

Tell America

76 - LONE STAR CHAPTER [TX]

Chapter 76, located in Houston, began its Tell America program in 1996. At that time our director, Lee Henderson, carried several pieces of equipment and personal material, e.g., M1 rifle, helmets, and dummy grenades to a local school. He spent the entire day at that school by himself, talking to ROTC and history classes about the Korean War. Since that time our program has expanded in numbers of volunteers and amounts of exhibits, which now include clothing, pictures, slides, maps and ammunition. The use of a grenade loaded with caps wakes up all the sleepy kids and gets their attention.



TOP: #76 members at Tell America presentation (L-R) Lee Henderson, Bobby Blair, Tom Campion, Jessie Harper, Mickey Spencer, Henry Martinez.

LEFT: Helmet and grenades used by #76 members at presentations

Lee Henderson and Henry Martinez head the program today. Our group has visited 396 schools and many other groups to present out talks. We generally spend the entire school day talking to the students and other people in attendance. We show pictures of the hills, trenches, tanks on line, infantry bunkers, and artillery gun positions.

Our presentation tells the history of Korea from thousands of years

ago to today. All the students show a lot of interest in our talks. They ask questions about the country, the climate, and the conditions the troops faced in the mountains during the winter season.

We always start our talks with an emphasis on the statement that "Freedom is not free." We try to instill in the audience members that

freedom is always paid for at a great expense, such as the loss of lives and permanent injuries sustained by many of the people involved.

The entire program is a rewarding experience to all who participate. We plan to continue it for many years.

Thomas J. Campion, 8522 Neff Street, Houston, TX 77036

168 - QUAD CITIES [IL]

We did a great Tell America program at Horace Mann School in Rock Island. Don Neer was the history teacher of a class in the higher learning system, with 21 great students.

Don introduced the chapter members as a group. Everyone told of his time and job while in Korea.

Art Holevoet, 17881 County Highway 5, Atkinson, IL 61235



#168 members at Tell America Day (L-R) Jerry Orendorff, William Graham, Joe Gomez, Jerry Guinn, Bill Weber, John Hermstrom, Ron Sears, Don Simpson, Bob Berry, Ed Davis, Art Holevoet, Bob Fitts, Dan Foulke, Keith Krarner



"Hands on time" for Horace Mann School students at #168's Tell America presentation



168 members and Horace Mann School students gather for a group photo

TELL AMERICA AT WORK IN NEW JERSEY

On March 22nd, 2006, Chapter 54, Thomas Daley Jr., New Jersey, participated with the Vietnam Veterans (New Jersey) in a "Tell America" program at the Jr. ROTC Navy facilities located at the Deptford High School, Deptford, New Jersey. Lt Col Scott McClay, USMC (ret), and Senior Chief Franco Colamarco, USN (ret), hosted the event.

The program was well received by the cadets who thanked all veterans of all wars for their service to their country.

Since 2000 our chapter has visited over sixty schools and appeared at many memorial services for veterans and their families. We can truly say we have touched the hearts and minds of our fellow citizens—and stressed our message that "Freedom is not free."



Front, (L-R) Sgt Fred Connolly, Sgt Dom Carrera, LtCol A. Bancroft, USMC (ret) Vietnam, Capt Andy Jackson, USA (ret) Sgt Gennero Porco. (Rear, L-R) MSgt Gil Stead (WWII & Korea), Sgt Norm Rynex (USMC), SFC Al Rodesky, USA (ret) Vietnam & Desert Storm, Sgt Fred Adolf

TA TIPS FROM IRWIN BRAUN

I was Tell America Chairman of the KWWA Nassau County Chapter No.1 on Long Island from 1996 to 2003. I would like to share with you and others my experiences and what I learned.

1. The first thing that we needed was a folder about the Korean War; that was relatively inexpensive to print. We created a folder, "The Korean War and its Historical Impact." Our chapter gave away 12,000 copies. I wrote and designed it.

2. The first speaking engagements were obtained by calling local high schools and following the calls up with a letter. Later, we sent out mailings to 75 schools, but that was less successful. We found that the best time to contact the Social Studies Chairperson was in March or April, since the Korea War is studied at the end of the school year.

3. Another way that we got speaking engagements was our attendance at the Long Island Council for Social Studies Conference. It was a one-day conference at which we had an opportunity to meet lots of social studies teachers. We were given a table, which we set up. We distributed literature on the Korean War. We were also invited to present a seminar on the Korean War for the teachers. It is amazing how little the teachers knew about the Korean War.

We lined up speaking engagements at many schools from these conferences, including a 50th anniversary commemoration at Schreiber High School in Port Washington, with a magnificent program and dinner prepared by the Korean parents in the community.

