental boards and deliberative bodies.

LOOKING FOR COMBAT BUDDIES?



**NOW HAVE
FOUND 28,122
KOREAN WAR
VETERANS. TO
ADD TO THIS
LIST OR DISCOV-
ER WHOM I
HAVE FOUND
GIVE A CALL.**

**KOREAN WAR
VETERANS WHO
WANT TO FIND
BUDDIES NOW
MAY DO SO. NO**

**FEES. IF I HAVE GUYS FROM YOUR UNIT, I PRINT
AND MAIL THEM TO YOU. USUALLY HAVE THEIR
NAMES, ADDRESSES, PHONE #'S AND UNITS
SERVED IN.**

THIS MAKES MY LIFE ALL WORTHWHILE.

**CALL OR MAIL TO: DICK GALLMEYER
PO BOX 8946 VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. 23450-8946
1-800-523-4715 MSG1GAL@aol.com**

**NATIONAL 11th REUNION 3-6 OCT, 2005
LAUGHLIN, NEVADA**

LET'S GET A HEAD START ON THE 2005 KWVA CONVENTION

The KWVA will be holding its 2005 Convention at the Isle of Capri Hotel & Casino in Bossier City, LA, October 2-5. That may seem like a long way off, but it is really just around the corner. So, we will provide you with a bit of information, a few forms, etc, in this issue of *The Graybeards*. We will give you the complete package in the July/August issue.

Start making your plans now.

**Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA)
2005 National Convention
2 – 5 October, Bossier City, Louisiana**



ACCOMMODATIONS

Bossier City's premier luxury hotel and casino * This Caribbean-themed hotel casino sizzles with the newest slots and the hottest table games. Discover a bigger and better paradise where the fun never stops. Relax in our 570-room all-suite hotel, experience fine dining, our lavish buffet or deli. It's the best place to play and star * 24-hour casino action * An all-luxury-suite hotel with jet tubs in every room * New 36-space RV Park with full hook-ups and amenities * \$2 million heated outdoor pool and Coconut Cay poolside bar * Full service Palms Spa * Fitness Center * Kitt's Kitchen & Rum Mill * Fantasy Isle Arcade, the region's best live entertainment in the all-new Events Center. Isle of Capri Casino & Hotel. 711 Isle of Capri Blvd., Bossier City. LA 71111 - I-20. Exit 20A - Bossier City. 3-800-843-4753.

ACTIVITIES

Red River Cruise

Take a ride on the Red River with the Spirit of the Red River Cruise. This enchanting tour-shows you the tranquil beauty of the Red River and Crass Bayou. Learn how the logging industry that once dominated the Red River in the 1800s has been replaced by the gaming industry. This one-hour tour will tell you the history of Shreveport-Bossier City, the bridges of the Ark-La-Tex, and the wildlife habitats along both of these scenic bodies of water. You will need your own transportation to the boat dock. Only 10 minutes from Isle of Capri Hotel.

Eighth Air Force Museum

An historic journey from WWII for the 2nd Bomb Wing and the 8th Air Force, both of which are headquartered at Barksdale AFB. Twenty-five aircraft and vehicles are on display. Air Force films shown daily in a replica WWII briefing room. Open 7 days a week with free admission. A gift shop is available. Part of your Monday tour at Barksdale AFB.

Traveling Museum – "Yesterday's Ladies"

A morning of very special entertainment awaits with the presentation of "Yesterday's Ladies!" This remarkable private collection of vintage and antique ladies' clothing and accessories is a "traveling museum" that has been featured on national television. An elaborate display will be presented by Jan Pettiet as she shows her authentic collection of rare fashions, including hats, clothing, shoes, and so much more. This program is always the most talked

about program of any event. Come and enjoy this hour of fun with fascinating facts and stories about life in the Victorian era.

Centenary College Choir

For 63 years the Centenary College Choir has concertized throughout the world. giving concerts in 31 nations on six continents. The choir has sung for front-line troops in Korea, the Presidents of the United States and Switzerland, the Queen of Denmark, the leaders of NATO, and the Prime Minister of Thailand. This is in addition to most of the American military bases in Europe and Asia, and millions of people in between the wide-ranging audiences. This past December marked the sixth performance of the choir in The White House at Christmas. In May 2005, the choir made a concert tour to Europe, including concerts at Ramstein Air Base and other U.S. military installations in Germany. Playing Wednesday night Banquet.

156th ARMY BAND

The 156th Army Band began as the 156th Infantry Band of the Louisiana National Guard in 1937 and served with distinction during World War II. They have performed at West Point, New York; Forces Command in Atlanta, Georgia; the Fifth Army in San Antonio, Texas; Fort Lewis in Tacoma, Washington; and twice at the Army-Wide Bandmaster's Conference. The unit currently has over 60 personnel. Whenever they perform, the band's dedication to duty and professionalism brings great credit to themselves, their unit and the Louisiana Army National Guard. Playing Wednesday night Banquet.

GUEST SPEAKER

Jim Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs and member of President Bush's Cabinet, will be the Guest Speaker at the Wednesday night banquet. Nicholson is a Combat Veteran of the Vietnam War, Ranger, Paratroop Officer, and Retired Army Colonel.

KEY CONTACTS

- Co-Host Retiree Office, Barksdale AFB, Col. Steve dePyssler, USAF Retired, 1-866-544-2412 FAX: 318-456-3520 Email: RAO@barksdale.af.mil
- Isle of Capri Hotel: Sid Crump, Sales Manager 1-800-475-3847 Email: SID_CRUMP@islecorp.com; www.Isleofcapricasino.com

Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA)

2005 National Convention

2 – 5 October, Bossier City, Louisiana



REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE 10 SEPT 2005

Name _____ Nickname: _____

Spouse/Guest(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Arriving by: Air: Car:

Major Unit Assigned in Service: _____

POW Medals: Army DSC Navy/Marine Cross AF Cross Purple Heart

KWVA Chapter No. _____ National KWVA Member: Yes No Member No. _____

Member Military Organization: VFW: Amer Legion MOPH DAV Other: _____

If you are KWVA MOH, fees will be complimentary

REGISTRATION & EVENTS

| | # of People | Price | Total |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------|-------|
| Registration Fee: | | \$15 | |

(For those attending Council Meeting and/or Membership Meeting.)

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------|----------|
| 2 Oct. Sunday | Red River Cruise | \$10 | \$ |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------|----------|

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| 3 Oct. Monday | Breakfast and Opening Ceremony * | \$10 | \$ |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------|------------|----------|

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| 3 Oct. Monday | Lunch and Tour of Barksdale AFB | \$12 | \$ |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|----------|

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| 4 Oct. Tuesday | Lunch and Memorial Service * | \$12 | \$ |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------|----------|

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|----------|
| 5 Oct. Wednesday | Traveling Museum 10 AM * | \$10 | \$ |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|----------|

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| 5 Oct. Wednesday | Veterans' Seminar 3:30 PM * | NC | \$ |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|

(Lunch on your own at the hotel)

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--|--|
| 5 Oct. Wednesday | Banquet | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--|--|

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Choices: <input type="checkbox"/> Prime Rib | \$30 | \$ |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Parmesan | \$20 | \$ |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|

(Guest Speaker: James Nicholson, Secretary, Veterans Affairs)

* Denotes Functions that are held at Isle of Capri Hotel

Total:\$

Payment by check only payable to: **Retiree Office - Korea.**

Mail to: **RAO, PO Box 134, Barksdale AFB, LA 71110**

Payment due by September 10, 2005.

For Information: Col Steve dePyssler, 877-465-3711; Toll Free 1-866-544-2412; Email: RAO@barksdale.af.mil. Phone number to call shuttle: 677-7777

HOTEL RESERVATION:

Make YOUR OWN reservation as soon as possible. Price \$79/night (single or double occupancy) plus tax. Call Isle of Capri Hotel at 877-463-3711 and advise "Korean Convention." Hotel has free airport shuttle and free Hotel parking.

Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) 2005 National Convention 2 – 5 October, Bossier City, Louisiana



Isle of Capri Casino Resort Bossier City, LA

Conveniently located just off Interstate 20 in Bossier City, Louisiana, The Isle of Capri Casino Resort is a full service destination catering to the needs of business and pleasure travelers alike. The Isle is both a tropical playground, and a meeting and conference destination. Whether your conference requirements are for 15 people or 500 people, The Isle of Capri offers approximately 22,000 square feet of state-of-the-art meeting space. Add the 24-hour non-stop casino action, 4 restaurants, pool, health spa and close proximity to all major area attractions, and the Isle of Capri Casino Resort is the premier choice when visiting the Shreveport/Bossier area.

Our Sales Team would be more than happy to assist you in planning your next meeting. From professional catering to creative cocktail parties, we'll help you take care of everything, right down to the last detail. Call 1-800-221-4095 to reserve your space today.

Location

- 15 minutes from Shreveport Regional Airport
- 5 minutes from Downtown Shreveport
- 5 minutes to Shreveport Red River Entertainment District
- 5 minutes from Louisiana Riverwalk

Accommodations

- 510 room all-suite hotel featuring:
 - Jet Tubs in every room
 - Data port
 - Coffee Maker Electronic keyed access
 - AM/FM Clock Radio
 - Iron/Ironing Board Hair dryer
 - Room Service
 - 3 Televisions with remote control,
 - Premium channels and on-demand movies
 - Voice mail

Dining

- Tradewinds Marketplace
 - 24-hour market, featuring sandwiches, salads and snacks

- Calypso's Buffet
 - All-you-can-eat buffet open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner
 - Sunday Champagne Brunch
- Farraday's
 - Open for dinner 7 days
 - Fine dining, featuring steaks and seafood
- Kitts Kitchen and Rum Mill
 - Serving dinner daily, featuring Caribbean style food with full bar

Recreation

- Tropical Outdoor Heated Resort Style Pool
- Health Spa
- Pool-side Cabana Bar
- Video Arcade
- Hal Sutton's Olde Oaks Golf Club
- Fred Couples' Stonebridge Golf Club
- Teague Parkway Boat Ramp
- Teague Parkway Jogging Path

Area Attractions

- Louisiana Riverwalk Entertainment Area
- Centurytel Center
- American Rose Center Sci-Port Museum
- Barnwell Center
- Meadows Museum of Art Norton Art Museum

Amenities

- 24-Hour on-site Casino
- Palm's Health Spa
- Banana Cabana Gift Shop
- Complimentary Valet Parking
- 24-hour Business Center
- Eno's Licensed Daycare & Arcade
- Dry Cleaning/Laundry Service
- Complimentary Airport Transportation
- Complimentary USA Today Newspaper
- Capri R.V. park on site



2005 NATIONAL KOREAN VETERANS CONVENTION SOUVENIR PROGRAM



The National Convention is being held in Bossier City, LA from 2-5 October 2005. The Guest Speaker at the Banquet will be the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson.

A Souvenir Program will be given to everyone making a reservation to any event. We expect greetings in front of the program from President Bush, Secretary of Defense, and the Governor of Louisiana. This will be a golden opportunity to let everyone know about your Chapter or personal greetings to the Convention.

Deadline for submission is 15 August in order for us to have enough time to typeset and print the Souvenir Program.

Help support our Korean National Convention and our veterans by buying an ad in the convention book.

You can use it (1) Greetings from your Chapter or Department (2) Identify your membership, location, etc (3) Running for KWVA position (4) Memorial (5) Honoring a Member, etc.

If you wish to place an ad in our 2005 Korean Veteran CONVENTION SOUVENIR PROGRAM for the convention to be held in Bossier City, Louisiana, October 2 through 5, 2005 complete the form below and return it by 15 August, 2005. Your support will be much appreciated.

• Ads must be in black and white (If you cannot submit camera ready copy, just furnish us the information)

• Page size: 8-1/2 x 11

Full Page Ad\$200

1/2 Page Ad\$125

1/4 Page Ad\$75

Business Card Ad\$35

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Deadline for submission: 15 August 2005

Make Checks payable to: **Retiree Office-Korea**

Mail to **PO Box 134
Barksdale AFB, LA 71110**

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR \$500 AD: Front table for 8 people, cocktails with James Nicholson. See. Special Identification Tag

Nicholson Takes Oath as VA Secretary

VA Press Release, Washington - Jim Nicholson, a combat veteran of the Vietnam War, was sworn in February 1 as the nation's fifth Secretary of Veterans Affairs. For the last three and a half years, Nicholson had been the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican.

Nicholson succeeds Anthony J. Principi, who led the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) during the first four years of the Bush administration.

"I accepted this job because of the mission of VA," Nicholson said. That mission is to serve veterans with dignity and compassion and to be their principal advocate to ensure they get the care, recognition, dignity and support they deserve from a grateful nation."

"The challenge that is before us is to build upon the positive changes that have already been done and to bring VA fully into the 21st century to serve our 21st century veterans," Nicholson said.

A native of Struble, Iowa, he spent much of his adult life as a lawyer and businessman in Colorado. Nicholson graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He served eight years on active duty as a qualified Ranger and paratroop officer, then 22 years in the reserves, before retiring as a colonel.

He holds a master's degree in public policy from Columbia University and a law degree from the University of Denver. In 1997, he became chairman of the Republican National Committee, a post he held for four years before taking up duties at the Vatican in August 2001.

VA is the nation's second largest cabinet department, with approximately 250,000 employees.

Nearly 5.2 million veterans are expected to receive care this year in VA's 158 hospitals and 850 clinics. VA became a cabinet department in March 1989, replacing the Veterans Administration.



Report from Norway

We received this report from NKWVA President Nils S. Egelién, which we are happy to include in The Graybeards. He has some valuable suggestions, a couple requests for our members, and an interesting insight into what Korean War veterans from other organizations are doing.

Here is the report, translated from the original Norse by your editor. (Just kidding. Mr. Egelién provided the report in English.)

Editor Art Sharp

Thank you for The Graybeards, which we very much appreciate here in our association. We copy articles and advertisements for our veterans at the annual meetings.

As we were all a great UN family in Korea, I suggest that you invite all the 20 countries' veteran associations to write articles for your fine magazine. You might have some kind of framework, for instance: 2/3rds consisting of the individual countries' participation in the war, and 1/3 about the veterans' organizations today. Perhaps you could include pictures from the countries' participation.

Our organization is preparing a book about the war and the fine comradeship with the UN soldiers after the war. I am looking for stories from any of the 5,259 American soldiers who stayed at or were treated at the Norwegian Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (NORMASH). The MASH was mostly situated at Dongdueshon, and belonged to the 8th Army.

More than 90 000 persons from all the UN countries were treated at our MASH, including 172 POWs from China and North Korea.

In working with the IFKWVA, and especially the Korean veterans, for more than 50 years, I have learned that there has never in history existed a country that has given back as much thanks as Korea has after the UN went in and helped them in their hour of need!

Best wishes to your veterans and God Vakt!

Nils Steen Egelién
President, NKWVA
Iver Halters v. 40. N-3041 Drammen.
Tel/Fax: +47-3281 1683

2004 Annual Report From the Noewegian Korean War Veterans

Board Members, Membership, Financial Situation

Nils S. Egelién, Bjorn Isaksen, Chul Ho Lee, Lucie Paus Falck, Tor Imislund and Cato Jacobsen are Board members. The Board had 3 meetings to discuss and prepare affairs of mutual interest. 167 veterans are members from NORMASH and 62 veterans are from the National Medical Center.

The main income comes from our annual meeting and from raffles. We are getting fine support in different ways from The Korean Embassy, Norwegian military authorities, and the UN Veterans of Norway.

Activities

- General Meeting

Our main activity is still our General Meeting in the autumn. This time we held it in "Fanehallen," at Akershus Castle. 68 people

participated. The Korean Ambassador to Norway, His Excellency Bjung-hyo Choi, and members from the embassy took part in this meeting with Korean food given from the Korean Residents Organization. We are extremely grateful to our Korean friends.

- Korea Veterans Remembrance Service in Canberra, Australia, 27 July [2004]

The President was invited to the Korea Veterans Remembrance Service in Canberra, and had an experience of a lifetime in a fine culture. In speaking to veterans from different organizations, we got useful information on their special organizational challenges.

- 7th IFKWV A meeting in Seoul

There were two important agenda matters; one very positive and one, in our mind, negative:

The positive: The very fine Korean answer on why we should go on internationally with our Korean Veterans affairs, i.e., the effect on the different national organizations. The Korean veterans are considered to be the best ambassadors in each country. There is valuable history to the coming Korean generations from the IFKWVA's work.

The negative: The handling and ballot result (10 to 9) on the "Australian case," and the result: The Australian representative, Ian Crawford, was kicked out—along with thousands of war veterans!

The Norwegian veterans feel that the Federation has handled this case indelicately, resulting in a decision which is detrimental to Australia as a country and particularly to nearly 7,000 Korean War veterans who remain in Australia. Some other countries or people in IFKWVA were not questioned, warned, or thrown out when they did not abide by the Constitution and by-laws with their organization, reports or annual fees. It is a matter of pride, however, that delegates can feel free to speak and write about matters which will raise debate or cause controversy.

It is too easy to base an attack, in this instance, on the feelings and vanity of what may be unrepresentative, baseless, or even shallow views of some people. If the Australian veterans can not get access to the normal benefits of belonging to as fine an organization as IFKWVA, e.g., revisits, the Ambassador of Peace Medal, and other benefits, because of earlier unserviceable organization in Australia and little understanding and lack of brotherhood in the IFKWVA, the federation is not in line with our own Constitution and by-laws. If we in this matter can concentrate more on humanness and solidarity between war comrades, it would be better understood by coming Korean generations.

The Honorary President of the World Veterans Federation, Major General Bjorn Egge, states in his many lectures throughout the world: "The best people to work for peace are the war veterans!" How can we "assist in the peace, stability and progress of the Korean peninsula"(Article 2. d) when we have problems in sweeping up our own doorstep?

Constitutions can never calculate for the possible change of things and new understanding. Why did not any representative ask Sir William Keys about the Australian organization during his nearly 40 years as our President? We will ask the Executive Council to

look into this matter and, if necessary, we will forward amendments to the Constitution in due time before next meeting. Some thousand veterans from the Korean War are far more important than mixed understandings of the Constitution! The Norwegian Veterans are grateful towards Australia for their great contributions in WW1 and 2 and the UN missions after 1950 for our freedom!

Different Representations

- US Memorial Day, English Remembrance Day, UN Day, Korean National Day, Chief of Defense Medal Committee, UN Veterans of Norway, Korean exhibition at the University Hospital.

- Our Board member, Mr. Chul Ho Lee, got the King’s Medal of Honor for his great contributions to many activities in Norway and Korea for the best for our country. The Medal Ceremony took place in the President’s garden in Drammen, with the Ambassador and his wife present.

Miacellaneous

- The Korean Embassy in Oslo. Our friends in the Embassy and the Military Attaché, Colonel Lee, are our great supporters. We are very thankful for their assistance and contributions!

The Norwegian Embassy in Seoul’s support of our organization is of great value to us.

- Korean papers like “Korea Now” and “Korea Focus” are interesting and keep us informed about the social, economic, political and cultural situation in Korea.

- The National Medical Center in Seoul is not to be removed. In a short reconnoiter at the hospital, we found interesting things to deal with. The Korean-Norwegian Hospital cooperation goes on successfully in different ways.

- The Hungnam and Inchon evacuations in 1950 We are still getting reports from Norwegian sailors who took part in the evacuations of Inchon and Hungnam. We would very much like more observations from Americans and Koreans who were eyewitnesses to the participation of M/S Reinholt, M/S Beljannes, and M/S Blocean in the war.

- Korean Art Exhibition in Halden, Nov.5th Korean veteran and missionary Moen arranged a Korean Art Exhibition, which many people, including the Korean Ambassador, attended.

- Lectures on “Korea in War and Peace” go on. Some of the veterans are engaged in a paper debate concerning Korea. Among the topics are “Why Korea should have the Winter Olympics in 2014.”

Best wishes and thanks to all the Federations officers and good friends. God Vakt!

Nils S. Egelien, President

Errata

We, the Mountain Empire Chapter #289, recently sent you a picture Of the Veteran’s Recognition Day – David Crocket High School - Jonesboro, TN - March 24, 2005.

On the listing of individuals we inadvertently misidentified the civilian. It was NOT the history teacher, but our U.S. Representative, Bill Jenkins (TN). We would appreciate it if you could make this correction.

Thank you,

Bob Shelton, Commander

Thanks For The Australian Air Support

Ted Morford, who was assigned to the 809th Engineer Aviation Battalion stationed at Kimpo Airbase in the spring and summer of 1953, offered these photos from Korea.

“It is my understanding,” he said, “the Australian Meteor jets were intended originally to be fighters against the MIGs.” But, he added, “As I understand it, they were better suited for ground support.”

No doubt the troops in Korea were happy to see them either way.



Kimpo, Korea: Spring 1953. Australian Meteor jet going on close ground support mission. Note the rockets under the wing.



F-86 returning to K-16, spring 1953.



Australian Meteor jet returning to K-16. Note the empty rocket pods.



Downtown Yung Dung Po, spring 1953.



Kimpo Airbase, spring 1953—and what is left of the operations building.

Lt. Ted Morford, Korea, spring 1953. Note the crushed bulldozer



EDITOR'S NOTE: I attended a meeting of "The Chosin Few" New England Chapter a while back as Don Dugay's guest. Don and I have been friends for a long time. He and I coached a Little League team together back in the 1970s and played together on the same softball team for a number of years. He just casually mentioned to me recently that he had been at the Chosin Reservoir, and that he had jotted a "few notes" of his experiences in Korea. He graciously agreed to let me publish them in The Graybeards to give readers a few additional insights into the conditions there—of which many of our readers are already all too painfully aware.

Here are some of those notes, and a few photos he furnished to complement them.

Don Dugay's Diary

1st Engr. Bn., USMC. KOREA 9-21-1950 to 10-4-1951

9-14-50

Sea of Japan - big storm - anyone not seasick takes over duties - I lucked out and got mess duty. Beef and gravy in big vats, slopped over sides, mess kits slid off tables - guys were vomiting. All mixed together, guys slipped and fell, and then they got sick. It wasn't fun; I had my arms full of trays and walking OK until someone lost their balance and bumped into me. I fell back and I hit my back on the fins of the heater. Bad cut nearly severing my spinal cord. Doctors said it missed by an eighth of an inch. Couldn't make

the landing with my buddies. Went in a week later on 9-21-50
9-24-50

From Incheon I went to Kimpo Airfield, where I saw a girl screaming and a South Korean major behind her, holding her hair. He was yelling, then he cut her throat. I don't think I was in Korea more than three or four days. They claim she was a forward observer for artillery.

Also saw a Corsair coming in to land, with a rocket hung up under his wing. Tried to signal him off, but couldn't; when he touched down the hung-up

rocket went off. Plane in a ball of flames, no survivors.

Tech Sgt. Stanton, my sergeant from Camp Lejeune, heard of a brewery in Yong Dong Po, a town on way to Seoul. He told me and, I think, Levesque to take a Jeep, empty the 5-gallon water cans, and go fill them with beer. We did. On the way back, Stanton was up the road from our camp. He took the two 5-gallon cans and said we were in trouble. The Jeep he told us to take was our major's. And I didn't even drink.

I rode shotgun from Incheon to Seoul. If trucks passed in the opposite direction - had to stop until dust settled. Then the rains came; that dust turned to 6 inches of soup.

10-13-50

Got on LST and headed for Wonson, where we were supposed to make a landing. The harbor was mined, so we sailed north in the morning and south at night. Beef and gravy morning, noon and night for about 12 days. One meal we got pork and gravy - a pleasant surprise. When we did land at Won son, Bob Hope greeted us; we were

the butt of his jokes.

Went north to Hagaru where the temperature was from -20 degrees to -40 degrees below zero. My best buddy and I had to start all the vehicles every 1/2 to 1 hour (don't remember which for sure) and let them run for about 15 minutes to keep them from freezing. At about 3 hours and 45 minutes I told Melton Brock I couldn't take any more; my feet were frozen and painful. He told me to go to our pup tent; he would finish the watch. He came in about 10 minutes later crying from the pain. I took off his boots for him. It was really cold.

Capt. Turner had Brock and me inspect a bridge on way to Yalu River, to see if capable of holding trucks and tanks. On the way back we heard an incoming shell. We both dived into a hole made by another shell. Brock tried to climb out of hole when another shell came in. The concussion knocked him back in. It was funny, because he was all arms and legs. That's when we found out the Chinese had us surrounded.

On the way back to our CP,



Brock was in front on my left about twenty yards. I saw an Army guy I thought was dead. I thought I heard a cough and went back to him to find he was alive, but exhausted and freezing. I pulled him up and half carried him for about 2 miles to our CP. I brought him to sick-bay but he was in pretty good shape by that time. He was disoriented and would have frozen or been killed by the Chinese if I didn't hear him.

Capt. Turner said seeing as I found him I was to spend the night with him in my foxhole. That's when he told me he wanted to stay with us Marines. He was angry at the Army for running and leaving him. He didn't know where he was or where he was going. Don't know what happened to him the next day. Probably evacuated. Wish I remembered his name.

During the day we worked on building an airfield to evacuate wounded. Sometimes we carried ammo up to the infantry. On one occasion I saw a radio man about half way up. He said he couldn't go any further. I offered to carry his radio, about 60 or

70 lbs. When we got on top of the hill, I was talking to 2 guys when what I thought was a dead Chinese fired his burp gun at us. Hit the two on either side of me but not, or at least I thought, me. I carried one of the guys down.

Whenever we carried ammo up, we carried wounded down. I noticed my mitten had blood in it, but I thought it was blood from the guy I brought down. I took care of my wound myself. The corpsmen and doctors were busy enough. Besides, I wouldn't want my parents to get a telegram and worry. I wish I had the Purple Heart now.

Spent a night with a British Marine - swapped emblems. I still have his; but forgot his name.

Another night was with Nick from Arkansas. He said for me to stay awake first, 100% alert. If the enemy came, to start shooting; if they got too close, wake him. As if an M1 going off in his ear wouldn't. His turn to watch while I slept, or tried to, I heard him shoot. I and the guys in holes either side of us asked him what he was shooting at. He said he was test firing to see if

Comes the time to defecate; I had three pairs of pants on. To unbutton you had to remove mitten, and unbutton about two or three. Put mitten back on and wait until fingers were warm enough to continue. Total about fifteen buttons - Then reverse procedure. About an hour; talk about freezing your butt off.

rifle was frozen.

Another guy, Cpl. Hicks, needed to urinate. He asked if I had a grenade tube or box. I took off one end and put grenade on top of foxhole. He took off other end, leaving a tube. He put his finger in tube to let him know when to empty it. His parka was soaked and quickly froze. It was funny for me, but not for him.

One night the Chinese attacked the airfield - fought them off.

One morning an old Papsan came out of his house to urinate. A guy in the next hole from me fired his M1 at his penis and was laughing. I aimed my rifle at him and said his next shot would be his last.

Frozen "C" rations is all I remember. The only things I sal-

vaged from box of rations were cigarettes, powdered chocolate and Charms candy. For thirst we took handfuls of snow.

One day I went to the old man's house, a couple of hundred yards away, and gave him and his family "C" rations I didn't like or wasn't able to eat because it was frozen. The old man gave me a pipe, which I still have. I had to take it, although I didn't want to. They didn't have many possessions.

Comes the time to defecate; I had three pairs of pants on. To unbutton you had to remove mitten, and unbutton about two or three. Put mitten back on and wait until fingers were warm enough to continue. Total about fifteen buttons. Then reverse procedure. About an hour; talk about freezing your butt off.

On way out of trap, exhaust-



Enemy dead were searched for information - such as what outfit he was in. I found a picture of the dead Chinese with his wife and two little kids - something to think about.

ed men leaning against trucks were walking and sleeping. After last road block I looked up and saw rifles aiming down at us. I passed the word and word came back to hold our fire. After a while, the Chinese were on one knee then standing shoulder to shoulder. I'm glad we held our fire. At Hamhung we were given orange juice. I had diarrhea.

