

America's Forgotten Victory!

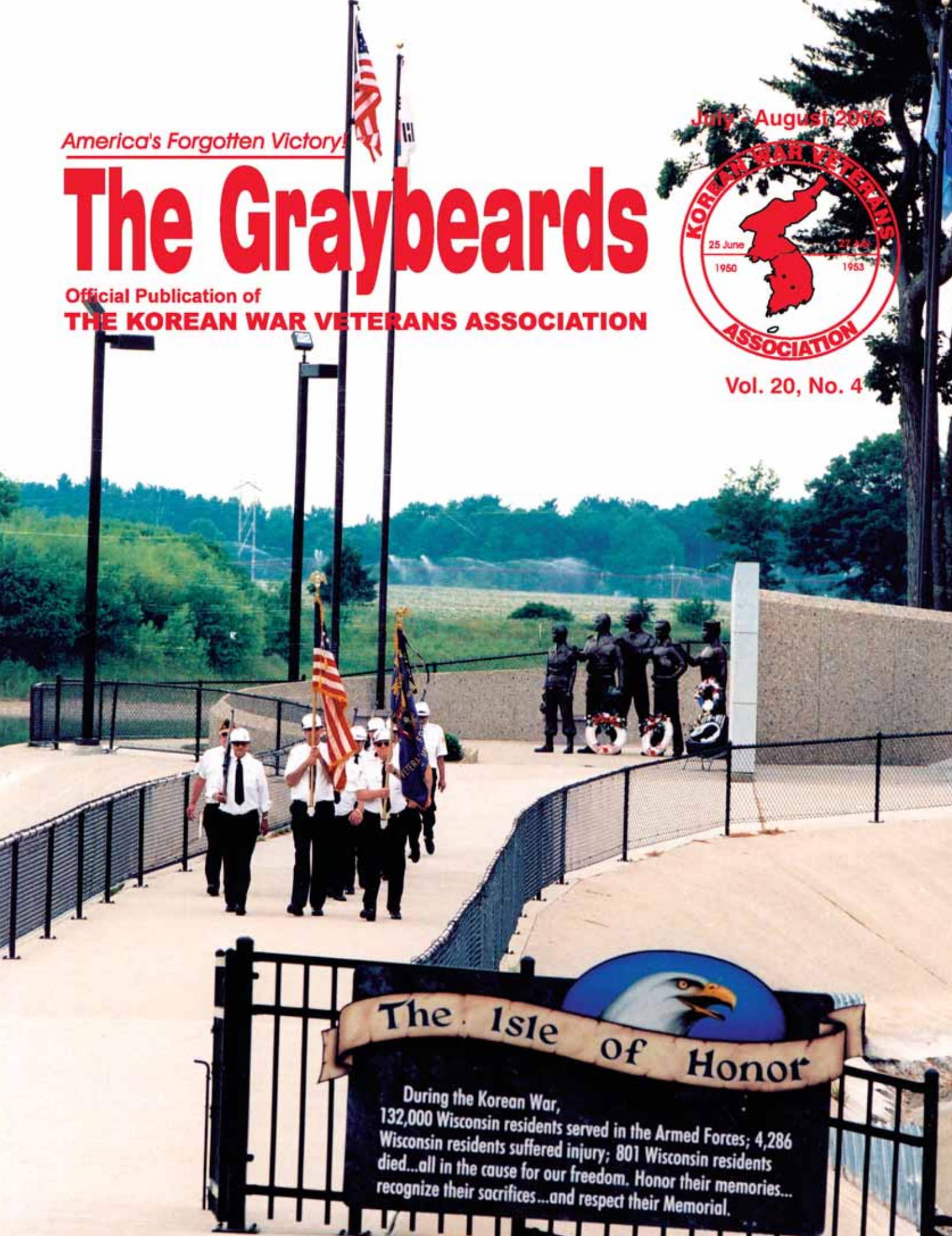
The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

July - August 2006



Vol. 20, No. 4



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Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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



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From the President

Louis T. Dechert



Greetings to veterans of Korea, friends, and others interested in the Korean War Veterans Association:

In Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and South Texas, residents know how to deal with storms. That sort of experience has helped me, my staff, and responsible Directors assess the damages wrought by the 2006 KWVA election.

There Is More To Be Achieved

While the outcome ought not to have been that way, that's the way it was. The organization and administration goes on—**because advancing the KWVA is our program, and mission accomplishment is our objective.** Here are a few examples of what has been and is happening:

- fund raisers are finished
- events are sponsored in Korea
- outstanding members are recognized—one of the best of all times, Marty O'Brien, passes away
- all-time new membership totals roll in, in spite of slowed down reporting
- return visits to Korea continue
- departments are visited
- memorials are dedicated
- an outstanding magazine continues to get better, as does an outstanding website

And there is more that will be achieved.

The Gathering

The Gathering honoring our founder, Bill Norris, took place in DC, July 25-28. Read about Bill and *The Gathering* in the May-June *The Graybeards* if you have not yet done so. And, in case you have not yet noticed, you can now read *The Graybeards* on our website, www.kwva.org

An Analysis Of The 2006 Election

It is with considerable satisfaction that I assure you that our top two priority goals of a federal charter and recruitment of new members were not casualties of the stormy election season. However, it is with little satisfaction that I examine our election in June.

Of 16,231 +/- eligible voters, 1,486 voted against the administration, 1,822 voted for the administration, and 12,923 said by their actions and attitudes "no change": 14,745 to 1,486!

My overall evaluation of the election this year was one of disgust at the high level of mud-slinging and viciousness that took place—and I was a winner! I can certainly sympathize with some of the very good men who lost. I encourage them to try again.

There were 3,407 valid ballots cast. This was about 1/3 more than last year's non-presidential election and considerably below the 4,286 valid ballots cast in the 2004 presidential election. In 2004 we had 16,450 +/- eligible to vote. This year there were 16,231 +/- eligible to vote.

When they fail, those whose sole mission is to defeat the incumbent(s) always claim that a lower number of voters is a sign of apathy. In fact, analysis of KWVA elections—to the extent that records are available—tends to indicate that the great mass of the eligible voters are content with the current situation and therefore do not feel it necessary to change or to vote. That was the attitude which I and my slate of candidates—JD Randolph, Jim Ferris, Marvin Dunn, Chris Yanacos, Jake Feaster, and Bill Hutton—most often encountered, April to June, this year. That conclusion on the part of satisfied members is the wrong one to make. Nevertheless, it is a fact of life, and in this year's election one which I acknowledge as favoring our administration.

A hard core of administration-haters (I was associated with them in 2004, so I know their drill) worked every smear that they could. Of 16,231 +/- eligible voters, 1,486 voted against the administration,

1,822 voted for the administration, and 12,923 said by their actions and attitudes "no change": 14,745 to 1,486! I thank the members for their support and sincerely hope that the 2008 election will be one in which the entire organization may view with pride—for a change.

Thanks and Appreciation

I offer my appreciation to Former Director James Ferris, long-time President of the Department of New York, and a guiding and supporting influence for a better KWVA in the Executive Council/Board the past three years. He would have been an admirable 2d Vice President.

Jim will continue to lead in other roles in the administration and remain on "active duty," helping the Administration reach the critical objectives set out before us—FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER. I also thank Larry McKinniss, Stanley Grogan, Joe Pirrello, and Dick Adams for their service as they left the Board of Directors on June 25th.

Moving On

Just as I began this article, I close it by saying we have Mission and are moving on in accomplishing it. A copy of that Mission appears nearby. One element is to MAINTAIN our Memorial. Watch for the next issue of *The Graybeards* which will cover that mission imperative in greater and encouraging detail.

This summer I have had the opportunity to visit and participate in events at many state and local memorials around the nation. The KWVA has always been a GREAT builder of memorials in many locations around our country. I urge all to devote equal attention, effort, and diligence to our National Memorial on the Mall in the Capitol.

Lou Dechert
National President, KWVA/US

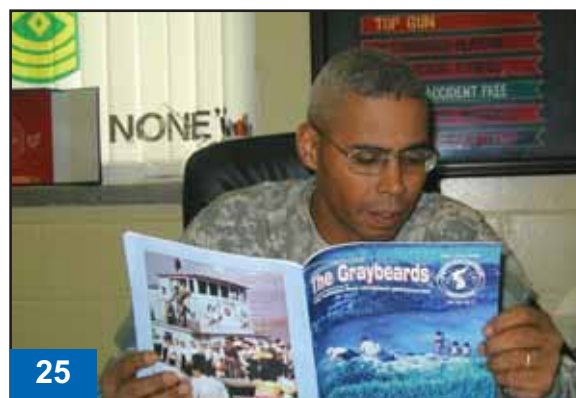
THE MISSION OF THE KWVA/USA

DEFEND our Nation
CARE for our Veterans
PERPETUATE our Legacy
REMEMBER our Missing and Fallen
MAINTAIN our Memorial
SUPPORT a free Korea

COVER: The Korean War Memorial, Plover, WI.
Photographed and submitted by George Kaprelian,
W6900 Shadybrook Cir., Fond du Lac, WI 54937



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Korean War Veterans Service Watch shown with Army Emblem

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Credit Card: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD ☐ AMEX exp. ____/____

CC# _____

SIGNATURE _____

Daytime Phone # (____) _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS (WE CANNOT SHIP TO P.O. BOXES)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

Phone # _____

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* PLUS \$7.95 PER WATCH FOR ENGRAVING, S&H.
* PA RESIDENTS ADD 6% (\$7.98) SALES TAX.

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Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA)

2006 National Convention ♦♦ 8 – 11 October

EL TROPICANO HOTEL

110 Lexington Avenue, San Antonio, Texas 78205
800-288-3927



REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE: 24 SEPT 2006

Name _____ Nickname: _____ Member Number: _____

Spouse/Guest(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Service: ☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Marine Corps ☐ Air Force

Major Unit Assigned in Service: _____ Years in Korea: _____ ☐ Ex-POW? _____

Personal Awards: ☐ Army DSC ☐ Navy/Marine Cross ☐ Silver Star ☐ Bronze Star ☐ AF Cross ☐ Purple Heart
Other _____

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

Member Veteran Organizations: ☐ VFW ☐ American Legion ☐ MOPH ☐ DAV ☐ Other _____

REGISTRATION & EVENTS

		# of People	Price	Total
Registration Fee:	For Member (No registration fee for spouse/guests).....	1	\$25	\$25
OCTOBER 8	Travel – Hospitality Room**			
OCTOBER 9	Registration** Hospitality Room** – Open Day Do the River Barge (Barge at the Hotel Riverside) ALAMO is six blocks away - See the ALAMO - Dinner on Your Own			
OCTOBER 10	9:00 AM Opening Ceremony** – Memorial Service (All are invited) 10:30 AM **Board of Directors' Meeting 10:30 am Funcion de las Senoras (Ladies Function) 12:30 Mexican Buffet Lunch** (incl. tax and gratuity) _____ \$15 =\$ _____ Evening on Your Own— Have Dinner at one of San Antonio's Great Restaurants.			
OCTOBER 11	9:00 AM **Annual Membership Meeting 12:30 PM Lunch Break 1:30 PM Reconvene Annual Membership Meeting**			
OCTOBER 11	6:00 PM Banquet** (Select meal choice) Choices: #1 Texas Bar B Q.....\$30\$ _____ #2 Breast of Chicken with Champagne Sauce.....\$30\$ _____			
Please send checks only — NO Credit card! Total:\$ _____				

** Denotes Functions that are held at El Tropicano Hotel

Make a copy of this form for your records. Total your activity cost and make check payable to: "KWVA 2006." Send your Registration Form and your check to: **Richard E. Hare, Treasurer, Korean War Veterans Association**
1260 South Hampton Drive, Alexandria, LA 71303 (Phone: 318-487-9716)

HOTEL RESERVATION: Make your own reservation as soon as possible. Price \$100/night (single or double occupancy) plus tax. Call El Tropicano Hotel at 800-288-3927 and advise "KWVA Convention.." Hotel has no airport shuttle. Use San Antonio Trans Hotel Shuttle Service, Roundtrip [\$24] or Taxi [\$25]

Revised: 8 Aug 06 JLF

ALL MAJOR AIRLINES SERVE SAN ANTONIO

Form may be downloaded from www.kwva.org. Other information regarding the convention is also available at the website

40th Recon to Attend Reunion

May 2006 - James Lindsey and Bob Gayton, members of the U.S. Army 40th Division, Recon Company, Korea, contacted our KWVA President, Lou Dechert. These gentlemen felt that the KWVA convention, Oct. 8-11 in San Antonio would be an excellent opportunity to combine their annual meeting with the KWVA's, and permit their members to become more knowledgeable of the mission of the KWVA.

Major campaigns [of the 40th Recon] included the Punch Bowl, Heartbreak Ridge, Sandcastle, and the enemy engagement in the Kumwha-Kumsong sectors.

The 40th Recon has maintained an informal association composed of those Recon members who saw service in Korea. The 40th Division was activated from reserve status in September 1950. Following advanced training at Camp Cooke, California (now Vandenburg AFB), the Division departed for Japan in March 1951. This training prepared the Division for the role they were destined to play in the war in Korea. January 1952 found the Division in Korea, where they relieved the 24th Infantry Division.

The extensive training following activation prepared this Recon company to lead many attacks against the enemy in battle areas. Major campaigns included the Punch Bowl, Heartbreak Ridge, Sandcastle, and the enemy engagement in the Kumwha-Kumsong sectors. The 40th Division served with distinction and valor. The Recon company returned home in summer 1953.

Seventy (70) members of 40th Recon have been sent an invitation to attend the KWVA San Antonio meeting. Many have already accepted and have made plans to attend.

You will recognize these heroes instantly. Their name badge will have a bright red dot. Introduce yourself and welcome our brothers-in-arms.

*Lee Dauster
Director, KWVA 2004-2007*

REMINDER

KWVA Board of Directors to Hold Meeting at Convention

The KWVA Board of Directors meeting will be held as part of the National Convention in San Antonio, TX, October 8-12, **inclusive**. Oct 8 and Oct 12 are travel days.

The Directors meeting will be held starting at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct 10.

All Directors, officers, and other invitees are expected to attend the Committee work sessions on Monday, October 10, and such other times as announced by the Committee Chairmen.

The Board may expect to be called into other sessions during the inclusive period as called by the President.

The Directors meeting will be held starting at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct 10.

Directors and officers are also expected to attend the Opening Ceremonies, which will begin at 9 a.m. on the 10th.

Specific room locations for these events will be posted at the hotel and included in the Convention Packet.

Directors are requested to submit Resolutions or other Board Action Requests to the National Secretary not later than September 9, 2006.

*Bill Hutton, National Secretary
Billhutton@KWVA.org, (703) 842 7429*

The Korean Defense Service Medal Available to Korean Service Vets

We get a number of inquiries about the KDSM, who is eligible, how to apply, where to buy, etc. Hopefully, this information will assist people who are trying to get the only OFFICIAL medal currently available for Korean Service Veterans (Peacekeepers).

The medal is available for military service in, over, or in the waters around, the Korean Peninsula from July 1954 to a time yet to be determined.

Applicants can apply for the medal through official channels by writing:

National Personnel Records Center
Medals Section (NRPMA-M)
9700 Page Ave
St Louis, MO, 63132-5100.

You can also purchase a KSDM through Tom Sunseri, Recruiting Task Force Quartermaster. (Tom provides the New Option KWVA Decal and Patch). He can be reached at 727 547 1991, or <http://kwvaqm.org>.

There are also a number of commercial sites that can be accessed to serve and purchase medals. These sites offer the medal in several sizes, and the commensurate ribbon. They will also show several COMMEMORATIVE medals



The medal is available for military service in, over, or in the waters around, the Korean Peninsula from July 1954 to a time yet to be determined.

and ribbons (e.g.-Korean Defense Medal and the UN Cold War Medal) that may be worn on your uniform (unless you are in Official Dress). Two of these sites are: www.USMedals.com or www.fox-fallmedals.com

We will try to keep this information current. We also welcome your comments, additions, etc.

Contact: Bill Hutton KWVA National Secretary, (703) 842-7429, or billhutton@kwva.org

Troops in Korea ‘in the fight’



LEFT: Army Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey (center), senior enlisted advisor to the chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, did a radio talk show on American Forces Network Korea June 20 during his visit to South Korea. He talked about the value of military service, quality of life issues, leadership, and other topics.

BELOW: A soldier from the Joint Security Area briefs Army Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey (second from right), senior enlisted advisor to the chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his wife, Cindy, about the South and North Korean check-points on the demilitarized zone on June 20. The Gainey's were on the Korean Peninsula visiting service members to thank them for their service. Photos by Spc. Angela J. Dyer, USA

By Sgt. Sara Wood, USA
American Forces Press Service
(June 20, 2006)

YONGSAN GARRISON, Korea, South, June 20, 2006 – U.S. troops serving in Korea have a tough, intense mission and are as much a part of the war as troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, the senior enlisted advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said here today.

Army Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey is here this week to visit military bases around South Korea and spend time with the troops and their leaders. Today he visited the demilitarized zone, which is the neutral area between South Korea and communist North Korea. U.S. and South Korean service members guard the DMZ, as the demilitarized zone is called, and often are within meters of North Korean troops.

Gainey said his visit today reminded him of the toughness and intensity of U.S. and South Korean troops, and of the importance of their mission here.

“I really paid attention today to how committed the South Korean soldiers and U.S. soldiers on the DMZ are to letting everyone know that they’re there — just the sheer dedication in what they’re doing,” Gainey said. “I felt really, really good today to be an American.”



“You need to understand that there’s more to the mission that you’re doing here in Korea,” Gainey told the soldiers. “It’s very important. Just because you’re not in Iraq and not in Afghanistan doesn’t mean you’re not in the war. That’s why they call it the global war on terrorism.”

Gainey ate lunch with soldiers at Camp Bonifas, which is home to the U.N. Command Military Armistice Commission. These soldiers are the most forward-deployed in all of Korea and spend their time patrolling the DMZ.

“You need to understand that there’s more to the mission that you’re doing here in Korea,” Gainey told the sol-

diers. “It’s very important. Just because you’re not in Iraq and not in Afghanistan doesn’t mean you’re not in the war. That’s why they call it the global war on terrorism.”

Gainey, who was accompanied by country music artist Michael Peterson, chose to visit isolated places like Camp

Continued on page 11



The Editor's Desk

Art Sharp



Yesterday's News Is Today's News

Don Ellwood, Indiana State KWVA Commander, wrote a letter to Dennis Ryerson, the editor of Indiana's largest newspaper, the Indianapolis Star, suggesting that he include an article referring to the July 27th Armistice. Ryerson's response, in a nutshell, was, "There are a lot of war anniversaries, and we just don't write about most of them. We cover today's news, not yesterday's news." Here is a bulletin for Mr. Ryerson and his colleagues: yesterday's news is today's news, and if newspaper editors were to cover it from a contemporary perspective, the world might be a better place in which to live.

Start with the Korean War: it did not end on July 27, 1953. In Mr. Ryerson's own words, "The tragedy of Korea is that we only have an armistice that ended the conflict, but did not officially end the war." If the war has not ended, why has coverage of it come to a halt?

Sure, newspapers carry stories about North Korea's missile tests, near-starving people, megalomaniac leader, etc.—but how often do they link it to the 1950-53 unpleasantness? North Korea has been pushing the proverbial envelope for over 50 years now, as any astute newspaper reader can tell us. Certainly, there is a connection between what happened in Korea "yesterday" and what is happening there "today."

Okay, that's Korea. Let's look at Cuba. Fidel Castro made news in the early 1960s when he came into power. Remember the Bay of Pigs fiasco in 1961? Or the Cuban missile crisis in 1962? Castro weathered both storms and retained his hold on Cuba. Had things gone a little differently, he might have been ousted then. But, they didn't—and he wasn't. That is old news—but his name continues to pop up in today's news. Certainly, there is a connection between what happened in Cuba "yesterday" and what is happening in Cuba "today."

Here is another example. As I write

If there is any group of people in the world who need to pay attention to the axiom that those who ignore history are bound to repeat it, it is newspaper editors.

this, Israel and a terrorist group are fighting each other in and around Lebanon. This is nothing new. The Israelis' enemy may have changed, but the situation hasn't. Israel has been battling for its existence since its creation in 1947. That is partly because the world has failed to act to curtail attacks on Israel in its six-decade history. Certainly, there is a connection between what happened in the Middle East "yesterday" and what is happening in the Middle East "today."

Sure, the UN has put a token force in southern Lebanon in recent years with the mission of stopping missile attacks on Israel. But, putting 2,000 troops armed with water balloons and ordering them not to fire on anyone launching rockets into Israel is akin to giving a three-year-old a tricycle, a gallon of gasoline, and telling him to pedal to the moon. He won't get there any faster than the UN's token force will stop rocket launchers in southern Lebanon. That explains why the Israeli situation has dragged on as long as it has. Certainly, there is a connection between what happened "yesterday" and what is happening "today."

Let's face it: in many respects, history and current events are one and the same. That is one of the reasons Mr. Ryerson's suggesting that "We cover today's news, not yesterday's news" rings hollow. If he and his fellow editors were to recognize that they are one and the same, we might all be better off.

The North Korean situation has gone on for more than fifty years in part because newspaper editors have ignored

it in favor of stories like which unmarried Hollywood starlet has chosen which destitute country in which to have her baby with another unmarried Hollywood star (or starlet)—and that country is never North Korea.

The Cuban situation has lasted for almost as long in part because newspaper editors have been more concerned with the deleterious effects of the U.S. embargo on the gas mileage of the 1947 Studebakers so popular in beautiful downtown Havana than they have in the plight of the Cuban people under Castro's leadership and the U.S. embargo.

The Israelis have gone to war once again in part because newspaper editors have been more concerned with the effects of global warming on the inner linings of emu eggs in the Arctic rain forest than they have been in what is—and has been—happening in the Middle East in the past 50 or 60 years.

If there is any group of people in the world who need to pay attention to the axiom that those who ignore history are bound to repeat it, it is newspaper editors. Printing an article about the July 27th Korean War armistice is not covering "yesterday's events." Rather, it is a reminder to readers that "yesterday's events" are "today's events," and that they should never forget the price many veterans have paid just to realize an armistice or make possible an embargo.

Mr. Ryerson and his peers have to realize what Korean War veterans have been saying for years: "Freedom is not free." And, it can only be maintained if people are apprised constantly of the connection between "yesterday's events" and "today's events." Certainly, there is a connection between what happened "yesterday" and what is happening "today"—and it does not hurt to run an article or two in a newspaper to keep that connection in the public's eye.

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Jeff Brodeur, Recruiting Committee Chairman

KWVA Membership

Recruiting Report

By Jeff Brodeur

KWVA Midyear Recruiting Committee Report for 2006

As of July 24, we had 974 new members for the year. This is up from 697 new members last year, and 277 more new members than we had at this time last year.