4. The program that we presented at schools changed over the years as we learned how to become more effective. Initially, we showed a 20-minute video on the Korean War. But, I noticed that many of the students went to sleep as soon as the lights were dimmed. I also noticed that the students were mainly interested in the presenters' personal experiences. So, I tried to incorporate them into the total story of the Korean War.

I ended up using photos that I took when I served with the 32nd Regiment, 7th Infantry Division in '52 and '53. These photos were blown up to 8" x 10" and then made into transparencies. Using an overhead projector—and every school had one—I could project these photos to a very large audience. In addition, I had maps made into transparencies so I could discuss the war's progress. It ended up as a very effective program.

5. In addition to this, we had a program to reach the community at large. We presented a 90-minute slide program on the Korean War at 26 libraries on Long Island. This was a very effective program. But, I have to confess that we never attracted large audiences.

We also made several presentations at the Daughters of the American Revolution and many other organizations that honored our patriotism during the 50th anniversary.

6. Additionally, we recognized that we had to attract media attention to inform all of Long Island about the Korean War. We called newspapers, radio and TV stations and sent them press releases. We had major stories in Newsday, the New York Times, and dozens of local newspapers.

On June 25th, 2003 I was interviewed by Peter Jennings of ABC's World News Tonight, and I had my 5 seconds of fame. I was also interviewed by the History Channel on a documentary about coming home from the Korean War. You have to recognize that while you may speak to a hundred students in a classroom, a story in the paper or on TV will reach hundreds of thousands. And our goal is to inform as many Americans as possible about the Korean War.

7. One of the most important things that we accomplished was a research project about what the social studies textbooks said about the Korean War. The average high school textbook devoted a paltry 49 lines of text to the Korean War. The article was printed in The Graybeards in June 1998, and Peter Jennings mentioned it in his news broadcast. I hope this information is helpful to members of the Tell-America Committee. If you want to get in touch with me I can be reached at 516-623-7062.

Irwin Braun, 2287 Howes Street, Merrick, NY 11566

I contacted Mike Pralle again and told him about the change in plans. I asked if we could have the reunion at his post, to which he agreed. Everyone was notified of the plans and received copies of maps provided by General Berry of Kennett Square showing how to get to the VFW Post.

On 6 August 2005 we finally had our reunion, with 10 of the 20 survivors attending. It only lasted about three hours, but there was a lot done in that brief time. It was the first time that we had all ever been together since 1953, and it was the first time for me to ever meet many of the guys.

It was a distinct pleasure to have everyone there. During the reunion I suggested to General Berry that we have a minute of silence to remember those who didn't make it back. He was kind enough to lead us all in a short prayer for them, their families, and friends.

Mike Pralle was a very gracious host. He was extremely helpful, and provided us all with a memento from his post. He had decorated an area for us with tables and glassware and little vases and a flag on each table. He also provided us with snacks, a cheese tray, and soft drinks.

All in all, everything turned out quite well. I was thankful to have finally realized a dream that had been haunting me for so many years.

Those who attended the reunion were LtGen Sidney B. Berry (Ret), Kennett Square, PA; Lester Blevins, Amelia, OH; Charles V. Christian, Dundalk, MD; William Doyle, Ravenswood, WV; Joseph Drozd, Albrightsville, PA; Thomas Frazier, Alexandria, VA; Alexander Harkness, Thomaston, CT; Robert Kisner, Kent, OH; Robert J. Liberty, New Dartmouth, MA; and Donald L. Wrightson, Pendleton, OR.



KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

SURVEY OF THE TELL AMERICA PROGRAM

TO: All KWVA Chapters
FROM: National Tell America Chairman, Larry Kinard

Many of our chapters have active and successful Tell America programs. Their membership is involved and they are making a difference in our schools and communities in their understanding of the Korean War and the freedoms we enjoy today.

We have very little information on which chapters have these programs, and we would like to know who has and who hasn't. This brief survey is designed to help provide that information.

Please complete the following questions and return to:
Larry Kinard, 2108 Westchester, Mansfield, TX 76063.

Chapter Name and number: _____

How many members in 2006: _____

Location: _____

President or contact person: _____

Telephone number or e-mail address: _____

Does your chapter have a Tell America Program:

YES? NO?

If yes, please tell us about your Program:

1. When was it started? _____

2. How many members are involved? _____

3. How many schools do you speak to? _____

4. Approximate # of students contacted each year: _____

5. Do you also speak to community and civic groups?

YES? NO?

6. Approximate number of these contacts each year: _____

7. Do you have program information you are willing to share?

YES? NO?

a. Please tell what that is! _____

8. Has your TA program appeared on television? _____

YES? NO?

9. What would make your program better? _____

10. Please tell us how we can help at the national level!

Thanks for your participation in this survey. It will be a big help for our Tell America Program.