12-13-50

Took Sea Splendor to Pusan. It was dark and I was down three or four decks or holds, spread my sleeping bag and laid down. I smelled something, lit a match and saw a turd about two inches from my nose. I heard the ship carried thousands of

civilians then came back for us.

Field with hundreds of dead enemy. Enemy dead were searched for information - such as what outfit he was in. I found a picture of the dead Chinese with his wife and two little kids - something to think about. That's when I realized they were human; like us.

Saw the remains of about thirty that were hit by napalm. Hope they were enemy.

On guard duty at Pusan, I saw what I later found out to be a funeral procession. I heard they bury their dead in upright position.

Nothing significant till June. We probed a road for mines.

Stopped at night and returned to CP. Next morning we loaded up with C3 and blasting caps. Two satchels each. Capt. Turner called for me to go inspect bridges. I asked the guys if they wanted my C3. They said to throw it in back of jeep. Off they went, five sitting and one on hood of jeep. Before they got to where we left off clearing, the jeep hit a mine and exploded all the C3 the guys were carrying. My good friend and all the rest were killed. I still have a guilty feeling.

One day, while probing for a tank that was behind me. I came across a dead enemy. dragged the body to the side of road. The tank came and ran over and crushed him. I tried to stop it but couldn't.

Another day while probing - I stuck my bayonet into the road just as the tank fired its 90MM. My left ear is still no good. I

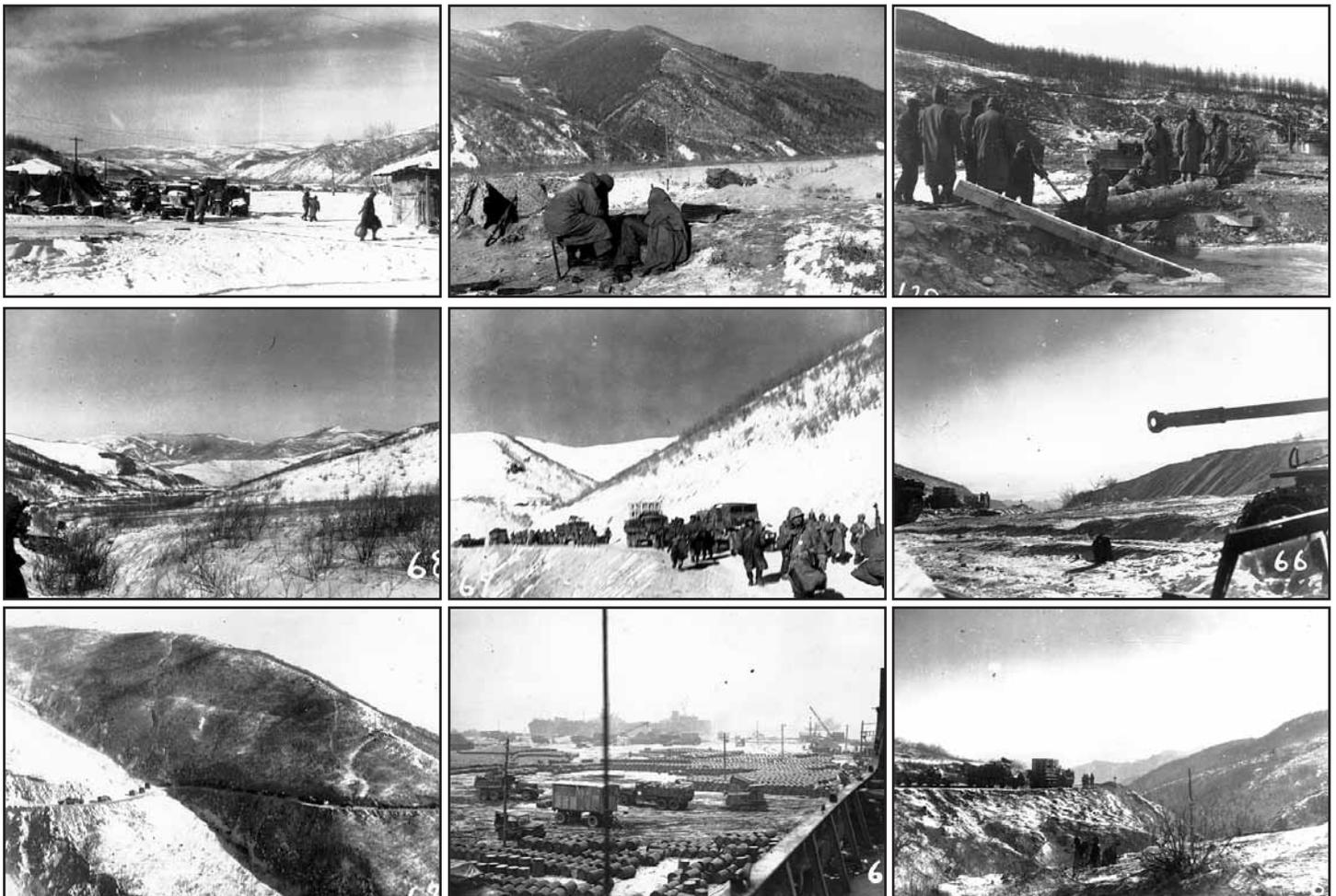
turned around and fired my MI at the tank. Then I saw the 90MM cannon lower and aim right at me. I surrendered. They must have had quite a laugh.

Shortly after, I was relieved of probing for mines, after I broke someone in to take my place. He was a new replacement. He seemed too clumsy and I told my sergeant. They kept him on probing duty. I got a Christmas card from my buddy saying the replacement lost both legs.

10-4-51

I left Korea for Japan on USS Monifree and on October 11, 1951 left Japan for San Francisco on USNS Raymond O. Beaudoin. Arrived Frisco on 10-24-1951.

Discharged as Sgt. Donald Dugay, USMC, from Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston, MA.



My Favorite Officer

■ A Continuing Series of Korean War Veterans' Favorite Officers

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF

1st Lt Richard B Coke Jr.,
U.S. Army I & R Platoon,
31st Inf. Reg. 7th Inf. Div.



1st Lt. Richard Coke

Every year on Memorial Day, thousands of people walk through our National Cemeteries all across this country, viewing white crosses, white markers or bronze headstones to remember those who lie buried in fields of honor for their sacrifices to defend the freedom of America.

They will pause for a moment to give thanks and breathe a prayer for the price they paid for our freedom, often not even knowing who they are. Then there will be veterans who will view their markers, recall their names, and remember the effect they had on them while they served together. They will remember them as they were, those who died in their youth.

In Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, there are thousands of white headstones. All have a special place in the hearts of others, but only one has a special meaning to me. It is the head stone of 1st Lt. Richard B. Coke Jr., the soldier who made a great impact on my life.

As a drop-out from high school with no special interests, desires, goals or ambitions for life, joining the army was something to do for a seventeen-year-old kid who couldn't find work. Little did I know the change that would come into my life when I was transferred to the 31st Inf. Reg., 7th Inf. Division stationed at Camp Crawford, Japan, on the island of Hokkaido.

I was inducted into the army in Dallas, Texas on February 20, 1948, and sent to Ft. Ord, California for basic training, then to Ft. Lewis, Washington, where I shipped out to the 1st Cavalry Div., 5th Cavalry Reg., stationed in Japan. I had no desire to



ABOVE: Flags flying on Memorial Day 2004 in front of Bethel Baptist Church, Grapevine, TX. Note the rifle carved out of wood cross for the unknown. Crosses are for members who served in the military and passed away. Lt. Coke's name is on one of the crosses.

RIGHT: Rifle carved out of wood at Bethel Baptist Church



become military, so I was just biding my time waiting for my three-year enlistment to end. While in the 5th Cav. Reg. I was a "Sports Official," officiating whatever sport was being played at the time. I did no training, close order drill, guard duty or parades. I was a sports official just doing my time.

In December of 1948, the 7th Infantry Division, which had been doing occupation duty in Korea, had been transferred to occupation duty in Japan. I was transferred from the 1st Cavalry Division to the 7th Infantry Division, 31st Inf. Reg. 2nd Bn., Co. E. Lt. Richard B. Coke Jr. was my platoon leader. My life in the military was in for a change.

Lt. Coke was the sharpest soldier I ever met. I admired the way he stood and walked. I observed his military mannerism, his uniform, brass, and the shine of his boots, the way he stood at attention and returned a salute, and the way he conducted himself in general. I thought, "This is a soldier, this is the kind of soldier I want to be."

I began to watch Lt. Coke and pattern my life after him. I stood straight, my salute was sharp, I put military creases in my shirts, and waxed my pants so the crease in the legs was sharp and my boots mirrored my reflection. Everything I did,

and all the duties I performed, was with Lt. Richard B. Coke Jr. in mind.

After several weeks Lt. Coke came to me and said, "Holmes, I have been watching you." He didn't know it, but I had been watching him, too. He said, "Holmes, I would like for you to go to Leadership School representing Easy Company. We have not had anyone graduate from Leadership School at the top of the class, and I believe you are the man to do it." My response was, "Sir, if you think I can, I will do my best." So off to the 31st



Left, Louis Holmes as a student, and right, as an Instructor, in Leadership School, Camp Crawford, Japan, 1949-50



Lt. Coke's grave marker in San Antonio

Inf. Reg. Leadership School I went. I thought, "If Lt. Coke thinks I can, I can, and I will not disappoint him, I will graduate at the top of the class."

During my weeks of Leadership School, Lt. Coke would come to see how his student was doing. He would check on me to see if I needed anything. He was there to encourage and challenge me. "You can do it," he would say, leaving me with my options: fail and be a disappointment to Lt. Coke and myself, or succeed and be the soldier he thought I was. No one in all my life had taken such interest in me or thought I could do anything, and I soon found me asking myself, "How would Lt. Coke do it?" Whatever I thought he would do, that was the way I did it.

When time came for my final exam in physical endurance, a 21-mile army style run of jogging and walking, I finished first. When I did my final exam in a setting up and performing a tactical military situation using charts, sand table, and printing out a copy for all officers present, he was there. On the day of my graduation, when I was presented my diploma and certificate of accomplishments, Lt. Coke was there and heard the Commandant say that I had finished at the top of the class. I graduated in August 1949. When the next class started, I was one of the instructors in the Leadership School.

On the first Armed Forces Day, May 20, 1950, I was selected from all the men in the 7th Inf. Div. to be the guest of honor of Gen. David G. Barr, Commanding General. There were men from the Navy and Air Force present, representing their branch of service. I have certificates and pictures to remember this special event. This would not have been possible without the influence of Lt. Coke on my life.

The Korean War started on June 25th, 1950. I was finishing a class in the Leadership School, and Lt. Coke was made the Platoon Leader of the I & R platoon.

The 7th Division and the 31st Infantry Regiment were sent to a Camp McNair at the base of Mt. Fuji in Japan to receive replacements and ROK (Republic of Korea) soldiers from Korea for additional training before making a landing at Inchon, Korea in September 1950. I did not see or hear from Lt. Coke after he became Platoon Leader of the I & R Platoon.

After our landing at Inchon in September, the 7th Division was spread out over several miles of Korea, from Seoul to Suwon. I would inquire if anyone knew the whereabouts of the I & R Platoon and Lt. Coke. No one knew. The 7th Division assembled again at Pusan, South Korea and put aboard ship for another landing at Iwon in North Korea. Again, the 7th Division was scattered from Hungnam to the Yalu River, the Fusen Reservoir to East of the Chosin Reservoir. Still, I had not heard from Lt. Coke. After we came out of North Korea from East of the Chosin to Hungnam, we boarded ship again for the largest military evacuation in military history for Pusan. It was then I heard that Lt. Coke and several of his men had been killed when his forward outpost had been hit by a mortar attack from the Chinese.

After some rest, being re-equipped, and several more months of combat, I received orders to leave Korea for home in May 1951. The impressions Lt. Coke had made on me became part of my life style. After a 30-day leave, I reported to Ft. Campbell, KY, where I was transferred to Fort George G. Meade in Maryland to help start a Leadership School. I finished my tour of duty as an instructor in the Leadership School until my discharge from the Army on Feb. 19, 1952.

I never forgot Lt. Coke, and all the success in my life I owe, in part, to him. He instilled in me the attitude to "Stand and walk straight, be neat in appearance, you can do it and do it right."

I became a Christian in December 1956, and the Lord called me into the ministry five years later. I became pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church in Grapevine, Texas in September 1962. Like so many other Korean War Veterans, I had put the war behind me, but Lt. Coke was ever present with me. One day in 1998 I decided to try and make contact with some of

Lt. Coke's family. I learned that he had an aunt living in San Antonio, TX. So, I made contact with her. My wife and I went to San Antonio for a visit. She shared with us so many things about her nephew and my friend. It was then I learned he was not killed in a mortar attack. Rather, while he was on patrol, he was wounded and taken prisoner. He died in prison camp as a result of his wounds.

According to Roy E. Appleman's book *East of Chosin*, on the afternoon of November 26, 1950, Lt. Richard B. Coke Jr., commanding the 31st I & R Platoon, was ordered to patrol up the valley of the Pungnyuri-gang north eastward toward the Fusen Reservoir and check out a report that several hundred Chinese soldiers were in a village east of the inlet. Lt. Coke and his I & R Platoon started up a narrow dirt road toward the Fusen in jeeps with mounted machine guns, and they were never heard from again. It was later learned that the patrol had come under fire and Lt. Coke was wounded and taken prisoner by the Chinese. He died in prison camp.

At Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX his head stone reads.

RICHARD BRUNER COKE JR.

Texas

**1st. LIEUTENANT US ARMY KOREA
JUNE 23, 1926 - DECEMBER 28, 1951**

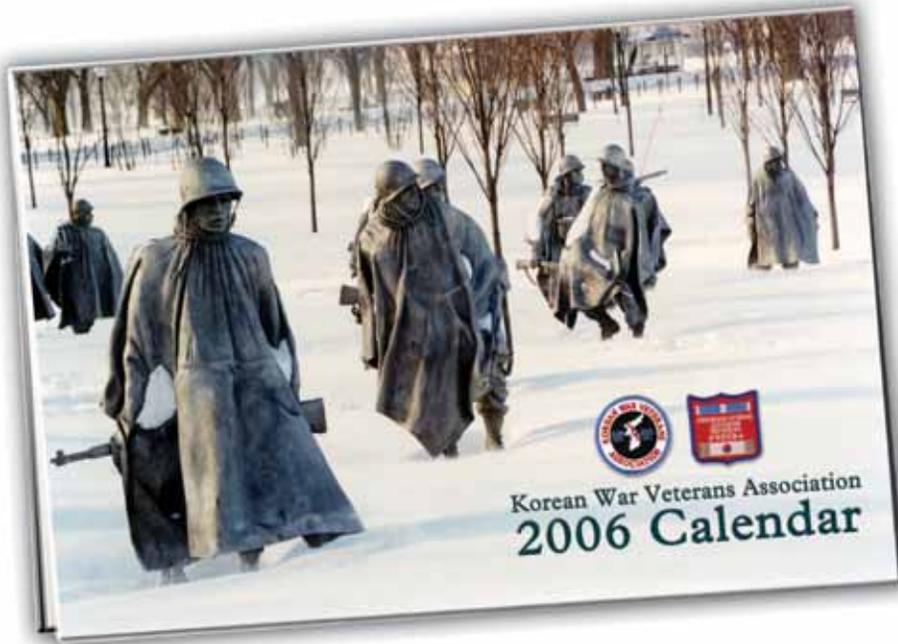
What manner of men are these who in life change the course of men and in death change the course of history? They are men we must never forget, for they have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

After serving 42 years in the same pastorate, I retired and moved to Bonham, Texas. On Memorial Day, as every Memorial Day in the past, I remember the man who, as a soldier, influenced my life in my youth and helped mold me to be the man that I am in my old age. On the military wall in my home, along with the diploma from the 31st Inf. Reg. Leadership school, certificates and pictures of me as a young soldier with Gen. David G. Barr, and congratulatory letters from presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush, is a picture of Lt. Richard B. Coke Jr. as a constant reminder of the man who changed my life.

*Louis E. Holmes (SFC US Army)
1302 E. Street, Bonham, TX 75418*

COMING SOON:

Korean War Veterans Association 2006 Calendar!



On 25 June 1950 the brave men of the United States Armed Forces engaged in a conflict on the peninsula of Korea. To commemorate the honor, bravery and sacrifice that so many demonstrated in this war, the Korean War Veterans Association is producing a new 2006 calendar that will feature never before seen photos of the Korean War and highlight important dates of occurrence.

From early battle photos to the DZ along the 38th Parallel, this calendar will feature the men who fought bravely in Korea to secure democracy for a nation. Don't miss this special tribute to the Veterans of the Korean War and order your 2006 Calendar by July 1 and save 10%.

This Calendar Will Feature

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- A List of the Medal of Honor Winners
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Thanks To The Men Of Able Battery, 57-FA Battalion

Michael F. ("Mike") Pontoriero, 28
 Brass Court, Williamsville, NY 14221

It has taken me 52 years to get around to it, but finally I can thank all these men with whom I served. It was an honor to be a part of the team. You all made me proud to be one of your loaders. Your accuracy, speed, and dedication to help all the men on the hills we protected are to be commended.

The battery could sustain fire, as they did on Pork Chop Hill, with V.T. They could hold the lanyard, and before the piece got out of the battery, the gun was loaded and fired again, like an automatic weapon.

I served under several officers in the unit from January 1953 to December 1953. Among them were Lieutenants Hoffman, Harris, Smith, and Woodson.

Incidentally, I live about 20 minutes from Leon Gorczyca, whose photo appeared on the back page of the Sept.-Oct. 2004 *The Graybeards*. I recognized the 7th Division patch. So, I contacted him. He told me all about the day and night firing on Pork Chop Hill in 1953. He took my hand and said, "Thank you. Thank you," for the firepower to get them off that hill. That, perhaps, is my final reward.



(L-R) Dave Murphy (Computer), Guadalupe Rios (Computer), Edward Tieman (Radio Telephone Operator), my men in FDC for ten months, Korea 1953



"Able" Battery, #2 Gun Section, 7th Division: firing on Pork Chop Hill, day and night, 1953. I took the photo outside FDC with my Argus-C3 camera. On the command "Fire," I held the shutter for three seconds.



The Men of Able Battery, 57- FA Battalion



Standing (L-R) McDuffy, Vince, "Incidentally," the Sign Painter, Mike Pontoriero Front Row (L-R) Craft, Carl Weibler, Bidell, Paterson in Korea, 1953. The background building is our PX



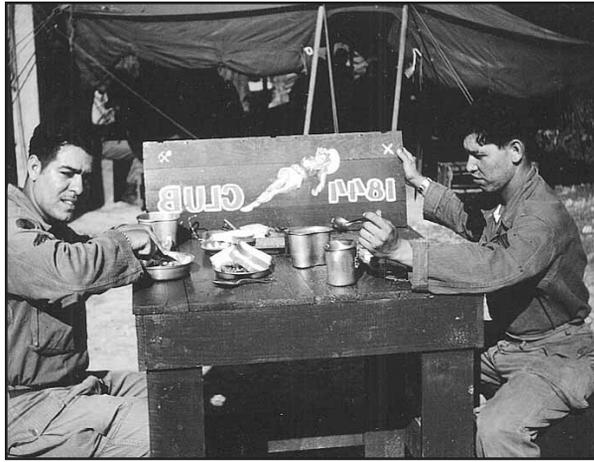
News correspondent from Erie, PA, Age 32: 1st woman ever in our Battery, July 1953



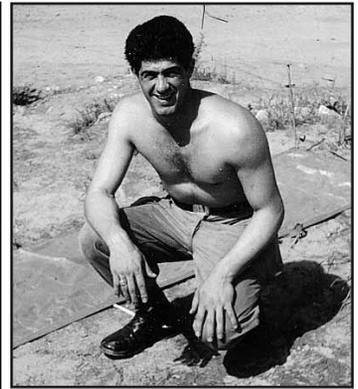
"Able's" XO, Lt. Smith



Sunday mass with the "Traveling Padre"



Granado and Guadalupe Rios outside dining room. The sign was painted by "Incidentally." I don't remember his name, but he earned his nickname because he always started his sentences with, "Incidentally..."



Puntoriero kneels by an air panel in the summer of 1953. As he recalled, "Every day our first call from Battalion Headquarters was the direction to place our air panels so the Air Force would recognize our friendly position."



Fresh load of 105mm. ammo—some of which had markings from the "Philippines, Ammo Dump," from WWII



"Able" Battery 1st MSgt Cole



#4 Gun Section, June/July 1953.



8" artillery piece, "Persuaders," which was just over the hill behind our position in May 1953.



Gun Section, Watts loading and #2 man Trott setting S.I. (sight to mask) on the piece.



Lt. Childs, Air Forward Observer and Liaison Officer, July 1953. Note the 7th Division insignia on the tail



(L-R) Forward Observer Shaw and Gilbert Estella, Chief FDC—and my mentor



P17 "A" Battery, fastest gun section (L-R) Frye, Watts, White, Chapman, Kuntz, Father, Trott, Chase, June 1953

More on page 54

Korean War Veterans' Mini-Reunions

USS Winston AKA 94



Members of the 1950s crew of the *USS Winston* AKA 94 with the *USS Kidd* 00661 in the background. Standing (L-R) Art Brofford, Frank Tipton, John Jarrett, Rolland Rasmussen, Sterling Jarrett, James Stroman, Ephram Sauce, Dave Miller, Wes Foultnr, Joe Power, and Wayne Thompson. Kneeling (L-R) Ray Doty, Jack Butler, and Ed Jones.

The *USS Winston* AKA 94 Association held a reunion October 15-17, 2004, at Sheraton Baton Rouge next to the *USS Kidd* DD661. Veterans from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam who served on the *USS Winston* gathered to renew friendships and remember those who gave their lives. On Saturday morning those attending were piped aboard the *USS Kidd* for a memorial service that included the tolling of the bell as names of the departed were read. The Bell Ceremony was followed by the Laying of the Wreath, *USS Kidd* Gun Salute, and Taps.

The guest speaker for the banquet Saturday evening was Rear Admiral Robert R. Percy III, Commander of Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Force (Reserve). Entertainment was provided by Jim Johnson, the Yo-Yo Man.

Several ship reunions have been held thanks to the planning of Joe Buckles and Jim Johnson. The next reunion will be held October, 2006, in Baton Rouge, LA. Anyone interested in more information should contact Jim Johnson, 14661 Charter Pl., Baton Rouge, LA 70817; e-mail: jymyoyo@cox.net.

Ever Wonder About JPAC?

We often hear about JPAC, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, commanded by MajGen W. Montague "Que" Winfield. Well, the members of Chapter 20 (Hawaii Chapter #1) have firsthand knowledge of the unit, as the nearby photo indicates.

Here, for those of you who are not familiar with JPAC, is a brief description of its function.

[JPAC's] Mission and History

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), located on the island of Oahu in Hawaii, was activated on Oct. 1, 2003. JPAC's mission is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of our nation's previous conflicts. Our highest priority is the return of any living Americans who remain prisoners of war.

JPAC was created from the merger of the 30-year-old U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii, and the 11-year-old Joint Task Force – Full Accounting. This 425-person organization, commanded by a flag offi-

cer, is committed and dedicated to bringing home the nation's service members and civilians who made the ultimate sacrifice.

JPAC recognizes that the efforts and involvement of our POW/MIA families contribute significantly to our success. JPAC owes a great deal of gratitude to the families and veterans who support our mission.

We are a jointly manned unit with hand-picked Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines with specialized skills and Department of the Navy civilians who make up about 25 percent of the organization. The laboratory portion of JPAC, referred to as the Central Identification Laboratory (CIL), is the largest forensic anthropology laboratory in the world.

Our mission is daunting, with approximately 78,000 Americans missing from



Members of Chapter 20 gather with MajGen Montague in Hawaii

World War II (of those, an estimated 35,000 are deemed recoverable, with the others lost at sea or entombed in sunken vessels), 8,100 missing from the Korean War, 1,800 missing from the Vietnam War, 120 missing from the Cold War, and one serviceman missing from the Gulf War.

To accomplish its mission, JPAC is organized to support five main areas: analysis, negotiations, investigations, recovery and identification.

11th Engineer Combat Battalion Association Is Building Momentum



11TH ENGINEER BATTALION ASSOCIATION
BRANSON, MISSOURI - OCTOBER 3, 2004

11th Eng. Bn. Ladies Group (Row 1 L-R) Jan Pavell, Joanne Loose, Marie McEniry, Helen Marks, Charlotte Boelsche, Estella Seymour, Bernice Dennis, Veda Graves, Doris Gray (Row 2 L-R) Lois Brown, Pat Meredith, Dolores Fiegen, Rosanne Grimaldi, Virginia Heiney, Gilda Gagne, Roberta Reeves, Jama Bell, Helen Tippett, Joan McGee (Row 3 L-R) Phyllis Nichols, Eileen Boehle, Sue Scott, Hazel Ealey, Faye Wyatt, Ruby Bancroft

The 11th Engineer Battalion Association held its 12th Annual Reunion at the Branson Towers on Branson, MO, October 1-3, 2004. The group had a great turnout, comprising 36 members, 29 wives, and 16 guests. Seven members attended for the first time—and one member traveled from Hawaii to be with them.



11TH ENGINEER BATTALION ASSOCIATION
BRANSON, MISSOURI - OCTOBER 3, 2004

11th Eng. Bn. Men's Group (Row 1 L-R) Jim Loose, Ed McEniry, Hyman Marks, Fred Boehle, Fred Boelsche, Ernie Seymour, Al Dennis, Don Graves, John Gray (Row 2 L-R) Ray DiVacky, Ben Botelho, Bob Nichols, Jerry Grimaldi, Dutch Heiney, Ernie Reeves, Jim Bell, Tom McGee, Bob Tippett, Noah Bass (Row 3 L-R) Bill Brown, Russ Meredith, Mel Fiegen, Dick Soehlike, John Gagne, Billy Boyce, Bob Hansen, Len Pavell, Chuck Scott, Sam Ealey, James Wyatt, Don Bancroft

The next reunion is scheduled for the Holiday Inn—Downtown, Williamsburg, VA, September 22-26, 2005. All former members of the battalion are invited to attend.

Fred Boelsche, 54 Edstan Drive, Moonachie, NJ 07074-1239, (201) 641-5828, fredb11theng@hotmail.com

Have a Mini-Reunion?

Send your photos and a short write-up to *The Graybeards* editor for publication! Mail to 152 Sky View Drive., Rocky Hill, CT

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

The mailing address for sending/requesting information relative to membership in the KWVA has changed. The new address is:

Nancy Monson
Recording Secretary
PO Box 101238
Arlington, VA 22210-4238

Please make a note of this address and use it when paying dues and/or requesting information concerning receipt of "The Graybeards" or your membership in the Korean War Veterans Association.

Just To Make The Members Of 67th TRW Aware

I call your attention to p 55 of the Graybeards, Mar-Apr 2005. At the top of the page in the left-hand column and previous page and column is an article by Maj. Meyer. It did not have reference to an address of his, so I was wondering if you could get this message to him.

I do not recall meeting him at any of the 67th TRW reunions. However, as this message is being typed, the 67th and all its units are closing out their 5th reunion at Dayton, OH. I have missed the 1st and 5th, both at Dayton. Major Meyer may not be aware of the 67th and their reunions.

The host for the current meeting is: Mr. Paul Graves, 6515 Alum Creek Drive, Grovesport, OH 43125-9490. I do not find an e-mail address for Mr. Graves. However, Maj. Meyer can contact a Mr. Ben Hardy, who was last year's host. He made this meeting. His email is: cptdlttl@aol.com.

I just wanted to know if Mr. Meyer is aware of the reunions.

Thanks.

Ken Sanderson (via e-mail)

September, 1951: the 17th Infantry Regiment was heavily engaged with the enemy on a hill known as Old Baldy. Despite the intense fighting, it was my decision as NCOIC of Graves Registration to enter the firefight, retrieve our dead as quickly as possible, and send them home for proper burial. Processing those men killed in action was a grisly but necessary job, and though it may be hard to believe, I actually volunteered for it. Stranger still is the series of events that led us to losing and then recovering a soldier named Ramirez who died during that battle for Old Baldy.