We would like to finish the year with at least 1700-1900 new members. If we continue our pace, we will have close to 1900 new members for the year. This would be an increase of 600 new members from 2005.

As of now we have 16,894 active members. This is up from the active 16,369 members we had at this time last year. We have 525 more active members this year than last year. We have also received new members and many renewals from our National Fundraiser. In fact, we received 51 new members on July 13, 2006, 20 of whom were from the National Fundraiser.

I don't believe the KWVA has ever in its history recruited 51 new members in one day, except perhaps for the day the Korean War National Memorial was dedicated. July is becoming a record month for membership.

We have sent Capt. Dale Woodhouse at Camp Red Cloud, South Korea, posters, decals, and flyers. Capt. Woodhouse is a new member of KVA Chapter #299. Dale reported that he gave out many decals and is putting up posters at Camp Red Cloud as we speak. He is also recruiting and showing many of the personnel *The Graybeards* magazine on Camp Red Cloud. (See photos on page 25) We have also sent copies of *The Graybeards* to MWR and the USO in Korea, plus the NCO Academy at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

The Recruiting Committee has sponsored a July 4th event at Yongsan Garrison in which the KWVA name would be displayed on all literature at the event. New posters have been sent to Virginia, New York, New Jersey, Texas, Korea, Massachusetts, Maine, and Indiana. All funds spent on posters, flyers, and the event in Korea have come from proceeds of the KWVA Recruiting Committee decals program—not from the \$3,000.00 authorized in the budget for the Committee. *The KWVA Recruiting Committee has never used any money authorized to it by the KWVA Budget and Finance Committee.*

The new Pennsylvania KDSM Bill should bring in more members in Pennsylvania. This bill would put the Korea Defense Service Medal on the Pennsylvania license plate. It was signed by the state's governor on July 7, 2006. KWVA Chapter #299 member Don Duffy was instrumental in getting the bill passed. (See page 15).

Another new member who has joined us is KWVA General Walton Walker Chapter #215 member Dale Patton. Dale is the first post-war Korea veteran to join the KWVA who was recently awarded the CIB for combat in Korea. He was assigned to Company, 3rd Platoon, 3/23 Infantry, 2nd Division from 1967-

68. Dale was also awarded an Army Commendation Medal with V device. We welcome Dale Patton as a new member.

The Recruiting Committee will become the Membership Committee in the coming months, with the Recruiting Task Force as a Subcommittee. Additions to the Membership Committee will be Jake Feaster, Capt. Dale Woodhouse from Camp Red Cloud, Korea, and Ray Wells from Virginia.

We need all members to recruit. If each member recruits one new member a year, we could have well over 35,000 members in the KWVA. If members don't recruit, many of our chapters will die out. There are 4 million post war veterans waiting to be welcomed into the KWVA. We are making inroads in Korea. So far everything looks bright for the KWVA.

CALL FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Korean War Veterans Association of the USA is called for Wednesday, October 11, 2006. The meeting will take place at the El Tropicana Hotel, 110 Lexington Avenue, San Antonio, Texas 78205. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue, with recesses, through to the completion of all business properly brought before it. Members with items proposed for the meeting must insure that they reach the Secretary, KWVA, not later than September 6, in order to be included on the Agenda to be presented to the Board of Directors for approval on October 10.

- Order of Business
- Ceremony and Call to Order
- Welcomes, Introductions, Meeting Rules
- Roll Call of Board and Introduction of Parliamentarian
- Summary Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors, October 10, 2006
- Summary Minutes of Annual Meeting, Bossier City, LA, October 4 and 5, 2005
- Annual Treasurer's Report
- Old Business, Convention 2007
- New Business, Committee and Other Reports
- Awards/Announcements
- Ceremony and Adjournment

See announcement of Board of Directors Meeting on p.7 concerning the meetings of the Standing and Special Committees of the KWVA.

Louis T Dechert
National President, KWVA/US
Chairman and Presiding Officer, Board of Directors
Aug. 10, 2006
Pineville, LA 71360

VA Volunteer Service

The KWVA participates in forty eight (48) local VAVS facilities. However, we need volunteers at many more VA facilities.

By J.D. Randolph
KWVA VAVS National Director

The National Advisory Committee (NAC) of the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) was established by VA Circular No. 117, May 17, 1947, and became a federally chartered advisory committee on February 5, 1975. The Committee advises the Under Secretary for Health on matters pertaining to the participation of volunteers in VA medical facilities, and assists in recruitment and orientation of volunteers, needs and accomplishments.

VAVS National Advisory Committee Membership comprises sixty (60) Service Member organizations. The Korean War Veterans Association is one of them. Service Member organizations are those which maintain the provision of volunteers and participation on local VAVS facility committee meetings at a minimum of thirty (30) VA facilities.

Service member organizations shall be the only category of NAC members having voting rights. Participation on a local VAVS facility committee is defined as having VA-recognized representation on that committee. This definition relies upon the policy that if any organization whose VA recognized representation misses three (3) consecutive local VAVS facility committee meeting, the absences will cause its removal from the committee.

The KWVA participates in forty eight (48) local VAVS facilities. However, we need volunteers at many more VA facilities. In many states we have major medical centers that do not have Korean War Veterans Association representations and deputy representations.

We should be very proud of our volunteers. Last fiscal year we had 53,113 hours of voluntary service in 48 facilities. The top three hospitals are Big Pines in FL (5,775 hrs), Fresno-Central in CA (4,103 hrs), and Dallas-North in TX (3,922 hrs). I believe this fiscal year we will beat these numbers.

To all State Departments and Chapter President/Commanders: we need your help getting KWVA Representation and Deputy Representation in each hospital, community based outpatient clinic. I have a data base on all hospitals and how the representation is. We have many hospitals that have no representation, so we do not get credit for the KWVA volunteer hours.

If I can be further help, please call or email me 972-359-2936, randy9683@sbcglobal.net.



"Korea Remembered" Patch

Color : Tan/ Brown
Laredo 1950 Chapter #209
Jose Luis Munoz, President
Send \$10 Check to :
9011 Lady Di Loop, Laredo, TX 78045

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

TROOPS IN KOREA from page 8

Bonifas because the troops there don't get many visitors, he said.

"I'm hoping while I'm here in Korea that we go to some places that not everyone sees," he said. "I think it's so important that you go the hard road to get to that hillside and say, 'Hey guys, gals, I'm proud to be a part of your team.'"

This trip embodies Gainey's main responsibility as the senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: to meet with service members from all branches of the military and bring back their feedback or problems to the service senior enlisted advisors and the chairman. Since taking this position, Gainey has visited 18 countries, including two trips to Iraq.

"When I get out, what I notice is that every service, regardless of what uniform you wear, has the same hopes, desires, dreams, goals and ambitions to be good," he said.

Gainey said his goal for this trip is to visit members from all branches of the military, and to let them know what his role is as the senior enlisted advisor to the chairman. He stressed to all the troops he met with today that he does not replace the service senior enlisted advisors, but he is a link between them and the troops.

Today Gainey also did a radio talk show at American Forces Network Korea. He talked about the value of military service, quality of life issues, leadership and other topics. One point he emphasized was the importance of joint operations in the military.

"The days of services fighting as separate units are over," he said. "You will fight joint for the rest of your life."

Quality of life issues are always in Gainey's top priorities, he said, because quality of life is the foundation for all other priorities. Gainey thanked the troops in Korea for their service, which he said he is impressed with already.

"Be proud of who you are; be proud of what you're doing, because you're doing a good job," he said. "I'm proud to be on your team."

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Let's continue with our Editorial Guidelines

Where to Send Material For Publication in *The Graybeards*

The rule of thumb is simple: anything that you want published in *The Graybeards* should be sent directly to the editor, via email, "snail mail," UPS FedEx, DHL, carrier pigeon...especially if it is time sensitive. That includes text and photos. Eventually, everything comes to me anyway.

People have sent material to the president, the secretary, the administrative assistant, the publisher, the local animal control officer...in short, to a variety of places other than to the editor. Most of the time, this is done with good intentions. Occasionally, people try to circumvent the editor by sending their material elsewhere. But, just as for Sid and Julius Caesar all roads led to Rome, for *The Graybeards*, all roads lead to Rocky Hill.

There are drawbacks to sending material to the wrong place. (The wrong place is anywhere but 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill CT 06067 or sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net)

- The recipient might not forward it to *The Graybeards Editor*, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, or sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

- The recipient might forward it to *The Graybeards Editor*, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, or sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net, but at his or her leisure, which might render it too late for inclusion in the magazine

- The recipient might forward it to someone other than *The Graybeards Editor*, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, or sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net, who will then, in turn, have to forward it to *The Graybeards Editor*, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

So, let's recap. If material is not sent directly to *The Graybeards Editor*, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, or sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net, it might get here either late—or never.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Make sure that when you send material via email you use underscores between sharp_arthur and arthur_g. Otherwise—and this has happened more than once—the material goes off into cyberspace somewhere.

There have been times when critical

information, such as reunion notices or chapter news, has taken a circuitous route to *The Graybeards Editor*, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, or sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net. When that happens, it does not get published. (And, when that happens, the people who submitted it to the wrong place in the first place generally manage to find the *The Graybeards Editor*, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, or sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net)

Let's review one more time: if you have material that you want published in *The Graybeards*, send it directly to *The Graybeards Editor*, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, or sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net. That will enhance the chances of seeing it in print—especially if it is time-sensitive material.

Check Your Mailing Label

Membership Number
First two characters reflect membership type

Membership Dues Expiration Date. The example shows a dues date of January 1st, 2007

*****5 Digit

R012345 01/01/07

JOHN J. JOHN
12345 MAIN ST
SMILEY NY 01234-5678

DELIVERY POINT BARCODE

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. 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 *The Graybeards*, or to KWVA with a note in the memo (Or "for") section at the bottom of the check "Support of The Graybeards." Every donation will be acknowledged in *The Graybeards*.

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

CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION	CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION	CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION
32nd Inf. Regt. Assn.	Florida	Edwards, Robert	New York	Malloy, Jack	New York
Ahlo, Henry K.	Hawaii	Fears, George Robert	Massachusetts	Newman, Gilbert	Pennsylvania
Beike, John M.	Massachusetts	Frawley, Richard J.	Connecticut	Pearson, Robert	Florida
Chapter 142	Maryland	Hall, Robert	New York	Ringer, Robert	Florida
Dapron, Elmer J.	Missouri	Halsband, Alan I.	Rhode Island	Robbins, Robert R.	California
Dellaripa, Victor J, Sr.	Connecticut	(In honor of Sol Shuman's 80th birthday)		Roof, Robert W.	North Carolina
Di Bella, Frank	New York	Kvet, George	Ohio	Spiroff, Boris R.	Maryland
(IMO Pvt. Mitchell Weinberg)		Jones, Jack E.	Pennsylvania	Summers, Patricia	Oklahoma
Drybala, Francis J.	Florida	McGinnis, Andrew R.	Illinois	Thune, Dick	Minnesota
Duffy, Donald R.	Pennsylvania	Makkey, Albert	Massachusetts	Weiser, Carl S.	Minnesota

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.

ARIZONA

★ Kenneth G. Flook

CALIFORNIA

★ Frank Lopez, Jr.

★ Raymond M. Schwab

COLORADO

★ Earnest E. Contreas

DELAWARE

★ Raymond E. Musciano

FLORIDA

★ William L. Bartlett

★ Robert E. Boyle

★ Daniel A. Cowan

★ Eugene F. Hawk

★ William F. Hawthorne

★ Elmer L. Rund

GEORGIA

★ Paul M. Lapierre

★ George L. Miller

★ Jonathan F. Thornton

HAWAII

★ Clarence K. Kamai

★ Kenneth Kekona

★ Henry Iaela (IAELA)

★ Walter T. Ogasawara

ILLINOIS

★ Harley C. Davis

★ Robert Fisher

★ William G. Gillies

★ Dale W. Kember

★ Laurence Maxton

INDIANA

★ Troy N. Haste

★ Donald E. Isenberg

★ Daniel L. Shields, Sr.

★ James R. Snyder

★ William L. Warwick

MAINE

★ Thelma Bonenfant

★ Martin J. O'Brien

MARYLAND

★ Willard D. Sorteberg

MASSACHUSETTS

★ Herbert B. D'Entremont

★ Lois E. Franco

MICHIGAN

★ George Bauer

★ Wilbur Hochhalter

★ Rev. Walter Reiss

★ Donald Himmelspace

MISSOURI

★ Myrl D. Eads

★ Ralph W. Lucas

★ Lucien R. McDonald

NEBRASKA

★ Donald J. Hansen

NEW JERSEY

★ O. John Reed

NEW YORK

★ Gabriel Bartell

★ Nelson B. Becker

★ Herbert Greenwood

★ Rudolph F. Heidenreich

★ Eddie Osborne

★ Jerry G. Skelton

NORTH CAROLINA

★ J. D. Goforth

★ Thomas R. Rackley

OHIO

★ Thomas P. Beck

★ Thomas J. Carroll

★ A. Donald DeMarinis

★ Robert E. Edwards

★ Laverne W. King

OREGON

★ Val J. Davie

PENNSYLVANIA

★ George F. Kiernan

★ William J. McClay

RHODE ISLAND

★ Robert M. O'Connell

★ Donald F. Paul

SOUTH CAROLINA

★ R. H. Bucknell, Jr.

★ Jack H. Spearman

SOUTH DAKOTA

★ Lee C. Hodges

TENNESSEE

★ John G. Dykes

TEXAS

★ Frederick G. Hohulin

★ Raymond J. Pitts

WASHINGTON

★ George E. Riley, Jr.

WISCONSIN

★ David W. Weida

In Honor of Charles Robert Selby

In the previous issue we featured Bill Norris, the founder of the KWVA. One of his early supporters was Genevieve Anderson, Gold Star Member GS00001, who died in February, 2006. She worked closely with Bill Norris in honor of her brother, Charles Robert Selby, who was killed in action August 26, 1951.



Charles Robert Selby

Selby, a member of Co. B, 32nd Inf. Regt., 7th Inf. Div., lost his life due to mortar fire while fighting the enemy near Chu Dong, North Korea. That motivated Genevieve Anderson to join force with Norris.

As her daughter, Maggie Holler, wrote about her mother, "She worked very hard in the early years to see the memorial built. I wanted to take her to the dedication, but she was unable to make the trip. I have been, and brought back many pictures."

She noted that, "I've purchased a lovely large framed photo, which sits above [Mom's] chair along with a plaque sent to her. She was very proud of her Gold Star #."

Likewise, the KWVA is very proud of Genevieve Anderson, and of her brother Charles, who made the supreme sacrifice so that others could live in freedom.

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

Summary

Minutes of KWVA Board of Directors 'Business Without a Meeting'

A special Board of Directors "Business without a Meeting" was called by President Dechert on June 25, 2006. This is the second Business without a Meeting since the October General and Board Meetings.

This action by the President was in accordance with the present Bylaws, Article II, Section 2. Board of Directors, D. Business without a Meeting.

Each Director received a ballot on items to come before the Board; each was given the opportunity to vote. It is important to note that all voting members of the Board submitted their ballots on the issues, and all returned the ballots to arrive at the Secretary's mail location by the prescribed time and date, which was the close of business, July 6, 2006.

It is also important to note that, at the Board and General Membership meetings of October, 2005, there was direction given to reduce the number, and therefore the expense, of Board Meetings. This called "Business without a Meeting" saved the organization thousands of dollars, and resulted in the completion of several items of business which were basically routine.

Those items were:

- ♦ Action Item # 1- Oaths of office of newly elected members of the Board (All signed the oaths).

- ♦ Action Item # 2- Approval or rejection of Appointments of Standing Committee, Special Committee Chairman, and other required Officials.

NOTE: the process for appointment is recommendation by the President, with recommendations from Committee Chairman for their committee members.

Each Board Member votes either "Yes" or "No" (to provide consent or veto). All appointments are then subject to the confirmation by the membership-at-large at the annual meeting in October. All appointments were approved by a majority vote of the Board.

This issue was the most complex, involving all 15 elected members voting on 30 positions. All voting Board Members submitted complete ballots.

The recorded vote of each member is on record, and is available from the Secretary. All appointments were approved.

The Officers and Chairmen are posted on the KWVA website, and will be listed in the masthead of the July-August of *The Graybeards*.

In the interests of efficiency, the vote was conducted to approve consolidation of certain sub-committees and/or Task Forces into "Master" Committees. These included:

- ♦ Fund Raising- into Budget and Finance
- ♦ Procedures Manual- into Bylaws

- ♦ Recruiting Task Force-into Membership

There were three other items reported of interest for the Board, none of which required action. They were:

- ♦ Action Item # 3 -Report of the Standing Committee on Resolutions.

- ♦ Action Item # 4- Disaster Assistance Report, Katrina and Rita.

- ♦ Action Item # 5- Press Release on Presidential selection of Member of the Year.

I express my appreciation to Jake Feaster, Assistant Secretary, for his assistance in this process, necessary because of the death of my brother which called me away from the task.

Respectfully Submitted

William E Hutton LR19343
Secretary 07/19/06

Members in the NEWS

PENDLETON WOODS



Steven Gentling (L) presents Pendleton Woods (R) with Outstanding National POW plaque.

Pendleton Woods, a lifetime member of the KWVA, a member of Chapter 89, and a resident of Oklahoma City, OK, received an award recently recognizing him as the nation's Outstanding Ex-Prisoner of War for the year 2005. Director Steven Gentling presented the award on Veterans Day 2005 at the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center.

Woods is a veteran of WWII and the Korean War. He was a POW in Germany in WWII.

The award is presented annually by the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization. It is given to one individual each year in recognition of patriotic and civic service and service to veterans.

Woods, a combat infantryman in WWII, was commissioned following the war. He served as the 45th Infantry Division public information officer in Korea.



Pennsylvania Honors Korean War Vets With KDSM License Plate

By Arthur G. Sharp

How H.R. 2295 Becomes Law

Korea War Veterans Association member Donald R. Duffy (KWVA-KVA Chapter 299) explained why he felt the process was so important. "We will not stand by and permit Korea veterans to be forgotten," he noted. "From 1945 to this hour, there has not been peace in Korea, and the DMZ is the heaviest militarized border in the world today. It is has been by the sacrifice and service rendered by United States veterans, and those of other nations, that Korea, while not at the level of peace (*no peace treaty*) we would like to see is, however, a thriving, successful and free nation. That is why this license plate is so important to Pennsylvania Korean War veterans who were awarded the Korea Defense Service Medal."

Once he saw the need for the license plate, Duffy got the ball rolling by contacting PA state representative Chris Sainato. He asked Duffy to prepare a packet concerning the Korea Defense Service Medal and explaining the significance of Korea veterans



PA State Senator Robert Robbins (left) and PA State Senator Gerald La Valle were instrumental in the passage of HR 2295

gaining recognition by being honored with a Pennsylvania license plate. Duffy made the packet and Sainato went to work in Harrisburg, the state capital.

Legislation began with Sainato and his H.B. 2295, which he introduced into the House on Dec. 6th, 2005. Sainato's bill gained momentum and passed in the House unanimously. Senator Robert Robbins, District 50 (PA) moved H.B. 2295 through the state senate. Duffy emphasized that Robbins was a great help, and he and his staff deserve considerable thanks, as does Senator Gerald La Valle, PA state senator.

Duffy modestly admits to playing a small role with H.B. 2295 by prodding, pestering, and preventing stalling. But, he did not do the job alone. He had the help of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) and its president, Louis T. Dechert, and Jeffrey J. Brodeur, KWVA National Director and Korea Veterans of America (KVA) Chapter 299 Commander. Phyllis R. Duffy, Don Duffy's wife, played a prominent role in the effort as well. She did all the computer work.

Duffy also offered special thanks to the PA House and Senate transportation commit-

Pennsylvania Approves Special License Plates

Pennsylvania has joined become the second state in the country to have the Korea Defense Service Medal on its license plate. It is the third state in the country to recognize Korea Defense Service Veterans. Massachusetts was first, Maine second, and now Pennsylvania.

The Korea Veterans of America Chapter #299 has had a hand in passing all three bills, and KWVA National President Louis Dechert personally sent several letters to the Pennsylvania Legislature in support of this bill. If it were not for recently deceased Marty O'Brien and the CPL Clair Goodblood MOH Chapter (CID 79) of Augusta, ME speaking up in support of their fellow Korea veterans, the Maine bill did not have a chance of passing.

KWVA and KVA Asst. Legislative Officer Donald R. Duffy reported that Pennsylvania State Representative Chris Sainato introduced HB 2995 (see below) in 2005. The intent of the bill was to allow Korean War veterans who live in Pennsylvania, and who have received the Korea Defense Service Medal, to show the KDSM designation on their license plates.

tee and its respective leaders, (Rep. Geist and Rep. McCall, State Senator Maddigan and his staff members, Craig and Patty).

Finally, H.B. 2295 went to the governor of the Great State of Pennsylvania, Edward Rendell. Final honor was paid to these deserving Korea War veterans when he signed the bill into law on July 7, 2006.

What will Duffy do next? Who knows? But, the odds are he will do something to get more recognition for Korean War veterans.



Donald R. Duffy (L) and Chris Sainato (R) show copy of H.R. 2295

AN ACT

Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated statutes, providing for a special registration plate for recipients of the Korean Defense Service Medal. The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

§ 1350.1. Special plates for recipients of Korean Defense Service Medal.

Upon application of any person who is a recipient of the Korean Defense Service Medal, accompanied by a fee of \$20 which shall be in addition to the annual registration fee and by such documentation as the department shall require, the department shall issue to the person a special registration plate designating the vehicle so licensed as belonging to a person who is a recipient of the Korean Defense Service Medal. The department shall design and produce the special registration plate.

The special registration plate may be used only on a passenger car or truck with a registered gross weight of not more than 9,000-10,000 pounds.



POW/MIA Update

As many of you no doubt know, our longtime APOW/MIA Update correspondent, Marty O'Brien, passed away on June 28th, 2006. In place of his column, we present this tribute to Marty written by KWVA President Lou Dechert, and a copy of a letter he wrote to John E. Balducci, the governor of Maine, with whom Marty worked at times to bring recognition to the "Pine Tree" State's Korean War veterans.

DEATH OF MARTIN J. O'BRIEN

It is my extremely sad duty to report the death of my friend, Martin J. "Marty" O'Brien, a constant friend, advisor, and patriot. He has always been an outstanding member of the Korean War Veterans Association, and one of the nation's most qualified and dedicated experts on the battle casualties and MIA/POW of the Korean War. He died in the hospital at Augusta, ME, June 28th, 2006 from heart attacks and heart complications.

Marty O'Brien, LR12697, was a proud veteran of the Korea War and his service with the 1st Cavalry Division. He was a founder and past president of the Corporal Clair Goodblood, MOH, Chapter 79. He had been closely associated with former National Secretary Oreste "Rusty" Tramonte, LR05500 in establishing numerous chapters in the Northeast.

Marty was the member who coined the phrase appearing at the bottom of the official KWVA letterhead, "Korean War and Korea Service Veterans - A Continuity of Service in the Defense of Freedom," first suggesting it to me in 2003 when I was asked to run for President.

I recently selected Marty as a Presidential Member of the Year Award. At that time I wrote:

Mr. O'Brien developed a MIA-POW activity which is professional and respected in the veteran community. He also led the KWVA efforts seeking the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor for Chaplain Emil J Kapaun, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, who died as a POW in North Korea. O'Brien also was a leader for the KWVA in supporting legislation for award of the Purple Heart to all who died as POW from World War II forward.

Earlier in his career his research helped the Department of Defense and the American Battle Monuments Commission to update their respective casualty data bases. He is a recognized authority in the areas of casualties, KIA, MIA, and POW. In addition Mr. O'Brien has

served the President extensively in special tasks, editorial duties, and trouble shooting various situations. He is also a member of the Ethics and Grievance Committee of the KWVA.

There is no position or task within the KWVA that I would not have heartily recommended Marty to carry out. He declined several positions due to his inability to travel, feeling it a privilege and responsibility to place the care of his wife and their home ahead of any travel.

Those of us in leadership often note that there is no irreplaceable man — in the case of Martin J O'Brien, LR12697, Korea veteran and proud KWVA member, we have to make an exception. He is irreplaceable to his family, to his associates, and to America.

Day is done, gone the sun, from the hills, from the lake, from the skies. All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.

Fades the light; and afargoeth day, and the stars Shineth bright, fare thee well; day has gone, night is on

Louis T. Dechert.
National President, KWVA/US

July 1, 2006

The Honorable John E Baldacci, Governor
Office of the Governor
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0001

Dear Governor Baldacci,

I greet you in the 230th year of Independence! I had the honor of meeting with you in May, 2005, and expressing the appreciation of this Association for your magnificent support of Korea Veterans in Maine.

Sadly one of the men who accompanied me that day in your office shockingly died on June 28th— Martin J. O'Brien.

Marty was an outstanding American patriot and a great credit to Maine. I sincerely request that you take note of that fact and extend every courtesy and State honors to his widow, Helene Simone O'Brien of the home, 27 Meadow Road #202, Augusta.

Thank you, once more, for your exemplary service to veterans.

Cordially,

/s/ Louis T. Dechert

Louis T Dechert
National President, KWVA/US

THE GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

Articles to be published in the *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

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 @ \$12 plus \$3.00 S/H.
- ☐ Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$60 plus \$5.00 S/H.

Order from: Earl House
1870 Yakona Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21234
Phone 410-661-8950



Make Checks payable to: **Maryland Chapter – KWVA**

Placing A Wreath In Canada

On 25 June 2006 Bill Burns, KWVA Liaison to the Canadian KVA, and Jim Ferris, former KWVA Director and NY KWVA Department President, representing National President Lou Dechert, both Charter members and members of local Chapter 105, were honored to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Canadian Unknown Soldier at the War Memorial in Ottawa. This followed a ceremony at the Memorial to the Canadian Korean War Dead a short distance away.

Wreaths were presented by the Ambassadors and/or Military Attaches of a majority of the United Nations participants in Korea and several veterans' groups from Canada. KWVA was the only foreign association participating in this significant honor.



The Changing of the Guard Ceremony on Parliament in Ottawa the day following the ceremony in Ottawa

Bill Burns and Jim Ferris look over the shoulder of the attaché from France laying the wreath



Jim Ferris and Bill Burns in front of the Tomb in Ottawa

Canadian National President Les Peate was in attendance. This is the second time he has arranged for us to perform this function. KVA Unit 7, Ottawa, commanded by Bill Black, was the ceremonial host. A reception followed at the Korean Embassy, where we and our wives were warmly received.

Bill Burns

Integrating Koreans into the American Units

■ A Program That Failed

By D. Randall Beirne

In the fall of 1950, the U.S. Army suffered many casualties in Korea. There was a need for replacements. Thus, many units received young South Korean men as replacements for the American forces. As events proved, that was not the best idea.

At that time, K Company, 5th RCT, received 45 Korean replacements. That raised some serious issues. For example, who would command them and how would the language barrier be overcome? Fortunately, the 5th RCT, which was from Hawaii, had many Japanese-Americans in its ranks. Korea had been under Japanese rule since 1905, so most Koreans understood Japanese.

American soldiers confused the chatter of their Korean comrades with that of the attacking Chinese.

American soldiers confused the chatter of their Korean comrades with that of the attacking Chinese. Often, American soldiers shot the Koreans, thinking they were Chinese. By Christmas 1950, K Company had very few Koreans left.

Fortunately, this policy of trying to integrate Koreans into American units was discontinued as more American replacements became available.

D. Randall Beirne
5818 Meadowood Road
Baltimore, MD 21212

A Somewhat Less Than 'Pheasant' Experience

In the fall of 1952 we came out of Reserve and went back on line in the Heartbreak Ridge area of eastern Korea. Our radio section was set up on a ridge some distance from the mess tent and CO HDQ. It was our routine, for those off radio watch, to pile into a 4x4 and head down the goat trail road for chow.

On one such day the gang consisted of Henry, Mitch, Stormark, Graber, me, and possibly others with visions of gastronomical delights on our minds. About half way down the mountain the driver hit the brakes and someone hollered "Chinese!"

We all piled out, fumbling for ammo clips. Someone got off a couple rounds (must have been Mitch!). About this time a jeep came sliding up in a cloud of dust and our CO, Lt. Remail, piled out with his trusty .45 and started blasting away! Everybody missed—and the most terrified Chinese Pheasant in Korea was last seen heading over a ridge towards Manchuria!

When the dust and the gun smoke settled, we were all standing there looking silly, knowing full well we had violated a standing company order that there was to be no unauthorized target practice! It was then that our illustrious CO barked the order, "Carry on, men." We knew we had survived another combat experience.

Eldon V. Bailey, 45th Sig. Co
45th Inf. Div., Korea, 1952

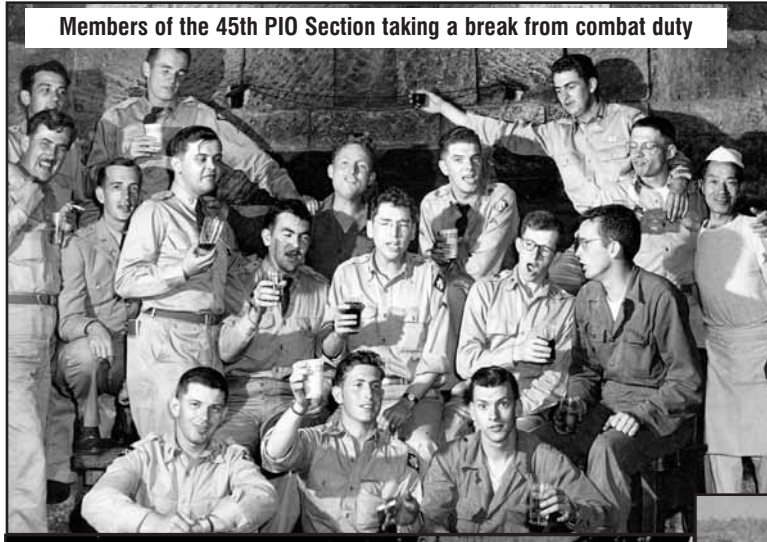
3080 Eliot Drive, Hood River, OR
97031-9574, bailey3080@yahoo.com

**THE KWVA 2006 ANNUAL
CONVENTION WILL BE
HELD IN
SAN ANTONIO, TX
8-11 OCTOBER, 2006
DON'T MISS IT!**

Photos By Gunter

Harold P. "Jack" Gunter was a staff combat photographer for the 45th Infantry Division's PIO Section during the Korean War. He selected these photos from his personal archive, which he collected during his service, and made them available for publication in The Graybeards.

Gunter took up to 500 combat photographs a week, and processed them as time was available—which was not all that frequently. As he explained, "Processing was done only at night, because the processing tent had so many holes in it that light would ruin the film."



Members of the 45th PIO Section taking a break from combat duty



Troops try to warm up in the -13degree temperatures



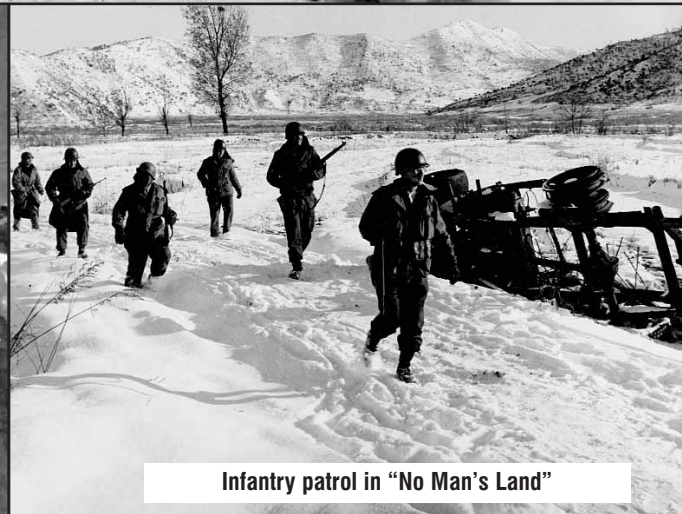
Jack Gunter getting some sack time between combat photo assignments



Comrades remove a wounded soldier from the battlefield



45th Division personnel board a ship in Japan for transportation to Korea



Infantry patrol in "No Man's Land"

Combat patrol on the battlefield



Troops take the body of a casualty to the rear



A tank struggles to gain traction in the rugged Korean terrain



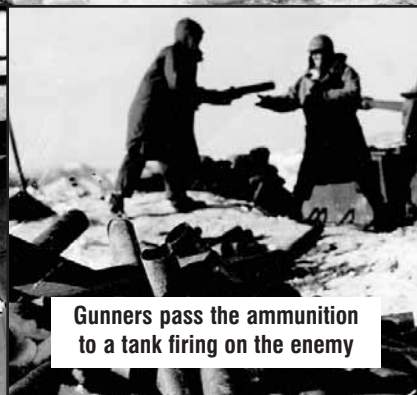
Wounded troops being taken to medics for treatment



Medics work on a wounded North Korean in a field treatment center



Gunners pass the ammunition to a tank firing on the enemy



Korean plumbing facilities left a lot to be desired, as seen in this open-air bath shot



Scouts survey the territory for enemy presence



A South Korean soldier (top of picture) takes a hit from the enemy



North Korean psychological agenda showered propaganda leaflets to American troops

Those who love you want you **home, safe and sound.**

FIND A WAY OUT!

It's No Disgrace To Quit Fighting
In
This Unjust War!

Frozen rations eaten on the run. Any moment he may have to run again, to fight or die — and so may you.

The Eddie Ko Story



Eddie Ko, a member of CID 175

We became acquainted with Choon Kyung Ko in the late 1990s, when he became a member of Lt. Baldomero Lopez, MOH, Chapter 175, of Tampa, Florida. By this time he had changed his name to Eddie Ko. But, wait...let Eddie tell you his story!

My father was a Christian missionary and my Mother was a teacher. I loved and respected them dearly. Besides the love I had for them, my next greatest love was for Rex, my playful dog.

From the first to the third grade, Rex escorted me to and from school each day in my hometown near Seoul, Korea. At that time, Korea had not been divided into South Korea and North Korea. Rex was mostly black, with a white patch on his side that was shaped somewhat like Korea. Rex would always be waiting for me when I got out of school each day. Our walk home was comforting to me, for I knew that Rex would take care of me. We would run and play together. So, I never gave it a thought that anything or anyone would hurt my dog.

One day I could not find Rex. I searched everywhere I could think of, but I did not have any luck. My father told me I should not worry. However, I had heard some alarming news that the Japanese soldiers were rounding up all the dogs they could find, because the dogs were beginning to

I saw hundreds of dog pelts draped over clotheslines and drying in the sun. I asked a soldier standing near by why the skins were there.

“Dog fur,” he replied. “We’re going to turn the pelts into coats and gloves for the Japanese army in Manchuria.”

Then, across one of the lines, I spotted a black pelt with a white spot shaped like Korea. I could never express to anyone, not even my mother and father, how my heart ached over the loss of my beloved [dog] Rex.

bite and attack people due to loud noises caused by the gun fire and bombs exploding all around.

I knew that Rex would not bite anyone. I tried to cling to some assurance from my father. On one of my days of searching, I was walking along the riverbank when I saw a sight that made me sick to my stomach. I saw hundreds of dog pelts draped over clotheslines and drying in the sun. I asked a soldier standing near by why the skins were there.

“Dog fur,” he replied. “We’re going to turn the pelts into coats and gloves for the Japanese army in Manchuria.” I had to force myself to go farther, for I had to know. Then, across one of the lines, I spotted a black pelt with a white spot shaped like Korea. I could never express to anyone, not even my mother and father, how my heart ached over the loss of my beloved Rex.

I was not only hurt, but I was livid with anger. That night, I could not sleep. All I could think of was the sight I had seen beside the riverbank. I slipped out of bed, took my father’s straight-edged razor, and sneaked out of the house. I carefully and quietly raced to the riverbank. I was crying almost uncontrollably. In my rage I slashed every single pelt, rendering them useless. It didn’t bring Rex back to me, but I could never let them use Rex’s pelt to keep them warm.

The next day, outraged Japanese officials put up wanted posters, offering a reward for the capture of the person or persons who had done this. Afraid I would be identified and caught; I confessed to my father what I had done. The soldiers were going door to door searching for a young boy, about eight to twelve years old, who someone had described as running from the riverbank.

Father did not want the soldiers to find or question me, so he sent me to live with a family in a remote village 100 miles away. My parents had built a church and a school for the farmers there. I remained there for two years, until the end of World War II. I came back home, thinking everything would be better, and they were—for a while.

I enjoyed school and learning to speak English from passing American missionaries who often spent the night with my family. The more English I knew, the more I dreamed of one day going to America. However, in June of 1950, the North Korean Army invaded South Korea, slaughtering thousands of innocent civilians, including doctors, lawyers, missionaries, teachers - and my parents.

I was only thirteen years old and all alone. I moved in with friends for comfort and shelter. I missed my mother and father. I longed to see and talk with them again, but I knew I would never be able to do this. Hatred possessed me. I vowed to myself that I would one day see that someone would pay for what they had taken from me.

I joined the Student Volunteer Army. It was an anti-communist group of 12 teenage spies headed by a South Korean officer with close ties to the U.S. military. After a two-week training course, my first assignment was to find out the enemy troop strength on an island fortress outside the harbor of Inchon. By pretending to be a hungry orphan, I hung around the fort to gather information for the Americans. The fort was one of several small islands that protected the harbor of the South Korean city of Inchon.

I would offer my made-up stories of how I was orphaned and hungry. This would always catch them off guard. I would then follow up with innocent questions: "How long have you been in the army? Where did you come from? Do you have a family?" When I had gained their attention and friendship, I would go further with my questions and remarks. "Gee, I bet there are over two hundred soldiers on this island."

There are not many of these small islands, maybe 150 total. Pretending, I timidly pointed to a bunker and asked, "Can I fire one of those machine guns?"

I joined the Student Volunteer Army. It was an anti-communist group of 12 teenage spies headed by a South Korean officer with close ties to the U.S. military. After a two-week training course, my first assignment was to find out the enemy troop strength on an island fortress outside the harbor of Inchon.

The soldier shook his head. "They're not ready yet," he said. "We still have to bring more of them in and secure them. Come back in a couple of weeks. Maybe we'll let you look at them and shoot one for fun." I knew I had to remember all this, for I could not risk writing anything down, but I was learning that the North Koreans had yet to set up their full defenses.

Later, I slipped away and hopped onto a sampan (a flat-bottomed boat) that took me to another island. There I met with South Korean agent, Kim Nam Sun, who was working for the U. S. Navy. I told him what I had been told by the North Koreans. A few days later, I was jarred awake. Running outside my friend's home, I saw an awesome sight in the distance. I recognized firepower being unleashed on North Korea. More than 300 ships, boats and landing craft were unloading an assault force of several thousand troops who took the unprepared enemy by surprise. I felt good to think that I had done my part. The loud machine guns were sounding out everywhere.

With the information we provided, the U.S. military's surprise attack was carried out in September 1950, in the early days of the Korean War. The Communist-led North Koreans had attacked South Korea, crushing most everything and everyone in their path. Rushing to the aid of the poorly trained and ill-equipped South Koreans, the United States' military, with assistance from the United Nations, leapt into the conflict with ground, naval and air power.

The fighting was fierce and more troops were still needed to drive out the North Koreans. The U.S. forces recaptured Seoul and moved west to meet other U.S. forces landing at Wonson. After Seoul was retaken, I was given passwords to identify myself to the Americans. It might be "Yankee Stadium" or "Marilyn Monroe," or maybe "Cherokee Indians." I headed north with another "runner." However, in a short time, he was killed, along with his parents who were Christian missionaries.

Another rage of anger surged through

me. I then decided to work alone. I moved very fast and used techniques that worked for me. I traveled by foot for days, sleeping in barns and covered pits, six feet square and five feet deep, where farmers stored their vegetables.

The weather was cold and snow had begun to fall. In village after village I would tell the North Korean soldiers my tales of woe. Naturally, I would throw in some tears to get sympathy. It worked every time when I told them I was cold and hungry. Aiming his gun at me the soldier growled, "Who are you and what do you want?"

"My name is Choon Kyung Ko," I replied. "My parents were killed last month when our village was under attack, and I am hungry and tired. I have no place to go. Please, oh please, won't you help me?"

Tears were flooding down my cheeks.

"I haven't eaten in two days. Please?"

The soldier took me over to a nearby tent and gave me some rice and dried fish. I repeatedly thanked him as I wiped my tears with the back of my hand. I actually wasn't suffering from hunger pains or from heartache. This was all a trick to get into the fort of the enemy - a battalion of the North Korean army. I was only fourteen years old, and I had conned my way inside to carry out a dangerous mission as a spy for the United States Army.

Outside a mountain village near a lake known as the Chosin Reservoir, I came across some Chinese soldiers. One of the North Korean soldiers told me that the Chinese were going to help them crush the Americans. In a naive way, I remarked aloud that I wondered how they could possibly win, for there must be thousands of Marines.

The North Korean soldier replied, "Because there are more than 120,000 Chinese waiting in ambush, and that's ten times as many as the U.S. Marines have. The Americans are about to face their doom."

I didn't know where the Marines were

The captain ordered one of the other men to take me out and kill me, for he felt I was a spy. My heart was pounding. What could I do now? I truly felt it was over for me.

located, but I knew I must find them quickly and alert them. As I was leaving the camp, a guard stopped me. He took me to the captain's tent. This time they would not believe my story.

The captain ordered one of the other men to take me out and kill me, for he felt I was a spy. My heart was pounding. What could I do now? I truly felt it was over for me.

The guard ordered me to walk ahead of him. He told me not to look back, but to keep on walking. Then I began to hear his gun shots. I knew he was firing the gun at me. I was trembling and walking as fast as I could, but I realized he was firing over my head. He believed my story! He was not going to kill me! I dropped to the cold, wet, snowy ground. I started to cry, but it was too cold for my tears to fall.

I worked my way carefully down the side of the mountain. An American soldier confronted me and he brought me back into a U. S. camp. I told them about the Chinese soldiers I had seen. I informed them of what I had seen, and the comments the North Korean soldier had made to me. At first, they did not believe me. I soon convinced them that I was giving them facts, and that I was a part of them.

Even though it was the dead of winter, I decided to make my way back to Seoul from the Chosin Reservoir. I figured it would take me a month to reach my destination. I trudged from village to village, begging for food. I barely managed to survive. At one home, I met an elderly couple that shared a meager meal with me. They had so little for themselves. When I learned that they were anti-communists, I told them some of my story—at least the part about trying to return to South Korea.

"You can help us solve a problem," said the woman. "We are hiding two wounded American GIs. If the communists find them, they will kill them and us too. You must take them with you until you reach the American lines. That is about one hundred miles away."

I let them know I could barely take care of myself. I reminded them of my age. I

tried to convince them I could not do this, but they insisted and took me to their cellar where the men were hiding.

They introduced themselves as Al and Harry. They were both in their twenties and from the New York area. They had explained how they had been captured, but had managed to escape with gun shots to their legs.

"You're our only hope. The only hope we have," Al told me. I knew I could not abandon them now. There was no way to disguise them, so I decided we should hike only at night, and hide during the day. It was slow going, because the soldiers limped badly and their wounds were infected.

To pass the time as we plodded along, I questioned them about life in New York. I heard about the Dodgers, Giants, and Yankees, and even about some of the famous actors and actresses on Broadway. I noticed how talking about their home town seemed to perk Al and Harry up. Their descriptions made my desire even more real and a goal, to see these sights for myself.

Al and Harry grew weaker. The injuries to their legs were becoming more infected each day. Food was difficult for me to find, and often we had to do without. I grew to like Al and Harry, and I knew they appreciated all I was trying to do for them.

We had traveled about a week when we found an abandoned farm near some railroad tracks. There was an empty vegetable pit which would make an excellent place to hide during the day. As night approached, a freight train stopped about 200 yards away from us. A few North Korean soldiers opened the door to one of the freight cars, revealing pallets of cans. I told Al and Harry they were C-rations. It was food that had been meant for the American soldiers. Al and Harry moaned, and began mumbling, "Food...., food."

I figured that the C-rations must have been stolen from the Marines during the withdrawal. After the North Korean soldiers walked away, I carefully slipped over to the train and opened the door only wide enough for me to slip inside. I filled my

back pack with as many cans as it would hold, not knowing what I was getting, for I could not read the English words on the label.

On my way back, one of the guards saw me and he started shouting and shooting at me. I felt a sharp jolt in my foot, causing me to lose my balance. I fell and my head hit hard against the icy ground. Just before I passed out, I heard one of the guards yell, "I got him. Don't worry about this one: I got 'em."

I was regaining consciousness. Although my head was hurting, I did not have any other pain. Evidently the guard, thinking he had killed me, probably had gone back into his warm shack with the others.

The bullet had hit the heel of my shoe, but did not penetrate my skin. I stayed on the ground, and slowly and carefully crawled toward the pit. As I got closer to the guys, I whispered loudly that I had some food for them. I did not receive any response. I jumped into the hole with them, excitedly telling them that we were going to eat good tonight. I lit a match to find them - and then I saw. I knew immediately as I saw them slumped over. I shook them, but then I knew. Oh yes, I knew for sure.

I sat down and cried. I couldn't help myself. I had learned to care and respect for Al and Harry. It was my aim to have gotten the men to the American lines to get some medical treatment and to get warm food for their under-nourished bodies. Al and Harry had made such an important impression upon me. I knew I would never forget those two heroic men. I wanted to see their country.