My road to that bloody hill began in 1950 when I arrived in Korea as a combat photographer with the 167th Signal Photo Company. We landed in Pusan shortly after the Inchon invasion. From there, we went to Seoul. Our headquarters was an abandoned medical school on the northern outskirts of the city, where we stayed until the Chinese entered the war and we retreated to Pusan. From there, most of the company was sent back to Japan in January, 1951. But I was a combat photographer, and I was determined to get back into the war.

In March, I returned to Korea as a member of the 7th Infantry Division Replacement Company. I thought I would be assigned to the 7th Division Signal Company as a photographer or lab technician. Instead, I was attached to the 17th Infantry Regiment, where it quickly became apparent they were not looking for a photographer. They assigned me to the Ammunition Section Service Company. It's common knowledge that an ammunition dump is a prime target, and it's also a risky place to work even when it isn't under attack. A mortar barrage or one little accident in an ammo dump could severely shorten my military career. I wanted out, and fast. That's when I met the regiment's NCOIC of Graves Registration, a Sergeant Barker.

I guessed that Barker must have been about 30 years old, and that was old enough to earn him the nickname "Pops." He was getting close to rotation back to the states, but the company commander wanted him to stay until a new NCOIC could be found. The stage was set: Pops wanted to go home, and I wanted out of

Going Home

By Robert Sanders
US Army (Ret.)

Nobody in our section had any formal instruction on how to do our jobs, and only one man, a PFC Brooks, had any understanding about handling the dead. His experience came from being the son of an undertaker.

the Ammunition Section. I didn't necessarily like the idea of stepping into Pops' boots in Graves Registration, but it beat the alternative. Pops would get to go home and I would become the new NCOIC.

Before Pops rotated out, he introduced me to the S-4 Officer who would be my immediate superior. After that introduction, I never saw the officer again, and I soon realized that there were very few people who wanted to be anywhere near the Graves Registration Section. In fact, we were always given an area outside the company perimeter to lessen the exposure of our job to the other troops.

When I became the NCOIC, I initiated a few changes in how the section operated. Before I arrived, there were 2 men assigned to process KIAs at each Forward Aid Station for the 3 battalions. With my system, we would follow the troops right into battle to remove the KIAs. When a battalion would "jump off" into combat, I would take two addi-

tional men with me to assist in getting our dead out of the field of fire.

Nobody in our section had any formal instruction on how to do our jobs, and only one man, a PFC Brooks, had any understanding about handling the dead. His experience came from being the son of an undertaker. We had to learn things the hard way, and over time I found that about half of those assigned to Graves Registration had to be reassigned to other duties because they couldn't tolerate the trauma of the job.

Sometimes, it took some detective work to sort out the human wreckage and personal effects of the KIAs. My clerk came to me on one occasion and reported he had been trying to get the personal effects for a dead GI, but after three attempts, the man's company still had not responded to his request. So, I made a trip to the company and spoke to the First Sergeant, who said I was requesting personal effects for a man who was still in his company, very much alive. To prove it, he picked up a field phone and called the man to come to the command bunker.

When the GI walked in, I asked him for his dog tags and found that his name didn't match his dog tags. I inquired if he had been at a shower point in the last three weeks, and he said he had. I asked if he had hung his dog tags on a pole while taking a shower. Again, he said he had. At that point, I told him he should immediately write to his parents because he had been reported dead. He was wearing a dead GI's dog tags, which told me the real identity of someone who had been processed out under the wrong name.

And then came Old Baldy. As the 17th Infantry Regiment was taking the hill, 3 of my men helped me load about 20 KIAs into a truck for transport back to Service Company. I sent two men back with the truck and took a Cpl. Green with me up the hill to look for more casualties. We were about three-quarters of the way to the top when we found a body lying on the left side of the path. I checked his dog tags and noted his name was Ramirez. Then, I checked for the cause of death, entered the processing information on a card, and attached the card to one of his boots. I told Green that we would pick up the

body on the way back down the hill.

When we reached the top of Old Baldy, we met a young lieutenant who told us there were 2 KIAs about 70 yards out on the left finger of the hill. He said every attempt to recover the bodies drew mortar fire, but I told him we couldn't leave those men out there. Green and I grabbed some empty machine gun belts and started crawling across the ridgeline, which was at least three deep with dead Chinese. When we reached the bodies we made slings with the machine gun belts, pulled the KIAs onto our backs, and crawled back. We drew mortar fire, but it fell on the backside of the ridge and forward of us.

And the day was far from over.

We started down the hill with some men from the Korean Service Corp carrying the dead on stretchers. Along the way, some of our GIs discovered two Chinese soldiers hiding in a bunker. One came out voluntarily, but the other had to be coaxed out with a grenade. It cost him a leg, but our medics gave him a shot of morphine and patched him up. Now, with 2 KIAs and 2 Chinese prisoners, we again started down the hill, but it had become too dark to locate Ramirez' body along the path. I decided we could look for him the next day.

As planned, Green and I went back up Old Baldy the following day, but we couldn't find the body. It was gone. I wasn't too concerned, because I thought one of my other men must have beaten us to it. We spent the rest of the day collecting and processing the dead, but when we returned to Service Company I realized that nobody had retrieved a KIA named Ramirez.

Over the next two weeks, the 17th was very active, which meant that Graves Registration was very active, too. Still, I couldn't get Ramirez off my mind. I wondered if his dark hair and skin could have been mistaken for that of a Korean. We had many Korean soldiers assigned to our regiment, so there was a real possibility that the Korean Service Corp or the Korean Army had found Ramirez and buried him as one of their own.

When the regiment came off Old Baldy and went into reserve, I decided to find Ramirez. I took some Korean

Service Corp members and two men from our section and went grave hunting in a valley just south of the hill. We found numerous shallow graves piled with dirt and rocks, which is the normal burial practice for Koreans, and we started digging.

After probing 3 gravesites, we had 3 bodies wrapped in white linen. I checked

for wounds and dog tags but all the bodies were Korean. Then, at the fourth grave, I cut away the linen and found our man. "Ramirez," I said, "you're going home!"

It wasn't long before I went home, too, where I find myself still searching for Ramirez, still carrying the dead off a cold hill in Korea.

Brothers Who Died in the Korean War



SFC Albert A. Perry



Sgt. Cleveland "Coot" Perry

Art Lajeunesse continues his research into brothers killed in Korea. Over the past few years he has uncovered seven sets of brothers who died in the war.

"I had believed that the military had stopped this practice after the five Sullivan brothers died in WWII," he said. "But, I was wrong. I guess if they request to be together, the military does grant it."

Here are the stories of two more brothers who died in the same war, Albert and Cleveland Perry, from Saltville, Virginia. Their parents were Ezekiel "Zeek" and Ollie Perry.

Albert was born in 1931 and Cleveland in 1923. Their brothers were Claude William, James, and Blaine. Their sisters were Geneva and Gladys. SFC Albert A. Perry served with Co. C, 21st Inf. Rgt., 24th Inf. Div. He went to Korea with "Task Force Smith," the first Army unit to go to Korea. He was killed in action while fighting the enemy near Uijongbu, South Korea on December

12, 1950. He was awarded the Purple Heart, CIB, Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Sgt. Cleveland "Coot" Perry served in the Army in Europe in WW IL. It wasn't too long after he was discharged that he reenlisted in the Army. He served with Company C, 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 2nd Inf. Div., in the Korean War. He was killed in action while fighting the enemy near Kunu-ri, North Korea on November 27, 1950. For his leadership and valor, Sgt. Perry was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal. He also was awarded the ETO Medal and the WW II Victory Medal.

The family kindly provided the information and photos.

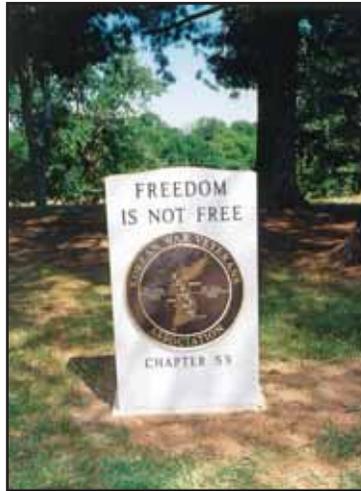


Monuments and Medals

Korea: the Forgotten War, Remembered

Chapter Sponsors New Jersey Monument

The Union County (NJ) Chapter sponsored a Korean War monument project recently. The monument, which is located on the grounds of the Menlo Park Home for New Jersey Disabled Veterans, was dedicated October 20, 2004. It was funded by public donations; Chapter Commander Richie Alexander did the work.



The State of New Jersey also authorized the New Jersey Korean Service Medal, which is available to all "Garden State" veterans who served in the Korea Theater of Operations from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953.

ABOVE: Union County's (NJ) monument

RIGHT: The New Jersey Korean Service Medal



Frank Lesieur, Chapter 204 Secretary/Treasurer, escorts Mrs. Jack Wolkovitz to view Chapter 204's Monument



American Legion Post 88's Color Guard at Hamden

Happy Times In Hamden

On Sunday June 27, 2004 the "Forgotten War" was remembered once again in a ceremony dedicating the Greater New Haven Area Korean War Memorial. The event, sponsored by the Greater New Haven Connecticut Chapter 204, was held in Veterans Memorial Park on a beautiful grassy knoll overlooking New Haven Harbor and Long Island Sound. The event, blessed with magnificent weather, was attended by over 400 people of all ages.

Mr. Edward Shultz, Chapter 204 President, presided over the ceremony. Participating dignitaries included Hyun-Myung Kim, Deputy Consul General of the Republic of South Korea, U.S. Representative Rosa Delauro, and Mayors John Destefano and Carl Amento, of New Haven and Hamden, respectively, and First Selectman Kevin Kopetz of North Haven.

Reverend Owen Sanderson (USN, Ret.) conducted a stirring invocation. Col. Steven Fodero (USA, Ret.), chairman of the New Haven Veterans Council, William Farrell (USMC), former New Haven Chief of Police, and Richard B. Kang, President of the Korean American Society of Connecticut, also provided remarks.

The New Haven Korean Church choir, dressed traditionally in beautiful costumes, sang a medley of Korean folk songs. Students from the Academy of Martial Arts, under the direction of Master Joel Waldron, conducted a Tae Kwon Do demonstration.



The presentation of wreaths at the Hamden ceremony



Chapter 204 VP Howard Sisson and Mrs. John Keefe at monument ceremony

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

Wreaths were presented at the newly unveiled monument. The Korean American community presented one. Former POW Warren Avery and Purple Heart recipient David Amatrudo presented the other, under the direction of Chapter 204 Chaplain Russ Corso. Special thanks were given to the wives of all those who participated. In accordance with this, Chapter 204 Vice President Howard Sisson escorted Mrs. John Keefe (widow of past Chapter president) and Secretary/Treasurer Frank Lesieur escorted Mrs. Jack Wolkovitz (widow of past chapter historian) to the memorial during the laying of the wreaths.

Mr. Shultz commended the efforts of project officer Frank Carrano for leadership in the building of this memorial and Frank Lesieur for his dedication in establishing KWVA Chapter 204. Additionally, he praised the efforts of Mr. Dan Levy, a Hamden, Connecticut educator and KWVA Chapter historian, for his efforts in raising student awareness of the contributions of veterans to our nation.

Honors to the deceased were rendered by the American Legion East Haven, CT Post 89 firing squad. Frank Calistro played taps and God Bless America. A color guard accompanied the ceremony composed of Headquarters Company 102nd Infantry, 2nd Company Governor's Foot Guard, American Legion Hamden, CT Post 88, and East Haven, CT Post 89. This monument contributes a significant and lasting reminder of the efforts of Korean War veterans in our area.



Students from the Academy of Martial Arts perform at Hamden ceremony

Thoughts And Photos From The "Hart"

Don Hart visited the Korean War Memorial in Washington D.C. recently. He wrote:

My fellow vets,

I was proud to have been able to visit the Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC, last week. It was truly a moving experience, one I'd like to share with you. The dedication set the tone:

**OUR NATION HONORS
HER SONS AND DAUGHTERS
WHO ANSWERED THE CALL
TO DEFEND A COUNTRY
THEY NEVER KNEW
AND A PEOPLE
THEY NEVER MET
1950 - KOREA - 1953**

Here's to all of us who served. We haven't forgotten.



The Color Guard, including the Governor's Foot Guard and American Legion, at Hamden



Members of the New Haven Korean Church choir, with Frank Carrano, event coordinator, in uniform at right, at Hamden



Tell America

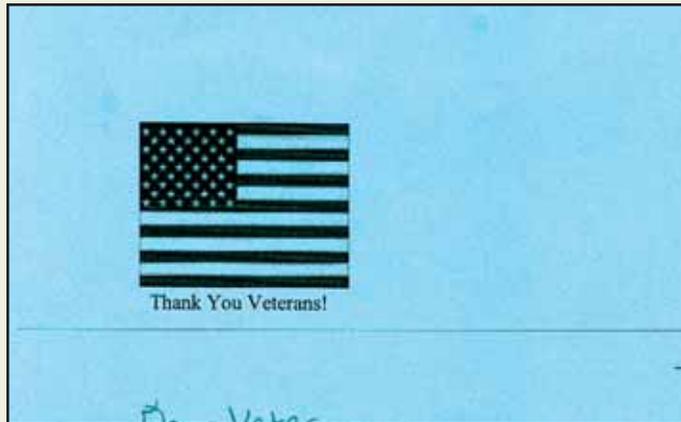
Lake Worth Proves Its Worth

On April 19, 2005 Lt. Richard E. Cronan, Chapter # 17, Of Delray Beach FL, was invited to Lake Worth High School in Lake Worth FL. where we showed a film, Bloody Korea. After the film, we each spoke to two Social Study classes comprising about sixty students about our own experiences in Korea between 1951 and 1953. They were really amazed when we told them about the living and weather conditions. Very few asked about actual combat.

In our group we also had a pilot who flew from the later part of WW2 through Viet Nam. He brought along a few models of the planes he flew. The boys, especially, were full of questions about the planes.

Setting The (Pana) Tone

Several KWVA members attended school in Pana, IL, to "Tell America" about their experiences in Korea. As usual, students and teachers alike were



Pana presentation: veterans who spoke to three classes one day (L-R) Floyd Cooper, Richard Baughman, John Mooney, Jerry Seymour, Robert Maske

appreciative of their time and presentations — and future appearances.

One teacher at Pana High School, Diane Harkins, summed up their feelings in her letter to Floyd Cooper:

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Thank you so very much for organizing the Korean War Veterans Presentation for Pana High School. The students truly enjoyed and learned from listen-

ing to the Veteran's (sic) war experiences. The class discussions that followed the presentation were full of insight, praise and respect for the Veterans of the Korean War. Thank you for sharing your time and personal experiences with us. As always, we look forward to seeing you again next year.

A first grader named Kendall

Smith sent a letter to Cooper, which he forwarded to us. Cooper noted that, "I'm sure the little guy had help on this, but it still makes us old vets proud that we served, and are able to give programs to students."

Kendall wrote:

Dear American Veteran,

Hello! My name is Kendall Smith. Some of you died just for us. I know you left your family to help us. If you weren't in the Armed Forces we wouldn't be here today. You risked your life to keep us free. You helped to keep us better childhoods. We are very proud of you because you were in the Armed Forces. We are thankful for what you have done for us. I hope you had a great time at Parsons School.

Love, Kendall

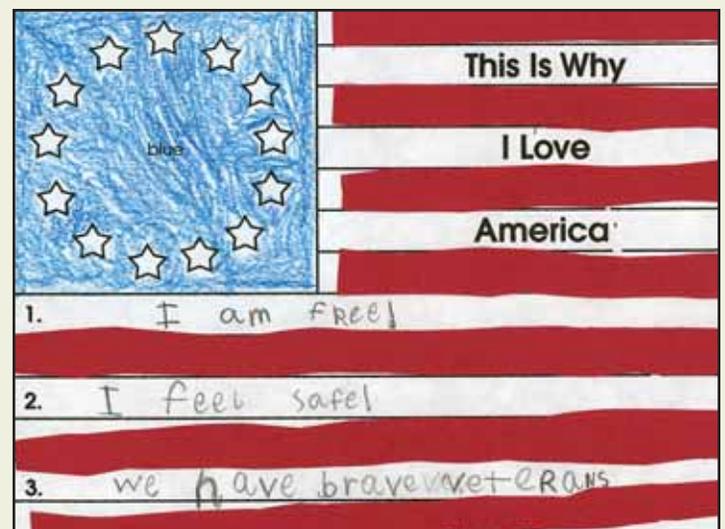
Even if he did have help with the letter, whoever helped him has an appreciation for the Armed Forces—which is why programs like Tell America exist in the first place.

New Knowledge In New Jersey

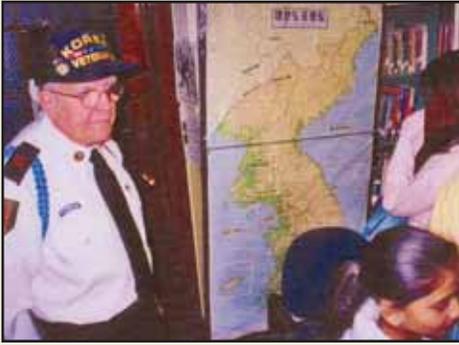
On February 8, 2005, Chapter 170's Acting Commander George Bruzgis and seven other members spoke to



Tell America at Pana (L-R) Charles Jenkins, Dave Mayberry, Floyd Cooper, Gene Baker, Richard Fischbach, Harold Holthouse



Greetings from the 1st Grade at Parsons School in Pana, IL



Jr. Vice Commander, Chapter 170, speaking to Union School students



Taejon Chapter Commander George Bruzgis and Raymond Cohen with Union School students



Union School Librarian Mrs. Jan Rose stands between Louis DeStefano and Richard Casserly

100 7th grade students at Union School, Rutherford, New Jersey. There were two sessions, each comprising fifty students. Each member spoke about his experiences during the war. The presenters were served a catered lunch in the school library following the sessions.

In a letter to Commander Bruzgis, Mrs. Jan Rose, Union School librarian, stated that the group of Taejon Chapter members provided a wonderful experience for the 7th grade students. She said the members played a part in a research study on events that made up the 20th Century. Mrs. Rose added that the impact of the visit demonstrated patriotism at its best.

Chapter members received many letters from students—including two from Korean students—expressing their thanks, and explaining how they were touched forever by the individuals' honesty and patriotism.

Here are a few of the (unedited) letters.

Union School
359 Union Ave
Rutherford NJ 07070

George Bruzgis
Senior Vice Commander,
73rd Tank BN.
230 Legion Place
Haledon NJ 07508

Dear Mr. Bruzgis, Mr. Cohen,
Mr. Casserly, Mr. DiLonardo, Mr.
Burkett, Mr. De Stefano, Mr.
Cupu, and Mr. Dinzes,

Again this year the impact your visit had on our school community is patriotism at its best.

Your message to the children was better than any text. The students who met you, visiting teachers, Mr. Curci, Mrs. Moss, but especially me thank you very much. You brought Union School dignity.

Enclosed are some of the letters students wrote. Letters from the Korean students are very special. We were all touched forever by your honesty and patriotism. We will never forget Red's taps on the harmonica.

God bless you and thank you again. Please plan to come back next year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jan Rose
School Librarian



February 8, 2005

Dear Mr. Bruzgis and Veterans-
of Foreign Wars.

Thank you so much for coming to our school and sharing great stories about the war with us. I really enjoyed your stories. Especially, when you talked about the Korean War, I could feel your heart just by listening to your stories. I was born in Seoul, Korea and I did not get to learn a lot of information about the Korean War. However, I learned many things from you.

Your stories were really interesting. Mostly, I liked the Korean



Chapter 170 members at Union School presentation (L-R) Harold Dinzes, Raymond Cohen, John DiLonardo, Richard Casserly, Vincent Cupo, George Bruzgis, Erwin Burkert, Louis DeStefano

War part. I never had chance to learn the history about Korean War in Korea because I had to come to America. When I heard that over 50000 people died, I felt so thankful and sad. Also, when the armies had to go back and forth from Pusan to North Korea and back to South Korea and fought for us by risking their life, I could not tell how much I was thankful to America.

Once again, thank you very much for helping us and keeping our life safely. With your help, South Korea found peace and correct society. Even though North Korea and South Korea did not yet united, I believe that we will soon be united because thousand of people have risked their life for our country and helped us to found the peace between North and South Korea. Thank you again for sharing their histories and helping us. Once again, thank you. Sincerely,
Yesul Kim



February 8, 2005

Dear Mr. Bruzgis and Veterans
of Foreign Wars,

Thank you for coming to Union School to share your experiences when you served our country. You have taught me many things through your time with us.

When you veterans came to Union School and did your presentation, I learned things and felt emotions. For a first, you have taught me that military soldiers and shooting and blasts and in general war is not a good thing at all. You guys have made it very clear to me it is best avoided. Your war experiences have left a mark on me. I felt pretty shocked of the awful happenings during the wars from you. And yet, to be honest, very interested too. You have also given me great advice from you life experts. You have taught me that I'm not learning and being in school to get a good job, but to hold the future for my friends, my nation, or even all humanity! You have made me feel very important.

Thanks again for coming to Union School. Your advice and experiences have shown everyone a lot of important information. Your time at Union School will not be forgotten, nor shall your country forget what great actions you have done for us all. Thank you.

Sincerely, Andrew Kim

◆ ◆

February 8, 2005

Dear Mr Bruzgis and Veterans of Foreign Wars.,

Thank you so much for coming and sharing your experiences with us. My grandfather was in World War II, so I already knew a little about wars. You cleared up a lot of questions that I had, though. My classmates and I were talking about how good you were the rest of the day. I know that it must have been hard for you to find time to come and talk to us, but I am glad you did.

I really was impressed by the bullets that you brought in. I have seen my grandfather's medals before, but not bullets. I never realized that they were so big. I also liked to look at all the pictures and see what it was like back in that time period. My friends and I also liked to look and see what you guys looked like when you were younger. I listened carefully to all your stories and realized how hard it must be for you to talk about them.

Thank you again for coming to our school. I know that I got a lot out of your coming, and I think that my classmates did, too. Thanks for fighting to keep America free. God bless America!

Maggie Carter

◆ ◆

February 14, Monday

Dear Mr. Bruzgis and Veterans of Foreign Wars,

Thank you for your time of being here to share such a great stories with us. I loved the details and event happened during the war. The best part of it was the combination of South Korea and America attacking to the North, but North Korea pushed South Korea to Pusan. I was really sad to hear and see those people who had died in wars for us. I think back in the war, that everyone in the war was a hero. People who had died and also lived to give peace and satisfaction to the nation. I could still imagine that you were the remnants of those heroes. I couldn't believe that the dmz would once be opened to start a war between the North and the South Korea. Since I've lived in Korea for 12 years, I sort of understand how well you were a huge part of help on this major war.

I really appreciate of you giving us these important histories of wars. I thank you and



Ken Roemke looks at Chapter 30's Tell America display



Chapter 30 Tell America participants (Front L-R) Kenneth Roemke, President Bernard Wisniewski, Pastor Han, Robert Durga (Back L-R) Charles Hiltunen, Program Chairman Jim Yaney, Don Reidt, Melvin Franke, Dave Martin. Two participants, Marilyn Renbaeger and Carl Fowler, were absent due to illness.

let God bless you!
Sincerely, From: Daniel ko

Chapter 30 (Indiana #1) Has Some New Ideas

The Korean War Veterans Assn., Indiana Chapter One, is kicking off its 2005 Tell America program with a new format and ideas. The program will not operate only in the Ft. Wayne area, but in the surrounding areas as well.

The program will feature all branches of service, Veterans for the Chosen Few, Pork Chop Hill, Punch Bowl, Old Baldy, and the Veterans of the U. S. Medical Corp. With this many branches of service represented, we will be able to give our students a good account of the Korean War.

Our program is also very fortunate to have Rev. Han, pastor of the Korean Community Church, as part of this wonderful program. He has been very inspirational in bringing the Korean community together with our Chapter.

Along with this program the group visits nursing centers to do much the same. We also march in summer hometown parades and are a strong part of the community.

Commander Bernard Wisniewski and his officers enjoy an attendance of seventy (70) members at each meeting.

We congratulate our Publicity Chairman, Mary Anna Roemke, for her help in getting this program presented.



Chapter 30 members Ken Roemke (L), Pastor Han, and Jim Yaney (R)

Members' Milestones

Alaskan Veteran Receives Long Awaited Medal

Mr. Roy J. Burkhart of Willow, Alaska was authorized by the Secretary of Defense to receive the Korean Defense Service Medal. This medal was approved by President George W. Bush on December 2, 2002 to recognize service to the United States and the Department of Defense by individuals who served in Korea during the tumultuous period directly following the Korean War.

Mr. Burkhart received the medal on February 25th, 2005 in Anchorage, Alaska in conjunction with a Military Appreciation Banquet. The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator for Alaska; and Carrol H. Chandler, Lieutenant General, USAF Commander, Alaskan Command, presented the medal to Mr. Burkhart at a reception, in the presence of the members of his immediate family and a number of friends.

Mr. Burkhart served in Korea from December, 1955 through November, 1956 with the United States Air Force.

Mr. Burkhart served in Korea from December, 1955 through November, 1956 with the United States Air Force.

He was assigned to the 607th AC&WS, APO 970, San Francisco. The 607th was quartered at a location known as K6, P'yong Taek, Korea. The basic function of the squadron was to control United States Air Force air traffic patrolling the area.

Mr. Burkhart applied for the medal immediately after hearing the announcement that it had been approved by President Bush. There were numerous times he had to send and re-send information proving his service. After a three-year wait, he asked for assistance and support to get the medal approved. It is no accident that Senator Murkowski and General Chandler were the presenters of this medal. Their efforts, combined with those of their employees, were responsible for making it happen.



Roy Burkhart, flanked by Sen. Murkowski and Gen. Chandler, receives his Korean Defense Service Medal

He added that other people might be encouraged to "hang in there" on getting their medals as a result of his tenacity in pursuing his.

Continued on page 54

Korean War Veteran shares short stories from his life

plus some weird stuff!

**Strange Experiences
Military and otherwise**

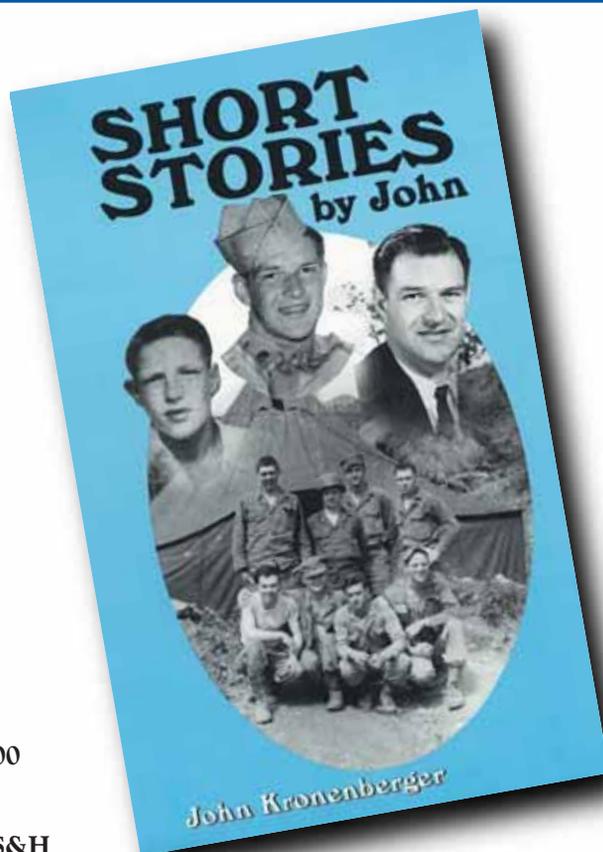
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EDITOR'S REQUEST: To avoid confusion in this section, we will use Chapters' national IDs, rather than state Chapter numbers. For example, Kansas Chapter 1 will appear as Chapter 181, which is its national chapter designation. Similarly, Missouri Chapter 2 will appear as Chapter 43, etc.