For the next three weeks I plodded in the snow, wind and cold, thinking about one thing: America, America, America. Finally, I reached a Marine base, where I stayed until the end of the war in 1953, I told them I didn't want to be a spy anymore, but I wanted to be an American. My greatest aim and desire was to be an American.

I remained with the 1st Marines, working as a translator in Seoul. I tried to keep busy, but I was lonely. I did not have any family. In 1955, I turned eighteen. Three Marines with whom I had become acquainted while in Korea befriended me. They got in contact with me, and let me know they were paying for my way to go to the United States and live out my dreams.

I did eventually become an American citizen. I was now living what I had dreamed and long for. When I did arrive in America, I lived with the families of my Marine friends and went to school. My name was difficult for Americans to pronounce, so I changed it to Eddie Ko. I joined the U.S. Army and returned to Korea, where I was a liaison for the U.S. Military and the South Korean Military. I served two years in the army in Seoul before returning to the United States, where I was given an honorable discharge.

I married and we had two sons. My wife Joanna asked for my help in naming each of our children. I could only think of two names I wanted for my boys to be named, so I decided to name our boys Al and Harry, after the two fallen GIs. One of our boys is a plastic surgeon and has his practice in Boston. Harry, the other son, is a lawyer, practicing in New Jersey. Joanna and I own the Quail Hollow Golf and Country Club in Wesley Chapel, Florida.

I have experienced a miracle, for I was given hope and freedom. It became my obligation to strive to make my life amount to something worthy. A great price was paid for what I am today. Therefore, I wanted to make everything I could out of my life.

I feel peace and a deep sense of acceptance from my American friends. The American military fought for my country. I feel I can never adequately repay that sacrifice, but I know I did try with every fiber of my being to be the best member of the Student Volunteer Army that I could be.

I feel that the ordinary American GI is the world's greatest hero. Some people seem to believe that freedom is free, but if you ask the veterans and their families, they will tell you that FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.

Freedom always extracts a price! 36,576 American soldiers were killed during the Korean War, and 8,407 are still missing. I'll always hope that fifty years later, the camaraderie that carried me through my most difficult years will remain.

Let's enjoy our friendship now: we should stay a band of brothers.

The Graybeards staff thanks Clarence Clifton, of CID 175, for bringing this story to our attention. Eddie Ko can be reached at 6225 Old Pasco Road, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544, (813) 973-1771/

The 'Peacekeeper' Period: Jan 1955 to now

Regarding the question about any fighting along the Korea DMZ following a June 28, 1974 naval incident at sea between South Korean and North Korean vessels

There is some suspicion that UN and U.S. commands may have held back information about incidents and related casualties among UN Korea post 1953- "Peacekeepers." The question is how much is still being withheld by UN or US commands."

This exchange of stories re the "Peacekeepers" era suggests that some has been withheld.

.....

It began with this request to Bill Hutton:

Dear Mr. Hutton:

I'm looking for anyone that was in Korea on June 28, 1974 and knows of fighting taking place at the DMZ with North Korean forces. This happened immediately after the massacre of 22 ROK sailors by North Korean naval gunboats on June 28, 1974. I was at the DMZ with the 1st/9th Inf., 2ID and participated in securing the Central Corridor, known to the Korean War veterans as the Iron Triangle.

Dr. Richard Morrow,
P.O. Box 2258
Moca, PR 00676,
enginstprof@yahoo.com

.....

James Mazour offered some information:

On June 28th, 1974, three North Korean gunboats attacked and sank a South Korean maritime police craft (vessel #863) on the west coast of the Koreas near the extended military demarcation line (MDL). This incident resulted in a loss of 24 South Korean sailors/police-men and the capture of two others by North Korean naval forces.

This incident was protested by the United Nations Command at the 352nd Military Armistice Commission meeting held at Panmunjom sometime in late June. My research did not reveal any fighting along the DMZ following this incident.

The only documented American casualty along the DMZ in 1974 was Naval Lt. Commander Robert Ballenger of the

United Nations Military Armistice Commission. He was killed in November 1974 while inspecting a recently discovered secret North Korean tunnel under the DMZ. He and a South Korean military officer were killed, and several others were injured, from a booby trap explosive device left in the tunnel by North Korean soldiers.

A meeting hall at the Joint Security Area compound of Camp Kitty Hawk (later renamed Camp Bonifas) was named "Ballenger Hall" to honor his sacrifice.

James Mazour (JSA 1973-74)
West Des Moines, Iowa

Dr. Morrow responded:

Mr. Mazour,

Thank you for your reply and the info you provided about the massacre of the 24 ROK sailors. I noticed that you were at the JSA from 1973-74. I was with Co. B, 1/9 Inf. when I saw the ground fighting at the DMZ on the night of June 28 and morning of June 29, when we took up combat positions and experienced sporadic gun fire. It mostly consisted of artillery duels that were away from the JSA, in the area of the Eastern Corridor or Chowron Valley, known during the Korean War as the Iron Triangle.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell was the BN Commander for the 1/32 INF, 2ID at the time. I had the opportunity to speak with him on two different occasions in 1974. His unit was put into reserves and mobilized during the fighting.

I have an affidavit from one of his men, Mr. Stephen Semancik, who recalls the fighting. If anyone has a line of communications with Mr. Colin Powell, he should recall the fighting as well.

UNFK, DOA, DOD, JCS, & National Archives all state that they have no records that a ground battle occurred at the DMZ on June 28, 1974. Any assistance to validate my claim will be appreciated.

.....

So, anyone who has any other information on the activities described by Messrs. Morrow and Mazour is encouraged to share it with us.

Who Took My MiGs?

One of the most successful propaganda operations of the Korean War.

A copy of the nearby leaflet offering \$50,000 for a MIG-15 was one of the most successful propaganda operations of the Korean War. My RB29A crew dropped some of the leaflets. As a result of the program, two MiGs were flown to South Korea, and \$100,000 was paid to the pilots.

Throughout the Korean War, American intelligence on the capabilities of the MiG-15 was limited largely to Sabre pilots' fleeting impressions of the Russian-built aircraft when they encountered it in combat. These impressions were reinforced by a description of a MiG-15 flown to Denmark in March of 1953 by a Polish defector, and by the examination of a wrecked MiG salvaged from 17 feet of water off the North Korean coast in July of 1951.

In fact, between 1949 and 1956, four Polish MiGs and one IL-2M3 were flown by defectors from communist Poland to Denmark and Sweden. One of the most significant occurred on 5 March 1953, when a MiG landed at Ronne Airfield at Bornholm Island, Denmark! It was flown there from Slupsk Polish Air Force Base by a Polish defector, Lt. Franciszek Jarecki.

Western air specialists examined the aircraft, which was returned to Poland several days later by ship. Jarecki, however, went to the USA and provided a great deal of valuable information about modern Soviet aircraft and air tactics.

Later that year, on September 21, 1953, Lt. No Kum-Suk, of the Korean People's Armed Forces Air Corps, defected to the south along with his MiG-15bis. This provided the USAF with its first flyable example of a MiG-15, and US intelligence with its initial chance to compare its initial impressions with actual flight test data.

The MiG was dismantled and flown to Okinawa aboard a C-124 Globemaster, where it was reassembled and flown by a crew of experienced test pilots, including Maj. Gen. Albert B. Boyd, Major Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager, and Capt H. E. Collins. The plane was painted with USAF markings, and assigned the fictitious serial number "616," the number Capt. Collins had used on a plane he had once flown.

The plane was flown later to Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. It is currently on display at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base Museum, painted in its original North Korean markings.

All in all, the propaganda program worked out well—and not only monetarily. As a result of the dropped leaflets, the Red Air Force, under the control of the USSR worldwide, was kept on the ground for six days.

Stanley Grogan
2585 Moraga Drive
Pinole, CA 94564

ТОВАРИЩИ ПИЛОТЫ!

Если вы любите свободу...
Если у вас есть смелость...
Если вы хотите начать новую, лучшую жизнь, то...


Вот Ваша Возможнoсть!

Избавьтесь от Коммунистического Ига!

Летите на Своем Реактивном Самолете к Свободному Миру!

Свобода и Возмездие Коммунизму Вперед!

Товарищ Лётчик! Дальневосточное Командование предлагает свою помощь всем смелым лётчикам, желающим освободиться от коммунистического ига и начать новую, лучшую жизнь, с должным почётом в свободном мире. Товарищи! Генерал Марк В. Кларк, Главнокомандующий Вооружёнными Силами на Дальнем Востоке, гарантирует вам убежище, защиту, человеческую заботу и внимание. Вам дана полная гарантия в том, что ваши имена останутся в тайне, если вы того пожелаете. Помимо этого, каждый лётчик, который благополучно посадит на нашей территории современный реактивный самолёт в боевой готовности, получит в награду 50,000 американских долларов. Первый лётчик прилетевший в Южную Корею и доставивший такой реактивный самолёт Вооружённым Силам Объединённых Наций, получит в награду дополнительную сумму в 50,000 американских долларов за свой героизм.



ИНСТРУКЦИИ, КОТОРЫЕ УКАЖУТ ВАМ ПУТЬ К СВОБОДЕ, ДАНЫ В ПИСЬМЕ НА ОБРАТНОЙ СТОРОНЕ ЛИСТОЧКИ. ПРОЧИТАЙТЕ ИНСТРУКЦИИ И СЛЕДУЙТЕ ИНСТРУКЦИЯМ ЛЕТИТЕ К СВОБОДЕ!

A propaganda leaflet featuring the photo of the polish pilot Janecki, who defected with a MIG in Eastern Europe

HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST COMMAND
APO 900

СМЕЛЫМ ЛЁТЧИКАМ РЕАКТИВНЫХ САМОЛЁТОВ 20 апреля 1953 года

ПУТЬ К СВОБОДЕ

Товарищ Лётчик! Дальневосточное Командование предлагает свою помощь всем смелым лётчикам, желающим освободиться от коммунистического ига и начать новую, лучшую жизнь, с должным почётом в свободном мире.

Дальневосточное Командование гарантирует вам убежище, защиту, человеческую заботу и внимание. Вам дана полная гарантия в том, что ваши имена останутся в тайне, если вы того пожелаете.

Товарищ Лётчик! Ваш смелый шаг приведёт вас к свободе и даст вам возможность жить в дальнейшем без страха за свой благополучие. По мимо этого, своим героизмом и решительностью вы поможете другим, указав им путь к свободе.

Дальневосточное Командование вознаградит суммой в 50,000 американских долларов каждого лётчика, который приведёт к посадке в Южной Корее современный реактивный самолёт в боевой готовности. Первый лётчик совершивший посадку на таком самолёте получит в награду дополнительную сумму в 50,000 американских долларов за свой героизм.

Ниже даны инструкции всем лётчикам желающим освободиться от коммунистического ига.

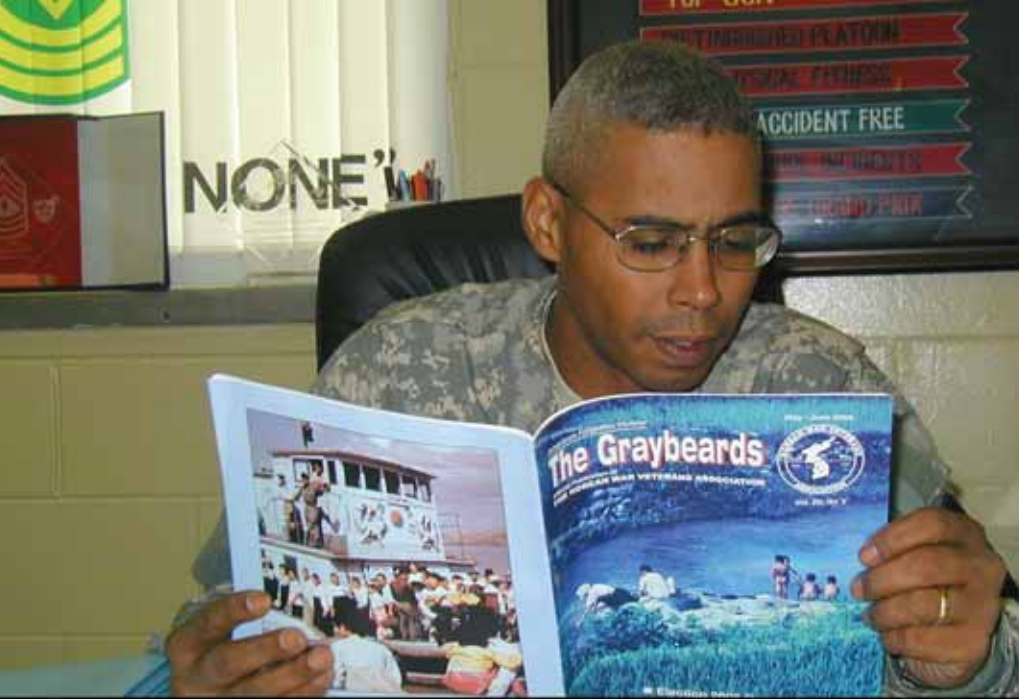
Летите к острову Уакуреито (с. Пенген-то), который находится в 50 километрах к югу от острова Чото. От Хануреито (с. Пенген-то) направляйтесь к авиабазе Кимпо, всё время находясь на высоте 6100 метров. Начинать спускаться на авиабазу Кимпо и подготавливаться к немедленной посадке. Самолёт вы будете охранять всё время летя над хвостом вашего самолёта. Если плохая видимость не позволит вам самостоятельно совершить посадку на авиабазу Кимпо, то направляйтесь к Сеульскому району, и находясь на высоте 6100 метров спустите посадочные колёса. Один из самолётов вы полетите впереди вас и летя рядом приведёт вас к безопасному месту посадки. При первом же контакте с самолётом ООН, или в случае потери одного из самолётов ООН атаковать вас, моментально спустите посадочные колёса и нырните с силой качая крыльями вашего самолёта.

Свободный мир ждёт вашего прибытия.

Mark W. Clark

МАРК В. КЛАРК
Генерал Армии США
Главнокомандующий Вооружёнными Силами на Дальнем Востоке.

A "Safe Conduct" pass signed by Mark Clark, Commander of U.S. Forces, Korea



1st Sgt. Saldana reads *The Graybeards* at Camp Red Cloud

The KWVA recruiting committee's efforts have spread far and wide—including to South Korea. Many of the troops at Camp Red Cloud, in Ujunibou, just north of Seoul, but south of Camp Casey, have been seen reading *The Graybeards* there. The camp even has a KWVA Membership Committee Liaison.

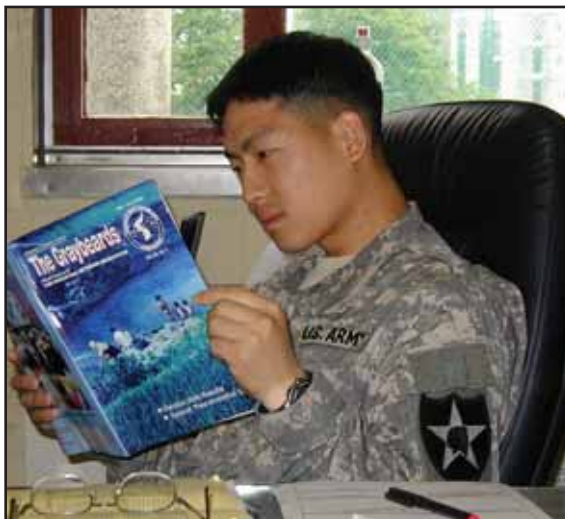
The Graybeards Reaches Camp Red Cloud



KWVA Membership Committee Korea Liaison Capt. Dale Woodhouse explains KWVA membership to Capt. Wolsey



Soldiers put up KWVA posters at Camp Red Cloud



2nd Lt. Cho reads *The Graybeards*



1st Sgt Saldana shares *The Graybeards* with Sgt. Fraser

June 22, 1953

45TH DIVISION NEWS

Thunderbird Linemen; Backbone Of Signal

By Tom Salmon

This is the saga of the mountaineers of the Signal Corps—the story of the mountain-climbing, high-awaying, combat linemen. This is the story of the men who have engineered the superman's feat of providing communications for their fighting comrades of the United Nations Army in Korea.

They are the men who have planted telephone poles in rice paddies, in shrub-covered valleys on mountains several thousand feet above sea level. They are the men who have strung the high wire from Heartbreak to Pusan, from Old Baldy to Tegu.

Travel down any rocky road in Korea, and you'll see the

Thunderbird with a communications establishment second to none in military history.

The 45th Signal men, at work, are a skilled unit. They are experts in the science of communication, and their skill has given the combat soldier a communications line that reaches from the MLR to Tokyo and beyond.

There is the task of providing the combat commander his telephone system on a front-line command post. Ask a forward commander, and he'll tell you the telephone is one of the most important tools on his job—probably the most important tool he has. With it, he can contact his far-flung outposts, or call for an artillery barrage, on a moment's notice. It's a tactical weapon, as much as the M-1 or the 4.2.

There is the task of supplying the forward observer, the infantry platoon leader, with their field telephone. Ask a platoon leader about the telephone and he'll tell you it's his right hand.

Talk to a linemen about how it got there, and he'll tell you with the sweat and blood of his hard-working crew.

"You'll find the Signal linemen out in all kinds of weather—just like his civilian brethren back home. A break in an important line may mean hours of long, arduous work before it can be placed back in operation. It's a tough job for tough men."

We talked to one of these tough linemen. It was on a hot, sultry afternoon and the linemen, a burly southerner who had been a farmer before he came into the Army, had paused as he was stringing some wire up a steep, mountainous incline.

Sweat was coming from his uniform, and between long swallows of water, he said "You know, this is the hardest work I've ever done in my life."

We looked at the linemen, took a second look at the long, orderly pattern of the almost complete line, and knew what he meant.



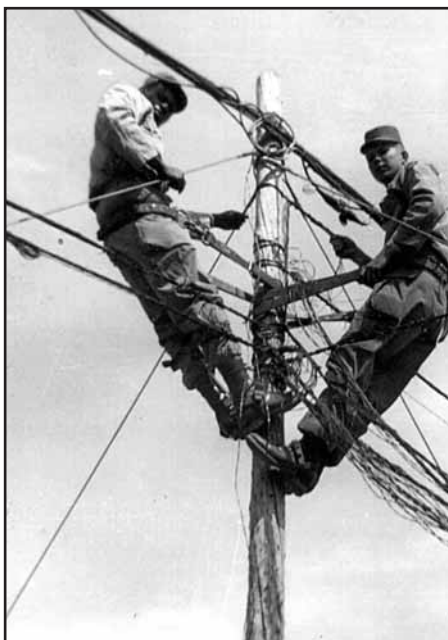
Some of the areas to which the 45th provided communications



Don Chamberlain carries his mess gear to chow time for 45th Signal in the company area



Sgt. Black (front left), Pfc. Sanchez (front right), Pfc. Chamberlain (back left) and Cpl. Emory (back right) work at telephone test box



(L-R) Pfc. Coffee and Pfc. Don Chamberlain work on telephone lines



3 ROK soldiers (front left) Sgt. Black and Pfc. Chamberlain (next to ROKs), and Pfc. Sanchez in back test box with EE8 telephone



Chow time for ROK soldiers (front left), Cpl. Emory, Cpl. B. Johnson (middle), Sgt. Black (back left) and Pfc. Chamberlain (back right)



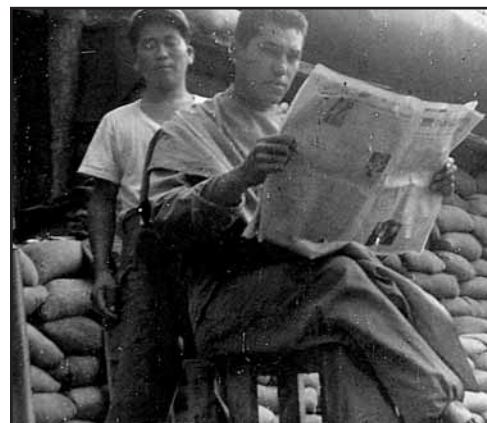
ROK soldiers (front), Pfc. Garvin, Pfc. Chamberlain, Pfc. Thompson, Cpl. Emory (back left), ROK soldiers to their right, and Sgt. Black (back), with climbing equipment on



Bath time in a Korean stream for 45th Signal members: Pfc. E. Harris and Pfc. Taylor (front left); 2nd from left in back row is Sgt. Ray. The remaining soldiers are unidentified



Richard Lopez facing north to Mung-Dung-Ni Valley, summer 1952



Richard Lopez gets a haircut while reading the Army Times in the summer of 1952



35th Heavy Mortar Co., 2nd Platoon, members atop Heart Break Ridge, one of the areas serviced by 45th Signal, in summer 1952

Eastern part of South Korea, below the 38th Parallel, summer 1952



Sandbag Castle: another area "served" by 45th Signal

Tell America

Attention Chapter Presidents

Does your Chapter Have A Tell America Program??

If you answer NO to this question, now is a good time to get one started. Organizing and planning for school programs that tell future generations about the Korean War and what it takes to protect our freedoms takes thought and time to have a good program. While school is out you can get the program organized and may even be able to talk with some of the Social Study teachers in nearby schools who are interested in such a program.

I am very pleased to say that we have a number of Chapters which have taken a big step and are getting a program underway in their communities. I have mailed suggested material, posters, videos, and pins left over from the 50th anniversary commemoration to a large number of chapters. It seems to have stimulated some to get busy make it happen for their community.

Just recently I received a letter from Gerald Rettela in Sequim County, Washington. He conducted his first presentation to a group of 5th graders using some of the material I mailed to him. Right now he is working alone on these programs, but he hopes to create some interest in forming a KWVA Chapter in the area.

James Yaney, in Indiana, continues to send pictures and information about their great program there with the TV stations and school system. He says his members are very busy, but they really do enjoy the opportunity to get their stories out to the community. He says he doesn't have to call the schools anymore for programs, because they are calling him as a result of their Korean War presentations on the local PBS station. Jim also tells me that he has a video of their program. For a cost of \$15 to cover shipping and handling, he will send you a copy.

Just as a reminder, we have committee members located around the country who will be glad to help if needed. Please call Irving Breitbart, (914) 245-6410, in New York, Jim Yaney, (260) 248-2203, in Indiana, or Marvin Dunn, (817) 261-1499, in Texas. They are all experienced with putting together programs that work well, and could be a big assist in getting started.

I am about out of posters, but I still have a few and will be glad to send them and a video about the Korean War to anyone that can use it in their presentations.

If your Chapter does have a program—and things are going well—remember that Art Sharp can always use more pictures and stories about what you are doing. We really like to give recognition to those who are working and having some success. Tell us your story and send in pictures.

If you have questions or suggestions, I would appreciate hearing from you. E-mail address is larry.kinard@yahoo.com, or telephone at 682-518-1040.

30 – INDIANA #1 [IN]

Jim Yaney continues to have the chapter's program running smoothly. It is absolutely wonderful. Each one gets better than the one before.

Mary Anna Roemke, Box 8795, Fort Wayne, IN 46898



Unique wall of paper dog tags at Whitco Middle School, Larwill, IN, where CID 30 presented Tell America program. The dog tags include the names of all the members of the US armed forces who have been KIA in the Iraq War.



CID 30 President Bernard "Ski" Wisniewski presents the American flag to the principal of Whitco Middle School, Larwill, IN

**THE KWVA 2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION
WILL BE HELD IN
SAN ANTONIO, TX
8-11 OCTOBER, 2006**



Whitco Middle School students assemble for CID 30's Tell America presentation

153 – CENTRAL FLORIDA [FL]



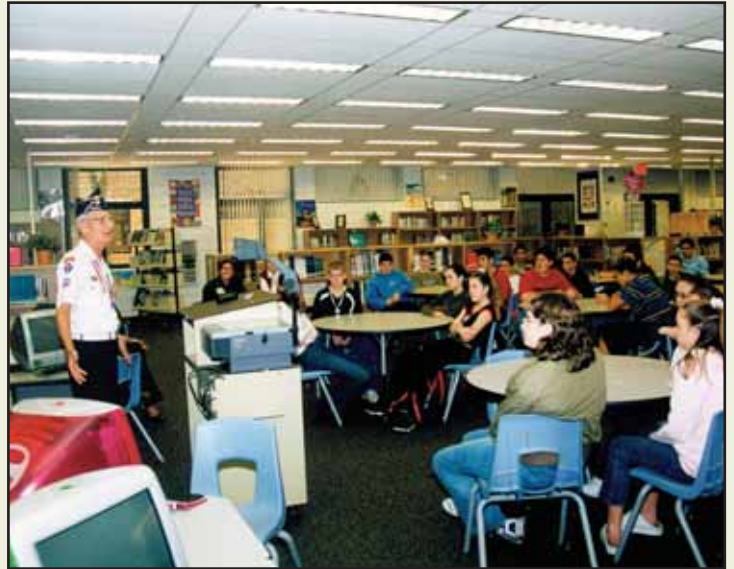
Members of CID 153 presented a program at Pine Ridge High School (L-R) Mr. Navarro (teacher) Ed Kent, Amelia Carafano, Charles Carafano

175 – LT. BALDOMERO LOPEZ (MOH) –[FL]

Chapter members stay busy visiting Tampa Bay area schools and helping in other ways, e.g., by raising money to help place flags in classrooms.

It is a Hillsborough County law that there must be an American flag on display in all classrooms. The deadline was approaching, and money within the school system was not channeled into the schools to purchase the amount of flags needed. The chapter began having fundraisers to purchase several hundred American flags to donate to area schools.

Students eagerly welcome the veterans who come to their schools to talk about the Korean War. Chapter members often set up a POW table at the school visits.



CID 175 President Murdoch Ford speaks to students in Hillsborough County school

Telling America—One Student at a Time

Greetings:

I thought I would share this article with you. It appeared in the 31 May 2006 *Sequim [WA] Gazette*:

Korean War veteran Gerald Rettela detailed America's first year of involvement in the 1950-53 conflict to a group of Greywolf Elementary students May 26. Rettela said he would like to see a permanent Korean War memorial built in Sequim.

The lecture was a great success and the principal and the teachers are looking forward to him coming back next year. The class was fifth-graders, and next year's group will again be fifth-graders.

These very students have been invited to attend the Korean War Memorial Service at the Sequim View Cemetery on July 29, 2006.

This ceremony will be the first in the County of Clallam, WA. The students will play an important part by being part of the hooding ceremonies. Canadian Korean War Veterans from Victoria, B.C. will also be invited.

Rettela had the opportunity to march in the Victoria Queen Birthday parade on May 22, 2006 with other members of the Korean War Veterans Association. Unit #27 had invited them to participate with them on this 2.5 mile walk. After the parade, the local KWVA members and their wives were hosted by Unit #27 and Robert Lee (owner and former member of the Canadian Navy) to Mr. Lee's restaurant in Victoria.

It was at that time that Rettela announced to the group what he intended to do on May 26, 2006. The response was overwhelming.

After the memorial service in July, Rettela has reason to believe that there may be an interest in forming a local KWVA Chapter. The memorial will be a yearly event from this time on.

Gerald P. Rettela
72 Derrick Rd., Port Angeles
WA 98362-7009, (360) 457-6994

INTRODUCTION

June 25, 2000, marks the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War, which lasted from June 25, 1950 until July 27, 1953. Thinking someone just might want to read a Korean war story, I decided to write about the many experiences I had as an infantryman with Company B, 27th Infantry Regiment of the 25th Infantry Division.

At the time of the North Korean invasion of South Korea, I was a clerk in the G-3 section of the 25th Division in Osaka, Japan. The division headquarters moved by rail to Sasebo in southern Japan, then by LST across the Sea of Japan to the port of Pusan in Korea. It was 11 July, 1950.

SUMMER/FALL 1950

Along with the three rifle regiments—27th, 35th, and 24th—plus all the division supporting artillery and engineers, I became part of the Pusan Perimeter of Defense deployed west of Pusan, around the city of Mason. The main mission of the Pusan Perimeter was to stop the North Korean Army from taking complete control of the entire Korean Peninsula.

While at division headquarters, about all of the war I saw was distant flashes of the field artillery being fired at night in support of front line troops. My duties for the first six weeks of the war were routine clerical work, guard duty, and the loading and unloading of equipment during the movement from one command post location to another.

The most exciting thing that happened for a couple of nights was when a single enemy plane would fly over shooting machine guns, then drop a bomb or two. The name we gave this plane was Nine O'clock Charlie because it always appeared overhead a little after nine p.m. The whole raid, if you call it a raid, lasted but a few seconds. The sound was reminiscent of a wooden building collapsing, with a lot of ripping of the boards.

One night the plane paid us a visit when the division was using a school as the command post. Everyone went diving for cover under tables, desks, or whatever was available. I was assigned to a foxhole out in the school yard; by the time I got to my foxhole, everything was over. For those who never

KOREA:

MY STORY – 1950-51

By Bob Ondrish

In this issue we start a new serialized story, this one by Bon Ondrish, MSgt, USA, (Ret), who served in Korea with Co. B., 27th Inf. Regt., 25th Inf. Div. This detailed picture of what an infantryman went through in Korea is riveting.

Don Ellwood, State of Indiana KWVA Commander, brought the story to our attention. He wrote:

Dear Mr. Sharp,

Shortly before Robert Ondrish died last year [2005], he gave me two copies of his autobiography to use in whatever way I saw fit. To honor his request, I sent the Korean War Museum in Illinois one copy shortly after his death, which they accepted and sent his widow, Delight Ondrish, an acknowledgement.

In a recent issue of *The Graybeards*, I saw that the magazine had published portions of another KWVA veteran's autobiography. My wife suggested that the magazine might do the same for Robert's. He was not only a veteran of the Korean War, but also served during the Vietnam War. His record is described in very good English use of sentence structure as you read his book.

I want to use it as a tool to reach our high school students about what it was like during those periods of the Korean & Vietnam Wars. Thank you for accepting Bob's record for publication in *The Graybeards*. I know that he would have appreciated it.

No doubt our readers will as well.

got any closer to the enemy, that incident was something to write home about. The next day everyone was talking about what they were doing and what they did when the plane flew over.

Sometime early in August, I drove Major English up near the front line to meet some rifle company commanders. On the way I drove up a dry river bed full of rocks and sand which caused the jeep to bog down every time I turned the front wheels. Once out of the river bed, we followed a dirt road which skirted below a long ridge.

Coming down the ridge were two columns of South Korean soldiers, some

with weapons and some without, all making tracks to the rear, away from the advancing enemy. They were already at the Pusan Perimeter, so where would they go after Pusan? Through our interpreter, we learned they were from a South Korean division adjacent to one of our regiments. When questioned about their weapons, those without one claimed theirs didn't work, so they threw them away.

A South Korean officer, maybe a colonel, came upon the scene. He, too, wanted to know about all the retreating movement. He began shouting at the soldiers—they stopped moving down hill and

began bunching up in one big group. He sent those with weapons back up the hill to form some kind of defense line. I don't know what happened to those without weapons. The interpreter said he threatened to shoot them. I doubt if he did shoot any of them, but I would guess he got them weapons and sent them to the front line.

Certain situations in time of combat require harsh action to maintain discipline. The idea that the North Korean army was invincible was a big psychological problem the South Korean commanders had to overcome. The South Korean soldiers were poorly trained, the majority being draftees, with the minimum of instruction in shooting before they faced a highly trained enemy. The policy of segregating them into the American' army for the purpose of on-the-job training in combat was one of the best things that happened during the first year of the war. They would eat, sleep, and fight as though they were in the American Army. I had three in my squad all the time I was with the infantry, and it worked out very well.

Around the third week of August I typed up my own transfer to the 27th Infantry Regiment after talking to Col. Childs, who was the Regimental Commander. He was a frequent visitor to the Division G-3 section, and I got to know him well enough to help me make up my mind about transferring out of Division Headquarters. In a couple days, during morning roll call, the 1st Sgt. called my name and before I could answer "Here!" he said, "Ondrish, get your bag and baggage and be in front of company headquarters at nine o'clock, and I don't want to see your butt in this company again!" Or, at least he said words to that effect, but maybe not that nicely.

As fate would have it, later in the autumn I met that 1st Sgt., now 1st Lt. in charge of supply. We briefly talked about how things were going for both of us. After that, I never saw him again.

After I was assigned to Company B, daily combat was routine. One early afternoon, we attacked a hill on the far side of a small village. The village was in flames as we moved through it with a frontal tack. We stopped on the other side where the hill became steep while the Air Force P51s gave the hill a good going over. The planes put a lot of machine gun fire on the enemy positions; the empty shell casings fell from the

planes onto the friendly troops below. The trees moved as if in a storm, because the planes came in so close to the ground.

Overall, there was a lot of noise from the planes, artillery and mortars, in addition to our own individual rifles firing. The main method of control was arm and hand motions. There seemed to be a lot of confusion, but everyone understood what was to be done. Maybe this system wasn't in the training manual, but it was adequate to accomplish the mission.

A few days later my platoon was assigned to secure the left portion of the company's objective. I was with a squad on the far left of the platoon. The attack began at nine o'clock in the morning. (For some reason, nine o'clock always seemed like a good time to attack, especially after you had eaten your breakfast.) The sun was to our back as we moved up the lower part of the hill.

This company's objective was to take a lower hill dominated by a higher hill some seven hundred yards further away. There was the usual preparatory firing by the artillery and mortars. This day we had two water-cooled .30 cal. machine guns set up to the platoon's left rear for close support.

The enemy was sending rifle and mortar fire onto our company. Because my squad was not subjected to as much enemy fire as

of his hands and arms from shrapnel. He looked as if he had chicken pox, bleeding from the wounds. The medics helped him back down the hill on foot where he was taken to the aid station.

The attack got going again, but was brought to a standstill from heavy enemy fire. It was hard going with waist-high vegetation in places and ravines splitting squad and platoon boundaries. Cpl. Ballesterez was wounded in one of his legs below the knee. Sgt. Graham, from Mayville, New York, was my squad leader at this time and we helped Ballesterez down the hill a little ways to where the medics took care of him. Then we both went back to the squad, which was in a holding position.

The attack again got underway with a slow advance toward the top of the hill. Once again the enemy's fire held us up. One of the South Korean soldiers who was put in our squad had been hit by enemy rifle fire and was lying on the ground with blood all over his chest and stomach. To all appearances, he looked dead.

Because we were not advancing and our squad was not receiving any direct fire in our immediate area, Graham decided to take a smoke break while waiting for the word to begin the final assault. I was taking a drink of water from my canteen and talking to Graham, who was puffing on his cig-

Certain situations in time of combat require harsh action to maintain discipline. The idea that the North Korean army was invincible was a big psychological problem the South Korean commanders had to overcome.

the rest of the company, we got out ahead of the main attacking force. The word came to hold up until the remainder of the company came up on line with us.

Every infantryman loves artillery support, but fears a short round (a round falling short of the intended target). During the time we were all lying on the ground waiting for the company to come up on line, one soldier named O'Rourke just stood up and announced "I'm getting out of here!" Just then a short round came into the pine trees within our platoon area, exploding at tree-top level. O'Rourke was wounded in both

arete. The South Korean soldier started to move his arm. He had heard our talking and began to regain consciousness. He asked for water in Korean: "Mesu."

Graham said, "If I knew he wasn't shot in the stomach, I'd give him a drink." I took my pocket knife, which I carried in the top of my 1st aid packet, and cut the soldier's shirt from the cuff to the collar. At this time we learned he did not have a stomach wound, so we gave him a drink of water from one of our canteens. He had been shot through the shoulder, front to back, between

Continued on page 64



Monuments and Medals

Korea: the Forgotten War, Remembered

DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

A new Korean War Memorial was dedicated in Georgetown, DE on 29 May 2006. The memorial, which is lighted at night, features the KWVA symbol in a prominent spot.

Special appreciation goes to Walt Koopman and George Goss for their efforts in getting the memorial approved and installed.

The new memorial in Georgetown, DE



New addition to the Oregon Korean War Memorial. The inscription, written in both English and Korean, reads: "In grateful appreciation to the Korean Community from all Korean War Veterans & all Americans"



Dorothy Mitchell reads the new inscription on the Oregon Korean War Memorial

72 - OREGON TRAIL CHAPTER [OR]

When Oregon Trail Chapter president Howard Myers met with his officers last January, their main topic was to look for ways to promote the chapter during the coming year. Commemorating the Korean War was one of the first suggestions. Another was to find ways to create a lasting memorial to the Koreans and the Oregon Korean Society for their part in raising 70% of the funding to build the Oregon Korean War

Memorial in Wilsonville, Oregon. (Wilsonville is a suburb of Portland, about 20 miles south of the city, along I-5.) The chapter officers and Howard Myers quickly agreed to combine both ideas into one event.

After discussion, planning and consultation with the City of Wilsonville and other professionals, they ordered a 16-foot addition to the memorial, to be constructed of the same material, with the agreement that it would be finished by June.

After discussions with the local Korean community, the Chapter officers discovered

The Oregon Korean War Memorial



Lou Dechert meets with retired Air Force MSgt Walter Crews at Oregon Korean War Memorial. Crews is an Oregon Trail Chapter member and a former Oregon Department Secretary/Treasurer.





Lou Dechert visits with Wayne Chulik, an American Indian veteran from Grand Ronde, OR, at the Wilsonville Korean War Memorial



Lou Dechert pins a Korean Defense medal on Norris Merrill, of Sheridan, OR. Merrill is a member of Northwest Indian Veterans (NIM)



(L-R) Mok Yun, an ROK veteran and a leader in the Oregon Korea community, Ron Anderson, Oregon Department president, and Lou Dechert chat at Oregon Department meeting on 23 June, the night before the ceremony at the Oregon Korean War Memorial



Lou Dechert addresses crowd at Oregon Korean War Memorial ceremony as Korean interpreter translates

that they put less emphasis on the date of the cease-fire than on the day the war started—June 25th. Since the 25th was on a Sunday this year, the Chapter elected to have their event on Saturday, June 24*, at 10a.m.

Howard Myers had met Louis Dechert on a Korean revisit trip a year or so earlier, so he invited Dechert, now the national KWVA president, to the event. The Korean Society invited the Korean Consul General, Chanhoo Kwon from Seattle, and of course, leaders of the Oregon Korean Society.

On June 24, the day of the commemoration and unveiling of the new addition, everything was ready as planned. Approximately 300 people attended and the Korean Society provided an outdoor lunch of good Korean food. The weather was beautiful, albeit a little on the warm side, but the City of Wilsonville had set up a number of open tents with chairs and tables so we could enjoy the day out of the direct sun.

Loren Mitchell, 11940 S.W. King James Place, King City, OR 97224, (503) 670-1382, mitchell03@earthlink.net

WISCONSIN MEMORIAL UPDATE

Korean Tribute Update

by Beth E. Martin

(This is an update to a story we ran in the Jan/Feb 2006 issue of The Graybeards)

Not just another Korean tribute.

Three years ago 22 Korean Veterans joined together to make a place for Korean veterans to feel proud of their service and to remember the men who did not come back. They chose to fill a gap in the history of the 20th century and to create a legacy for the future designed to educate people about a "Forgotten War."

"It's just not right that there was nothing about the Korean War at The Highground," said Bill Schultz, Korean veteran and committee member. "Something should have been done a long time ago."

Time has not been on their side. Two of their members, Richard Stephens and Al Voigt, passed away and will not see the dedication of the tribute expected to take place in spring 2007. Another has resigned due to poor health.

Richard's sister wrote to the committee to tell them how excited he was to be a part of this effort. "My brother was very



The Korean Veteran Committee met to discuss fundraising and landscaping plans as the long-anticipated ground breaking nears. From Left: Kirk Rodman, Arlene Kuehn, Beth Martin, Gary Corey, Bill Schultz, Norman Poppe, Bob Berglund, John Ringstad, Mel Dux, Rae Kohn, Erland Greeler, Al Jensen, Bob Bertz, LeRoy Rossman, and Charles Kuehn.

much concerned about the Korean Memorial there at High Ground. He was hoping to live to see it completed,” wrote Patricia Stephens Schultz, adding a request to be kept informed about the progress of the memorial.

Richard’s wife, Barbara, has been keeping in touch with another committee member, Al Jensen. Al told her about the committee’s plan to offer a Korean Legacy Stone that will be mortared on the tribute in polished black granite. She is honoring her late husband with a Korean Legacy Stone that will be part of the spring dedication ceremony.

“It is really hard knowing these guys won’t be here when we are done,” Bill said. “I hope we don’t lose anyone else.”

The Korean Veterans Committee will be breaking ground within a couple of months. The architectural landscaping blueprints have been received, the three figures have been sent to the foundry for bronzing, and plans are underway for installation of electrical and water systems.

Donations and pledges of more than \$123,000 from over 150 individuals, service organizations, and foundations have made it possible to keep moving forward on the tribute.

Receiving support from family, friends, and Korean veterans carries more meaning than the actual value of the donation itself. Committee member Norman Poppe mentioned his role in bringing a Korean tribute to The Highground at a family reunion. He didn’t think too much about it until The Highground received a gift of \$5,000 from someone he had talked to at the reunion.

Another member, Mel Dux, wrote a letter to the president of his company asking for a matching contribution of \$1,000. He was so excited when he was notified that the company would meet his contribution that he had to ask what hat he should wear for the photo when he presented the gift to The Highground.

With only \$43,000 left to raise for the tribute itself, they thought it important to find a way to maintain the tribute into the future. They approved the addition of engraved polished black granite stones along the face of the simulated rice paddies. Not only will the donation for the stones make it possible to maintain the tribute, they will give Korean veterans an opportunity to become part of this legacy.

“There are a lot of Korean vets like us,” said Mel. “This tribute will tell our story long after we are gone.”

For ground breaking and dedication dates and times, please visit www.thehighground.org or call 715-743-4224.

Contact Beth E. Martin, The Highground Veterans Memorial Park, W7031 Ridge Rd., Neillsville, WI 54456, (715) 743-4224, (715) 321-0536 (cell), bb50@mac.com

Design of the Massachusetts Korean War Veterans Memorial

The Massachusetts Korean War Memorial was dedicated approximately ten years ago by Korean War Veterans of Mass., Inc. before the organization changed to CID 300. Our past commander, Joseph McCallion, is Member #LC00002, next to the KWVA’s original founder, Bill Norris, Member #LC0001.

The
Massachusetts
Korean War
Memorial



The sculpture of an American G.I. in the center of our Memorial represents all of the services of the United States in the Korean War. The G.I. stands vigil on the honor roll of our Massachusetts men and women who had died during the Korean War. The G.I. could be an Army Infantryman, a Marine on a listening post, a Navy Corpsman, or an Air Force Forward Air Controller. They all had suffered the results of



the bitter cold, wind swept hills and mountains along with the high humidity and heat of the summers in Korea.

The nine-foot bronze sculpture of an American G.I. stands on a two-and-a half ton piece of Korean granite. This granite, a gift from the people of South Korea in gratitude to the Massachusetts veterans who fought North Korean and Chinese Armies to keep South Korea a free country, bears the names of Massachusetts men who were recipients of the Medal of Honor.

This G.I. standing on Korean soil stands in a depression that

Continued on page 62

The Last of the Line...

The *USS Cabot* (CVL-28) was commissioned July 24, 1943. The last CVL survivor, it was sold to Spain in 1972. The *Cabot-Dedalo* was returned to the U.S. in 1989. "Iron Woman," as she was known, lay at the Global Maritime Slip, Brownsville, TX until scrapped in 1993 after vets failed to raise sufficient funds to save her. The *Cabot* earned nine battle stars and was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for WWII service.

Submitted by Boilerman 2nd Class Jack Malloy, USN (Ret), 340 Milltown Rd., Brewster, NY 10509.



The *USS Cabot* was one of eight Fast Carrier Cruisers in the US Navy fleet. It was 625 ft in length with a beam of 60ft and could reach a speed of 35 knots. She carried a crew of 2,200 and launched Corsairs, Wild Cats, Bear Cats, TBMs and the F86 Saber Jet from her decks.

New KWVA Decals for Sale

Courtesy of KWVA Recruiting Task Force Committee.



These decals are round and measure a full four inches in diameter, in full color, and adhesive backed.

Prices are:

- One (1) each decal @ \$3.00
- Two (2) each decals @ \$5.00
- Twelve (12) each decals @ \$25.00

No handling fees, only stamp fees as delivered

To order, contact Tom Sunseri, KWVA Recruiting Task Force Quartermaster, 6160 82nd Terrace North, Pinellas Park, FL 33781
<Tomsunseri@tampabay.rr.com> Phone: 727-547-1991

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TAEJON 170 MEMBERS HOST AUSTRALIAN VETERANS

The Taejon Chapter 170 [NJ] honored the Australian veterans from the Korean and Vietnam Wars on May 13, 2006 with a buffet dinner held at the American Legion 171 in Fairlawn, NJ.

Event Chairman William Burns and Past Commander Dr. Richard Onorevole went to New York City by bus to pick up the Australian veterans.

The chapter Color Guard, led by James Lomauro, welcomed the Australians in a special salute as they descended from the bus. Chapter Commander and Bronze Star recipient Thomas Falato greeted Vincent Gilligan, liaison for the Australian veterans.

Sr. Vice Commander Alexander Atherus and Jr. Vice Commander Henry Ferrarini, both of whom served with the Color Guard, made their rounds in meeting other Australian veterans. The Master of Ceremonies for the chapter was retired colonel Jack O'Neil. Sgt.-at-Arms Sal Altomare led the singing of the national anthem and "God Bless America" at the close of the formal ceremony.