CHAPTER OF THE MONTH(S)

With each issue, we feature one Chapter that has been particularly active and which has interesting stories to tell that may be of widespread interest to KWVA members—and which might assist them in pursuing their own activities.

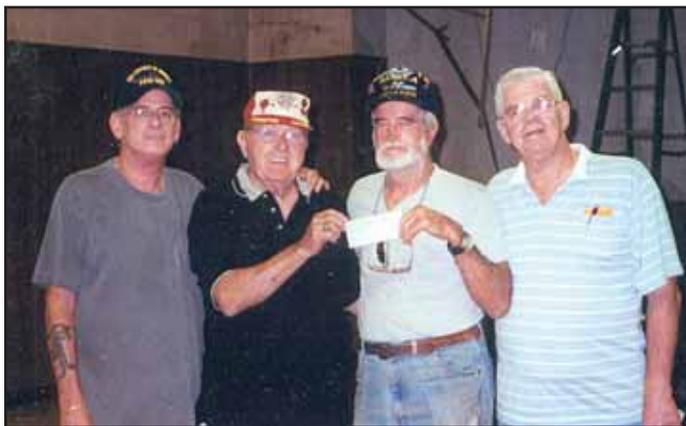
In this issue, we highlight the “You Name It, We Do It” Chapter: CHAPTER 1, Gulf Coast Chapter, Alabama.

1 Gulf Coast Chapter, Alabama

Bill Pitt

In the Sept/Oct 2004 issue, there was an article “Veterans Helping Other Veterans of Another Generation,” which detailed veterans helping other living, sick, and deceased veterans. Our Chapter does a great deal of that—and a lot more.

The Gulf Coast Chapter has donated in the past two years \$10,000.00 to the James Green Veterans Home, \$10,000.00 to VFW Post 49, \$6,000.00 to the Veterans Day Parade, and \$150,000.00 to the *USS Alabama* Memorial Park, where our memorial was built.



Chapter 1 presents check for \$10,000.00 to VFW Post 49 (L-R) Ronnie Roberts (Quartermaster), Buddy Pounds (Post Commander), Bill Pitt (Chapter President), Bob McDonald (Club Manager)

It has been a struggle, but our Korean Memorial is finished. We are nearly broke now, but it has made us feel good knowing we could help others.

Our Color Guard goes to schools to teach the students how to respect the flag and how to fold it. Quite often we are called to post the colors for different military reunions. We raise the flag at churches, libraries, schools, and medical centers, and our senior citizens call us to post the colors for our special events.



Chapter 1 members provide Mrs. Sterne with a fruit basket (L-R) Walter Ballard, Bill Pitt, Sonny Willisson, Joe Bolton, Claude Amos



Chapter 1 members visit Lynwood House Nursing Home (Top, L-R) Joe Bolton, Claude Amos, Bill Pitt, Sonny Willisson (Bottom, L-R) Walter Ballard, Harold Martin



Presenting another fruit basket are Chapter 1 members (Standing, L-R) Walter Ballard, Claude Amos, Sonny Willisson, Bill Pitt (Sitting, L-R) Roy Rope, Joe Bolton

19 General Raymond G. Davis (GA)

James R. Conway

The Chapter has held several recent meetings featuring prominent keynote speakers. Among them:

February: Italian-born Edward La Porta, who served with the U.S. Army in the invasion of Oran in North Africa, named "Operation Torch," and who was later a POW in Italy and Germany.



Chapter 19's February guest speaker Edward La Porta



April meeting speaker "Tommy" Thompson chats with Chapter 19 members (L-R) Thaddeus Sobieski, Gen. Harold Dye, Jack Robinson

April: U.S. Army Col (Ret.) "Tommy" Thompson, a U.S. Military Academy graduate who participated in WWII and became liaison officer on the UN Command truce team at Panmunjon, Korea in 1951

We also participated in the Georgia Institute of Technology's (Georgia Tech) Veterans Luncheon remembering General Raymond G. Davis and the 90th anniversary of his birth to honor U.S. Senator Max Cleland with the General Davis National Service Award.

The Chapter is planning a celebration of the 55th anniversary



Dot Tillman was awarded an appreciation plaque for recording secretary, Chapter 1: Mackie Tillman holds fruit basket he received around Christmas

We stand the "Death Watch" at the funeral homes for our members. We are pall bearers for any veteran when we are asked. We have also participated in a few burials involving caissons and horses.

Every Veterans Day we march in the parade. We post the colors on Veterans Day at the National Cemetery. You name it, we do it.

Every year the Chapter has a Christmas Party at which we hand out fruit baskets to the sick. We have a picnic in October of every year, which the South Korean people from Mobile always attend.

10 Connecticut #1

Howard W. Wilson

Three members of the Chapter, Bob Butler, Howie Wilson, and Jim Raynor, are members of the KWVA Honor Guard. They, along with Squad Leader Dennis Collins, are also members of the 169th Inf. in New Britain, CT.



(L-R) Bob Butler (Ellington), Howie Wilson (Vernon), Jim Raynor (Enfield), Dennis Collins (New Britain)

30 Indiana #1

Mary Ann Roemke



Chapter 19 members (L-R) Tom Harris and Jim Conway stand next to portrait of Gen. Davis with Mrs. Knox Davis

The Chapter's 2005 officers are:

- President - Bernard Wisniewski
- Treasurer – Dean Whitesell
- Secretary – Marian Wisniewski
- Chaplain – Harold Schick
- Quarter Master – Carl Fowler
- Monument Walkway Chairman – Allen Clendenen
- Publicity Chairman – Mary Anna Roemke
- Parade Chairman – Garry Sink
- Tell America Chairman – Jim Yaney
- Entertainment – Nancy Sink
- Trustees – Ken Roemke, Dick Renbarger, Robert Durga,

Dave Martin



Senator Max Cleland (foreground) at Georgia Tech with Chapter 19 members (L-R) Tom Harris, Edwin Murray, John Kahle, Jim Conway



Chapter 30 officers 2005 (Back row L-R) Allen Clendenen, Mary Anna Roemke, Ken Roemke, Harold Schick, Dick Renbarger, Robert Durga, Garry Sink, Dean Whitesell, Carl Fowler (Front row L-R) Marian Wisniewski, Dave Martin, Bernard Wisniewski, Jim Yaney, Nancy Sink

of the beginning of the Korean War on June 25, 2005, at the National Museum of Patriotism in Atlanta. One of the features will be a round table discussion of the war's events. The panel members include General (Ret.) Harold Dye, Major (Ret.) William L. "Bill" Hall, General (Ret.) Warren R. Johnson, General (Ret.) William Livsey, Col. (Ret.) Ben S. Malcolm, Cpl. Jack W. Robinson, Col. (Ret.) Thaddeus R. Sobieski, and Col. (Ret.) Albert N. "Tommy" Thompson

Chapter members Tom Harris, John Kahle, and Jim Conway attended the Korean Veterans Association dinner and flag exchange ceremony at the Seoul Garden Restaurant on Easter Sunday. At the ceremony, Mr. Bruce Lee passed on his presidency of the Association to Mr. Dae Yong Min.

All Chapter and/or Department news for publication in "The Graybeards" should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor, 152 Sky View Dr., Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or emailed to Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net



Chapter 30's monument on O'Day Road in Fort Wayne, IN

56 Ventura County (CA)

David Lopez

Chapter members participated in the Christmas Parade in December 2004.



Chapter 56 members march at Christmas. (L-R) Frank Torrez, Rudy Avellano, Henry Marin, Manuel Salazar, Gilbert Cubrera, Ben Espinoza, Everett Baca



More Chapter 56 marchers (L-R) Ben Espinoza, John Campos, Rudy Avellano, Frank Torrez, Everett Baca, Vice Commander Mike Hidalgo, William Cobos, Robert Bermudez, Manuel Mendez, Commander David Lopez

89 Oklahoma Chapter

Harold L. "Muley" Mulhausen

Chapter members make two trips per year to the Veterans Center at Sulphur, Oklahoma. The Chapter provides the money for bingo; the wives provide pies, cakes, candy, and cookies. We can't do it without the wives. We love them!

On our Easter visit, we take "Easter Eggs." The guys love them. We also take books, puzzles, and clothing.



Chapter 89 members (L-R) Standing: Bill Cockrell, John Whittington, Hershall Burns, Carlos Reams, Bob Hurt, Jim Greenwood. Seated: Gerald Wampler, Harold Mulhausen, Joe Pizzini, Roland Nee



Chapter 89 wives (L-R) Standing: Joe Burns, Betty Mulhausen, Joyce Reams, Christine Wampler. Seated: Edith Simms, Billie Cockrell, Joan Nee

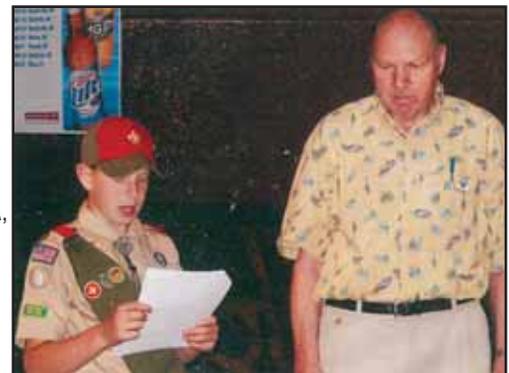
128 Edward Markart Chapter (VA)

Ralph Gardner

Boy Scout Essay Contest Winner Announced

The Chapter marked Memorial Day, 2004 with special ceremonies held by the flagpole, at the entrance to the Lake of the Woods Clubhouse, Monday, May 31st, 2004.

Following formal ceremonies, which were attended by nearly 100 spectators, the veterans group and friends moved on to the Roadsters Restaurant, adjoining the main gate to Lake of The Woods on Route 3.



Lewis Smerling of Troop 7, Orange, VA, reads his winning essay as Chapter 128's Contest Chairman Henrick Thode looks on

Earlier in the year, the Association announced its sponsorship of an essay contest open to all Boy Scouts. The Scouts were asked to submit essays (250 words or less) outlining their experiences interviewing local Korean War veterans. The winner, announced by contest chairman Henrick Thode, was 12-year-old Boy Scout Lewis Semerling, of Rhodesville, VA. He was awarded a one-of-a-kind mounted collection of Norman Rockwell drawings of Boy Scouts, as depicted in a special series of Liberian postal stamps.

The object of the competition was to acquaint younger Americans with the virtually forgotten Korean War, some fifty years later, Angelo Laviano, Chapter Commander, explained. Interestingly enough, most families can personally identify with this war.

Lewis interviewed his grandfather, Lieut. Colonel Ronald F. Semerling, 74, a retired career military officer now residing in Longwood, FL. He served as a platoon leader in Korea.

The younger Semerlings have been identified with the Boy Scouts for many years. John Semerling, father of Lewis, is an Eagle Scout and troop leader (Troop 14, Orange). His wife, Kathy, is also a Scout leader. Their two other sons are Cub Scouts. The Semerlings live on their 150-acre working farm in Rhodesville, VA.

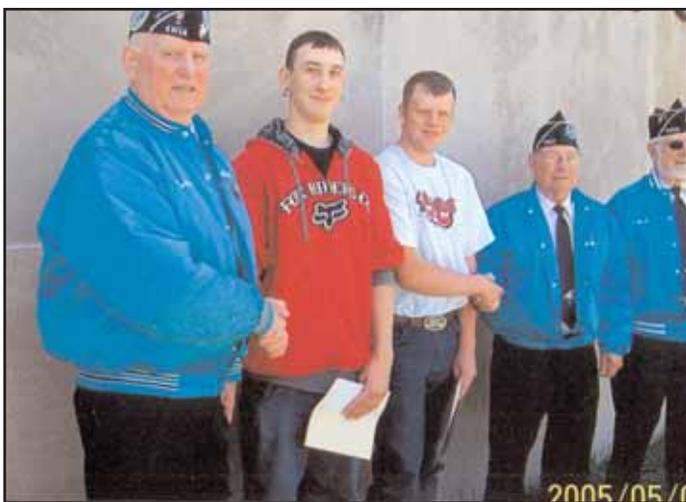
The Semerlings, Lewis, John, and, Kathy, and brothers Douglas and James, Cub Scouts, were guests at the Memorial Day Korean War Veterans gathering—all proudly attired in their Scout uniforms.

129 Southeastern Indiana

Luther Rice

We conducted our annual fundraiser at the local Wal-Mart store to raise funds to support our charitable programs, which include:

- awarding \$1,000.00 scholarships each year to area high school graduates
- supporting programs for patients at the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio



Chapter 129 members and scholarship winners (L-R) Commander Luther Rice, Jacob Powell, Derek Luers, Alvin Senger, Bob Riede



The a.m. group of Chapter 129 members at Wal-Mart fundraiser (Front row L-R) Ron Baker, Joe Smith, Dale Wendelman, Leroy Webb, Dick Goble, Bob Oelker (Back row L-R) Clarence Batchelor, Bill Johnston, Harry Webb, Jim Slayback, Fred Amm, Carl Zimmer, Hank Schmeltzer, Howard Cleeter, Glynn Clark, Bill Kyle, Clarence Vogelgesang



Quite a turnout for Chapter 129 members at Wal-Mart. The p.m. group (Front row L-R) Archie Abner, Bob Riede, Bob Karp, Hershel Kent, Carroll Love (Back row L-R) Marvin Curlin, Bob Weber, Ralph Cole, Bob Moore, Leonard Bauer (WWII), Phillip See, Tom Lampert, Bill Bayless, Al Garcia.

- providing assistance to veterans
- supporting programs conducted for senior citizens
- providing winter clothing for less fortunate children
- participating in other charitable initiatives.

Commander Luther Rice, Alvin Senger, and Bob Riede attended an awards ceremony conducted at the Southeastern Career Center in Versailles, Indiana, to present scholarships to Jacob Powell and Derek Luers, both of whom will be attending the University of Northwestern Ohio, where they will be in the diesel and automotive technology program. This is the eighth consecutive year the Chapter has awarded scholarships to graduates of the Career Center.

141 Cape & Islands #1 (MA)

Stan Jones

President Lou Dechert visited our Chapter a short while ago. We were very pleased the Lou could visit us this day. An invitation is extended to every member of the KWVA to visit Cape

Cod and our memorial at any time. Please contact one of us before you come so that we may give you the guided tour.



Cape and Islands Chapter 1, KWVA Honor Guard and Color Guard at Present Arms during 5 May 2005 Ceremony and Lunch honoring lost comrades from both Korea and The United States



Tom Hudner, Medal of Honor (Korea), acknowledging the standing ovation - long and loud - upon his introduction.



Taps: (from left) Cape Chaplain Joe Kennedy, Korea Consul General Choi Won Sun, 6-25 Korea War member Jung S. Seo, Chosin Marine Jake O'Rourke, Cape Bugler Al Madden, Marine Bob Spellman, National President KWVA Lou Dechert



Cape Chapter member George Johnson presenting Tom Hudner, Medal of Honor recipient, with an inscribed brick that will be placed in the Cape and Islands Memorial Walkway to join the names of two other Medal of Honor recipients already in place



Head table introductions (From left) Cape Stan Jones - M.C., National KWVA Secretary Don Duquette, Young Tae Cho, President, Korean Americans Association of New England, Tom Hudner, Medal of Honor recipient,, Choi Won Sun,- Consul General Korea, KWVA President Lou Dechert, saluting, Jung S. Seo, Korea War veteran



Cape Past Commander John Sheehy and KWVA President Lou Dechert (Discussing John's beard, we are sure)



President Lou Dechert and Cape members Stan Jones and Larry Cole sharing a story. The Korean word posted in back of the head table means "Friendship". That was the theme of the ceremony and lunch

170 Taejon

Louis Quagliero

Chapter members remained active. Three activities of note included a special evening at which two members received the prestigious "Commanders Medal Award," the 19th POW-MIA Day of Remembrance, and appearances at Union School (see "Tell America" on page 34).

April 12, 2005

Frank Castaldo and Pete Gentile received the Chapter's prestigious "Commanders Medal Award" for outstanding service to the Taejon Chapter and its goal of bringing awareness of the Korean War, the POWs, and the MIAs by promoting Americanism through patriotic activities.

Another presentation followed. Henry Ferrarini, Captain of the Chapter's Color Guard, received the Veterans Trophy from the Pearl River, New York St. Patrick's Day Parade committee. Ferrarini calls cadence in song with the marching members in every parade.

April 24, 2005

Acting Commander George Bruzgis and six other Chapter



Chapter 170 Commander George Bruzgis presenting medal and certificate to Pete Gentile

members attended the 19th POW-MIA Day of Remembrance and walk sponsored by the American Legion Post 117 of Bogota, New Jersey. Members have attended the event since the Chapter was formed in 1995.



George Bruzgis presents award to Frank Castaldo



Chapter 170 member Henry Ferrarini holds "Veterans Trophy"



Chapter 170 members at the MIA-POW Walk (Front, L-R) George Bruzgis, Louis DeStefano, Raymond Cohen, Erwin Burkert (Back L-R) Henry Ferrarini, Louis Quagliero



George Bruzgis leads Taejon Chapter in the POW-MIA walk in Bogota, NJ



Our Chapter was organized in Spring Hill in June 1999. The members who organized it were John McMillan (2nd VP), Ed Valetic (1st VP), Steve Ackerman (President), and Lou Schneider (Sec/Treasurer)



Chapter 170 member Alexander Atheras and his son Warren



The "174" Horse Race: (L-R) Pauline Belson, Grant Darling, Marion Darling, Robert Sharkey, Carl Chuman, Shirley Cartright, Louis Schneider, Marie Ackerman, Vic Belson, Rich Mellinger, Joe Seyfried, Steve Ackerman, Vivian Nelson, Art Nelson

The event honored all POWs and MIAs of all wars. The guest speaker was a WWII POW. Other veterans organizations represented included the American Legion, VFW, and National Guard, including members who served in Iraq. Lunch was served after the closing statement and the singing of "God Bless America."

174 Nature Coast (FL)

Ed Valetic

The Chapter holds "horse races" at the Baldemero Lopez Veterans State Nursing Home in Land O' Lakes, Florida. The winners of the race receive cash so they can purchase items in the PX. The Ladies Auxiliary provides refreshments, e.g., coffee and cake.

The Chapter also donated money to the Haley House in Tampa for temporary housing of families of returning injured soldiers from Iraq. We also awarded a check and certificate of achievement to the highest scoring girl and boy in the high school's Navy ROTC class.

We raise the money for these gifts and awards by holding two dinner dances a year, and through the twice-yearly sale of the Rose of Sharon memorial flowers.



The "174" jockeys (L-R) Louis Schneider, Shirley Cartright, Pauline Belson, Marie Ackerman, Vivian Nelson, Marion Darling

181 Kansas #1

Betty Tracy

The Kansas Korean War Veterans Association and the Marine Corps League are giving hand-operated tricycles to children between the ages of 3 and 10 who are unable to walk, but who can hand-crank the tricycle. These tricycles are assembled by the New Outlook Pioneers, Crossroads, Chapter 135, and through the Alpine Club of the Telcom Pioneers.



Kansas KWVA and MCL members present tricycles (L-R) Jimmy Wood, Ken Veira, Kansas KWVA President Earl Weller, Max McCrea, MCL Commandant Howard Runft; Loren E. Tracy is kneeling

The tricycles have dual wheels on the rear, bucket seats with belts, chain-driven hand crank assemblies, and adjustable stirrups for feet on a standard 16-inch tricycle frame.

They have presented five tricycles so far, in December 2004 and January 2005

183 Nebraska Chapter #1

Bill Ramsey

The Chapter recently honored the Omaha World-Herald daily newspaper and its reporter, David Hendee, for a series of articles on the Korean War. Chapter President Sam Wall presented a plaque to Hendee on March 16, 2005, which read:

The KWVA, Nebraska Chapter No.1, recognizes David Hendee for his exceptional series of articles in the Omaha World-Herald commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War, 1950-1953: Freedom is Not Free

Hendee is the son of a Korean War veteran who served with the First Marine Division in 1950-51. The honoree presented a



(L-R) Chapter 183 President Sam Wall, David Hendee and his wife, Polly, and Dennis Pavlik, POW chairman of the Chapter and Nebraska State POW chairman at the presentation to Hendee



Chapter 183 Board of Directors: Back (L-R) Dennis Pavlik, Glenn Krabbenhoft, Dale Griffith, Jim Pruss, Bill Heavery, Bernie Wieneke, Bill Wirges Front (L-R) Jim Anderson, Lyle Cave, Sam Wall, Jim Gardner, John Fifer, Jesse Brown, Bill Ramsey

PowerPoint program, using photos from his father's Korean collection, as well as well-known news photos of that historic time.

187 Western Massachusetts

Al Natario (Photos by Al Natario)

Since our formation in 2000, we have become very active in our area, e.g., attending Korean War ceremonies, marching in parades, and supporting activities at our nearby Soldiers Home in Holyoke, MA.

We have started an Honor Guard group to attend funerals, do the flag folding, and make presentations to next of kin. We purchased an electronic bugle last year, and we participated in 22 ceremonies in 2004.

With a current membership of 108, we average about 30-35 members at each monthly meeting.



Chapter 187 members marching in the Springfield Vietnam Veterans Parade



Chapter 187 members at a recent celebration in Springfield, MA, honoring Vietnam veterans



Commander Al Arpin of Chapter 187, seated, 2nd from left, and members of the Chapter at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Holyoke, MA, on March 20, 2005

216 M*A*S*H* 4099 (NJ)

Albert Gonzales

We have an exhibit at the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame Museum at Teterboro Airport, Teterboro, New Jersey. We have quite an extensive display of Korean War objects, from half-track trucks to transport planes, mess tents, operating tents, and show-er tents.



Chapter 187 members wearing their distinctive blue jackets—and still waiting for the parade



Commander Al Arpin and several Chapter 187 members prior to the St. Patrick's Day Parade



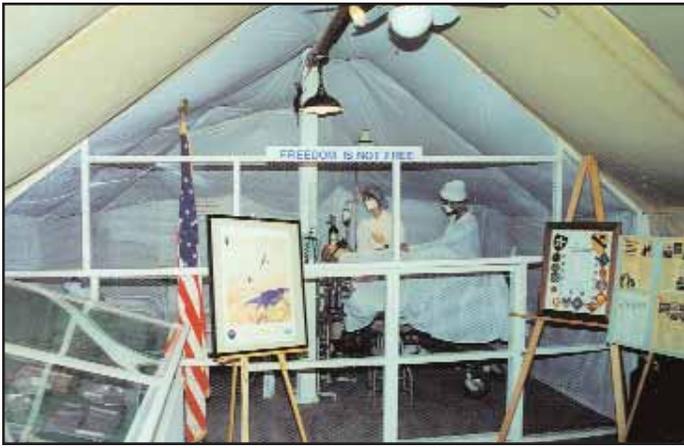
Chapter 187 members (L-R) Secretary Al Natario, Sr Vice Commander Jim O'Connell, Commander Al Arpin, approve as Paul Meisk receives his award for past service as Treasurer



Chapter 216 Commander Gonzales and wife Ann. He was the guest speaker at the Marine Corps Birthday Ball, where he spoke about the hardships and bravery of all the armed forces in Korea.



Military ambulance of WWI era. Part of 216's display



MASH Unit operating tent at Teterboro, with military show case on left and unit patches on right



Evacuation helicopter similar to the type used in Korea, now on display at Teterboro



These vehicles bring back memories for a lot of veterans. The authentic jeep owned by Past Commander Don Kuehn, has been in many parades. The 6x6 has provided bone-jarring rides for many of us.

Visitors to the museum are shown our display. Many of the visitors are school children from the local area. Our members are on hand to give tours of the area.

2004 was a fruitful one for us. We held our annual Daisy Drive, had a picnic for our members and family, and conducted our annual holiday party at the Fort Lee Hilton, which featured guests from the CIB Association, Third Infantry Association, and the Fort Lee VFW.



Some members of the M*A*S*H* 4099 enjoying coffee and cake after a meeting, at which the war stories never cease—and get better with age. (Front row, L-R) Homer Vanides, Ray Pospisil, Vince Arfuso, Bill Huston, Bill Zimmer (Back Row, L-R) Homer Martelli, Don Kuehn, Sergei Leoniuk, Faust Faustini, John Valerio, Al Longarini, Joe Kennelly, Joe Poggi

In June 2004, the Chapter was very active with the dedication of the Korean War Monument in Fort Lee.

Commander Al Gonzales leads the Chapter, ably supported by Secretary Joe Poggi, Financial Officer Vince Arfuso, and dedicated members who remember their days in Korea. We are proud that all our members served in combat in Korea—and we are always looking for the men who were there.

235 Santa Barbara (CA)

[Jack Calderon](#)

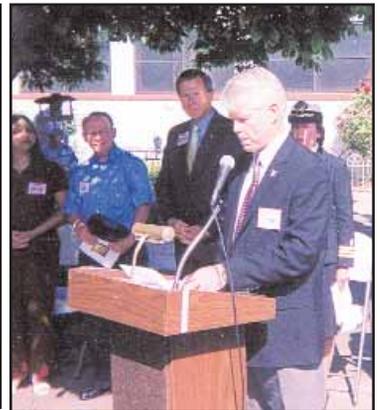
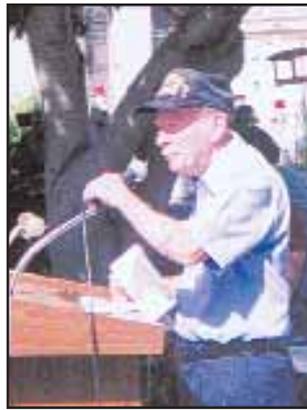
In March 1987 three Korean War veterans, Jack Calderon, Ray Sanchez, and Stuart Wallace, got together and formed our Chapter. This is our 18th year in existence. Jack Calderon has been President for nine of those years. Our members have always been very active. For example, they:

- Do a lot of color guard ceremonies and parades. Our Color Guard is called “All-Airborne,” since all its members are paratroopers
- Pay visits to local schools to speak about their Korean War service—and about how much the Republic of Korea appreciates it



Los Angeles High School ROTC posting colors at televised ceremony on March 5, 2005

Chapter 235 Associate Members Mary and Steve Carbajal discuss wishes with Santa Claus (Jack Romero) at December 20, 2004, Christmas Party



LEFT: Former Chapter 264 President David McDonald addresses veterans and guests at the 50th anniversary of the dedication of Eisenhower Hall.

RIGHT: Major General Roger Brautigan, Under Secretary of the California Department of Veterans' Affairs, was the keynote speaker at the 50th anniversary dedication of Eisenhower Hall.



Chapter 235 President Jack Calderon, Chaplain Tony Sandoval, Mr. Jae Lee, Vice President of Korean War Museum, Chicago, IL, and Chapter Board Member Pat Lopez socialize at Color Guard ceremony for 24th Inf. Div. in Laughlin, NV, April 20, 2005



Chapter 264 President Pete Mullen, second from right, and Chapter historian Stanley Grogan stand with members of the volunteer color guard at the Yountsville ceremony

Silver Star recipient and KWVA member Ray Sargent with Anita Sargent and Santa Claus at Chapter 235's 2004 Christmas Party



We meet on the first Saturday of each month at the Veterans Memorial Building in Santa Barbara at 9:30 a.m.



A small part of the contingent of veterans/residents at the Yountsville facility \$750.00 in 1882. It housed soldiers from the Mexican War and the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic (the Civil War, the War Between the States, or the War of the Yankee Aggression, depending on where you live). The resident hospital was completed in 1884, where some 220 soldiers were cared for. Only 70 of them were born in the U.S., showing the diversity of our population. The rest came from many different nations.

Today, with the rapid passing of WWII veterans, many more residents come from the ranks of Korean War veterans.