Australians, CID 170 members and guests at veterans event



CID 170 Past Commander Dr. Richard Onorevole (L) and Australian ceremony event chairman (R) William Burns



(L-R) CID 170 Commander Thomas Falato and Australian event Master of Ceremonies Jack O'Neil



The Australians sang their national anthem as well. Following that, there was recognition of honored guests, including American Legion Post 171 Commander Albee Palmieri, Fairlawn, NJ, Mayor Marty Etler, Assemblyman Bob Gordan, Ruth Meuser, widow of #170 Past Commander John Meuser, and Mary Kelly, National Service Officer of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Each guest spoke about this event.

CID 170 Color Guard at Australian veterans ceremony: Captain Lomauro, DiLonardo, Atheras, Bruzgis, Koppelman, Frye, Cohen

Australian Korean War veteran Vincent Gilligan thanked everyone for honoring them. The group members received a beautiful coffee or tea cup engraved with an emblem commemorating the event, along with other gifts, during the ceremonies.

Committee member and three-time Purple Heart recipient George Job spoke about Taejon Chapter's first commander Walter Bray and the harsh, cruel treatment as a prisoner of war for three years.

The buffet dinner resulted in a deep fellowship among all the attendees. James Lomauro provided musical entertainment. The seating was arranged so two Australians sat at each table of ten people.

Late in the evening, at the close of the ceremony, the Australian veterans returned to the bus and their return trip to New York City.

As a side note, the theme of the night printed on the program was, "Freedom is not free—thanks a vet."

Louis Quagliero, 142 Illinois Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07503



Three-time Purple Heart recipient George Job, CID 170



CID 170 Sr. Vice Commander Alexander Atheras (L) and Commander Thomas Falato (R) wearing Australian military hats



Jack O'Neil, Thomas Falato, and James Lomauro of CID 170



Vincent Gilligan, Australian veterans liaison (L) and Thomas Falato



(L-R) Jack O'Neil and Sgt.-at-Arms Sal Altomare at CID 170's event

New Publishing Preferences Going Into Effect

The Graybeards reports on the activities of accredited Departments, Chapters, members, and affiliates of the Korean War Veterans Association of the USA. Basically, it is about national members, and published by the national organization. Significantly, it consumes almost half the dues paid by national members.

The Secretary of the KWVA and his assistants are concluding an intensive two ± year effort to assist each Department/Chapter to comply with the membership accreditation requirements of the KWVA pertaining to active national membership, national data base corrections, and required elections, per the Bylaws. Required elections, bylaws and reports are not optional, and are required to maintain national accreditation.

There have been numerous justifiable complaints from accredited KWVA Departments, Chapters and members for their articles and pictures being omitted for lack of space, while continued space in each issue, sometimes very extensive, is being afforded to Departments/Chapters/Individuals which are still not accredited national units/members--even after two years.

As of the next issue, accredited Chapters/Departments/ Individuals of the National KWVA will be afforded priority of space in *The Graybeards*. Exceptions will be made occasionally for a limited number of articles from Korean War veterans' organizations of nations belonging to the International Federation of Koreans War Veterans Associations, and for a limited number of articles from special sources, such as the Veterans Administration and various MIA/POW-oriented organizations.

Any questions on this matter should be addressed to the Secretary, KWVA, at the address listed inside the front cover of the magazine.

Lou Dechert, President, KWVA/US

1 GULF COAST [AL]

The chapter elected new officers:

- President - Bill Pitt
- 1st VP – Horace Weldy
- 2nd VP – Harry Sims
- Secretary – James Glover
- Treasurer – Walter Isham

The Korean Memorial in Mobile, AL, was under 12 feet of water after Hurricane Katrina tore it up.

*Bill Pitt, 1701 Gill Rd.
Mobile, AL 36605-3939*



CID 1's new officers (R-L) Bill Pitt, Horace Weldy, Harry Sims, James Glover, Walter Isham

14 SUNCOAST [FL]

CID 14 founder Charles Dawson presents certificate and Korean Ceremonial Medallion to Cadet Sgt Stephen R. Gauthier.



At an impressive ceremony on April 12, 2006 at the Dixie Hollins High School, Charles Dawson, past national director and chapter founder, presented a certificate and the chapter's own Korean Ceremonial Medallion to Cadet Sgt Stephen R. Gauthier.

According to Joseph M. Hunt, Jr. LtCol, USA (Ret), Senior Army Instructor, Cadet Gauthier is an outstanding young man and very deserving of the recognition.

*Richard Arcand, 5674 Bay Pines Lake Blvd
St. Petersburg, FL 33708*

29 SSGT WILLIAM E. WINDRICH [IN]

Members attended a USO show at the Raddison Hotel in Merrillville, IN.

They had a special guest: Virginia Swan, the sister of MOH recipient SSgt Windrich, in whose honor the chapter is named.

Windrich was killed in Korea.

*Herbert A. Verrill, 1833 169th Street
Hammond, IN 46324-1733*



CID 29 members and guests at USO show. Standing behind special guest Virginia Swan (L-R) Al Solis, Pete Chang, MGen Dean Sangalis (Ret), Herb Verrill, Chapter Commander Eliseo Castaneda.



TOP: CID 64 members (L-R) Bob Snider, Larry Busini, Stan Urbanowski at Pinelawn National Cemetery. **BOTTOM:** The CID 64 group at Pinelawn Cemetery grows (L-R) Larry Busini, Jeff Quarles, Bill Pulls, Al Emanuelo, Stan Urbanowski, Frank Kershish



CID 64 members with East Northport Boy and Cub Scouts at Pinelawn Cemetery (L-R) Bill Pulls, Frank Kershish, Larry Busini, Stan Urbanowski, Jeff Quarles, Al Emanuelo

33 MARYLAND [MD]

A Resolution was passed by the Maryland Legislature recognizing the efforts of the Korean War Veterans Association to acquire a Federal Charter under HR 3476. The Resolution passed unanimously in both the Senate and the House at the very end of the annual 90 day session in early April.

The effort in the legislature was spearheaded by Senator Kathy Klausmeier, with the full backing of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, George W. Owings, III. (See photo on page 53)

It is important to know that, although our Chapter was the first in the U.S. to have all its state's representatives signed on as co-sponsors of HR 3476, we still felt it necessary to have a state-sponsored resolution.

To this end, Chapter member Raymond Glock met with Senator Klausmeier to initiate the process for this resolution. Ray and Bob Banker testified at the House and Senate Hearings. Secretary Owings was effective from the Administration.

64 CENTRAL LONG ISLAND [NY]

Several members spent time on May 27, 2006, flagging graves at Pinelawn National Cemetery, Long Island, NY. They included: Larry Busini, Bill Pulls, Bob Snider, Jeff Quarles, Al Emanuelo, Frank Kershish, Irwin Saltzman and his son-in-law Danny, grandson Joseph, and granddaughter Michelle, Stan Urbanowski, his daughters Linda and Margaret and granddaughter Katie, and leaders and members of Cub Scout Pack 237 and Boy Scout Pack 238 of East Northport.

*Larry Busini, 80 Rhoda Avenue
North Babylon, NY 11703*

72 OREGON TRAIL [OR]

Chapter members showed up a variety of places as participants and spectators, e.g., at the Oregon International Air Show near Portland [OR], September 16, 2005, for the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the Vancouver [WA] VA Medical Center, and the Oregon Korean War Memorial.

As an indication of the camaraderie developed between Korean War buddies, Les Burris, the Commander of Chapter 281 in Missouri, and Bob Gifford, of Chapter 72, got together at the Oregon Korean War Memorial. They are long-time Army buddies.

*Loren Mitchell, 11940 SW King James Place
King City OR 97224
(503) 670-1382, Lahom03@aol.com*



CID 72 member Don Cohen shows CID 72 President Howard Myers the location of a brick donated by the chapter to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the Vancouver WA VA Medical Center

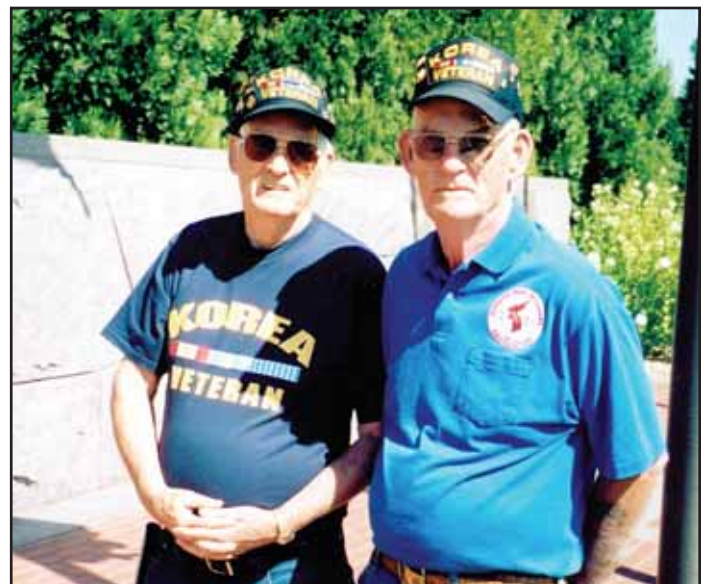
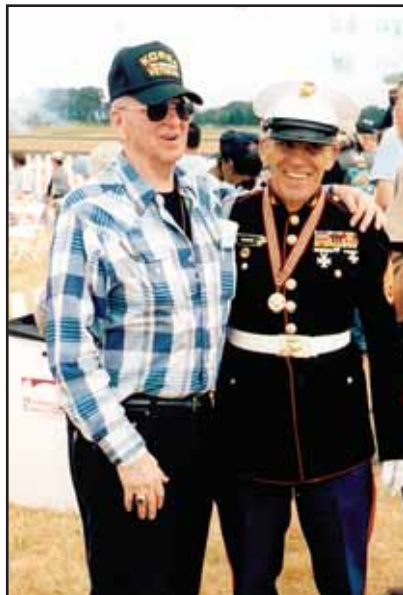


(L-R) Ron Anderson, Howard Myers, & Don Cohen at the Korean War Memorial in Wilsonville, OR, behind a POW-MIA plaque made by the Oregon Veteran's Motorcycle Club and presented to CID 72



CID 72 Color Guard at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Vancouver (L-R) Howard Myers, Michael Damien Martin, Don Cohen; in the rear are CID 72 chapter members Freddie McBride, Chuck Lusardi, Ed Clement.

RIGHT: Decorated veterans (L-R) Jim Arling and Mannford Kenner of CID 72 greet each other at the veteran's tent during the Oregon International Air Show near Portland, OR



Leslie Burris (CID 281) and Bob Gifford (CID 72)

99 TALL CORN [IA]

We held our spring meeting in the American Legion Post in Malcolm, IA on April 8, 2006, at which we elected our new officers:

- President – Bill Hartsock
- 1st Vice President – Sid Morris
- 2nd Vice President – Leland Stacker

Sid Morris will remain as Secretary/Treasurer until the new President appoints one.

RIGHT: Dan Steen speaks with Tall Corn Chapter members and guests and **(BELOW)** fields questions from the audience.



Our guest speaker was Dan Steen, who is the Commandant of the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown. Dan gave us a very enlightening speech, in which he informed us that there are 128 Korean veterans in the home. We made arrangements for those 128 veterans to be bused to our cookout meeting in July. We will conduct our October meeting at the Veterans Home, during which we will be given a tour of the facility.

116 CENTRAL OHIO [OH]

CID# 116 takes part in the annual Memorial Day Parade in Worthington, in the Columbus [OH] area. We are too old to march anymore, so we garner a few convertibles and ride in style.

Our chapter is fortunate enough to have JROTC students from West High School in Columbus as a color guard. They are always eager to participate and they do an excellent job. Witnessing their enthusiasm to participate is very heartening for us Korean War vets.



Spectators offer their support to CID 116 participants at the Worthington, OH, Memorial Day Parade



Convertibles and CID 116 members line up for the Memorial Day parade



CID 116 members envy Don Vest, who still fits into his Dress Blues



West High School, Columbus, OH, JROTC Color Guard lines up for Memorial Day parade



Rhode Island Korean War veterans get together (L-R) CID 258 members Frank Meo, Walter Bienieki, (kneeling) Ralph Palmieri; CID 117 members in blue jackets Master at Arms Joe Lafontaine, Sr. Vice Commander Roland Watts, Commander Maurice Trottier (in white shirt), Chaplain Ken Lafontaine

121 GREATER CINCINNATI [OH]



Spectators display signs along Memorial Day parade route in Worthington, OH

As we ride in the parade we are also extremely heartened by the parade spectators. They clap, they salute, they display signs that read "thank you," they give us the thumbs up, and they wave American flags.

These people are so very gracious.

*Art Dossman, 22759 Ringgold Southern
Stoutsville, OH 43154*

117/258 OCEAN STATE & NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND [RI]

On June 15th Korean War veterans of Rhode Island chapters got together. Several speakers entertained the assembled veterans, all of whom had a great time.

*Maurice P. Trottier, 20 Oakdale Ave.
Pawtucket, RI 02860-2512*



CID 121 members get ready for Memorial Day parade



Korean participants prepare to march with CID 121 members

Members and local Koreans marched together in a local Memorial Day parade.

129 SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA [IN]

Chapter Commander Luther Rice and Chaplain Glynn Clark attended the awards day ceremony at the Southeastern Career Center in Versailles, IN, for the purpose of awarding two \$500.00 scholarships to two students who will continue their education at the post-secondary level. The students are Ross Patz of Rising Sun High School and Jason Green of Milan High School.



(L-R) CID 129 Glynn Clark, scholarship recipient Ross Patz, and Luther Rice (The 2nd scholarship recipient, Jason Green, was not present.)

The chapter has been awarding scholarships to graduates of the Career Center for nine years, totaling \$9,000.00. Commander Rice stated that it is money well spent and a great investment for the future of this country.

The Chapter Color Guard and Firing Squad have been extremely active, conducting military services at funerals for departed veterans as well as participating in local parades and festivals. Their involvement has created awareness within the surrounding community, particularly among the younger generation, of the sacrifices that were made by those who served during the Korean War.

*Luther Rice, P.O. Box 432
Aurora, IN 47001-0432*



TOP: CID 129 Color Guard (L-R) Tom Largent, Bob Karp, Bob Riede, Herschel Kent, Bob Weber, Bob Lowe, Bob Oelker, Howard Cleeter, Ralph Cole, Archie Abner.

BELOW: CID 129 Firing Squad (L-R) Luther Rice, Bill Kyle, Glynn Clark, Ken Cash, Jim Slayback, Clarence Vogelgesang, George Niemeyer, Alvin Senger

137 MAHONING VALLEY [OH]

Chapter members participated in the "Rocking for Epilepsy" event held at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Austintown [OH] on 8 July 2006. Nine members sat and rocked in various chairs for one hour.



CID 137 reps "rockin" away at Cracker Barrel (L-R) Zeno Foley (behind the tent leg), Pat Foley, two unidentified folks, Phillip Cardelin, and Joan Onstott. Not pictured but present are Bob Bakalik, John Pariza, and Domenic Lentini.



(L-R) CID 137 folks John Parizi, Domenic Lentini, Mary Baxter at "Rocking for Epilepsy" event

Other organizations rocked throughout the day, starting at 10 a.m. and ending at 7 p.m. Refreshments were served.

*Joan Onstott, Lot E6, 3022 State Route 59
Ravenna, OH 44266*

138 AKRON REGIONAL [OH]

Officers were sworn in at the chapter's 3 May 2006 meeting. They include:

- Commander - Edward Rose
- Treasurer – Robert Britt
- Secretary – Carl Canon
- 1st Vice – Carol Camp
- 2nd Vice - Richard Hudak
- Chaplain – John Galloway
- Trustees – Donald Booth and Joseph Maier

The 63-member chapter, which is very active in the region, donated a monument which is displayed on Memorial Path, Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, in Rittman (Medina County, OH).

*Carl Canon, 4512 Conestoga Trail
Copley, OH 44321-1404*

Have a Mini-Reunion?

Send your photos and a short write-up to *The Graybeards* editor for publication!

Mail to Art Sharp, Editor, Korean War Veterans Association, 152 Sky View Drive., Rocky Hill, CT 06067

142 KOREAN WAR VETERANS [MD]

In September 2005, the chapter donated \$2,000.00 to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., for the purpose of a maintenance endowment fund to ensure the perpetual care of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. And, chap-



CID 142 members (L-R) Tony Malaveda, Reggie Kephart, Gene Rinehart at Apple Blossom Parade



CID 142 Color Guard members at Fort Detrick (L-R) Ken Davis, Scheller Garlock, Reggie Kephart, Bob Eader, Jim Miller, Glenn Wienhoff, Tony Malavenda, Bob Miles. Not shown are Tony Marra and Color Guard Commander Marty Goge



CID 142 members enjoy SOS breakfast at Fort Detrick (L-R) Jim Miller, Ken Davis, Reggie Kephart, Bob Miles, Tony Marra, Glenn Wienhoff



(L-R) Charles Chipley, CID 142 Commander, Col. William Weber, KWV Memorial Foundation Chairman, CID 142 Vice Commander Robert Miles

ter members issued a challenge for other chapters to make similar contributions.

Chapter members participated in two events in May:

- May 5 – three members represented the chapter in the annual Apple Parade in Winchester, VA
- May 20 – the chapter participated in Fort Detrick's [MD] Armed Forces Day observance

*Richard L. Martin,
8113 Glendale Drive, Frederick MD 21702
(310) 663-6360, RLMAEM@adelphia.net*

147 WEST BAY RHODE ISLAND #2

One nearby photo was taken in February in Bonita Springs, Florida. Sure, it is an unusual place for Rhode Island chapter to meet, but...

We usually meet once a month at home, but since many of our members are "Snowbirds," we decided to have a meeting in Florida, some 1,500 miles from home.

Not all of the members shown are "Snowbirds." Some of us are not quite so fortunate, so we have to put up with the New England winter. But, compared with winters in Korea, it's warm here.

Warm or not, members of the chapter had a good turnout with our "walking wounded" at Memorial Day parades in



A swirl of flags at CID 147's Coventry, RI, Memorial Day parade

Charlestown and Coventry. After the Coventry parade, members traveled to Exeter Cemetery for a state function at the WWII Monument, which was followed by a ceremony at the Korean War Monument.



CID 147 detachment marching smartly at the Charlestown, RI, Memorial Day parade



CID 147's members at the Charlestown, RI, Memorial Day parade

Dignitaries from the KWVA of Rhode Island and a few Korean officers from the Newport War College participated at the ceremony. There was also a guest visit from state BGen Robert T. Bray.

*Robert F. Hartley, P.O. Box 661,
Coventry, RI 02816-4016*



Members of CID 147 and guests gather at Exeter, RI, Cemetery Korean War Monument

174 NATURE COAST [FL]

The chapter has been very active, as it always has been. Some of the activities in which members have participated include:

- Donating dog and cat food to the Humane Society
- Placing flags on veterans' graves
- Offering thanks to local Wal-Mart and Sam's Club
- Selling the "Rose of Sharon" for two days, and donating proceeds to patient needs at the Baldomero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home

*Ed Valetic, 7459 Blue Skies Drive
Spring Hill, FL 34606-7223*



CID 174 members deliver dog and cat food to the Humane Society of the Nature Coast (L-R) Sgt-at-Arms Mel Eakley, Senior Vice Commander Roger West, Ladies Auxiliary President Lorraine Eakley, Secretary Lou Schneider, Facility Manager Dennis Schoch, Treasurer Joseph Seyfried, Ladies Auxiliary 1st VP Marie Ackerman, members Paulene Belson and Victor Belson, Ladies Auxiliary Secretary Kathleen Seyfried



CID 174 members placed over 900 flags on veterans' graves on 25 May 2006, and removed them on 3 June 2006. (L-R) Ed Valetic, John Bellin, Mel Eakley, Steve Ackerman, Jor Seyfried, Jerry McCollum, Roger West, Lou Schneider. Not pictured were Mr. & Mrs. Tom Murphy and Bob Johnson



CID 174 members present a plaque of appreciation to the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Spring Hill, FL. (L-R) Mel Eakley, store personnel manager Carol Smith, Joe Seyfried, Richard Mellinger, store co-manager James Schroder, Louis Schneider, Lorraine Eakley



CID 174's Rose of Sharon crew (Front, L-R) Marie Ackerman, Barbara Mellinger, Pauline Belson (Back, L-R) Joe Seyfield, Roger West, Al Korringa, Lou Schneider, Art Nelson, Rich Mellinger, Victor Belson, Steve Ackerman, John Bell

Steve Ackerman of CID 174 stands his post in Wal-Mart parking lot



183 NEBRASKA #1 [NE]

Members and their spouses gathered for their summer outing at the Yutan, NE, Legion Club just west of Omaha.

The chapter is justly proud of its monument at Memorial Park in Omaha. The monument which was dedicated on May 30, 1976, was one of the first in the nation. It combines the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The names of 186 dead are inscribed on the sculpture.

It has received high praise over the years for the human element in war, helping those for whom we are fighting.

*Bill Ramsey, 4913 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68132*



Members and spouses of CID 183 at their annual outing

The Nebraska Korean and Vietnam War Monument in Omaha



(L-R) Richard L. Saif, Curt Farley, and Harold Keiser of CID 186 taking "Rose of Sharon" donations in St. Peters, MO



Korean dance troupe at Forest Park in St. Louis. CID 186 Commander Frank Williams and Bob Peitz are in background.



Korean dancers in action at Forest Park

186 ST. CHARLES COUNTY [MO]

Chapter members took "Rose of Sharon" donations in front of the Wal Mart in St. Peters, MO, in April.

Korean dancers from the Korean American Association of St. Louis, MO, performed in front of the Korean War Monument at Forest Park in St. Louis on June 24th.

*Curtis J. Farley
2947 Gran Lin Drive
St. Charles, MO 63303*

CID 186 members (L-R) Homer Scott and John Torrisi accepting "Rose of Sharon" donations in St. Peters, MO



202 ORANGE COUNTY [NY]

At the regular monthly meeting, chapter members elected the following officer for the coming year:

- President - Samuel L. Tucker
- 1st Vice President - Dr. Hubert H. Lee
- 2nd Vice President - John A. Stellingwerf
- Secretary - Joseph J. Schneider

- Treasurer - Joseph LLP. DeSerto
- Public Relations - John A. Stellingwerf
- Website & Email - Dr. Hubert H. Lee

The chapter held a dinner at the American Legion Hall in Middletown, NY on June 25 th. We invited all service personnel who served in the military from June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955, and all who served honorably in Korea from February 1, 1955 until the present. As is the case with all veterans organizations, we are looking for new members.

*Joseph J. Schneider, 189 Guymard Tpke| Mt. Hope,
Middletown, NY 10940-7107
(845) 386-1768, Schneider@frontiernet.net*

210 BREVARD COUNTY [FL]

Great accomplishments can be achieved when even a small group of dedicated veterans team up to reach worthy goals. Our chapter, with a membership of slightly over 40 members, is blessed with a core of very reliable volunteers, the life blood of any organization, and strong leadership officers.



CID 210 members at Awards Ceremony, Merritt Island, FL



CID 210 officers (L-R) Jolene Farago, Julius Farago (President), Paul Spescia, Nick Beninate, George Rosenfield



CID 210 Color Guard at Vietnam and All-Veterans Reunion in Melbourne (L-R) Ted Trousdale, Paul Spescia (CG Commander), Maurice Meisner, Mickey Tutolo



CID 210 Wreath supports Korean Seniors Ceremony in Orlando



Charles Hackney of CID 210 on duty at Korean Veterans Memorial Monument Fund Raiser, Cocoa Beach Publix (Grocery Market)

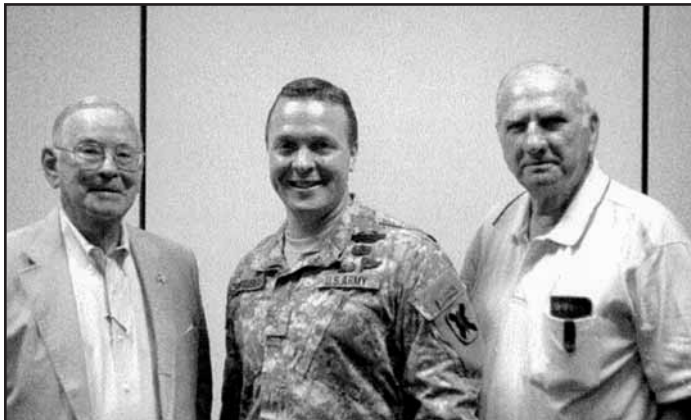
In just the past few months CID 210 has served our community by providing Color Guard presentations; countywide fund raisers (for scholarships and to erect a Korean Veterans Memorial Monument); conducted Speakers Forums at local high schools; manned a Coffee/Donuts booth at the Viera VA Clinic, and Manager on Duty post at the local Veterans Memorial Center.

We've also supported veterans' reunions, conventions and special events of other Central Florida KWVA chapters/services, and we produce a bimonthly chapter newsletter, "The Kor-Vets Messenger."

*Charles Hackney, 400 South Sykes Creek Pkwy
Merritt Island, FL 32952-3547*

230 BATON ROUGE [LA]

The chapter installed Bob Thomas as its new president at its June meeting. Thomas replaces T. O. Perry. Others elected included Vice President Graydon Walker, Treasurer Bill Carrier, and Secretary Randy Lanoux.



(L-R) CID 230's outgoing president T.O. Perry, guest speaker U.S. Army Major Chris Cernaiauskas, incoming president Bob Thomas

The guest speaker at the meeting was U.S. Army major Chris Cernaiauskas.

*Randy Lanoux, 1475 Parker Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70808*

234 KWVA OF ATLANTIC COUNTY [NJ]

Members marched in the Somers Point, NJ, Memorial Day parade.

*John Varallo, 7 Maple Court
Mays Landing, NJ 08330*



Vietnam Veterans Color Guard joins CID 234 in Somers Point, NJ Memorial Day parade



(L-R) CID 234 members Niel Wannan, Cmdr. John Varallo, Sgt. At Arms Frank Peterson, Chaplain Bill Humphrey, Jerry Foley, Dan Smith and Rich Van Wort march in Somers Point, NJ parade



(L-R) CID 234 members Frank Peterson, Dan Smith, Rich Van Wort, Bill Humphrey, and Jerry Foley display the chapter and American flags

272 GREATER ROCKFORD [IL]

We published an incorrect address in the May/June Chapter News. On p. 46, under the photo of our model, the address was wrong. It should be Jack F. Philbrick, Chapter 272, KWVA, 211 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL 61101.

While we are at it, the photo underneath Chapter 272 was actually of members of CID 265, Charlotte, NC. But, CID 272 always welcomes new members.

300 KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF MASSACHUSETTS [MA]

Chapter members recently went on a guided tour of the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick Massachusetts, where all the testing and research of MREs. and clothing is done for the armed forces. Deputy Commander Dorothy Johnson received them personally, after which they visited the:

1. Conference Center
2. Climatic Chambers (Arctic and Tropic Side)

Continued on page 52

APPLICATION FOR KVA SEOUL REVISIT TOUR

KVA (Seoul) Revisit Purpose: "To express the gratitude of the Korean Government towards Korean War Veterans who took part in the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to October 15, 1954."

Veteran's Personal History (Please type or print)

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____ Date of Birth _____

KWVA Members# _____ Expiration Date _____

Companion Name/Relationship _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Veteran's Passport# _____ Expiration Date _____

Companion's Passport# _____ Expiration Date _____

NOTE: If you do not have a current valid passport or have just applied to KVA, write "applied for" on # line

Veteran's Military Bibliography

Branch of Service _____ Service Number _____

Period of Service in Korean War (month/year) from _____ thru _____

Unit Assignment _____ Location of Unit _____

Rank Achieved in Korea _____ Highest Rank Achieved while in Service _____

Personal Military Decorations for Valor _____

Veterans's Certification

I hereby certify that I have never previously accepted a KVA (Seoul) Revisit tour and that I am a member in good standing (or have applied) with the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA).

Veteran's Signature _____ Date _____

Complete and mail this form along with a \$300 deposit per person (check, money order or Visa/Mastercard only) to Military Historical Tours. Payment in full is required for all applications submitted sixty days or less prior to departure.

Credit Card Authorization

I, _____ hereby authorize Military Historical Tours to make charges to my _____

credit card, Account#: _____ Expiration date: _____

in consideration for airline tickets and any other travel or transportation services or products as requested by me or authorized users of this credit card.. Signature: _____

Mail To...

KWVA Revisit Korea Program
c/o MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS
4600 Duke Street, Suite 420
Alexandria, VA 22304-2517

Phone: 703-212-0695
Fax: 703-212-8567
E-mail: mht@miltours.com
www.miltours.com

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 War and to show them the bountiful results of their sacrifices and devotion.

KVA's Eligibility Requirements

You are eligible if you are:

1. A veteran of the Korean War and /or a war correspondent of any of the 21 nations which came to assistance of the Republic of Korea between 25 June 1950 and 15 October 1954.

2. An immediate family member of one who was killed in action in the Korean War.

Note: You are permitted to take a spouse or one immediate descendent with you to Korea. The family member must be lodged in the same hotel room with you in Korea.

Privileges Accorded Veterans by the KVA, Seoul

1. Hotel accommodations (two persons per room), meals, tours, and transportation, while in Korea for six days and five nights.

2. Tours of Seoul and vicinity. The visits are to Panmunjom, North Korean Invasion Tunnels, Korea 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 battle sites and/or Incheon may be made through the local tour guide.

3. A special reception and dinner hosted by the President of the Korean Veterans Association (KVA) during which the Korea War Medal and Certificate of Ambassador for Peace will be awarded to each veteran who has not received it before.

Sundry Notes

1. The KVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.

2. Participants are required to have a valid passport: a visa is not required for visits of 15 days or fewer in Korea.

3. KVA/Seoul is not responsible for any loss of, or damage to, personal or other items, medical expenses, injuries, or loss of like due to any accident of whatever nature during the revisits. Trip cancellation insurance is available and highly recommended.

4. Transportation costs to and from Korea will be borne by each person who participates in the program.

5. Applications will be received/accepted on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

Note: *If you have previously accepted an official KVA/Seoul Revisit tour from any sponsoring association or group, you are NOT eligible to participate again. The reason is that so many veterans have not gone before so they get the "first right of return."*

Because former Revisit Program participants have their name in the KVA/Seoul's computer database, please do not try to beat the system. If your name is rejected because of prior participation, all of us will be embarrassed and an eligible Korea War veteran might miss the opportunity to participate.

6. If you want to use your frequent flier miles or other "free" transportation, you will be charged an administrative service fee of \$300 per person.

Caution: Not traveling with KWVA group air contract can result in much higher post-tour costs to China and other Pacific location.

Note: Should you desire to have a single room or take additional family or friends with you, this can be arranged for an additional cost. Any such requests must be made in writing.

The Link Between China and North Korea

There appeared recently an Associated Press article entitled "China Outpacing South Korea For Economic Influence In North Korea." President Dechert responded to the editor of The North County Times, The Californian, which printed the article. Before we get to Dechert's response, let's look at excerpts from the article:

Over the last five years, China has become North Korea's largest trading partner, providing at least 80 percent of the North's consumer goods, ranging from electronics to shoes, according to South Korean central bank economist Lee Young-hoon....

South Koreans are worried that China's going to be economically dominant in the North," said Peter Beck, director of [the Brussels-based International Crisis Group's Northeast Asia Project in Seoul]....

Chinese-North Korean trade totaled \$1.6 billion in 2005, outpacing exchange between the two Koreas, which reached a record \$1.1 billion boosted by activity at Kaesong [South Korea's economic beachhead in North Korea just beyond the border of the two countries]...

"North Korea's economy would collapse" if it weren't for China, [Lee] says

Now for Dechert's response..

Mr. Kent Davy

The North County Times, The Californian

207 East Penn. Ave.

Escondido, CA 92025

Dear Mr. Davy,

I am writing to comment on the attached Associated Press article, "China outpacing South Korea for economic influence in North Korea," by Kelly Olsen, which was brought to my attention today.

We have been long-impressed by the efforts of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) to care for their kin in the North. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of families are still separated by the demilitarized zone established in 1953. The Kaesong Project costing millions of dollars is being built and financed by the South Korean government in North Korea.

No peace treaty was ever signed as provided for in the Armistice agreement that ended the Korean War in July 1953. The signing was to have taken place after the settlement of the repatriation of POW was completed, 90 days after the signing of the ceasefire. After reaping all the publicity from the ceasefire tents that they could, and having failed to force the involuntary return of Chinese and North Korean prisoners who refused to return to slavery, the Sino-North Korea bloc lost interest in a peace treaty until just recently when there were indications that the North Koreans were trying to insert that issue into the multi-power nuclear weapons talks which have been going on for over a decade.

Since 1953, some four to five million Americans have served in the ROK. Two years ago, the US Department of Defense awarded the Korea Defense Service Medal for that service. Over 2,000 Americans have been killed in that service period, along with a much larger number of ROK military losses. The war goes on. I am struck with a sense of 1951 and 1952 all over again in the current "talk and fight" (albeit it more subtle) nuclear talks with several nations involved.

As a veteran of the Korea War—still underway—I am strongly tempted to characterize what is reported in this article as a "second intervention by the Chinese forces in Korea." Just as in the first intervention, some fifty-six years ago, this one is possibly prompted in large part because our friend and ally South Korea is winning the battle for peaceful reunification. We have and will always stand behind the Republic of Korea in that goal.

Louis T Dechert

National President

Korean War Veterans Association, USA (KWVA)

International Federation of Korean War Veterans Associations (IFKWVA)

CHAPTERS from page 49

3. Combat Feeding Section MREs

4. Operational Forces Interface Group (OFIG), which is a section that displays their planned accomplishments of the "FUTURE FORCES WARRIOR CONCEPT."

Personnel explained what the Army will be like in 25 years. This research group goes out and introduces the many new concepts being tested to all over the many military units and groups, including members in both sides of Congress.

Wrist-mounted computers allowing communication directly to others in the unit, as well as sophisticated laser optical site for the individual soldier, were two of many new ideas being devised. A uniform that can monitor the individual's physical condition and relays it instantaneously to support medical personnel is also in the research pipeline.

The visitors dined in the soldiers' mess while there, and were giving appropriate, non-confidential literature describing the mission and activities of the installation.

*Nick Paganella, 20 Antrim Road
Framingham, MA 01701*

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

Cruz Marquez, who won two silver medals last year in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, competed again this year. The games are sponsored by the Paralyzed Veterans of America. In 2005, he won medals in ping pong and archery. In 2006, the games took place 3-8 July in Anchorage, Alaska. The Department of Arizona played a critical role in his effort. Members contributed \$450.00 to help underwrite Marquez' costs.



Al Folsom, Department of Arizona KWVA treasurer, presents a check for \$450.00 to Carrie Langford at the Arizona State Veterans' Home

Carrie Langford of the Arizona State Veterans' Home consolidated the funds contributed by all organizations that made donations, and provided them to Marquez.

*Pete Martinez, 1941 E. Ellis Drive
Tempe, AZ 85282, (480) 345-0117, pmart3234@aol.com*

DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

The department has a new commander, Gene Rose. He joined the Army in March 1951, and took his training in Indiantown Gap, PA. He stayed there as a drill instructor and member of the 2d Inf. Regt Honor Guard. Then, he moved on to the Division HQ.



Department of Delaware's new officers (L-R) Bill Hitchcock, Russ Cunningham, Eugene Rose, Roger Reeves



Department of Delaware members in the chow line at the December 2005 Christmas Party



CID 13 President Walt Koopman pins medal on Paul Enos



CID 13 President Walt Koopman (L) displays medal awarded to Bill Noll (R)

Rose arrived in Korea in late March 1952 with the 14th Inf. Regt., 25th Div. He served as a rifleman, machine gun squad leader, sniper, rifle squad leader, and platoon sergeant. He served at Heartbreak Ridge, Punchbowl, Kumwha, and several other small areas.

The department's new officers for 2006-07 are:

- Bill Hitchcock – Secretary
- Russ Cunningham – 1st Vice Commander
- Eugene Rose – Commander
- Roger Reeves – Treasurer

The government of South Korea presented medals to Paul Enos and Bill Noll. President Walt Koopman of CID 13, Bill Carr [DE] pinned the medals on the men.

*Russ Cunningham, 33161 Woodland Court S.
Lewes, DE 19958*

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

Department of Virginia Commander John T. Edwards presented an award to 1st Lt Greg Bew, US Army, on behalf of National President Lou Dechert, for his service in Operation Iraqi Freedom Defender of Freedom.

Lt. Bew was home on leave for the birth of his and his wife Amy's first child. He left on July 12th to return to his unit in Iraq.



Department of Virginia Commander John T. Edwards presents award to Lt Greg Bew

Maryland Legislature Backs KWVA Federal Charter



CID 33 members at Maryland State Capitol (L-R) Hosurl Pak, John Voigt, Marlene Baldwin, Charles Reed, Evelyn Reed, George W. Owings, III, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Robert Banker, Raymond Glock, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Sylvester Walker, Senator Kathy Klausmeier, James Hussey, Ray Nasatka, Thomas Ryan and Charles Ridgeway. See Chapter News for details.



Looking For Information About

MARVIN HAAK

I had a call from a person who is doing research on a cemetery in Arena, Iowa County, WI. She came across a monument with the name of Marvin Haak, his date of birth (7/17/1929), and the information that he served with the 24th Infantry Division 51/52.

There is no date of death, and she is trying to find out if he is alive or dead. If anyone out there knows of him and can give us information about him, please contact me by telephone (831-883-2156) or e-mail, wesM8@aol.com

Looking For Information About

ROBERT T. KELLY, SR.

I am a 100% service connected retired disabled veteran (Navy), and I am trying to gather info on my father's unit from Korea. He served with 1st Calvary, 27 Ordnance Unit.

He was in Korea and Japan, and I have quite a lot of photos and newspaper articles which I can share. But, for now, I'm trying to find out about awards my father may have received and/or veterans who may have known him.

Robert Kelly, Jr.
deepseakelly@msn.com

Looking For Information About

CHARLES EDWIN LEFFEW

Does anyone remember Charles Edwin Leffew from Kentucky? [He served in Korea.] My deceased father's records were destroyed in the St. Louis fire of 1972.

I know he was in the infantry, and received the Bronze Star. He was a Past Commander of the VFW post just outside Churchill Downs.

I would appreciate any information known about his service, and units he served in.

Thank you very much,
Sandra Ferrara
129 Merrimack Street
Methuen, MA 01844

Looking For Information About

HAROLD WADDINGTON

Many GIs who were on a troop ship "Gordon" from San Francisco to Yokohama should remember Harold Waddington as he played "My Dog Has Fleas" on the piano.

I found his telephone number about two years ago, and called. When he answered, I said, "My dog has fleas."

He asked, "What the heck are you talking about?"

When I asked him if he played piano on a troop ship, he admitted he did.

Harold passed away a year ago. Many vets on their way to Camp Drake in December 1951 should remember him from Pomona, CA

I wrote to his wife to get some information about his outfit. I would like to get more. If anyone served with Harold, please contact me.

Andy Maffucci, (39th FA, 31D)
7 Churchill Place
Pueblo, CO 8100
(719) 543-3278



Harold Waddington at ease



Harold Waddington, of Pomona, CA, in Korea in 1952

Looking For Information About

BUD MOORE

My brother's name was L.G. Ogle, 14 INF RGT 25 INF DIV Army, he was a CPL (E4), and he was killed March 7, 1952.

L.G. had a friend named Bud Moore, who was from Marietta S.C. Mr. Moore joined the Army with my brother and went with him to Korea. I understand he was with L.G. when he was shot by a sniper.

On their way over to Korea, their ship was hit by another one of our ships.

The last I heard of Bud Moore was that he lived somewhere in Marietta S.C. I have called all the Moores who have a Marietta phone number, and I have not had any luck.

Thank you for your help.

Juanita Ogle Wollam
jwollam@quixnet.net

Looking For Information About

HENRY SCHENK

I am looking for info on my Lafayette College roommate, Henry "Hank" Schenk, Class of 1949.

He and I were in ROTC at Lafayette. He was commissioned at his graduation, although I don't know when he went on active duty. He was with 2nd Inf. Div. as a platoon leader on the Central Front in November 1952 when he went MIA on a patrol. He was still so listed in 2003, according to his late older brother Pete, USAF (Ret.)

You wouldn't forget Hank. He was big and as strong as an ox, with a thick German accent. His father had been a Prussian general. Hank, Pete, and their mother came to the U.S. in 1937.

I would be very interested in hearing from anyone who remembers Hank, or who has information about him before his lost patrol. Reach me at:

Robert G. Becker
101 E. Oak Avenue,
Moorestown, NJ 08057
(856) 234-7593
becker101@mac.com

Anyone Have A Spare Airplane Lying Around?

Jim Rusher is seeking a jet fighter airplane for static display at a veterans' memorial. He can be reached at 436 Luther Lane, Gibsonburg, OH 43431, (419) 637-2352.

Fighting In Korea In 1974

I'm looking for anyone who was in Korea on June 28, 1974 and knows of fighting taking place at the DMZ with North Korean forces. This happened immediately after the massacre of 22 ROK sailors by North Korean naval gunboats on June 28, 1974.

I was at the DMZ with the 1st/9th Inf., 2ID and participated in securing the Central Corridor, known to the Korean war veterans as the Iron Triangle.

Please contact Dr. Richard Morrow, P.O. Box 2258, Moca, PR 00676, or enginstprof@yahoo.com if you have any info about fighting on the DMZ during June 1974.

VR6 at Westover/USS Minidoro (CVE 120)

I served on active duty in the U.S. Navy from 27 January, 1951 to 23 June, 1955. I would like to reach men who served in VR6 at Westover Air Force base during 1951 and 1952 to see if there is interest in a reunion.

I would also like to find out if there is any interest in a reunion for people who served aboard the *USS Minidoro* (CVE 120) in 1952/53/54/55.

If anyone is interested, contact Louis DeLuca, 485 Clawson Street, Staten Island, NY 10306, (718) 987-8111.

USS Marine Devil

I am looking for anyone with knowledge of a troop ship called *USS Marine Devil* to rebuild records lost by the U.S. military. The purpose is to establish the service time of a pre-war Korean veteran.

Here is the information I have:

- joined service from San Fernando, CA.
- time of service Oct.46 - Mar.48
- time in Korea Dec.47 - Feb.48
- 20th Inf. Regt., 24th Corps, Anti-Tank Co., 1st. Battery,
- Korea - Camp Sykes

Apparently he traveled on the *U.S.S. Marine Devil* merchant marine carrier, which was converted to a troop carrier. The V.A. says this ship was decommissioned Apr. 1st, 1946.

So, we are trying to prove my dad's time in Korea.

If you have any information, please contact me. at ronalcantar@yahoo.com

Thanks

Rudolph Orduno
18701 Flying Tiger Drive #427
Santa Clarita, CA 91315

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

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

Book Review

A Foxhole View

Edited by Louis Baldovi

Note: We regret that Mr. Baldovi died on 7/25/2006

University of Hawaii Press, 2002. 297 pp.
ISBN 0-8248-2610-8, \$21.95

As the title suggests, this collection of memoirs provides a foxhole view of the Korean War, from routine operations, to horrifying prison-camp experiences, and raging firefight. Louis Baldovi, a former rifleman with the U.S. Army's 45th Infantry Division, interviewed dozens of Hawaii's Korean War veterans, and this book gives them a long overdue voice in recalling their contributions and sacrifices from 1950 - 1953. Baldovi explains the importance of giving voice to Hawaii's veterans:

In comparison to the overall population of the United States, Hawaii suffered three times as many wounded and three and a half times the total number of casualties. Of the sixteen nations, excluding the United States, that sent ground combat units to Korea, only Turkey and the United Kingdom had more men killed in action than Hawaii. In spite of the sacrifices by Hawaii soldiers, little had been told about them following the war and, at the same time, very little was heard from its veterans. (p. ix)

Baldovi's compilation of interviews is structured chronologically, enabling the reader to share the overlapping experiences of numerous soldiers from month to month as the Korean conflict began, escalated, and moved toward resolution. For example, while some soldiers fought under terrible conditions at Pork Chop Hill, others simultaneously languished under miserable conditions in Korean prison camps. While some soldiers spent nights in flooded foxholes, others lay wounded in field hospitals, or were on R&R.

The book's structure allows the reader to get to know some soldiers as they recall their experiences from enlistment to their return home to Hawaii. Through

Continued on page 70

If There is a 4th of July Parade, The KWVA is There

■ Several Chapters participated in 4th of July parades across the country. Here is a sample:

150 (NORTHWEST ILLINOIS) & 272 (GREATER ROCKFORD AREA) IL

CID 150 & 272 members present a strong contingent in the Rockford [IL] 4th of July Parade



Eighty members of the two Chapters joined forces for the 4th of July parade in Rockford, Illinois. In addition to 272's Color Guard, Mrs. Viola Thorne, the oldest living Gold Star Mother of the Korean War in Illinois, rode behind the color guard.

Viola is 97 and will turn 98 in November. Her son Harold was killed in Korea two weeks before the cease fire.