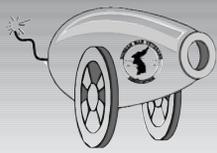
264 Mt. Diablo (CA)

Stanley Grogan

Once again Chapter 264, Concord, CA, supports the KWVA through participation in the 50th anniversary of the dedication of Eisenhower Hall at the Veterans Home of California at Yountsville. The Veterans Home of California is the third oldest in the nation—and the largest of its kind in the world.

The "farm" at Yountsville was purchased originally for

Continued on page 52



Feedback/Return Fire

This section of Graybeards is designed to provide feedback—and generate more feedback. It gives readers the opportunity to respond to printed stories, letters, points of view, etc., without having to write long-winded replies. Feel free to respond to whatever you see in the magazine. As long as it's tasteful and non-political, we will be happy to include it. If you want to submit ideas, criticisms, etc. that you prefer not to see in print—at least with your name attached to it—then we will honor that. Make sure to let us know, though.

Mail your "Return Fire" to the "Feedback Editor" at 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-2859. E-mail it to: sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net, or phone it in to (860) 563-6149. Whatever the medium you choose, we welcome your input.

The Kind Of Publicity The KWVA Needs

Recently, I sent you an e-mail and told you about my idea for giving the KWVA more public exposure. On Saturday, 9 April, 2005, Congressmen Bernie Sanders (D-VT) held what is known to many of us here in Vermont as Town Meeting Day. We met at the State House in Montpelier. I believe that I was the only person there who was a KWVA member. I wore my cap, and I have a light blue jacket that has the large emblem sewn on the back.

Bernie put out a pamphlet titled; HONOR AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO VETERANS. The partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform. On the backside of the pamphlet there is a list of nine veterans' organizations. I told him after the meeting that the KWVA should be listed also. He gave me the name of Jeff Weaver, who works in his office in Washington, DC as the person to contact.

Paul Tenney (via e-mail)

GB In Libraries

As I was reading your article on placing copies of The Graybeards in libraries, an idea popped into my mind when you mentioned the cost prohibitive distribution to every library in the land. I thought, "What about sending one extra copy to each Chapter president, who would commit to distributing it to the major library in his/her area?"

To me, that seems the most reliable way to handle it, i.e., piggyback on the president's mailing info. As the president changes, the address changes. Members may even alternate the libraries it is taken to if there are several in the Chapter's area.

We might have the individual president sign a statement when his election is

reported that he/she will faithfully perform that part of KWVA recruiting effort.

There are other advantages that could be mentioned, but that is a start.

Jake Feaster (via e-mail)

You Can Make "Book" On The Libraries

I think you have a good idea about placing a copy of "Graybeards" in certain libraries. I have been using our local library for research on the casualties of the Korean War for five years. I am sure they would appreciate having a copy. There are quite a few seniors using this library, & I am sure some are vets.

Thank you.

Art Lajeunesse

Eight Priests In The Family—And One Didn't Like Whiskey

Regarding beer and whiskey allotments, I know the officers received whiskey. We received beer, but only when we were in reserve.

We had a chaplain, Father Colter, with us. He didn't like whiskey, so we traded with him for beer. After I made sergeant, we went on R&R. When we got to Japan, all sergeants and above were allowed to purchase one case of VO for \$1.80 a bottle—tax free. A bottle of VO would sell for \$25 or more, depending on the thirst of the GI.

If I remember correctly, the beer cost ten cents a can, but I am not sure. I don't recall how many times the beer rations came, but I believe they arrived mostly in summer.

Incidentally, Father Colter had 7 brothers and 1 sister. All the boys became priests. The sister was single at the time.

Jack Dieterle, 1008 S. Hollywood Blvd., McHenry, IL 60050

It's Okay To Get Shot At If You Are 18—But Don't Drink The Beer

I was with the 2nd Bn. of the 14th Regt., 25th Division in 1952. To my knowledge and memory, our Headquarters Co. was issued beer once a month—or every two weeks. At first, I wasn't a beer drinker, but the bad taste of water and powdered milk got me drinking the beer.

We had at least one time when we got small cans of chocolate milk instead. We heard that someone (an 18 year old) had written to his mother about drinking beer. She got in touch with a Congressman, and the Army stopped our allotment of beer. Seems that the soldier's mother didn't approve of 18-year-olds drinking. This was in the spring of 1952, and we were in the Iron Triangle, Heartbreak Ridge, and Punch Bowl.

I must also comment on Ex-Sgt. Jim Holberg's observation about how cold it was in Korea. I found that in January through April 1952 the temperature was very like the temperatures in southern Massachusetts (Cape Cod). The difference was that we were sleeping outside.

Chet Abbey, 59 Bernard Circle, Centerville, MA 02632

One Tour Brew

I arrived in Korea 11 July 1950 with 82nd FA Bn., "A" Btry, Ammo Section. Although I cannot be sure, I believe we were issued weekly two cans of Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer at least through August. I cannot remember exactly when the ration stopped.

I was evacuated to a hospital in Japan in December 1950 or January 1951, returned to Korea in March 1951, and got reassigned to 79th Combat Engineer Battalion. We did not receive any alcohol

rations between then and September 1951, when I departed for the U.S.

Wesley L. Easterly, 1700 Robbins Road 434, Grand Haven, MI 49417-2877

More Propaganda

I recall some of the propaganda material floating around Korea. I had a pamphlet which I folded and carried all over Korea—and finally home. As the reproduction suggests, it is worn on the folded edges due to being in my pocket all that time.

Ralph E. Martin, P. O. Box 142102, Miami, FL 33114-2102



Ralph Martin, B Co., 14th Inf. Regt., 25th Div., carried this piece of propaganda all over Korea



Ralph Martin's bunker, with switchboard, radio, and smoke stack



Ralph Martin at the 38th Parallel on the way back to Seoul from the front to pick up gear

A Reunion Tribute To The "Old Sarge"—Fenton Morris

Every outfit in every army seems to have an "Old Sarge." We, the members of the 11th Evac. Hospital, Won-Ju, Korea (1952-53), had SFC Fenton Morris, from Palatka, Florida.

Sgt. Morris served in the U.S. Navy at the end of WWII. He stayed in the reserves until 1951. Then, he enlisted in the Army. He was not much older than most of us, but his military background made him the "Old Sarge."

After Korea, Sgt. Morris returned to Palatka and remained in the active reserve for another 20 years. In 1995 he started a reunion of 11th Evac members. For that first reunion there were only four members.

This year, October 6-8, about thirty former members will gather in Palatka to pay tribute to our "Old Sarge"—who passed away in December 2004.

Everyone who knew him will miss him. God bless his family—and God bless America.

Edward Elliott
86 Malone Ave.

Staten Island, NY 10306-41100

Memorials, Not Veterans

I wish you would insist that tributes to the Korean War were "Memorial" bridges, highways, etc., rather than "veterans." For example, we have one set of bridges in Richmond [VA], named "World War II Memorial Bridges." That is all inclusive. We also have a section of highway labeled "Korean War Veterans Highway." That is not all inclusive.

Some of the troops never lived long enough to become "veterans." So, the KWVA is an organization, not a memorial to all those who participated in the war (KIAs and live veterans). They should be a memorial—not just for the survivors.

Milton D. Drummond, Jr.,
1701 Bramsford Court,
Richmond, VA 23233-4446.

Looking For Info About "Chief" Keeble

My name is Linda Heltemes. I am a writer, and I live in Moorhead, Minnesota, which is minutes away from Fargo, North Dakota. Currently, I am serving as an assistant to a woman by the name of Merry Helm. Merry has successfully written for various entities—including two screenplays which were made into feature films by two of the three major television networks. Also, she is a writer for National Public Radio.

The true story of a soldier by the name of Master Sergeant Woodrow Keeble has come to our attention. Our team, headed by Merry Helm, is in the process of creating a documentary focusing on MSG Keeble and his actions during WWII and the Korean War.

Everyone involved with this project, including the veterans, feels that it is important to tell the story of MSG Keeble, who was recommended twice for the MOH. The first request for commendation was "lost." The necessary paperwork was then completed again and sent a second time, but did not reach the proper authorities before the deadline.

MSG Keeble passed away several years ago. Our hope is that our documentary will motivate the governmental "powers that be" to take action in awarding MSG Keeble's well-deserved medal.

In reading correspondence between Merry Helm and the soldiers who served with MSG Keeble, the praise and respect expressed for this man continues to amaze me. We have heard from several men who proclaim that they owe their lives to him. Even soldiers who do not wish to discuss their personal military experiences seem willing to talk about those experiences involving MSG Keeble. I have never seen such a display of support.

Our group also is determined to emphasize the events of the Korean War—we realize that this conflict, and those who served our country during this time, have not received the recognition that they deserve. Many soldiers with whom we have been in contact emphasize having lost a great many good men...we believe that we can play a small part in honoring those who were killed, as well as those who survived.

Continued on page 54

267 Gen. James A. Van Fleet (FL)

Don Sherry

The Chapter hosted its highest ranking guest speaker ever at its most recent monthly meeting at the Veterans Hospital. We also installed our new slate of officers for 2005-2006.

Our newest member, Brigadier General Paul Albritton, USAF (Ret.), gave an excellent talk on his outstanding military career. He possesses four advanced degrees, and he received his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida. He was involved in the development of the smart bombs being used in combat today by our armed forces. He also flew 193 combat missions over Vietnam in the F-4 Fighter.



Chapter 267 members and guests (L-R) Don Sherry, Jake Feaster, Dick Davis, Frank Murphy, Paul Bennett, General Paul Albritton, Doug Tanner, Sam Means, Bob White, Dick Love, Sarge McQuinn.



Festivities at Chapter 267's meeting (L-R) NCOIC Doug Tanner, Duane Dewey - MOH, Captain Pokorny, President Don Sherry

The new slate of officers installed includes:

- President - Dick Davis
- 1st VP - Frank Murphy
- 2nd VP - Bob Dowling
- Secretary - Paul Bennett
- Treasurer - Doug Tanner

- Sgt-at-Arms- Gene Isom
- Directors - Sam Means, Bob White, and Dick Love
- Judge Advocate - Jake Feaster

Our two past presidents are Sarge McQuinn and Don Sherry.

Chapter members presented a large photo and a plaque to Captain Bill Pokorny, Cmdr. Naval ROTC Detachment, University of Florida, commemorating his program called "The Changing of the Guard," which took place at the annual "Gator Growl" on Florida Field, in front of 42,000 loyal Gator fans. Nine members of our Chapter handed off all the colors to the cadets at the event. Captain Pokorny flew more than 200 combat missions over Korea and Vietnam.

Also honored that night was Lance Corporal Duane Dewey, USMC, holder of the nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor—and our most distinguished member.

270 Sam Johnson (TX)

J. D. Randolph, President of the Sam Johnson Chapter 270 of the Korean War Veterans Association, won Volunteer of the Year Award at the annual party for volunteers at the Dallas VA Hospital. Stephen Stous, Director of Volunteer Services, recommended J. D. Randolph, and Mary Bolen Brown, Director of the VA North Texas Health Care System, presented the award to J. D. Randolph. The annual Volunteer Party took on a Hawaiian theme this year.

In making the presentation, Stephen Stous, Director of



J.D. Randolph, Chapter 270, accepts Volunteer of the Year Award from Betty Bolin Brown, VA Hospital Director



J.D. Randolph with Director Brown and other volunteers after the presentation

Volunteer Services, gave the following reasons for selecting J. D. Randolph..

1. During FY04, J.D. was responsible for recruiting the largest number of volunteers into the VAVS program. His recruitment efforts of those in the Korean War Veterans Association have greatly strengthened the veteran service organization's base of

volunteers and presence within the VA North Texas Health Care System.

2. J.D. has taken over management of the wheelchair program. His leadership of this program has saved approximately \$15,000 through wheelchair repair and the locating and salvaging of lost or stored parts.

3. J.D. has accepted a place on the VAVS Executive Committee and is playing a vital role in the oversight of the VAVS program.

292 Crown of Maine

L. H. Gallop

The Chapter held a raffle recently, with a first prize of \$100.00. The luck winnr was Ms. Cheryl Lafford.



Chapter 292 President Norman Bourgoine (L) and Officer of the Day Fred Berube (R) present check to Cheryl Lafford

294 Greater Haverhill (MA)

W. H. "Bill" Rogers

Chapter members participated in Haverhill's 2004 Veterans Day celebration. They, along with other veterans, marched from the VFW Hall to the Peace Memorial, where a brief ceremony was held. The Korean War veterans then marched to the Korean Memorial for another brief ceremony, at which they dedicated the block showing the commanders of the Chapter. After the conclusion of the ceremonies, they retired to the American Legion Hall for lunch.

Now Hear This:

All comments concerning, or contributions for publication in *The Graybeards* should be sent to Art Sharp, Editor, 152 Sky View Dr., Rocky Hill, CT06067 or emailed to:

sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

Members also participated in the November 21, 2004 Santa Parade sponsored by the VFW. There was a car provided for those who could not march.

296 Cayuga County (NY)

John Barwinczok

The Chapter held its swearing in of officers and staff ceremony at its April meeting.



Chapter 296 at swearing-in ceremony

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

The Department held its state convention recently.



Three Department of FL Presidents and KWVA President Lou Dechert: (L to R) Jake Feaster, FL Pres 2002-2004; Tom Gaffney, FL Pres 2000-2002; Lou Dechert KWVA Pres 2004-2006; Ted Magill, FL Pres 2004-2006

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

The mailing address for sending/requesting information relative to membership in the KWVA has changed. The new address is:

Nancy Monson
Recording Secretary
PO Box 101238
Arlington, VA 22210-4238

FEEDBACK from page 52

In order to move forward with our project, we are once again asking for our veterans' help. We would very much appreciate any assistance you could offer us in locating soldiers who may have served with Master Sergeant Woodrow Keeble.

MSG Woodrow Keeble served with Company G of the 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division—definitely in 1951 and part of 1952. He was a Native American, and his nickname was “Chief.”

If you or any of our veterans can help us, please contact me at the following e-mail address: motoristal@aol.com

Sincerely,

Linda Heltemes
6604 3rd St N
Moorhead, MN 56560

Keeping “Sweet Pea’s” Memory Alive

Just a note to advise how much I enjoyed reading “Life Aboard The ‘Mighty Sweet Pea’” in the March-April 2005 issue. I also served aboard the “Sweet Pea” during the *Princeton’s* first Korea cruise with squadron VF-871 in the second CAG 19 contingent.

Mr. Buckman’s description filled in many gaps for me as to experiences of both air group contingents. I described VF-871 and second contingent action in a *Graybeards* article entitled “Weekend Warriors,” published in the July-August 2001 issue. My article excerpted events described in my book published in 1996 of the same title.

Please advise Ed Buckman that his article was very interesting and informative. Perhaps our joint efforts may help “Keep The Memory Alive.”

Paul L. Cooper
KWVA Mt. Diablo Chapter 264

EDITOR’S NOTE: Anyone who might have an interest in the book can obtain copies by contacting the Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library at 1007 Pacesetter Dr., P.O. Box 20, Rantoul, IL 61866-0020 (attn. Sharon Corum), telephoning 1-888-295-7212 or e-mailing kwvm@kwvm.com. The author donated 1,600+ copies to the museum for its use last year after his publisher ceased operations.

MEDAL from page 37

It’s Never Too Late To Get Your High School Diploma

My step-father, Russell H. Carpenter, is a Korean War veteran. He was drafted before he could finish high school. He found out this year from the veteran’s association that he could receive his high school diploma from any school of his choosing. This was great news after almost 50 years of feeling that something was missing from his list of life’s accomplishments.

He chose to graduate from Maumee High School in Maumee, Ohio. Why, you ask? Well, his grandson, my son, Ryan Harlow, just happens to be graduating as well. This might not be too heart felt. However, there is more to the story. You see, Ryan is a 22- year-old multi-handicapped young man.

On Sunday, June 5, 2005, Russell and Ryan graduated together!!! Our family is so proud, not only of Russ’s dedication to his country as a veteran of the Korean War, but also for not giving up his wish to graduate.

Just like his grandfather Ryan is an amazing story of triumph as well. He has overcome all kinds of obstacles, both mental and physical—which is kind of like all the veterans that serve for our country do every day!!!

I hope this story inspires some more Korean War veterans to seek a diploma if they do not already have one. My family is a great example of what you can do at any age in your life.

Ms. Jody Layman
1420 Shepherd Drive
Maumee, OH 43537

ABLE BATTERY from page 27



Korea bunker, FDC, with Dave Murphy on the phone. Note the Flash Fire charts on the wall and the plotting and charting table behind him.



Korean workers taking out the ammo boxes in an attempt to keep up. They salute me as they drive by, and I return it. It was part of the courtesy we shared.



#3 gun base piece. Luke holds a shell, while Rosie stands in the background.



#1 Gun Section. The #1 man keeps the piece on the aiming stakes, while the #2 man handles the phone to FDC and sets the S.I.

GIs Befriend Young Lad In Korea; Learn Why They Are There

By Bob Fuoco

A Marine Division was moving south during the Korean Campaign. At the side of the road stood a small Korean boy. His sorry eyes watched the Marines as they marched slowly by. His world had suddenly become a mass confusion and he longed to be by his mother's side or working in the field with his father.

There was nothing for him to do, so he followed the column of men all the way. It was a long march but every time they turned around he was still there. His face was stern and serious and he seemed to be staring out into space as he walked along.

When the company stopped for camp he was still there. The men shared their rations with him. Finally, after many days, a smile brightened up his face. A friendship had started. They became inseparable circumstances. Everywhere the GIs went he would follow them.

During the months to follow, the U. N. Forces were being pushed far back on the peninsula. They had made their final stand and started preparing for an offensive.

Every night he would slip quietly out of camp and into the surrounding villages. Along the roads where the natives were seeking refuge from the terrors of war he would approach everyone, asking about his parents.

One evening he was walking along the road when he noticed an old man working in the rice paddy. His heart beat fast as he ran up to the man he recognized from his old village. He told him that he had heard of his parents living in the city of Tangu, a few miles south.

The next morning he was in the city, very tired but with hope in his heart. All day long he searched. His stomach had grown accustomed to being without food, but most of his hunger was in his heart.

He was walking by the river, almost giving up hope, when he heard a cry from ahead, "Won Duck-ee!" Suddenly, he was looking into his mother's eyes. He ran from where he was standing and fell at his mother's feet, weeping.

The woman knelt down and embraced her son. Then they walked into the little mud shack. The boy was met by his two sisters. He looked around the room, and then into his mother's eyes. He knew then that his father was now planting the gardens in heaven.

The next morning he said good-bye to his mother and sisters and returned to his friends the Marines. He continued to follow them throughout the war, and the money the men would pay him for his work he would send home to his mother.

Finally, the truce was signed. Once again he found himself alone with his friends slowly being rotated home. One day he traveled to the village just outside the city of Chun-chon, where his father used to work in the field. How he remembered the days when the invaders from the north moved down like a terrible nightmare. He was greeted by some of his old playmates. After a while they told him that the American camp not far from the village was hiring houseboys to wash their clothes and shine their boots. The Marines had taught him to

speak English; he found little trouble in getting to work for them.

I arrived at the KMAG Headquarters late one night for my new assignment. It was Kim's first day at the compound also.

The next day I got up out of my army cot and reached down for my boots. It had been a long trip the day before, and when I went to bed my boots were quite dirty. But now they had a fresh shine on them. I was startled for a moment. At that time the door of the tent opened and I saw Kim Won Duk for the first time. He was carrying a five-gallon can of water on his shoulder. It took me a while to get used to having a clean, pressed uniform and my boots shined every day, but it took no time at all for us to become friends.

My mother sent some clothes from home for him. Also in the package was a pen. I gave him some paper and he started a letter to his mother. He glanced up and smiled when I looked at him. Then I thought to myself how bitter I was when I first arrived in Korea and wondered why we had to go through these miseries for such a barren land. But then I looked at Kim and thought of the other boys and girls like him and I knew.

Then my friend read a part from the Bible, "Draw not nigh hither; put off thy shoes from thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."

"Smart" Times In Korea

I remember well the guys with whom I served in Korea. Here are some of them.

At the time I was assigned to the kitchen. Some of the others in the photo with whom I worked there were named Whitaker, Snyder, Sweet, Sulesberry, McWillis, Chicago, Heggan, and Roe. (A couple of the names may be misspelled, but they are close.) I am the second person in the back row from the left.

Chicago was Korean. He kept our stoves going. That was a hard job in Korea. Getting parts was almost impossible, but he did a good job.

Anyway, I thought some of the people in the photo might recognize themselves, or other readers might remember some of us.

Don Smart
1441 10th Street,
Moline, IL 61265-3046



A "Smart" kitchen crew

Korean War Medallion

Shown actual size, complete with neck ribbon, and case. The reverse side is suitable for personal engraving. Can be used in essay and AUX programs, scouting, R.O.T.C., etc... Personalized medallions are a lasting tribute from your chapter to any worthy recipient. Make checks or money orders payable to:

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Million Man March on Washington

Hello, my fellow veterans. Today is a day for which we have all waited a long time. It is something that would not only turn us around to fight for our rights, but would also help us become one group of veterans.

Veterans are their own worst enemies, because they don't stick together. All the officers from the March on Washington are from the South Hudson Valley Coalition. This group represents the veterans groups in five [New York] counties: Putnam, Dutchess, Orange, Rockland and Westchester. We are leaders representing all the veterans in all of the Service Posts. We are non-political and have no charter; therefore we are not under any conditions as to what we say. Today, we now have everything in place, and we start working on the march.

Phil Wise, Commander of Lowrre Post, is also friends with a group called Rolling Thunder (500,000 Vietnam veterans on motorcycles). Phil Wise and Tony Mason were in contact with the Rolling Thunder leaders, and they expressed that they want to be a part of our march. Phil Wise and Tony Mason went down to meet with them, and they love what Rolling Thunder is doing. They suggested that, since neither group has that much time to organize, all the leaders meet in Washington on Memorial Day 2005 to make the announcement that we will call for jointly: A Veterans, Million Man March on Washington, to be scheduled for Veterans Memorial Day, May, 2006.

The theme for the march will be for full mandatory funding with C.O.L.A.s—and not discretionary funding. Memorial Day 2006 in Washington should be one of the biggest gatherings of veterans in Washington ever. We would also like to discuss a few other items that we believe are important

1. setting up a screening committee for veterans for all local and national elections
2. place a new bill before Congress that forbids any riders attached to a veterans bill
3. the possibility of forming our own

Memorial Day 2006 in Washington should be one of the biggest gatherings of veterans in Washington ever.

veterans political party in the State of New York

4. lost records- after years of searching, give the benefit of doubt to the veterans for their disability

5. most importantly, cut "Pork Barrel Funding": No Pork Barrel Funding until full mandatory funding with C.O.L.A.s has been approved

This could go on and on, but now we know that as veterans united in one group we have to take a stand. We must let government officials know that "You didn't support us, and now we can't support you."

My fellow veterans, you can see that we have been working on this for over a year and now we are starting our march.

We now come to the point where we need your help. We need donations from every Post, as well as individual donations, corporate sponsors and group sponsors. This is the veterans' turn to speak. We have been pushed too hard for too long, and we now have the opportunity to make our voices heard.

We have to set up meetings in Washington, Virginia and New York. What truly is not evident here is all the accomplishments we have made. We could properly send one of our officers to your club if you would like, so that we can make you aware of what we have accomplished. Let's hit a home run! Please send your donations.

Sincerely,

Jack Lotz, Founder
Veterans, Million Man March on
Washington, for Veterans Memorial
Day Washington, May 6, 2006

Book Review

The Scariest Place in the World

by James Brady

St Martin's Press, New York. 267 pages, indexed. Published 20 April 2005. ISBN:-13: 978-0-312-33242-6. \$24.95 U.S. \$35.95 Canadian.

Review by John F. Baltes, Captain
USMC Retired. Stoughton. WI 53589

The Scariest Place in the World is the latest missive by James Brady to remind the world that the Korean "Police Action" should not be limited to a paragraph or two, as in the recent history books.

It was a real war, fought by real men, who really died, leaving empty chairs at many a table around the world.

The book is written speaking of the realities of war in a "tough-love," macho, politically incorrect, style that will jar readers awake, causing them to remember those three years (1950-1953) of warfare in which 37,000 American service men and women paid the ultimate price to stop the onslaught of communist aggression.

Captain Brady tells of his indoctrination in the United States Marine Corps which contributed in forming the base of his love of the Corps but more so the love of the men he served, parted, and fought with.

The book is a journey back in time (remindful of *The Viet Journal* by James Jones) through the rigors of basic training providing background for stories for one's children and grandchildren that deserve to be told.

There are biographical sketches of Senator John Chafee, Maurice "Mack" Allen, John Fitzgerald, Nathaniel "Taffy" Sceva et al which are written lovingly as a tribute to the lives of these men and the women who loved and supported them. The memory of the funeral of Senator Chafee must have been most difficult to write, as must be the memory.

Continued on page 78

A Peculiar Use Of Ether

By Richard Beauchamp

I was a Navy corpsman attached to the First Marine Division FMF when I arrived in Korea in the late winter of 1952. My first assignment was with the First Platoon (H/3/7), followed by a brief stint with a Light Mortar company. Then I was transferred back to the 7th Regimental Aid Station, which was back in the reserve at the time.

It was late spring, and I was enjoying the leisurely living and sanctuary in the reserve area. This respite was short lived. We were ordered back up on line. We moved into a regimental location, just north of the Imjim River, and set up our gear and medical supplies in a vacated Quonset hut left by the previous tenants. We were operational in short order.

Our days and nights were routinely busy, involving treating the walking wounded and various non-hostile injuries, with occasional runs up to the MLR to transport the wounded or ill back to the Aid Station. The more seriously wounded were flown by helicopter back to one of the field hospitals.

Our daily activities fell into a repetitious routine; only the faces of the wounded Marines changed. However, one night did

Ether, an anesthetic, induces sleep. How was ether fitting into their plans? Well, it turned out to be an important part of this covert action—a secret weapon so to speak.

stand out among the others, because it included an event that was far from routine. What took place still lingers in my aged memory.

It was just another night, punctuated with white flashes of artillery fire bouncing off the clouds and outlining the mountains that hid the snaking trenches of the MLR. When the Korean darkness fell like a black curtain, so did my sense of well being. My anxiety level always rose at night, and sleep was always difficult for me. This night was no different. Since I was on duty, I sacked out in the Quonset hut and tried to settle down, hoping that the night would be uneventful. Not so... eventful it would be.

Sleep eluded me, and time passed slowly on this fateful night, until a commotion arose outside. Suddenly, a strange group of people burst through the door of the Aid Station. I say strange because I did not recognize the uniforms as typical outfits worn in Korea. I cannot recall exactly how many there were—possibly four, maybe five. They were decked out in black sweaters, black pants, black tennis shoes and black stocking caps. Their ominous appearance was accentuated by white eyes staring out at me through blackened faces. I entertained the idea—for just a second—that they were Chinese.

But, after listening to their familiar jargon, it became evident that they were a bunch of charged-up Marines. I saw no sign of injuries and no indication they needed any kind of medical assistance, so I wondered why they were here at the aid station.

Not able to break through the din and chatter, I didn't ask any questions. So, I fixed my attention on the intense dialog. I realized quickly that these guys were planning some sort of military operation. But why here?

My confusion and bewilderment were relieved when one Marine approached me and asked for my help. He requested that I supply them with cans of ether and some rags. That was a very strange request! Ether, an anesthetic, induces sleep. How was ether fitting into their plans? Well, it turned out to be an important part of this covert action—a secret weapon so to speak. Without any hesitation, I scrounged around and gave them all I had.

As I remember, none of the Marines wore any visible identification of rank, and it seemed that no particular Marine was in charge. But everyone was involved in developing the mission. I listened intently as the discussions continued and the plan developed. Then, it became clear to me that ether was the secret agent and potent weapon for the success of this covert action.

The Marines all agreed on a simple and effective method to use the ether: secure the ether-soaked rag over the face of an enemy soldier and render him unconscious. The consensus was that this was a pretty straight-forward maneuver requiring the element of surprise, but it was not without risk. There was some apprehension, but they were gung-ho and ready to get it on.

As the critiquing continued, and this radical plan unfolded, it was evident that their



Helicoptering wounded Marines into the Aid Station in November 1952



Wounded Marines arriving at the Aid Station



Evacuating wounded Marines in 1952



Two proud Marines displaying captured “burp guns”



Wounded Marines treated at Regimental Aid, 1952

objective was to sneak up to the enemy positions, immobilize a Chinese soldier with the ether, and return the sleepy-eyed prisoner back to the intelligence people for interrogation. HQ had always placed a high priority on capturing Chinese soldiers, preferably officers. There was little doubt that this was an urgent mission of high priority, and a goal the Marines wanted to achieve successfully. But, it did rely on good old-fashioned luck.

The stealthy Marines stowed their ether and rags away, jumped into their vehicle, and headed to the MLR. I crashed onto my sleeping bag, feeling satisfied that I was able to contribute something besides medical aid to a group of gung ho Marines. I assumed that my involvement with this mission was over. Not so.

My morning ritual began with hot coffee

As the critiquing continued, and this radical plan unfolded, it was evident that their objective was to sneak up to the enemy positions, immobilize a Chinese soldier with the ether, and return the sleepy-eyed prisoner back to the intelligence people for interrogation.

at the chow tent, passing up the powdered eggs, engaging in some social scuttlebutt, and making a quick stop at the local “four-holer.” Then, I was ready to take on the day.

I double-timed back to the aid station, not expecting what was waiting for me. The small Quonset hut, which was holding more people than it was designed to accommodate, was bristling with activity. Two guys grabbed my attention right away. They were dressed in those familiar black outfits and crouching in the corner of the room. Both of them looked distressed and haggard, as other corpsmen and several Marine officers tended to them. I recognized these two guys right away as part of the group of Marines I encountered last night. However, I did not recognize them by their anguished states of mind.

They were obviously suffering from deep emotional anxiety and mental distress. One trembling Marine was so gripped by anxiety that he was having difficulty speaking. He could only converse in low mutterings, which made it difficult to get any logical answers to the questions posed by the Marine officers.

I overheard one of the Marines volunteer a chilling statement when he blurted out, “He wouldn’t go down. He wouldn’t go down.” Obviously, his frustrated tone indicated that they must have made physical contact with the enemy. Just possibly, ether failed to produce positive results in a one-on-one encounter. But, the Marine didn’t elaborate. I could only imagine what they went through carrying out their foray into enemy positions.

Fortunately, they returned with no physical injuries, but they were suffering from

severe psychological trauma and battle fatigue, which were conditions we could not treat at the Regimental Aid. The best treatment we could provide was small 3 ounce bottles of bourbon; however, that had little calming effect.

After the interrogation by the Marine officers, which resulted mostly in unintelligible responses and vague details of the raid, the two distraught and battle-weary Marines were assisted into a vehicle and whisked away. And so it ended.

A courageous cadre of gutsy Marines embarked on a mission into hell. Some were able to return. Others may not have. I continued my duties at Regimental Aid until around November, when I was rotated back to Charlie Medical Company and assigned to the surgical OR. That is where I finished my tour of duty in “The Forgotten War.” I shipped back to the United States in March of 1953.

Though my memories are receding after more than 50 years, I am still haunted by the same puzzling questions. What fate befell the comrades of the two Marines who returned to the Aid Station? How successful was the ether raid? Did they capture any of the enemy? And, foremost, from what level of command did this risky military operation originate? Who proposed the use of ETHER?

I suppose the answers could only come from the heroic Marines who survived, and the interesting war stories they would have to tell their grandchildren.



Marine points to shrapnel-damaged vest

A Great Nephew To Be Proud Of

Manuel G. Moreno, TSgt (Ret), has reason to be proud of his fourteen-year-old great nephew, Andrew Goelz. The young man undertook a school project in which he interviewed Moreno about his 27 months as a POW in Korea. He produced the article below based on the interview—for which he earned an A+.

“I am very proud of him for doing this article on me,” Moreno revealed. “I have been a life member for many years, and Andrew has also enjoyed reading the magazine.” Now, he can enjoy reading his own story, which is supplemented by the nearby photos of Moreno’s release in 1953 in Freedom Village.

Moreno commented on his release at Freedom Village in August 1953. “The Chinese fed us like pigs for the market [before the exchange]. That’s why we looked so good,” he said. Moreno noted that he didn’t “look bad for being shot five times, hit by two concussion grenades, and spending 27 months as a POW.”

Finally, he said, re Camp 5, “A damn good friend of mine, T.J. Turner, died a few years back of a heart attack.” In fact, he revealed, “All my squad has died from heart attacks.” Moreno disclosed that Turner, who supplied the photo of Camp 5, was African-American. “They put the [African-Americans] in Camp 5 to brain wash them better,” he explained.

Now, the article.

The Life of a Korean War POW

By Andrew Goelz

As he hid in a foxhole, a 19-year-old injured soldier was taken aback when a Chinese soldier jumped in to say less than a friendly hello. Reacting quickly, the young American soldier bayoneted the man in the stomach and the Chinese enemy fell to the ground. My great uncle, Tony Moreno, was that heroic soldier who endured a horrible, torturous time in Korea. He fought in several battles, suffered as a POW for a long period of time (which experience is the focus of this paper) and had other terrible experiences. Tony Moreno has a great story under his belt, earned his fair share of medals, and took his wounds (there were many).

In 1950 the United States and other countries, with the blessing of the United Nations, entered the fight to repel the Communist North Korean invasion of

South Korea. Young American soldiers were rushed to Korea to save the South Korean government from collapse. Tony Moreno, arriving in Korea in February of 1951, was one of these soldiers. When asked why he chose to go, he said to help the cause, get a new rank, and earn his Combat Infantry Badge. Little did he know the sacrifice he would make in this faraway country.

The time he spent in Korea before his capture was fairly uneventful, with only a few fire fights and other minuscule battles. However, one day in May of 1951, his squad was sent to relieve a Dutch outpost when the Chinese attacked. His group was forced to fight with bayonets because they ran out of ammo, and they were utterly overrun. The wounded were taken away.

Having been hit twice, he was among them. The Chinese fired at them, and he

was hit again. After realizing he couldn’t go on like that, Tony broke away with his friend King, and they set up camp in a bush. There they stayed for three or four days living on no food and little water with no medical treatment. To take care of his wounds, he let maggots crawl into them and eat the dead flesh so the wounds would heal. Eventually, he was captured by a Chinese soldier and separated from King.

They marched Tony for miles upon miles across the hilly landscape of Korea; to keep him moving they kicked him, beat him, and abused him until they finally arrived at a mining camp. While hanging from the ceiling, Tony Moreno was beaten, kicked, and smacked in the head with rifle butts while his captors asked questions he refused to answer. When asked what this experience was like, he said, “Every day I prayed to go unconscious as quickly as possible.”

The Chinese interrogated him for at least a month. All the while he was kept



The entrance to Freedom Village in August 1953



POWs after being released by Chinese in August 1953



Top row, 2nd from right, is Tony Moreno in Freedom Village

When asked, Tony Moreno couldn't immediately think of the best experience he had in Korea, but after a while decided that it was his release from the POW camp.

and tortured prisoners, including Chinese and Koreans. It's obvious that the victims soon became the torturers and had learned well from their masters.

would never forget.

My uncle's lifestyle didn't change much after the war; however, his views and morals changed significantly. His experience in war taught him to appreciate life and gave him a new policy, which he shared, "Treat people how you want to be treated." The war also gave him a love for food. No matter what it is or how it tastes, he must finish it, because he knows what it's like to starve.

Finally, I think his use of profanity increased as a result of the war. He told me that he and his friend - the one with whom he had planned to escape - often talked about going to Mexico to become civilized again, because every other word they said was profane. When asked if he would go back to Korea and do it again, or if he would choose to stay in the States, he replied, "I wouldn't take one million dollars for the experience."

He enjoyed his experience in the military ("the exhilaration of battle is unmatched"), and is proud to have served.

When asked, Tony Moreno couldn't immediately think of the best experience he had in Korea, but after a while decided that it was his release from the POW camp. It didn't take him long to tell me what the worst part was. He said it was hanging from the ceiling while being relentlessly beaten. I think that would be my worst part, too, if I were in his situation.

Being the brave man he is, he received many honorable medals that not just every soldier receives. He was granted 5 Purple Hearts, a POW spoon (from Korea), a POW medal, and the much honored Combat Infantry Badge. Whether it was hanging from the ceiling or marching across North Korea, Tony Moreno did it, lived through it. Thankfully, he is still around to tell about it.

Tony Moreno can be reached at 1948 Edwards Street, #C, East Troy, WI 53120

in a little coop with fencing around it. One story he told of his shabby living quarters I found to be quite disgusting. "One day I woke up and thought it was raining, but when I opened my eyes I found that it was the Chinese urinating on me." He endured some of the most inconceivable, violent torture one could imagine, but he was never broken and never disclosed any information.

Possibly the scariest experience he had happened when the Chinese soldiers lined him up outside and all pointed their guns at him. At that point he figured his life was over. The Chinese pulled their triggers, but all that followed was a series of clicks. The guns weren't loaded. It was a type of torture that was more mental than physical, and which put huge amounts of stress on a prisoner's mind. When thinking about this abuse, remember that Korea is very close to Japan and was a Japanese colony. Also, during WWII Japan continued its conquest of China, and the Japanese routinely abused

For months upon months, my Uncle Tony lived under these horrible conditions. Often, he was moved from camp to camp and beaten again. I can only imagine the bonds that must have been formed between him and his prison mates. He told me they became very, very tight. My uncle normally considers himself to be somewhat anti-social, but he said he'd die for his prison buddies and they'd die for him. Everyone in his squad wore the same gold earring to recognize each other after the war, and he still wears his all the time.

When the terrible fighting ended in 1953, he had been a prisoner for 27 months.

He and a buddy of his had been planning their escape, but it ended before that could happen. They were taken into the mountains for the POW exchange, which turned out to be a very violent process. Everyone threw things at each other, and some soldiers shot their guns off. Tony Moreno didn't care, though. He was finally going home after an experience he



Camp 5, in Pyuekdong, North Korea, where Moreno went after leaving Chang Song



Recon Missions

Who Was The Painter Richard Lowe?

Recently, my son purchased an old home in St. Paul, Minnesota, and found an old painting hanging in the basement. The owner of the house is an elderly, black woman. Her husband had served in the Korean War.

When he returned home after the war, he brought back a large, oil painting. The painting had been hanging in their basement since the 1950s. It is about 8 feet long and 3 feet wide. It is painted on a canvas and is not framed. It is a painting of a mountain scene in dark blues and greens.

It is signed: A/2c Richard Lowe.

We would appreciate any information on the artist or the painting.

Diane Retzlaff
Lindstrom, Minnesota
roypete@msn.com

A Burning Desire To Find Fire Department Buddies

Over a two-year period in the 1950s (1954 -1956), my buddies and I were in Seoul, Korea, on the U.S. Military Post Fire Department. I have no idea where they are today.



(L-R, front) Wally Decorse, Lou Breon (L-R back) Robert Goetschius, Dale Shelcroft, Richard Seabacker

In Korea, I filmed (in 16mm) more than two hours of movies, which I have just viewed for the first time in many years. These men were very brave, although I didn't realize it at the time. I saw them rescue many people and save a lot of buildings and homes. It would mean a great deal to me to hear of them and from them.

Robert Goetschius
100 Smith Hill Road
Firmont-Monsey, NY 10952

Looking For Citations To Accompany Medals

My father passed away several years ago. He received both the

Bronze Star and the Silver Star during the Korean War, both of which my mother has. But, we do not have the citations that accompanied the medals. We would like to know the details about why he received them.

I am very interested in obtaining information about my father, Patrick Joseph Holohan, RA 16 326 831. He served in Korea in 1951 and 1952. He was "Airborne."

If anyone has such information, please call me at (847) 530-5091.

Michael Holohan

Anyone Remember "Rebel" Barnes?

Daphne Houze is looking for information about her father, Johnny "Rebel" Barnes. As she recalls, he was either a SFC or M/Sgt. He was in the Army. In 1950, when he re-enlisted, he was in Quartermaster. "I don't know about after that," she said. "All I have is information that says he re-enlisted in the RA, with no unit assigned."



(L-R) Tommy "Country Boy" Marshall, Johnny "Rebel" Barnes, and Noel "Babysan" Pagitt.

I don't have any paperwork after 1950, but I have a card that notes he crossed the 180th Meridian on USNS Simon Buckner 8 Apr 1953. "I would surely love to hear from Tommy Marshall, Noel Paggitt, or anyone else who might have known these men," she said.

She believes that the nearby photo of the three was taken between 1950-1953. And, she added, "From other photos, I believe this was club at McNeely Barracks in Yokohama, Japan."

Anyone who can help can contact her at Daphne Houze, 22874 Lincoln Ct., Lawrenceburg, IN 47025, (812) 637-3945 or (812) 537-4540, daphnept@earthlink.net

Did You Know My Brother, Kenneth Fletke?

I was a young child of five when my brother, Kenneth Fletke, was killed in Korea on August 17, 1950, during what I believe was called the Hill 303 Massacre.

Recently, I found the card he sent home with the picture of the U.S.N.S. General Edwin D. Patrick, the ship on which he sailed to Japan on June 26, 1950.

I would be interested in hearing from anyone who remembers my brother.

Beverly Otten, H.C. 89
Box 227,
Pocono Summit, PA18346,
otten@nvnet.org

Were You Stationed At Westover?

I would love to hear from anyone from the 1600th Medical Gp., stationed at Westover AFB, MA in 1951-52

Ms. Cynthia (Sutherland) Rump
323 Husson Ave. #20
Bangor ME 04401-3268, hazels-girl@msn.com

Letters From Korea Via Belfast To Glasgow

My name is Luke Macauley and I am a Masters student from Belfast, currently taking American Studies at the University of Glasgow. I am undertaking a thesis on letters home to America from soldiers during the Korean War. I discovered your email address at the www.kwva.org page, and I was wondering if you, or any veterans you know, would be willing to discuss, via email, certain aspects of Korean War letter writing e.g., what was written, how, and why, etc.

Furthermore, if you know of any surviving letters whose content you would be willing to discuss, or any information you feel I might find useful, this would be fantastic! It would be greatly appreciated if you could pass my email address on to other veterans.

Thank you for your time, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Luke Macauley
26 Ardenlee Avenue
Belfast BT6 0AA Northern Ireland,
lukemac133@hotmail.com

Oh, Henry

I am trying to gather information on my brother, Cpl. Robert M. Henry, SN# 51195529.

His date of birth was April 12, 1932, in Masonville (Cortland County), NY. His hometown was Blodgett Mills, New York.

Robert entered the army on October 22, 1952. He was a member of Company 1, 3rd Bn., 32nd Inf. Regt., 7th Inf. Div. He was listed in action while fighting the enemy in North Korea on July 11, 1953. He was presumed dead on July 12, 1953.

His place of death was Pork Chop Hill, where he was a machine gunner serving on the front lines. The telegram was signed by MajGen W. E. Burgett.

Any information will be appreciated.

Patricia A. Henry Arnold
271 Whetstone Drive
Barren Springs, VA 24313,
parnold@psknet.com

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Chow Hound of 15th AAA Thinks He May Reenlist

One of the most successful canines in Korea is "Stroonz," a four-month-old brown pup belonging to Pvts. Joe Sapienza and John Scaramuzzo. The pup, who holds the semi-official rank of Sergeant First Class, has been adopted by the men of the 15th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion Headquarters, and his adventures are eagerly followed by all of them.

For example, there was the episode of the artillery-red sweater, which Sapienza had ordered from the States to keep "Stroonz" warm throughout the winter. Evidently, "Stroonz" had been teased by his dog buddies about it, for he came back without it the first day and strenuously resisted all future attempts to put it on. On the night of a U.S.O show, however, Sapienza and Scaramuzzo managed to force him into it, and that evening more photos were taken of him than the girls on the stage. Since that time, "Stroonz" has worn the sweater with evident pride, with his sergeant's stripes sewn on in a prominent place.



Pvt. Scaramuzzo and "Stroonz"

"Stroonz," who is the "official chow hound" of the battalion, holds a Commendation Ribbon, given him by the operations sergeant, and a shiny chrome pair of dogtags to distinguish him from his friends. He pulls his turn at guard duty with his masters, however. About his ancestry there is not much known except that he was born during the battle for Pork Chop, his mother giving birth to seven pups as a gesture of faith in the division. "Stroonz" seems to have that same faith; there is talk of him reenlisting before the month is out.

NOTE: This story, submitted by John M. Scara, appeared in the 1953 fall edition of the 7th Division newspaper Bayonet. He noted that "After we were rotated, our replacements happily adopted our mascot."

A POW IN KOREA

by Wilbur R. Webster

Battery D, 82nd AAA A W Bn (SP) © 1999

Prisoner of War stories are intriguing in that each one reveals minor details about the individuals' treatment in captivity, what they saw along the way, the differences in their treatment from captor to captor, etc. This is Part II of a mini-series we began in the Jan/Feb 2005 issue.

The series details the captivity of LTC Wilbur R. Webster, USA, (Ret), who served in Korea with the 82nd Antiaircraft Artillery (Automatic Weapons) Battalion, 2nd Division, Eighth Army.

After we published the first part, a member called to tell us that Wilbur Webster passed away several years ago, shortly after he produced his memoir.

Part II

A short time after we arrived we were taken about 300 yards west from, the center of town, along the road leading to Seoul. There we found evidence of war damage. All the buildings on the north side of the road had been burned with much rubble still lying around. We were taken about 75 or 100 yards north of the road to the bottom of a steep bank, about 50 feet high, that ran approximately parallel to the road. About halfway between the bottom and top of the steep bank there were a number of holes that had been dug horizontally into the hill. These holes were about 6 or 7 feet deep and about 3 feet in diameter. Rice straw had been placed on the floor of the holes. Four men were assigned to a hole. Captain Harrod, myself and two of our Chinese soldiers shared a hole. We were quite cramped and it was very evident to me the holes were not made for someone 6 foot tall, but we managed to squeeze ourselves in.

Before settling down, I decided the entrance to the hole should be camouflaged a bit in the event of an air raid. I found a couple of sheets of rusty, burned corrugated roofing and pulled them over the opening to the hole. The dirt was sort of a reddish color, so the metal covered the "black hole" of our "room" and blended in quite well. We then settled down for whatever rest we could get, in our cramped quarters.

About 8 AM we were very rudely awakened by the sound of airplane engines, followed by bombing and the bursts of machine gun fire from the airplanes. For the next 4 hours there was a constant bombardment by every type of fighter-bomber the US Air Force, Navy and Marines had in Korea, Japan and on carriers. About noon the attack suddenly ended, much to our relief, but our respite was short lived.

About five minutes later the first of twelve B-29 bombers arrived, following the road from Seoul into Chunchon. Each, as they reached a certain point, started dropping 500-lb. high explosive bombs. This attack lasted about 20 minutes, but it seemed like a lifetime. The target was the center of Chunchon, which meant we were a very short distance from the target, maybe 200, possibly 300, yards.

As each plane approached we could hear the bombs moving through the air as they were dropped from the aircraft. The first one would detonate with a horrendous explosion when it hit the ground, followed by the rest of the bomb load. The concussion blew our camouflage sheet metal in on us, but the sheet metal also helped protect us from the effects of the concussion. The dirt wall over the top of the hole would crack each time a bomb burst and we would be covered with dust and dirt, but the hole did not collapse.

I can't tell you how many 500 pound bombs a B-29 carries, but be assured it is a lot. After the B-29 raid ended the raid by the fighter-bombers resumed. Fortunately for us, only high explosive bombs were dropped. Had we been hit with Napalm I might not be writing this story.

We were pounded continually during the afternoon until almost dark, about 4:30 PM. We waited until dark to come out of our holes because we didn't want to risk a late strike. When we assembled we found our entire group had survived the air raid with no injuries—a bunch of nervous people, but no more wounds.

The first order of business was to find something to eat. It had been about 24 hours since our last meal. We scattered out in search of food. The center of Chunchon was a total wreck. It was impossible to determine where brick buildings had stood or where streets had been. I have described it as appearing to have been the target of a bunch of mad bulldozers that had been turned loose for about a week.

About 30 minutes into our search for food, I heard my Chinese soldier friend call "Weebester, Weebester, Weebester, come." Captain Harrod, myself, and one or two of the Chinese soldiers were together, searching for food. We went to where the call had originated and found the rest of the group sort of milling around a spot on the ground. It was totally dark, no moon and

very little starlight. I couldn't see what they were eating, but if they could eat it, I could also. I took my bowl from my pocket, reached over the heads of the Chinese into a large bucket setting on the ground, and dipped up a bowl full. I moved back, took my spoon and put a spoonful of—I didn't know what—into my mouth. It turned out to be dry cottonseed oil meal—cattle food.

The longer I chewed, the bigger the bite got. Before I could swallow, I had to moisten the meal with saliva. I finally had to remove about half of the first bite from my mouth. I also got a bowl of the meal for Captain Harrod, but I had alerted him to what it was. I don't remember how much he ate, but I was not able to empty my bowl. It filled me up though. I knew what cotton seed meal tasted like because I used to take a small bite occasionally when feeding the cattle back on the farm. A bite now and then isn't bad, but trying to make a meal out of it is a bit tough, but it is far better than hunger.

When in combat, one is always concerned about the food and water. The US Army takes great precautions to be certain soldiers are provided uncontaminated water and food. While we were with the Chinese, we ate the same food they ate and drank the same water they drank. Often times the water came from a small stream. Was it clean? I don't know, but I do know I did not have a problem with an upset stomach or diarrhea at any time.

Before we had completely finished our meal of "cattle food," we started walking on the road leading north from Chunchon. The Chinese were very anxious to get away from that town, I suppose, because they feared a repeat air attack. The Chinese probably knew the reason for Chunchon receiving so much attention, but neither Captain Harrod nor I had any idea of the reason for the attack. It would not be long, however before we learned why.

Captain Harrod and I had spent many hours thinking and talking about how we could escape and get back to the front lines. We knew we would never see Manchuria, as our Chinese companions promised. When we arrived in North Korea we would find ourselves in a Prisoner of War camp, somewhere, which, to us, meant a slow death.

The pace set by the Chinese was much

The instant he saw me he let out a string of language, jacked a round into the chamber of his rifle, and immediately had the muzzle against my belly button, all the while jumping around and chattering like a monkey.

faster than I could walk with my faked limp, and we started slowly falling behind. They kept contact by calling my name, telling me to hurry, and I would answer. As we fell farther and farther behind, we began to think this might be the night to make our move to escape. We had traveled 4 or 5 miles and the voice calling my name was becoming weaker and weaker. I started lowering my voice when I answered. We were waiting for someone to come back and investigate. Finally, we decided to stop and wait awhile to see what happened. We were alone on the road and after about fifteen or twenty minutes, when no one came looking for us and we could no longer hear my name being called, we decided to make our move.

First, we removed our officers' insignia and buried it along the side of the road. Next, we hid our identification cards and tags between the many layers of GI blanket we had used for inserts in our shoe-pacs. We had both been enlisted men at one time and had pictures in our wallets that were taken when we were enlisted and in uniform, so our enlisted rank was very visible.

We developed our story that we had been in a Chinese hospital farther north and had been given a Safe Conduct Pass and told to go to an American hospital. Captain Harrod had the record of the surgery that removed the shrapnel from his shoulder as further evidence of our having been in a Chinese hospital. We decided we should make no effort to evade either Chinese or North Korean troops. We knew we were too far behind the lines, about 60 miles, to try and hide and wait until the friendly forces advanced and found us.

After rehearsing our "act" for a few minutes, we decided the best move would be to find a place as soon as possible to spend the rest of the night. We started

walking back down the road toward Chunchon. Very shortly we heard a baby crying and saw a small light a short distance from the road. This was to be our first test.

We walked up to the door of the house with the light and knocked on the door. The door opened almost immediately and there stood the last person in the world we wanted to see—a North Korean soldier. He was shocked to see two American soldiers standing in front of him. I tried to remain calm, showed him the Safe Conduct Pass, told him our story, and asked if we could spend the rest of the night with his unit. He came outside and motioned for us to follow him.

In most Korean villages there was one house of much superior construction than the rest of the houses. I am sure the Koreans had a name for this house, but we Americans always called it "The Head Man's House." This was the house to which the North Korean soldier took us. There we learned we were with a North Korean Militia Battalion and this was their Command Post (CP). The officers were staying in "The Head Man's House," which was warm and comfortable. I showed them the Safe Conduct Pass and told them our story. They were very congenial and asked if we had eaten.

When we told them we hadn't, we were given some hot rice and kim chi, which sure tasted good. They told us to make ourselves comfortable and some Chinese officers would come see us the next day. Also in the house was a South Korean soldier. He spoke good English and assisted us in telling our story to the North Koreans. His feet were in bad shape due to having been frozen. It was very difficult for him to walk. I had reservations about this man because he would not tell us what unit he had been in nor how he happened to be

where he was. He said he wanted to travel with us. We told him we had no objections, but we never told him our true identity nor where we had been.

We had been at the Korean CP for about an hour when one of their soldiers came into the house. He was a little man, maybe four and a half feet tall. He had a long Japanese rifle that was about a foot longer than he was tall. He had been in the room a few minutes before he saw me. The instant he saw me he let out a string of language, jacked a round into the chamber of his rifle, and immediately had the muzzle against my belly button, all the while jumping around and chattering like a monkey. The other Koreans in the house were hollering at him, all at the same time, I suppose trying to get him to calm down. Harrod was sitting, cross legged, on the floor, looking into the eyes of the “monkey,” expecting to hear the final shot any moment. Fortunately for me, the other Koreans were able to calm the “monkey” down, get his rifle out of my stomach and get him out of the building. I believe I may have said “Thank you,” with my eyes averted. I would say that was the closest to the end I have been to date.

After things settled down a bit, one of the North Koreans indicated he wanted to buy my watch. It was a common GI issue watch. I didn't really want to sell it, but knew I would eventually do so. We spent the better part of an hour discussing (spelled haggling) the price. He started out by offering me 100 North Korean Won. I started out at 1,000 Won. After about an hour, I had gotten him up to 600 Won and I decided it would be best to let him have it at that price. He was happy, I had 600 North Korean Won that was worthless to me and it seemed the other Koreans were a bit more friendly.

I can't remember if we slept much that night; but I believe we may have taken a short nap, maybe later in the morning. About eleven a.m. we were invited to eat with the North Koreans. We had plenty of rice and kim chi. The kim chi was especially welcome, because most of our meals for the past three weeks had been rice only, with no flavoring of any type.

About one p.m., March 7, a group of either 5 or 6 Chinese officers arrived. At least one spoke very good English. They introduced themselves and took us into a

room where we all sat down on the floor around a table. The first thing they asked us was whether we had eaten. We told them we had, but they insisted we join them for a meal. I knew from my past experiences in Japan that one does not decline any offer of hospitality if one expects to be well received. I told them we would be delighted to join them.

We had more rice and kim chi and it was very difficult to eat more, especially after surviving on only one or two meals a day for quite some time. The conversation, before and during the meal, was very sociable. There was nothing about our military history, just conversation one might expect to have with friends dining together.

After the meal we were asked a number of questions such as where we had been, how we happened to be where we were, and what we expected to do. I showed them my Safe Conduct Pass and Captain Harrod showed them the record of his surgery. We told them we were enlisted men, showed them the pictures to prove it, and said we had been given the Safe Conduct Pass and told to go to an American hospital fabricated some place north that I knew the name of then, but can't remember now, as the place where we had been. All the while we hoped they hadn't been there, or knew who or what was there.

This discussion lasted for about 30 minutes, during which time we were given American cigarettes to smoke. The Chinese officers then had a short conference among themselves, after which we were told we would be taken into Chunchon that evening to the North Korean Headquarters. They then bade us goodbye, with much hand shaking and bowing, and departed. We felt we had passed the first test of our story very well, but were a bit apprehensive about the forthcoming audience with the North Koreans.

About 5 p.m., March 7, our North Korean hosts indicated it was time to leave. The South Korean soldier would accompany us. We walked, at our own pace, back into Chunchon. It was well after dark when we arrived—and we then learned the reason for the intensive air raid the previous day.

There was a large park on a small hill in the center of Chunchon. Under this park

was a major North Korean Headquarters in a maze of tunnels. The area around the park was leveled, but we saw no damage to the headquarters. Our North Korean escorts turned us over to another North Korean, who took us into a tunnel where he told us to sit down and wait. He then went about his business, leaving us to just sit. I believe we may have slept a bit while waiting.

About midnight the three of us were taken farther into the tunnel, where we met a North Korean man dressed completely in black clothing: black suit, black shirt and black shoes. The clothing was neat, the shoes shined, and the man appeared to be 30 to 35 years old. He wanted to see what we had in our pockets and the contents of our wallets. Then, he asked a number of questions about our personal lives.

He asked if we were married. I said, “yes,” and I showed him a picture of my wife and me. He wanted to know how long I had been married. When I told him three and a half years, he wanted to know how many children I had. I told him “none,” and he began chiding me for the inability to have children. Captain Harrod was asked the same questions. When he said he had three daughters, he was really teased about his inability to produce sons.

Our questioner wanted to know how I happened to speak Japanese. I told him I had been stationed in Japan for almost three years, but I didn't tell him I was in General MacArthur's Honor Guard. He had some unkind things to say about the Japanese. I fully understood the reasons for his feeling the way he did, and I told him so. We continued to talk for a total time of about an hour, at which time he told us we would be allowed to sleep the rest of the night and the next morning we would be given an escort through town and allowed to go on our way. We could have both kissed and hugged him, but we just expressed our appreciation for his assistance and wished him well.

We were given back all of our possessions, watch (Harrod's), cigarette lighter, pipe, money, pictures, wallets, etc., and taken to another place in the tunnel where there were some straw mats on the floor. We were told to rest until someone came for us.

About 7:30 a.m., March 8, 2 or 3 North Korean soldiers approached us and told us

it was time to leave. I can't remember for sure if we were given anything to eat, but I believe we were given some rice.

The three of us, Captain Harrod, the South Korean soldier, and me, escorted by the North Korean soldiers, left the "tunnel headquarters" about 8 a.m. and started walking through Chunchon. As we walked along the street, there were many North Korean soldiers, either lounging around foxholes, or in the process of improving their foxhole. On many occasions, the North Korean soldiers called out to us, "Hi Joe," and smiled and waved. Our response was also a "Hi Joel," with a smile and a wave. There would be laughter and more conversation from the North Koreans after our response, to which we would also respond. I believe we probably walked about a mile before reaching the edge of town, all the while exchanging conversation with the North Korean soldiers along the route. At no time were we threatened by any whom we passed.

When we reached the edge of Chunchon, we were on the road to Hongchon, which is where we wanted to be. Our North Korean escorts stopped, bowed, shook hands and told us "good-bye." We were in good spirits, because we had high hopes of making our way back to the "front line" and freedom. We decided to keep walking, even though it was a bright, sunny day and we might become "targets" for our own Air Force. We felt it wise to get as far away from the North Korean Headquarters as we could as quickly as possible.

About 10 a.m., we received the surprise we feared would happen. Without any warning, a lone US Air Force F-51, flying very close to the ground, suddenly appeared in front of us. The instant the pilot saw us, he stood the plane on its tail, and started to make a turn. As soon as we saw this, we started looking for cover. My favorite "hidey hole" in Korea was a culvert under the road, if one was available. I found one quickly and scooted into that like a rabbit. I learned later that Captain Harrod made it to a hay stack in the field a few yards from the road. I don't remember where the South Korean soldier took shelter. The F-51 strafed our position with his .50 calibers twice, then made two more passes, I suppose to see if he had got us, which he hadn't.

The F-51 strafed our position with his .50 calibers twice, then made two more passes, I suppose to see if he had got us, which he hadn't.

After the air attack, we started walking down the road again. We were discussing our recent experience and expressing our opinion about the "near sightedness" of at least one Air Force pilot, when we heard a "zing." When we heard another "zing," we started looking to see where the bullets were coming from. We finally saw 2 or 3 men, whom we assumed to be North Korean soldiers, on the levee across the river from where we were. They were at least a half-mile from us, probably close to three-quarters of a mile.

As we were watching them, one raised his rifle. Shortly, another bullet "zinged" by us. We started hollering and waving at them. Their response was to fire a few more rounds at us. This event was the deciding factor about traveling in the day time.

Fortunately, there was a lone Korean house and stable a few hundred yards down the road from us, at the base of a hill and a turn in the road. We headed for that house as fast as we could travel, with more bullets "zinging" around us. When we arrived at the house the firing stopped. Our only fear then was if our "tormentors" would follow us. We hoped they were just engaging in a little "fun" at our expense.

At first, we thought the house was empty, but after searching, we found 2 young Korean women and 2 or 3 young children. It was about noon, so we asked them if they had any food. Very shortly they brought in a pot of rice and a bowl of steaming kim chi. It tasted delicious and, in spite of our recent experiences, we began to feel we still had a chance.

During the afternoon we discussed our options. One, we could stay where we were, hoping for the front line to move north before we were "caught" again by either the Chinese or North Koreans; two, we could evade and try to make it out over the hills, or three, we could walk down the

road, use our Safe Conduct Pass, and hope our story would be accepted.

The South Korean soldier decided he should stay at the house with the two women and children and wait for front lines to move north. His feet were in very bad shape, and he was probably correct in making his choice. Captain Harrod and I decided we would walk down the road and not try to hide or evade. We felt this afforded us the best chance of getting out. We were positive we could not hide or evade and survive.

Shortly before dark we had some more rice and kim chi and then started down the road. We never saw the South Korean soldier again, and I can't remember his name now. I have often thought of him, and I hope he made it. I feel he was very helpful when we were being questioned by the North Koreans, and I would like to express my appreciation for his assistance. I probably won't ever be able to do that, but who knows?

When we started down the road, we very quickly met Chinese soldiers moving in the opposite direction to our travel. They were in a column of 4s and moving at what we called in Missouri a "dog trot," which is between a walk and a run. Our first "Challenge" was from a Field Artillery unit. They had a U.S. 105 mm howitzer that had been hitched to an old U.S. iron wheeled caisson, which was being pulled by two large horses and 5 or 6 small Mongolian ponies. Somehow, the howitzer had gotten off the road into the snow-covered rice paddy. They had unhooked the caisson, apparently because the horses were unable to pull the howitzer back onto the road, and had attached three long ropes to the howitzer.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We will find out what happens in our next installment, which is scheduled tentatively for the July/August issue.



“FREEDOM IS NOT FREE”

Gen. R. G. Stilwell Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc.
 920 East Capitol Street, NE
 Washington, DC 20003
 Ph: 202-543-2127 Fax: 202-543-0724 Toll Free: 1-888-KORAWAR
 Email: eagle187@direcway.com Website: www.KoreanWarVetsMemFnd.org



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My Comrades in Arms: Help us to help your Memorial!

The above Foundation (KWVMFnd) is the only game in town dedicated to ensuring that our Memorial will be maintained in perpetuity as when it was dedicated. Yes, to those who wonder, it is a National Park Service (NPS) responsibility but, the simple truth is that the funds requested by the NPS are never matched by the funds appropriated! That, coupled with the driving need to reduce the federal deficit bodes ill for the future.

The NPS does its best. But, they can't turn pennies into dollars. We're trying to raise a sufficient sized Memorial Education and Maintenance Fund so that the interest earned from such will, in perpetuity, enable augmentation, to NPS maintenance funds when needed. The earned interest only will be used for our Memorial maintenance and to educate future generations about the Korean War. If NPS doesn't need it we don't give it. In short we won't replace their responsibility to ask Congress for enough.

We're not the only Memorial that has a private Foundation to ensure appropriate maintenance of the many Memorials in our nation. Our Vietnam era brothers do the same. Even such precious symbols as the Statue of Liberty and parks such as the Gettysburg Battlefield National Park have private Foundations to ensure they don't suffer from insufficient maintenance. Check around, you'll see.

How do we raise money? We have control of the copyrights on the Memorial and require profit-making entities to get our approval to market items etc., depicting the Memorial and pay us part of their net profit. Plus, we direct market items to the general public. Do we make a 'bundle' that way? No, but every penny counts! Our biggest problem is that many 'fly by night' entrepreneurs sell you stuff in violation of copyright and we don't have the 'bucks' to take them to court! Obviously, we'd rather have you buy from us!

The ad on the following page shows some items we sell. Our website has others and more are on the way. (www.KoreanWarVetsMemFnd.org). None of us will be here forever. When we're gone who will care for our Memorial—if we don't ensure that now—who will?

No longer, The Forgotten War!

William E. Weber
 Col USA-Ret
 Chairman

(Note: To reach Chairman by direct mail write to: 10310 McKinstry Mill Road, New Windsor, MD 21776-7903) Ph: 410-775-7733 Fax: 410-775-7760
 E-Mail: eagle187@direcway.com)



GEN. RGS KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

(A non-profit 501.c.(3) Foundation whose MISSION is):

1. To raise a Korean War Veterans Memorial Maintenance Endowment Fund to ensure perpetual care.
2. To inform the people of our Nation as to the importance of "The Forgotten War!"
3. To maintain a website data base HONOR ROLL of those who served in the Korean War.
4. To monitor copyright control on the KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL.



FOR SALE: A one and a half hour interactive CD-Rom that brings the Korean War alive through rare video, photographs and remembrances, never before compiled in one documentary. Contents include over thirteen minutes of North Korean, Chinese and United States archival footage, highly detailed maps, timelines, and the complete roster of Medal of Honor recipients and their acts of heroism in the Korean War. In toto, this documentary presents the historical context which justified the erection of a Korean War Veterans Memorial in our Nation's Capital.

This CD-Rom is not available except from the Foundation and is a heirloom keepsake for your family. This CD-Rom and the VHS/DVD Documentary are a fitting tribute to honor service in the Korean War.

Sales Price: \$19.95 which includes S&H



FOR SALE: A six hour Documentary in two three hour VHS or DVD format. The first three hours contain synopsis scenes of the construction and dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial to include a never before seen dramatic portrayal of the Memorial prior the dedication. As well there are vignettes of combat scenes from Korea and coverage of the events of the three day Dedication ceremonies.

The second three hours cover almost the entirety of the muster and parade honoring Korean Veterans in Washington, D.C. in July, 1995 and partial coverage of the 50th Anniversary Memorial events in Washington, D.C., Seoul, South Korea and at Panmunjom in July 2003..

These VHS or DVD albums are not available except from the Foundation and are a companion heirloom keepsake to the CD-Rom..

Sales Price: \$39.95 which includes S&H



FOR SALE: A stunning six plus minute VHS tour of the Korean War Veterans Memorial taken just before the official dedication on 25 Jul 1995. The photography is outstanding and covers every aspect of the Memorial.

The visual tour is as if you were there by yourself, uninterrupted by the presence of any others. Accompanying the visual tour is a moving commentary on the symbolism of the Memorial and gives meaning to the nobility and self sacrifice of those who served during the Korean War. Visually and verbally, the diverse composition of the U.S. Armed Forces is defined and the Sculptures and images on the Wall are covered in detail.

If you have never visited the Memorial this is your chance to do so. If you have, see it again----- time and time again!

This VHS gives true meaning to the credo that
"FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!"

Sales Price: 14.95 which includes S&H.

KOREAN WAR VETERANS HONOR ROLL

The General Richard G. Stilwell Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. (KWVMFnd), maintains a website; www.KoreanWarVetsMcmFnd.org On the website you will find information about the Memorial, educational references, memorabilia for sale and the Honor Roll. **The purpose of the Honor Roll is to enable Korean War veterans and Korean Defense veterans (those who served in Korea from Sep 1954 to the present), or a family member of such veterans, to be entered on the Honor Roll.** Included will be information as provided, honoring that service to include period of service in Korea, unit, ship or squadron to which assigned, awards and/or decorations and a photo of the individual.

The Honor Roll will be maintained by the KWVMFnd in perpetuity thus enabling future generations of the family and others, of those entered thereon to reflect on that service.

Placement on the Honor Roll is a **free service** by the KWVMFnd. However, **donations** of any amount will be **gratefully accepted** and are **tax deductible** to the donor. All such donations will be dedicated to raising the Korean War Veterans Memorial Maintenance Fund. Our goal is five million dollars, the earned interest only from which will be used, when and as necessary, to make grants to the National Park Service (NPS), responsible for Memorial maintenance, when NPS budgeted funds are inadequate for timely and proper maintenance of the **Korean War Veterans Memorial**.

To enter an eligible veteran on the Honor Roll go to the website: (www.KoreanWarVetsMcmFnd.org) Fill out the blank Honor Roll form, download, and mail (with an appropriate photo), and donation if desired (payable to KWVMFnd) by check or credit card (VISA OR MC), using form, below.

ORDER FORM

(Please return entire page when ordering, donating or for Honor Roll)

A. CD-Rom, "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE" _____ @ \$19.95 each _____ Total: \$ _____
 B. VHS DVD Documentary, FORGOTTEN NO MORE" _____ @ \$39.95 each _____ Total: \$ _____
 C. VHS TOUR OF THE MEMORIAL _____ @ \$14.95 each _____ Total: \$ _____
Grand Total: \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Address: _____ Apt # _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Payment Enclosed: Check: ___ MO: ___ Pay by Credit Card: VISA: ___ MC: ___ Expiration Date: ___/___/___

Card #: _____ Signature _____

(For Credit Card Orders Only)

HELP CARE FOR YOUR MEMORIAL, AND GIVE YOUR FAMILY AN HEIRLOOM HONORING YOUR SERVICE.

Mail to: Chmn, KWVMFnd, 10301 McKinstry Mill Road, New Windsor, MD 21776-7903

DONATION & HONOR ROLL FORM

SORRY, I'm not purchasing the CD-Rom or VHS/DVD or the VHS Tour at this time. However, I do want donate to help raise the MEMORIAL MAINTENANCE ENDOWMENT FUND and/or make an Honor Roll submission.

Name: _____ Ph #: (____) _____ - _____

Address: _____ Apt #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

I'm making a tax deductible contribution of: Yes \$ _____ No _____ Honor Roll data enclosed: Yes _____ No _____

My Check ___ MO ___ payable to KWVMFnd is enclosed

I wish to make my contribution of \$ _____ by Credit Card: VISA ___ MC ___ payable to KWVMFnd

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: ___/___/___

Signature: _____

Necessary for Credit card donations only

(Mail to: Chmn, KWVMFnd 10301 McKinstry Mill Road New Windsor, MD 21776-7903)

We left Pusan on August 1, 1954 to board the Navy troopship General John J. Pope, a large two-stacker that would carry 3,600 troops home. As we were walking down the dock to prepare for loading, we met a double column of unloading troops and I heard someone shout “Hey Pelkey.” A PFC stepped over and grabbed me. I could hardly believe it was Art Perrault, who lived only a mile from my old home in Websterville. We chatted for a minute and he told me to call his mother when I got home and to tell her of our meeting. I did; two years later Art called me to tell me he was happily home again. What a small world!

The 12-day trip home was much more enjoyable than the 17-day trip in April of 1953 on a smaller ship from Seattle to Yokohama. Not as many seasick guys and the food was much better. Another coincidence occurred aboard ship. As I walked along the deck, someone yelled “Barre, Vermont.” I looked around to see who yelled and recognized John Ormsby from Barre, who had worked at a local appliance store. Five years after getting back, he owned that store and just retired in 2002 in a healthy financial condition.

I also met several fellows that had gone through basic with me, and we had a lot of conversations about where we had been and what outfits we were in. Without exception and despite the various units, most guys complained about the lack of needed information and briefing given them during the war.

The ship arrived at Seattle on August 12, 1954, and we crowded every inch of rail space to view the land and real homes during the long approach into the harbor. As we docked, there were over a thousand people on the pier and a loud band playing “God Bless America.” That brought tears to most of us. We had a welcome from the Mayor of Seattle, a couple of other politicians, and some general. We boarded buses for Fort Lewis, and I just looked at all the cars and people and spotted a 1954 Chevy that I knew I just had to own when I got home.

After two days of processing, we boarded a train and were assigned to Pullmans with a nice dining car. (Much different from when we went west in March of ‘53 on a troop train with an army chow kitchen.) My first night I sat up peering out the window and could not imagine all the lights shining

Coming Home

By Wayne Pelkey

brightly even out in the country. I enjoyed the ride through the Rockies and seeing a pickup truck turning up dust somewhere in a wide open country. I said then that someday I would come out here to visit at my own pace and destination. I stared out that window most of the way across the great USA, and I enjoyed the ever-changing sights.

We arrived the second day at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. We were there three days for sessions of “reorientation to civilian life.” We had one night of leave. I went into the town and walked around looking at the store windows, plus a local Chevy dealership, to look at the 1954 autos and pick up some brochures.

On Aug. 17th, we received our official discharges, along with the five years of inactive reserve requirement. We were given our due back pay, and then we were released to find our way home. The only clothes we had were on our back—plus three changes of underwear. I kept my poncho in case of rain. I still have all of these today.

I took a bus to New York City and made my way to Grand Central station where I bought a train ticket on the Montrealer that had a scheduled stop in Montpelier, only seven miles from home. While I was on the train, a young lieutenant came by and offered to buy my meal, as he wanted to have some information on Korea. I told him I did not feel well and wanted to sleep. Actually, I did not want to talk. I just wanted to forget the whole damn nightmare.

Five hours later the train stopped at White River Junction, 55 miles from Montpelier. Someone announced that there was a mechanical problem and the train would not go north until 8 A.M. the next day. I was really disgusted, so I got off the train, went to the Vermont Transit Bus depot diner, and inquired about a bus to Barre. One was scheduled three hours later, so I bought a ticket and sat at the counter for a snack.

The short order cook asked me what I wanted. I said, “A big hamburger with a slice of tomato, lettuce and salad dressing and a vanilla milk shake,” as I had not had one for nearly two years. He asked me where I had been. When I told him Korea, he said, “Anything you want to eat is on the house.” He had been in the 45th Division in WWII in Italy, so he knew what it was like.

I got on the bus and sat in the front forward seat to the right of the driver so I could see my old Vermont Route 14. I stayed there only for ten miles or so, but I was scared to hell of the speed and the hanging out over the road shoulder. Remember, I had not traveled over 40 miles an hour for the past 22 months.

I took a seat near the middle of the bus and was left off in Barre, about a third of a mile from my destination. I was going to call home first, but I decided to make a surprise entry, since no one expected me until the next day. It was around 10:30 P.M., and I walked slowly up Main Street looking at the storefront windows as I had the jitters about meeting my mother, who could cascade a waterfall of tears, and my little sister, who was now in high school.

I went over a couple streets to 12 Eastern Avenue to the one-bedroom, second-floor apartment; I had been there only once during my three-day in-transit time after basic. I carefully found my way up the back stairs and felt my way to the back kitchen door. The floor made a squeak and I heard my sister’s little black and white Pekingese, Mickey, sniffing through his pug nose on the inside.

I knelt down and whispered, “It’s me, Mickey”—and all hell broke loose. He barked wildly, howled and jumped scratching at the door. The bedlam awakened my mother and sister. They came to the door to calm him down. At that point, I said “It is only me.” The door opened and my mother, sister and that little bundle of furry dog almost smothered me.

We talked until midnight, after which I went to sleep on the living room couch. I still remember plainly waking up several times. Each time Mickey was on the floor with eyes wide open staring at me. I stretched out my arm and got a wet slobber and said “Don’t worry little buddy, I have no intention of leaving again.”

And that was “coming home.”

APPLICATION FOR KWVA REVISIT TOURS

KVA (Seoul) Revisit Purpose: *"To express the gratitude of the Korean Government towards Korean War Veterans of the United States who took part in the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to Oct 15 1954."* (Eligibility below).

VETERAN'S PERSONAL HISTORY (Please print or type)

Veteran's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Sex: _____

KWVA Membership # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name of family member and relationship: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Sex: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: Fax: _____

Passport # _____ Date of Expiration # _____

Companion Passport# _____ Date of Expiration # _____

If you do not have a current passport, insert: "Passport applied for"

Have you previously received the Korean War Medal from the Korean Veterans Assn in Seoul, Korea? No Yes

Have you received the medal elsewhere? If so, where? _____ Date _____

VETERAN'S MILITARY BIOGRAPHY

Branch of Service: _____

Period of Service in Korean War, from: _____ (Month/Year Arrived) to _____ (Month/Year Departed)

Unit Assigned: _____ Location of Unit: _____

Rank Achieved in Korea: _____ Highest Rank Achieved: _____

Personal Military Decorations: _____

I hereby certify that I have never previously accepted a KVA (Seoul) Revisit Tour.

Veteran's Signature: _____ Date _____

Please complete and mail, with deposit of \$300 per person, (check or money order), made out to Military Historical Tours. (This deposit is fully refundable at anytime and for any reason, since there are more applicants than the limited amount of Revisit space available.) KWVA Revisit Program, c/o Military Historical Tours, Inc., 4600 Duke Street, Suite 420 Alexandria, VA 22304, Tel: 703-212-0695 Fax: 703-212-8567.

Background and Eligibility - Official Korean Veterans Association KVA (Seoul) Revisit Program

Background

The Korea Revisit program was begun by the Korean Veterans Association (KVA, Seoul) in 1975, the 25th Anniversary year of the outbreak of the Korean War, to express their gratitude to veterans of the Korean War and to show them the bountiful results of their sacrifices and devotion.

KVA Eligibility

A. Korean War veterans and/or war correspondents of the 21 nations which came to the assistant of the Republic of Korea between June 25, 1950 and October 15, 1954.

B. Immediate family member of those killed in action in the Korean War.

Note: You are eligible to take a spouse or one immediate descendant with you.

The family member must be housed in the same hotel room with you in Seoul. (Descendants must be over 18).

Privileges Extended Courtesy of KVA

A. Hotel accommodations (2 persons per room), meals, tours, and transportation while in Korea for 6 days and 5 nights.

B. Tour of Seoul and its vicinity: itinerary includes visits of Panmunjom, North Korean

Invasion Tunnels, Korean War Memorial Monument, National Cemetery, National Museum, Korean Folk Village, Korean War Museum, plus other cultural/industrial facilities and activities in the Seoul area. (Other tours of battles sites and/or Inchon may be made through the local tour guide).

C. A special reception and dinner hosted by the President of the Korean Veterans Association (KVA) during which the Korean War Medal and Certificate of Ambassador for Peace will be awarded to each veteran. (Who have not received it before!).

Miscellaneous

A. The KVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.

B. Participants are required to be in possession of a valid passport. (A visa is not required for visits to Korea of 15 days or less.)

C. KVA (Seoul) is not responsible for any loss of, or damage to personal or other items, medical expenses, injuries, or loss of life due to any accident of whatever nature during the revisits. Trip insurance is available and recommended.

D. The cost of the airline ticket must be

borne by each individual visitor who will fly with the group.

E. Applications will be received/accepted on a "First-come, First-serve" basis.

Note: If you have previously accepted an official KVA (Seoul) Revisit tour from any sponsoring association or group - you are not currently eligible to participate again. The reason for this is obvious; there are many veterans that have not gone before so, they get their "first right of return!" KVA Seoul now has all former revisit returnees in a computer database, so please don't try and beat the system. We may not know it, and submit your name to KVA (Seoul), only to have it rejected. This could cause embarrassment for all of us, as well as, create a delay that could cause a bonafide Korean War veteran to miss the opportunity.

F. Those desiring to use frequent flier miles (or other means of "Free" air transportation) will be required to pay a \$ 300.00 (per person) administrative processing fee. Caution: Not traveling with the KWVA group air contract, can result in much higher Post Tour costs to China and other Pacific locations!

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| 2 1/4" X 3 1/4" Korean Flag | | | | 3.50 | |
| 1" X 2 1/2" "KOREA" green with black outer trim | | | | 2.00 | |
| 2 1/4" X 3 1/2" American Flag (right shoulder) | | | | 1.75 | |
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| Purple Heart (491), Distinguished Service: Army (445) & Air Force (444) | | | | | |
| Army Oversea (552), Army Service (551, United Nations Korea (496), | | | | | |
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Reunion Calendar

NOTE: There is no fee required for entries to be published in the "Reunion Calendar." Entries are made on a "First-come, first-served, as space allows" basis. Korean War-related reunions are given preference. Of course, contributions to the KWVA are always welcome.

JULY 2005

Second Battalion Fourth Marines Association (2/4), July 13-16, at San Diego, CA. (All or any attached personnel are also invited.) POC: Becky Valdez, 8221 E. Birch Tree Lane, Anaheim Hills, CA 92808, (714) 281-2846, fxala@hotmail.com

4th Infantry (IVY) Division Assn National Reunion, July 17-23. POC: Gregory Rollinger, 8891 Aviary Path R-1, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077, www.4thinfantry.org

Korean War Veterans 20th Friendship Gathering and KWVA Executive Council Meeting, July 23-18, Rosslyn, VA. POC: Jack Cloman, (410) 676-1388, conniejack@msn.com

91st M.P. Bn., 289th M.P. Co., 560th M.P. Co., and 563rd M.P. Co. (Pusan, Korea, 1952-54), July 29-31, at Birch Run, MI. POC: Manual Sanchez, (989) 793-4277, or Bob Simon, (989) 792-3718, Robsimonfarms@aol.com

Korean War Veterans Association of New Jersey, 52nd Anniversary of the Cease-fire Ceremony, New Jersey Korean War Memorial, Atlantic City. July 27. POC: Richie Alexander, (732) 225-2474, NJKV1@aol.com

AUGUST 2005

96th Field Artillery Association, Aug. (no date specified), at Green Bay WI. POC: Arnold Anderson, HC 83, Box 116A, Custer, SD 57730, (605) 673-6313

523rd Military Police Company Association (U.S. Army), August 4-6, Williamsburg, VA. POC: Charles R. Wisner, 204 Baughman's Lane, Frederick, MD 21702, (301) 695-5595.

USS Brinkley Bass (DD-887) (20th Annual Reunion), Aug. 10-14, at Valley Forge, PA. POC: Bob Shetron, 347 W. Leaside St., Glendora, CA 91741, (626) 335-4034

USS Bon Homme Richard (CV/CVA-31) Ships Company, Air Groups, and USS Bon Homme Richard (LHD-6), Aug. 12-13, Tupelo, MS. POC: Ron Edlund, 2299 Madalene, Muskegon, MI 49442, (231) 773-0441

Third Marine Division Association, Aug. 15-21, Arlington, VA, Sheraton National. Room Rates \$89 per night w/free parking. POC: Bill Krueger, 7622 Highland Street, Springfield VA 22150, (703) 451-3844.

State of Hawaii, 10th Annual Korean War Veterans, 19-20 Aug., Hilo, HA 96720. POC: Hiro Shima, 1306 Ululani St. Hilo, HI 96720, hiro1306@earthlink.net

936th Field Artillery, Aug. 20, Fayetteville, AR, Clarion Inn, 1255 South Shiloh, 72701. POC: Wayne Bohannan, 10617 East First Street, Tulsa, OK 74128-1403, (918) 437-5324.

USS Essex (CV/CVA/CVS 9), Aug. 22-28, Fort Lauderdale, FL. POC: Bruse Sims, (770) 707-1812, essex9@bellsouth.net, (Web page is ussessexcv9.org)

40th Div., 160th Regt., Co E—and others, Aug. 26-28, Grand Island, NE. POC: Jim Bork, (928) 567-6334, jobork@msn.com

Korean Veterans Of Nebraska, 26-28 Aug., Grand Island, NE, Howard Johnson Motel. Veterans of all branches of the service who served from 1950 to 1956 are welcome. POC: Robert Lindhorst, 3804 Lakeview Lane, Columbus NE 68601-7322.

SEPTEMBER 2005

45th Div. 279th Reg., Fox Co. Korea 1950-53, Sept 2005. Tennessee. I am also looking for addresses of all vets of Fox Co. POC: J. Trefts, (805) 934-4406, 295 N. Broadway - 178, Orcutt, CA, jct178@cs.com

USS Waldron (DD 699), Sept. 7-10, Atlantic Beach, FL, Sea Turtle Inn. POC: RADM Tim Jenkins, 309 Ponte Vedra Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082, (904) 285-4446, tmjenkins@pclient.com

14th Combat Engineer Battalion Association, Sept. 8-11, Des Moines, IA. POC: Stanley H. Schwartz, 313 Hollow Creek Road, Mount Sterling, KY 40353, (859) 498.4567, shs313@bellsouth.net

Army Security Agency, 10th Annual Reunion of all Korean ASA Personnel, Sept. 8-11, Williamsburg, VA; Radisson Fort Magruder Hotel. POC: Jackie at All-In-One Tours Lancaster, PA, (Local (717) 581-5333 ext 109) or (Long Distance 1-888-681-5333 ext 109).

18th Fighter Bomber Wing Squadron, Sept. 8-11, Oklahoma City, OK. POC: George Banasky, 423 So. 105th Place E, Tulsa, OK 74128, (918) 437-5425

Second Engineer Special Brigade (Amphibs), Sept. 9-12, Washington D.C. POC: Paul Lieberman, 311 Dorset H., Boca Raton, FL 33434, (561) 482-9862, SeaHorse2esb@aol.com (All personnel who served with the brigade during WWII, Peacetime, and Korea are invited to attend, as are individuals who served with any of the Army Engineer Special Brigades.)

38th ORD Co Assoc. Sept 11-14, Branson, MO, Clarion Hotel. All veterans who served with this unit in WWII and/or Korea are invited. POC: Bill Smith, 3938 Oakhurst Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46815, (260) 485-6369, HURST468@AOL.COM

630th Engineers Light Equipment Company, Korea, Sept. 11-14, Branson, MO, Fall Creek Inn, POC: Oscar Viehland, 9587 Woodland Rd., Robertsville, MO 63072, (636) 285-4402, ogvccv@ruralcom.net

U.S. Marine Corps 21st Special Basic Class (1953), Sept. 11-16, San Francisco, CA (Marine Memorial Club). POC: Clark G. Henry (415) 337-8233, c03henry@aol.com

USS Sphinx (ARL-24), Sept. 12-15, Branson, MO. POC: Frank Ironi, 954 Lilac Drive, Sauk Center, MN 56378, (612) 352-3271.

712th TROB (US Army), Sept 14-17, Washington, DC. Holiday Inn Rosslyn, Arlington, VA. POC: Robert Shannon, (910) 949-3920, rgshannon@ac.net

USS Weiss (APD-135), Sept. 14-18, Norfolk, VA. POC: James W. Morton, 5205 Rte. 219, Great Valley, NY 14741, (716) 945-3679 or Bernard C. Miller, N2814 Cassidy Road, Mauston, WI, (608) 847-7409

3rd Bn., 7th Marines (Korea 1950-53), Sept. 14-18, Milwaukee, WI., Best Western Airport Hotel and Conference Center. POC: Al O'Connell, 30 Woodland Ave., Westhampton Beach, NY 11978, (631) 288-2243, awb-bal@aol.com

USS Titania (AKA-13), WWII – Korea, Sept. 15-17, Amana, IA. POC: Caroline/Cliff Trumpold, (319) 622-3101.

7th Infantry Division Association, Sept. 15-18, 2005 at the Atlanta Airport Marriott in College Park, GA (near Hartsfield International Airport). Reunion registration is being handled by Armed Forces Reunions, Inc, 322 Madison Mews, Norfolk, VA 23510, Phone (757) 625-6401. Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Atlanta Airport Marriott, (404) 766-7900. POC: Gene Peebles at President@7th-inf-div-assn.com or by phone at (727) 397-8801 if additional information is needed.

Third Infantry Division Society (and attached units in war and peace time), Sept. 15-18, San Diego, CA, Red Lion Hanalei Hotel, 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108, (619) 297-1101 or (800) 882-0858. Room Rates are \$99 per night plus tax. POC: Bruce Monkman (818) 343-3370, brucemonkman@earthlink.net, or Linda Irvine (360) 663-2521, info@TheReunionBRAT.com

99th Army Field Artillery Bn. ("Never Die"), Sept. 16-18, Bloomington, MN (Day's Inn/Airport). POC: Eugene Nash, 103 13th St. West, Glencoe, MN 55336, (320) 864-5977, gden@hutchtel.net

40th Inf. Div., 160th Regt., Co. A (Korea), Sept. 19-21, Reno, NV, The Sands Regency Hotel Casino. POC: Roger Lueckenhoff, 208

Steeplechase Rd., Rolla, MO 65401-3784, (573) 364-4145, lueck@fid-net.com

G -3 -1 (Korea), Sept. 19-23, Las Vegas, NV, New Frontier Hotel. POC: Tom Enos, 3220 Mirador Street, Laughlin, NV 89029-0130, (702) 420-0006, tndenos@laughlin.net, (An Association of veterans of the Korea War who served with G Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Marines, 1st MarDiv, 15 Sept. 1950 – 15 Mar. 1955)

72nd Engineer Combat Company, Sept. 19-23, Cleveland, OH, Baymont Airport Inn, (216) 251-8500. (Mention 72nd Engineers to get group rate). POC: Bob Mount, (301) 898-7952 (Phone), (301) 898-5549 (Fax), taxpreper@aol.com

6147th Tac Con Gp. Mosquito Association, Sept. 19-25, Biloxi, MS, Imperial Palace Casino Hotel, (888) 946-2847. Rate is \$62 per night—and includes breakfast. (Mention the Mosquito Reunion. POC: Tony Pascale, (601) 544-8248, tony_pascale@yahoo.com, or Dick Souza, (978) 453-3887, Skeeterloc@aol.com (Association website is www.mosquitokorea.org)

50AAA Aw Bn. (SP) (All Batteries), Sept. 19-22, Pigeon Forge, TN. POC: Nelson Ruiz (321) 267-1106, amynel@695online.com OR Joe Harris, (530) 347-3381

44th Engineer Battalion Association (Broken Heart Battalion), Sept. 20-24, Fort Benning, Columbus, GA. POC: LTC Ken Jobe, (Ret) (757) 428-0328, kejo425@aol.com, or Bernie Resnick, (603) 434-6406, BigBMR@aol.com, for registration and hotel information

86th Ordnance Co. Assn., Sept. 21-23, New Castle, PA. POC: Robert F. Spurr, 614 Bench Street, Galena, IL 61036, (815) 777-3814.

How Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, Sept. 21-24, Canandaigua, NY. Canandaigua Inn on the Lake. POC: Richard Oakleaf, 2037 Meadow Drive, Palmyra, NY 14522, (315) 597-9568 (Home), (585) 314-7128 (cell).

32nd In. Regt. Assn. (The “Queen’s Own”), Sept. 21-25, at San Diego, CA. POC: Helen Dyckson, P.O. Box 5930, Spring Hill, FL 34611-5930, (352) 597-5912, heland@bellsouth.net

USS Algol (AKA 54) Sept. 21-25 at San Francisco, CA. POC: Tony Soria (209) 722-6005, Art Nelson, artbets@cox.net, or the Algol web site, www.ussalgolaka54.org/

75th Air Depot Wing (USAF, Korea 1952-1955), Sept. 22-25, Asheville, NC. POC: Walt Walko, 13616 Paradise Villas Grove, Colorado Springs CO 80921, (719) 488-1106, wawlaw2@juno.com

USS Bayfield (APA 33) Sept. 22-26 at Branson, MO. POC: George Brewer (772) 288-1526, twobruz@att.net, or Art Nelson at artbets@cox.net

MCB#4 (All Eras), Sept. 26-29. The Welk Resort, Branson, MO. POC: Nick “Mush” Marschauser, (518) 745-7753, nick@nickstents.com

All Navy Minewarfare Sailors Who Served On Minewarfare Ships/Depots/Stations, All Eras, 28 Sept. – 2 Oct., St Louis, MO. POC: David S. Christian, (636) 931-3568, dschristian2082@aol.com

Chosin Few, New England Chapter, Sept. 29-Oct.1, Milford, MA, Radisson Hotel. POC: John Gutermuth, 23 Kettering Road, Norwood, MA 02062, (781) 769-5656.

45th Infantry Division, Sept. 29-Oct.2, Oklahoma City, OK. POC Raul Trevino, 2145 NE Street. Oklahoma City, OK 73111, (210) 681-9134

VS-931 Anti-submarine Squadron, Sept. 29-Oct. 5, Vancouver, WA. POC: J. Robert Wagner, 2996 Runnymede Drive, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-7179, Phone/Fax (610) 277-4374, bobwagner@msn.com

OCTOBER 2005

92nd Armored Field Artillery, Oct. 2-4, New Orleans. LA, Double Tree Hotel, 300 Canal St. POC: Guy McMenemy, (281) 469-2819.

17th Infantry Regiment, Oct. 5-9, Ft Benning (Columbus, GA). Open to any veteran of the 17th Infantry Regiment peace time or war. POC: Donald Shook, (724) 334-8876, deshook@7thininfantry.com, http://www.17thininfantry.com

11th Evac. Hosp. (Korea 1950-53), Oct. 6-8, Palatka, FL, Moorings

Motel. POC: Edward Elliott, 86 Malone Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10306, (718) 987-3557.

68th AAA Gun Bn., Oct. 6-9, Grand Rapids, MI. POC: Victor Wayward, (616) 455-5962, janpw@wittetravel.com

508th OPS Det., Oct. 6-9, Grand Rapids, MI. POC: Victor Wayward, (616) 455-5962, janpw@wittetravel.com

USS TINGEY (DD-539), Oct.6-9, Branson, MO. POC: Clarence Daniels, 14763 331st Ave., Unionville, IA 52594, (641) 452-6008, joydan@lisco.com

1st Field Artillery Observation Bn. Assn., Oct. 6-9, at Double Tree Club Hotel, St. Louis Airport, 9600 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, MO 63134. POC: Don Dust, (352) 799-2426 or Ralph Mueller, (724) 348-5359

26th Inf., Scout Dog Platoon, Oct. 7-9, Branson, MO. POC: Robert E. Fickbohar, 18113 Winkler Road, Newell, SD 57760, (605) 456-2636. Coordinators are: Buck Ferrell, (573) 333-1871, Jeanie Walker or Robin Webber, (800) 683-1122 (Ext. 173)

USS Cascade (AD-16), Oct. 9-16, Branson, MO, Clarion Hotel at The Palace (800) 725-2236. POC: Lyle “Preacher” Burchette, P.O. Box 566, Hollister, MO 65673, (417) 334-5627 or Bob Croghan, Sr., 7827 Cassia Court, St. Louis, MO 63123, (314) 843-6615

1st Ordnance MM Co., 328th Bn., 60th Group, 10th Corps, Oct. 10-13, Warner-Robins, GA. POC: George Kvet, 812 Beverly Ave., Canal Fulton, OH 44614, (330) 854-9754

Burtonwood Association (Burtonwood Air Force Base, Warrington, England), Oct. 11-15, Shreveport, LA, Holiday Inn. POC: Richard Iwanowski, 4515 W. 55th Street, Chicago, IL 60632, (773) 767-1810.

Veterans of the Korean War, All Branches, Oct. 12-15, Virginia Beach, VA. POC: Floyd D. Newkirk, (757) 340-9801, fnewkirk1@cox.net. or Jerry Brown (757) 237-4541, PGKpfn12117@aol.com Visit our web site: VKWR.org

F-2-7 (USMC, Korea), Oct. 12-16, Branson, MO. POC: Bill French, (417) 739-5541.

90th F.A. Bn. Assoc., 25th Inf. Div., Oct. 19-23, N. Charleston, SC, Radisson Airport Hotel, (800) 333-3333, www.Radisson.Com/90thFAB. POC: Sam Dukes, (803) 786-0366.

USS Cogswell (DD-651), Oct. 20-22, at Plaza Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV. POC George Overman, (760) 721-5730, USS-COGSWELL@DESTROYERS.ORG

Coast Guard Combat Veterans, Oct. 20-24, Tampa, FL. POC: Baker Herbert, (330) 887-5539, or (330) 887-5639 (Fax), USCGW64@neo.rr.com (We are inviting veterans of Korea, WWII, Gulf, Haiti, Panama, Grenada, Dominican Republic, and all other conflicts)

“B” Co., 1st Bn., 1st Reg., 1st MarDiv (Korea, Bunker Hill, Aug., 1952), 23-25 Oct., Las Vegas, NV. POC: Harry Brunke (949) 858-6620, or Phil Ackert (640) 712-9625.

Does Anyone Remember...?

We receive a lot of questions about rumors, events that occurred—or did not occur—in Korea, etc. So, from time to time we will print these questions, rumors, etc., to get the answers and/or put rumors to rest.

Apes Trained To Throw Grenades?

Your news bulletin didn’t include the elephants that ran rampage in Seoul! In my time we had a rumor spreading that the North Koreans were training apes to throw grenades and fire burp guns and then to be released in the UN lines. It even hit the INTREPS!

Les Peate

Anyone else hear that story?

Attention Korean War Veterans:

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Service Medal
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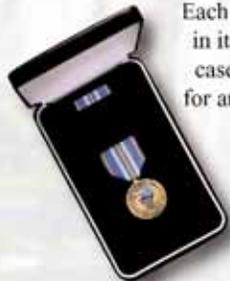
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Air Force
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Turkey's Participation In The War

As U.S. Korean War veterans know, they were not alone in "The Forgotten War." One of the countries heavily involved on the UN side was Turkey. Bill Alli, General Secretary of the American & Turkish Veterans Association (ATVA), based in Bowie, MD, provided us with these graphics from the ATVA's 2005 wall calendar. They depict graphically the activities of some of the Turkish troops.

2005

Peace and Reconciliation at Gallipoli

APRIL 25, 1915:
Soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps - ANZAC - invaded the Gallipoli (Gelibolu) Peninsula to victory for Australia, Denmark, etc.

After months of fighting, they were ordered to retreat to the coast.

The American and Turkish Veterans Association www.atva.org

APRIL 2005

Kazim's Golden Wreath
(To the Fallen Allied Soldiers)
I have looked back and forth at the past and for their lives. You can see why in the end of a bloody century. Together you in peace. There is no difference between the winners and the losers in this century of war. (To the Mothers of the Fallen)
You are the mothers who built their sons from the early morning. Why many years later. You still are the same in our hearts and in our lives. Moving and their lives in the end, they have become our sons as well.

ATATURKUN ALTIN SOGUKU
(Militari Kabin Komutanlari Kabinleri)
Bu soğuklukta kahraman askerlerimizin kahramanları. Bu soğuklukta kahraman askerlerimizin kahramanları. Bu soğuklukta kahraman askerlerimizin kahramanları.

Commentation
In 1914 the leaders of the Allied soldiers came to the Gallipoli. The Turkish commander of the Gallipoli, Mustafa Kemal, was the hero of the Gallipoli. He was the hero of the Gallipoli. He was the hero of the Gallipoli. He was the hero of the Gallipoli.

Transfer, halt
This ground that you, unknowingly, stand upon by where an epoch is built.

Learn from it and follow. They are the heroes of the Gallipoli.

WOMEN

Sabahat Gökçe (1874-1935)
She was the first female to be elected to the Turkish Parliament in 1935. She was the first female to be elected to the Turkish Parliament in 1935. She was the first female to be elected to the Turkish Parliament in 1935.

Hürriyetçiler (1904-1946)
Leader of the women's organization movement in Turkey, and was also a novelist, university lecturer and politician. During the 1930s she was active in the national movement and was elected to the Turkish Parliament in 1935.

Çağrıoğlu (1875-1935)
She was the first female to be elected to the Turkish Parliament in 1935. She was the first female to be elected to the Turkish Parliament in 1935. She was the first female to be elected to the Turkish Parliament in 1935.

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FEBRUARY 2005

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

Afghanistan

U.S. & U.K. forces
paign against Al Qaeda and Taliban in Afghanistan on October 7, 2001. They were the Taliban out of power and destroyed many Al Qaeda bases, cities, towns, etc. and some leaders escaped into Pakistan's tribal border areas. (The Taliban forces continue to battle U.S. forces.)

2ND Airborne troops
in Afghanistan in 2001. They were the Taliban out of power and destroyed many Al Qaeda bases, cities, towns, etc. and some leaders escaped into Pakistan's tribal border areas. (The Taliban forces continue to battle U.S. forces.)

Alghan women
in the field in 2001. They were the Taliban out of power and destroyed many Al Qaeda bases, cities, towns, etc. and some leaders escaped into Pakistan's tribal border areas. (The Taliban forces continue to battle U.S. forces.)

U.S. & U.K. forces
paign against Al Qaeda and Taliban in Afghanistan on October 7, 2001. They were the Taliban out of power and destroyed many Al Qaeda bases, cities, towns, etc. and some leaders escaped into Pakistan's tribal border areas. (The Taliban forces continue to battle U.S. forces.)

2ND Airborne troops
in Afghanistan in 2001. They were the Taliban out of power and destroyed many Al Qaeda bases, cities, towns, etc. and some leaders escaped into Pakistan's tribal border areas. (The Taliban forces continue to battle U.S. forces.)

Alghan women
in the field in 2001. They were the Taliban out of power and destroyed many Al Qaeda bases, cities, towns, etc. and some leaders escaped into Pakistan's tribal border areas. (The Taliban forces continue to battle U.S. forces.)

DECEMBER 2005

The Star Spangled Banner

September 11, 2001

ISI AMIST TERRORISM

World Trade Center - New York City

(more 2,000 persons were killed, including many Muslims)

September 11, 2001

World Trade Center - New York City

(more 2,000 persons were killed, including many Muslims)

September 11, 2001

World Trade Center - New York City

(more 2,000 persons were killed, including many Muslims)

National Anthems

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER
The Star Spangled Banner is the national anthem of the United States of America. It was written by Francis Scott Key in 1796. It is one of the most popular songs in the world.

THE TURKISH ANTHEM
The Turkish Anthem is the national anthem of the Republic of Turkey. It was written by Mehmet Akif Ersoy in 1924. It is one of the most popular songs in the world.

JUNE 2005

September 11, 2001

ISI AMIST TERRORISM

World Trade Center - New York City

(more 2,000 persons were killed, including many Muslims)

September 11, 2001

World Trade Center - New York City

(more 2,000 persons were killed, including many Muslims)

September 11, 2001

World Trade Center - New York City

(more 2,000 persons were killed, including many Muslims)

September 2005

Last Call



All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

ALABAMA

- ★ Abel Hasper
- ★ Robert Bruce Yielding

ARIZONA

- ★ Laurent C. LaFond
- ★ Donald E. Smith

ARKANSAS

- ★ Eugene E. Balsler, Jr.
- ★ Betty Jean Dolfen

CONNECTICUT

- ★ Bernard Meehan

DELAWARE

- ★ Norman T. Everett

FLORIDA

- ★ Charles Lee Beatty
- ★ Anthony DeCaprio
- ★ James H. Griffin
- ★ Jack R. Lary
- ★ Franklin N. Snow

GEORGIA

- ★ Arthur C. Dudley

ILLINOIS

- ★ Albert E. Gardner

- ★ Nathan C. Madsen
- ★ Harvey J. Neumann
- ★ Russell Thorsen
- ★ Vancil Varlan

INDIANA

- ★ Daniel E. Klus
- ★ Logan E. Martin
- ★ Harry P. Pride

KANSAS

- ★ John H. Delap

KENTUCKY

- ★ Steve May

LOUISIANA

- ★ James W. Ashfield
- ★ Albert Robert Hobbs, Sr.

MAINE

- ★ William Allen Gardner
- ★ Wayne A. Grant

MARYLAND

- ★ Edward Hechmer

MASSACHUSETTS

- ★ Walter F. Carlan
- ★ Edward D. Cliggott

- ★ Richard F. Flannery
- ★ Frederick J. Pilat

MISSOURI

- ★ William R. Crawford
- ★ Lorenz J. Roth

NEW JERSEY

- ★ H. Paul Christie
- ★ John P. O'Grady

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- ★ Roger N. Maxfield

NEW YORK

- ★ Richard J. Benedict

- ★ Paul R. Cloutier

- ★ Richard C. John

- ★ Charles S. Keeler

- ★ Robert J. Lansing

- ★ James F. Pease

- ★ Ronald R. Ryan

- ★ Frederick A. Saur

- ★ John F. Tuzzio

NORTH CAROLINA

- ★ Billy H. McPhail .

OHIO

- ★ Dale R. Arkenburg
- ★ John F. Disinger

- ★ Armando Gomez

- ★ James D. Miller

OKLAHOMA

- ★ George K. Collins

OREGON

- ★ C. Lloyd Williams, Jr.

PENNSYLVANIA

- ★ Peter G. Knox

- ★ Wayne S. Long

RHODE ISLAND

- ★ Robert M. Coyle

- ★ Alexander R. Longiaru

- ★ Harvey J. Shaw

TEXAS

- ★ Rodney L. Scott

- ★ Henry Lee Thompson

WASHINGTON

- ★ Howard K. Leong

WEST VIRGINIA

- ★ William D. Dillon

BOOK REVIEW from page 57

The book is not devoid of humor, as at times Brady's telling of an incident brought on a chuckle or two. But it might have had to have been experienced to understand the reason for the chuckle. In the same vein, a tear was shed at times by the memory stirred.

The unabashed emotion(s) of the author are as open as any I have read. Brady doesn't mask his love for his compatriots-in-arms, expressing this love not for dramatic flare, but to tell them and the world "this is how I feel and is the "raison d'être" for the hook."

James Brady, who served as a rifle platoon commander during the Korean War with D-2-7, 1st Marine Division, dedicated the book to all who fought in Korea and provided to those who will not make the journey back a return from the comfort of an easy chair.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Here are words from signs spotted in Korea:

Watch your hands

Don't let them slip

You touch my beer

You get a fat lip.

CAUTION: Sniper area:

Here lies Joe, brave and undaunted

He bought the farm—but not the one he wanted

81st ORD

Handle grenades with care...your hand may get home before you do

A sign at the entrance to the village of U Duk Lo:

Not doing this will get you home

But when they do, you'll never more roam

Written on the wall of half-destroyed buildings:

"God, please stop this war."

Underneath, in another hand:

"I didn't start it...God"

Contributed by Eugene Mercier, P. O. Box 3602, Nashua, NH 03061

Membership Application

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 101238, Arlington, VA 22210 (Telephone: 703-522-9629)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Assigned Membership Number: _____

K.W.V.A. Regular Annual Dues - \$20.00 • Associate Membership - \$12.00 • Life Membership - \$150

Please Check One: New Member Renewal Member # _____ POW (No Charge)

Please Check One: POW REGULAR MEMBER LIFE MEMBER ASSOCIATE MEMBER

(Please Print)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

All new members. please provide the following information if applicable

Unit(s) to which Assigned

Division _____

Regiment _____

Battalion _____

Company _____

Other _____

Branch of Service

Army Other

Air Force

Navy

Marines

Coast Guard

Dates of service:

Within Korea were: *(See criteria below)*

From _____ To _____

Without Korea were: *(See criteria below)*

From _____ To _____

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes as indicated, is true and correct."

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to: KWVA

Mail to: Korean War Veterans Association Inc., PO Box 101238, Arlington, VA 22210 (Telephone: 703-522-9629)

Credit Card # _____ VISA MASTER CARD

Expiration Date _____ Your Signature _____

Name of Chapter (if applicable) _____

CRITERIA 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.

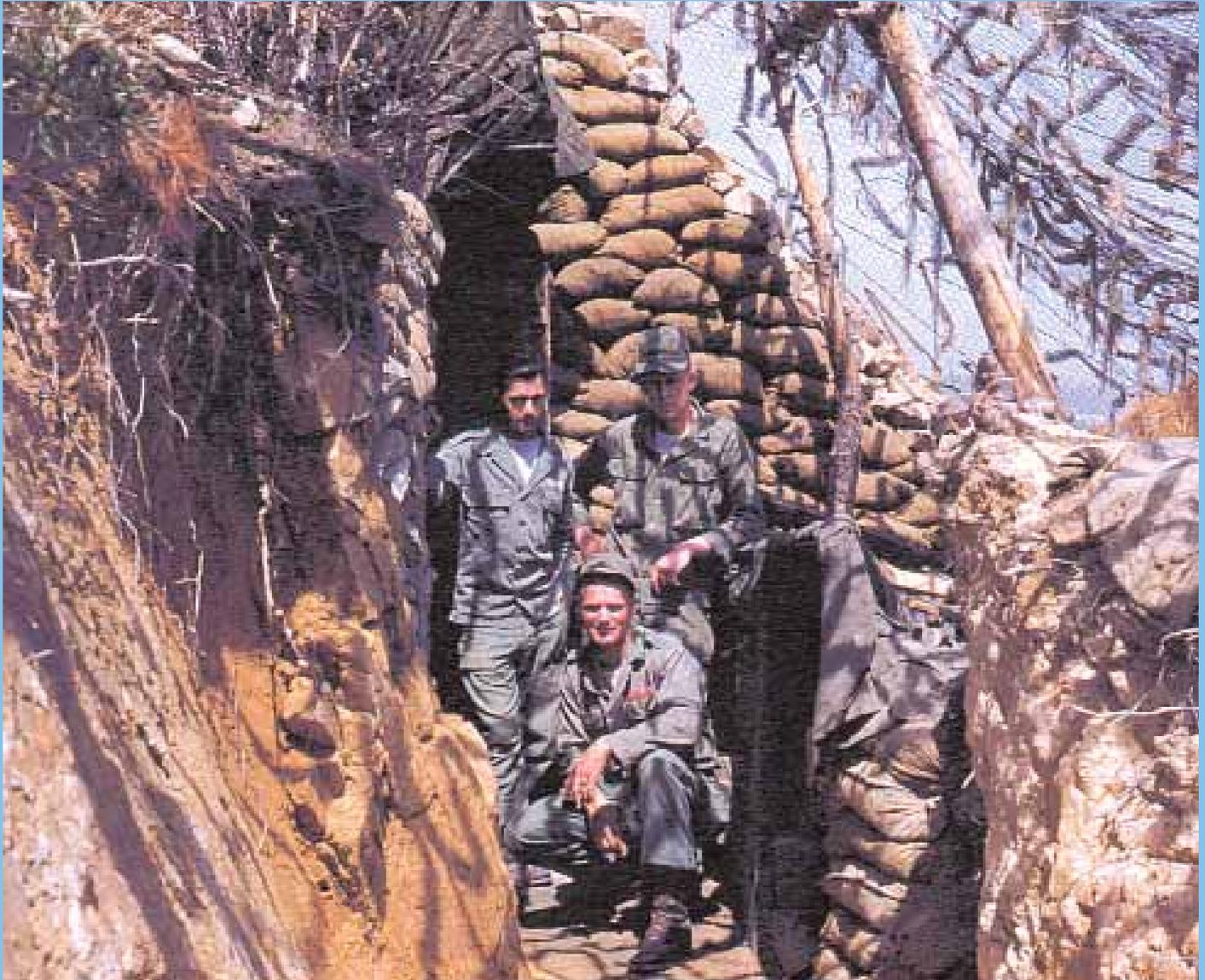
B. **Regular Members.**

- 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 Korea (September 3, 1945-June 25, 1950), within and without Korea (June 25, 1950-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 was 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.

C. **Associate Members.** Any person with a legitimate interest in the affairs of this association and who wishes to support its aims, and not being eligible for regular membership and who agrees to accept the terms and conditions set forth in the charter and bylaws shall be eligible for associate membership in the association.

WEB PAGE: WWW.KWVA.ORG

Bunker Buddies



Herman Jongsma (kneeling) and members of the Greek Expeditionary Forces – 3ID, 15th Inf. Regt.

**Korean War Veterans Association
Membership Recording Secretary
PO Box 101238
Arlington, VA 22210**

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