A vintage 1951 jeep carried M/Sgt Cleveland Bias, a three-war veteran who is a member of Chapter 272. Two large trailers full of members and relatives followed the jeep. Photos by Philbrick & Fay (Permission granted for use by The Graybeards only)

Jack F. Philbrick

289 - MOUNTAIN EMPIRE CHAPTER (TN/VA)

Chapter members took part for the third year in a row in the Kingsport (TN) 4th of July Parade.

Carol Shelton



CID 289 members Jimmy Ball, Elster Ratliff, Mack Dunford, Bill McCoy, Joe Cody, Harold Webb, Al Ford and Commander Bob Shelton celebrate the 4th of July by marching in the Kingsport parade

Gold Star mother Viola R. Thore rides in style in the Rockford parade



KSV Korner



Lucinda Ford (L) and Danile Wilda (R) of CID 175

Young Recruits in #175

Chapter 175, Lt. Baldomero Lopez, MOH, Tampa, FL, is in the forefront when it comes to recruiting young members. Two of its members, Lucinda Ford, age 26, and Daniel Wilda, age 25, served in Korea for one year each. Lucinda is now a member of the National Guard. Daniel is now on recruiting duty.

Incidentally, Lucinda is the granddaughter of Chapter 175's President, Murdoch Ford. They may be the only grandfather-granddaughter team in the KWVA.

THE CYCLE

By RAY ("SKIP") STANTON

First came the letter – saying "Greetings"
And then came the realization
I was one of many men
Selected to serve our nation.

Plans were canceled, arrangements made,
Then off to the induction center.
My mother cried, my father sighed,
As into a new life I entered.

Away on a train to a processing center,
We traveled through daylight and dark.
Arrived there on the following day
We began to disembark.

Noncoms strutted smartly around,
Their orders sharp and gruff.
We began to realize
That things were to be rough.

They issued us G.I. gear and clothes,
Boots, mess gear, and towels,
There was K.P. detail, policing the grounds,
We rushed with cadres growls.

Orders were issued, we grabbed our gear
And climbed aboard a bus
The destination a training camp,
Our arrival caused no fuss.

Basic training had finally begun.
We learned to fire a Garand M-1.
Crawled over infiltration and obstacle courses,
Toting loads that would stagger horses.

There were endless hours of dismounted drill,
And learning to take and defend a hill.
Launching rockets, tossing grenades,
Marching our legs off in battalion parades.

Carbine, mortar, pistol, firing,
Then assault ranges, grueling, tiring,
Countless days of weapons classes.
Then out to crawl on rain-soaked grasses.

Long hikes out to distant ranges,
Then we felt the physical changes,
Things went smoother, our bodies felt right,
Muscles soft once, now are tight.

Polish those boots, shine that buckle,
Mop those floors while sergeants chuckle
Nearing the end, due for a rest,
Nothing left but a proficiency test.

Graduation Day came next, with
The chaplain reading from a text.
Some general gave an R.A. talk,
Before we started that last long walk.

Furlough granted, just twelve days grace,
Then on a train to a distant place.
Spinning wheels increased the miles.
Aching hearts and slipping smiles.

At last the coast, from the train we slip,
Spent a few days in camp, then boarded a ship,
To cross the sea and give a hand
And press our luck on foreign sand.

Back on land solid under our feet,
We grabbed our gear, walked down a street.
Received a bunk, wrote a letter,
Letting folks back home know things are better.

The very next day we're issued a rifle
Clean it, fire it, adjust it a trifle.
Orders come and time goes past.
Then comes our turn to leave at last.
Farewell to buddies, here comes the truck.
Climb aboard and wish them luck.

Endless riding toward the front,
Through foul rice paddies, stunted pines.
The convoy stops, we start our hike
Toward distant ridges which mark our lines.

Mountains high of mud and stone,
Saturated now with blood and bone.
Screaming shells, anguished cries,
As many a G.I. falls and lies.
Searing fire, seeking lead, leaving
Wounded lying beside the dead.

Listen as a burp gun cracks,
Signaling the enemies' new attacks.
Flashing jest on bombing runs,
The ceaseless thunder of artillery guns.

The crashing roar of a mortar shell,
Hardly noticed in this piece of hell
A roaring flash, a soldier's cry
Of "Medic, Medic" rends the sky.

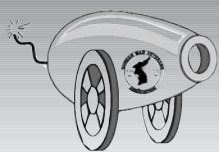
Twisted limbs, half-choked screams,
All tied in with shattered dreams.
The field aid station, a change of dressing,
A doctor's curse, a chaplain's blessing.

The skies above look down and weep
On wasted men in eternal sleep.
A telegram, a loved one's tears,
No more waiting—no more fears.
Widows made—children born,
Their unknown fathers, long to mourn.

Time has passed, the years have flown,
Families formed, more young men grown.
The cycle once again repeats,
More young men walk down distant streets.

They too cross the sea to lend a hand
And press their luck on foreign sand.
Will this cycle end? Oh, God, I pray
That peace will come to our world—SOMEDAY!

*The writer served in Korea in the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.
He started writing the poem on the evening of the day the
armistice was signed.—and has continued working on it many
hours over the past 50+ years.*



Feedback/Return Fire

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

Mail your "Return Fire" to the "Feedback Editor" at 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.

Chewing On Tootsie Rolls

A copy of your letter to Richard Chick, Winthrop, ME, appeared in the March/April 2006 issue of *The Graybeards*. The article entitled "Those Tootsie Rolls Wouldn't Freeze" caught my eye. I add a footnote to that title: "Except in North Korea's 1950 winter at the Chosin Reservoir."

Believe it or not, I believe that those Tootsie Rolls and the Good Lord saved my life there. I couldn't eat anything else for at least three days—or maybe more. Everything was frozen solid, including the Tootsie Rolls. But, at least we could hold the Tootsie Rolls in our mouths and let them melt and defrost. More importantly, we did get some nourishment from them.

I was a corporal in the 1st Marine Division at the time, in Col Chesty Puller's outfit, when some great engineers replaced a bridge that had been destroyed. Believe me, we did a lot of praying then.

I just turned 80 this year, and I still treasure Tootsie Rolls. I buy mine in a big plastic jar, and I always have some on hand. Bless you and your company, as mine was one of the lives you helped save up there.

*Lewis J. Feucht, 1817 Browning Drive,
Arlington, TX 76010, (817) 277-0681*

Has Anyone Suggested A State-by-State Listing?

Has anyone suggested a state-by-state listing of Korean War memorials compiled into one volume? Of course, this would require a lot of research by various state departments and chapters.

I, for one, would gladly make side trips to see memorials to the Korean War when I am traveling. As usual, as memorials are dedicated they can be included in *The Graybeards*.

I feel that a booklet such as the one I am suggesting would serve not only veterans, but it would be of use to their families now

and in the future.

Also, I fully agree with the change for regular members to include those who served honorably in Korea from February 1, 1955 to the present. It is a thoughtful and sound move.

*John Eastman, 185 SW Arrowhead Ter. Lot
102, Rushville, NY 14544-9633
(585) 554-4250*

The Battle Of "Spud Hill"

As a member of the 31st Regt., 7th Div., I, too, remember the battle of Triangle Hill as covered in "The Last UN Offensive" in the Jan/Feb 2006 issue. However, I also remember a battle that followed Triangle Hill—the controversial 25 January 1953 battle of Spud Hill.

Spud Hill was a potato-shaped hill located on the floor of the Chorwon Valley, at the bottom end of T-Bone Hill. Our MLR was along a high ridge overlooking the Chorwon Valley. This battle was rehearsed for a week or two, with members of artillery, air force, and tank units observing these individual operations before the actual battle. I drove one of the jeeps that carried these observers to the MLR.

Spud Hill was bombed, strafed, and napalmed, then shelled by artillery until it seemed like an ant could not have survived. The infantry went in aboard armored personnel carriers with wooden bunkers and sand bags above the men. As soon as the bombardment stopped, the Chinese climbed out of their holes and put up a fierce fight. We did not take the hill.

Congress later investigated the battle.

*Alfred Parke, 798 Scrub Oak St., Daytona
Beach, FL 32119-1843*

Editor's Note: A cursory search on the Internet uncovered this blurb about Spud Hill: 31/7ID assaults Spud Hill, enemy strongpoint at T-Bone, in Operation Smack. In spite of heavy tank and air support the

31st was repulsed with heavy casualties, and a newly arrived member of the press falsely castigated the assault as unnecessary loss of life in a battle staged for visiting brass. Foretaste of media sensationalism in Vietnam.

Did The Tired GI Ever Make It Home?

I served in Korea with the 581st Signal Radio Relay Company as a member of a relay team. On November 26, 1950, my team, and a second team from my company, was located atop a hill at the southern perimeter of Koto-ri, south of the Chosin Reservoir. Very soon, thereafter, Koto-ri and units (mainly the First Marine Division and a regimental combat team from the Army's Seventh Infantry Division) north of Koto-ri were surrounded by approximately 120,000 Chinese Communist troops.

A few days later, a detachment from the Second Battalion, Thirty First Regiment of the Army's Seventh Infantry Division was ordered to supply security for our relay and a Marine relay which was also on our hill, and to "hold the hill at all costs," because it looked down on the road which was the main supply route from the port of Hungnam to all the units which were in the Chosin Reservoir area.



"Dogface," Dog Tired

A day or two later, the troops who were dug in on our hill, were ordered to “saddle up” and be prepared to attack the hill across the road from us, which was in the hands of the Chinese. The nearby photo, which I took with a miniature camera, is of one of the very tired GIs who were in the assault group.

The hill was taken from the Chinese, but I always wondered what happened to the 17-18 year-old kid who was with the attack group. Did he survive the attack? Was he wounded? Did he make it back home? What did he do with his life?

I thought that readers might want the whole story behind the picture.

*Norm Deptula, P. O. Box 922
Webster, MA 01570*

Another “Bunker Hill”

This photo of “Bunker Hill,” taken in October 1952, shows how fierce the fighting was, and how devastating it could be for friend and foe alike.

*Paul F. Danna, 229 N. 5th Street
Bethpage, NY 11714*



The carnage at Bunker Hill, October 1952

First Mission In Two Separate Wars: Two Times A POW

There was, I believe, a mistake in the March-April publication. On p. 50 (POW-MIA), you state that Sergeant Watson was the last POW repatriated. Although you don't say when he was released, there is evidence that he was not the last.

Editor's Note: *The writer enclosed a copy of an article in the 7 September 1998 Spartanburg [SC] Herald-Journal that featured the repatriation of Col. John Arnold, whose plane was shot down on 12 January 1953 over China's border with North Korea. The article dealt with “our” 581st CIA Air Resupply & Communications Wing.)*

We were in a psychological warfare wing for the CIA. What we did was considered unethical warfare by the Geneva Convention, so we had no POW rights. We were even told that if we were shot down the Air Force would deny we were members.

We were told not to disclose for fifty years what we did. In the 1990s information began to leak out.

We had different kinds of planes for different missions. I flew a B-29. We had four planes, all unmarked and unarmed. We flew every fourth night. Each crew had three days off between missions. Col. Arnold and crew were shot down on January 12, 1953. I flew on January 13, 1953, and I had more than a few trepidations. We didn't have any problems that night.

Incidentally, Gene Vaadi, the aircraft commander, was shot down in Europe on his first mission and became a POW. He was also shot down on his first mission in Korea. If that wasn't enough, he “sneaked” his way into combat in Vietnam when he was forbidden to do so.

*Art Snyder, 429 Manor Ave
Cranford, NJ 07016-2063*

How I Learned About The KWVA – And Why I Did Not Get A Parade

Before my rooftop antenna was removed recently for building repairs I heard a public service announcement about a local group of Korean War veterans following a program I was listening to one night on the FM station of Nassau Community College in Garden City, New York. After contacting the station the next day, I found the group mentioned in the announcement to be the Central Long Island Chapter #64 of the KWVA, of which I soon became a member.

Although I still cannot get that station at my location, by being tuned in at the right place at the right time I lucked onto some useful information. I would be curious to know if at one time or another, any other chapters had tried this method for recruiting, which worked in at least one case—recruiting me.

Now, about the parades.

The observation by Richard A. Blane, that “coming home (from Korea) we had no parades or hoop-la,” which appeared in “Feedback” in the Jan/Feb 2006 issue of *The Graybeards* should be clarified: There had to be homecoming celebrations for troops still in Korea when they would return home after the cease fire. Those like me, who had left earlier, would have fared as described by Blane.

A formal review was held in February, 1954 in Korea for the 45th, Thunderbird Division, which was the first to leave. The division proceeded with stops en- route to New York City for a ticker-tape parade and celebrations seen by huge crowds in April, before returning for reserve status as a former National Guard unit in Oklahoma.

I served with the 25th Division in Korea from June, 1953 to early release in August, 1954, when it was rumored that we would soon move to Hawaii. Since then I have been informed that as I was being discharged at Fort Sheridan, Illinois the next month, September, hula girls were waiting for boatloads of Tropic Lightning troops to arrive in Honolulu.

*Stephen N. Hartig 83-80 118 St, Apt. 1P
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<Stephenhartg@yahoo.com>*

THE LOVER

BY HARLEY L. WEDEL

I did feel my memory of her had been badly betrayed as I read about the attempted suicide. Still, I had not followed her career closely since we parted, so truly I had no real claim on her. Nor, of course, did I have a responsibility for anything happening to her, since we separated to travel down life's differing pathways.

We were both young when we met, and passion ran high, at least on my part. After all, she was my first true love; consequently, she would always be the best so far as I was concerned. After all, how could any other lover begin to match the first, the one who taught you so much about things unknown until the day you met?

Yet, because of our relationship in the past, the siren song of old was ringing in my ears. I knew it was only the irresistible memory of her drawing me back. Simply put, I had to see her again, and I was thinking foolishly that perhaps a way could be found to help ease the pain she must be suffering.

I found where she was staying, but an inner voice told me not to just walk up and say, "Hi, Sweetheart, remember me?" This was because I had been neither the first nor last of the many lovers in her life. Such an off-hand greeting after so many years would surely be a bad way to handle a re-introduction. Also, she didn't need any more shame or pain than she was experiencing already.

Perhaps not before, but certainly after her dive into the river, guardians surrounded my lover at all times, so I decided to find a viewing place where neither she nor they would be aware I was spying on them.

It took a while to locate, but finally I found a secluded spot from where she could be observed in her misery. A wild thought crossed my mind, and I wondered if it would be

possible to act as a Knight in Shining Armor, galloping in on a white charger to aid her, my damsel in distress.

It took only a glance to realize I could no longer recognize this lady who had meant so much to me in earlier times. The inter-

We were both young when we met, and passion ran high, at least on my part. After all, she was my first true love; consequently, she would always be the best so far as I was concerned.

vening years had drastically changed her, and certainly not for the better.

A short distance away another fellow was doing what I had arrived for. He, too, was watching the warders' work with my dearest love. About my age, or perhaps a bit older, he was just sitting there staring at my once-was-lover with a tear running down his cheek.

He acknowledged my presence with a gruff, "Are you one of 'em too?" To which I could only reply, "What-'n-hell do you mean by that?"

"Oh, nothing, I guess," he said. "It's just that a couple other fellows came by here in the past day or so. They all wanted to see her, but nobody cared to get too close. It seems they are driven to pay last respects even though she ain't gone yet." He went on, "Each one of them admitted to, and even bragged about, having had an affair with her, and I suppose there's even more mourning lovers out there who can't bear to come see her."

"I had no idea," I said, "although it sounds about right. When I knew her well she was always vibrant and full of life. In those days she seemed able to handle anything coming her way, but that was when I was so full of her it was impossible to even think there might be others who also loved her as I did."

"Too true," he responded, and then he paused as if to reflect on how to express his feelings in words. Finally, he stated, "She had lots of lovers, many at the same time, but never was she cheating on any of 'em or bein' fickle. Each one was as important to her as another, and never did she fail to give each one of them a full measure of herself."

We fell into a silent vigil then, simply gazing at our former mistress. It sure seemed odd, two men just sitting there together talking about a mutual love and neither feeling the least bit jealous of the other.

We spent some time gazing at the spectacle before us. Then, when conversation resumed, we compared notes about how our

paramour had come to town. We knew she had been busy over the years, with both good and bad experiences. Yet, through it all she had proven to be a great trooper, her performances always meeting or exceeding expectations.

On the verge of some real tears, we decided her try at suicide would have ended better had it been successful, simply because the torture she was going through in front of us was absolutely terrible. Given present conditions, we concluded her spirit (probably her soul as well) had been lost during the painful episode on the river's bottom before being rescued.

For this we were grateful, and it did ease some of our concerns, yet we were left wondering just what she was experiencing. Was she feeling anything at all?

Shadows lengthened, and just before the lights were turned on, we watched years melt away as she seemingly regained the shape and beauty of her former self.

Dusk deepened; soon, the yard-lights did come on. This caused reality to return and hit us right between the eyes. Realizing there was nothing we could do for her, we stood as if to go. Yet, both of us remained rooted to the spot for a short while longer.

Taking a last longing look at our former beauty, we snuffled, dried our eyes, and then left for the nearest watering hole to literally cry in our beer. We knew, for all practical purposes, she'd been dead since the suicide attempt. Starting our own personal wake, we began regaling each other by swapping stories and anecdotes about her for an hour or more. Some were of times we shared, others were about separate experiences.

During one of the quiet spells, my newfound friend suddenly got rather upset and cursed the people we saw around her saying, "Those bastards are nothing but a bunch of vultures. How can they even sleep nights after what they do every day?"

Agreeing with him, I replied, "People in their line of work have no feelings. When those jackals get through the only thing left

of her will be in our hearts and a few pictures. Damn it! Couldn't they have just left her at the bottom of the river and its tender mercies? What's happening to her now is a fate worse than death!"

Lapsing into silence, we allowed our thoughts a chance to roam through the memories of days long gone, days when we weren't as thick around the waist and she was there in all her glory and beauty, those days when we recognized the delightful form only she and very few others have ever possessed. This was when, each in his own time and fashion, we were lovers with the lady we had earlier visited from afar.

Soon, my friend and I prepared to part, both of us talking about looking one another up at some future date, each knowing he would probably never do so because of the painful memories such a get-together would rekindle. Earlier, we had both witnessed our true love in a distress we could not relieve, and we had been sorely wounded by this failure.

We at last parted as kindred spirits who had said our final farewells to a great and wonderful lady, our Lover.

Settling into the seat of my car, I decided I simply had to see her one last time. As I approached our observation post for another glimpse of her, I was still hoping the earlier vision had somehow been a mistake, perhaps even a mirage.

As soon as she came into view, it was easy to realize the true mistake had been returning to the viewpoint at all.

Swallowing a silent sob, I watched for a few minutes as the vultures tore at her flesh with cutting torches and cranes. She had now become nothing more than a stripped-down barely-floating hulk, and there wasn't a thing remaining to remind me of the beautiful and sleek vessel she once had been.

Saluting a last farewell to the carrier *USS Princeton*, my first ship, my long-ago paramour, I silently drove home to another love, my wife and family.

News Release

Portland, Oregon - Sept., 1973

Today the former *USS Princeton*, CVA 37, a US Navy aircraft carrier of the Essex Class, sank at the Zidell ship-breaking pier where it is being dismantled for scrap value.

Once refloated, dismantling will continue.

Sometimes It Pays To Be Insane

By Carroll Everist

As an 18 year old, I enlisted in the Iowa National Guard. Jobs were not too plentiful for a young man that year, so in 1949, I asked for a transfer to the U.S Army. It came through.

After basic training at Fort Riley, I went to Camp Carson for ski and mountain training in the 14th RCT. The Korean War erupted 25 June 1950. In mid-July all three battalions of the 14th shipped out to Pusan, South Korea on the General Pope, a WWII transport. Once there, the regiment was broken up, one battalion being assigned to each of the three regiments in the First Cavalry Division, Fifth, Seventh, and Eighth Cavalry. We were re-designated 3d Bn of the Fifth Cavalry Regt, 1st Cavalry Division.

Our Bn CO was Lt Col. Edgar Treacy, Jr. a West Point man, Class of 1935. He had commanded us at Camp Carson and remained our Bn CO. My company CO was Capt Perry. His XO was Lt Dixon Rodgers. We were very quickly put on a train to the Naktong River. We rushed into position, and had our baptism of fire that same day. Very shortly I was promoted to Cpl.

During the Naktong fighting, we were always on 100% alert. To stay awake, we would break apart Vicks inhalers. They had Benzedrine in them. We would mix it with gum and chew it to stay awake. It kept me awake, but after several days of this, it almost cost me my life.

When I finally did go to sleep, my Platoon Sgt could not awaken me during a North Korean attack. We had our first five men killed while we were dug in on Hill 174. Our first KIA was Cpl Carl W. Cook. I'll never forget him. He raised his head above the skyline, and a sniper shot him just about the eyes. Another time, a shell hit near our machine gun. Both the gunner and the assistant gunner were hit. My foxhole buddy and I took over the machine gun. My buddy said if we got out of this, he would go to church every Sunday. I've often wondered if he did.

While on Hill 174, on 13 Sep. I received a Dear John letter. I was discharged, called back to active duty, and survived a human sea attack. We lost Hill 174, then retook it, only to find some of our men butchered, hands tied behind their backs and shot.

Carroll Everist on conveyer belt from Camp Cooke, CA Army Hospital in 1951



Later in the war, on 15 Feb '51, my company was a part of Task Force Crombez, sent to the aid of the 23d RCT. En route, we were riding our tanks when we came under fire from all sides. I was shot in the left knee. The tanks stopped. I got off to find cover and to return fire, but wasn't of much use. I had no mobility.

The tanks bugged out, leaving eight or nine wounded, one of whom was our Bn CO, Lt Col Treacy. He had been wounded in the mouth. We were all captured. I had no aid pouch to dress my knee. Col Treacy gave me his, and carried me on his back. One man was taken from our group. We never saw him again. That night, Col Treacy was taken away. I learned years later he died in a POW Camp on 31 May 1951.

The other POWs with me were murdered, shot in the head. I was next, but I put on a first class show of hysteria, not all of it simulated. I had heard that the Chinese believe if you are insane, you are worse off than if dead. They stripped me and took my CIB, watch, and billfold. They took, but returned, a prayer book given to me by the Wesley Methodist Church in Mason City, Iowa. I still have it.

I maintained an insane attitude after the near shooting. From time to time, and very surreptitiously, I would loosen the tourniquet on my leg. The Chinese pulled out, leaving me. I lived on icicles and snow until 18 Feb, when I was picked up. My first food was a can of franks and beans. I like them to this day.

I now understand why I lived. The Lord heard my prayers. Later in my life I became an ordained minister.

Carroll Everist now lives in Mulvane, KS

represents the terrible conditions that our GIs fought under during the first months of the war. They included few tanks, low supplies of ammunition, and bad weather conditions on the ground and in the air, which curtailed the close air support from our Navy carriers and Air Force bases in Japan.

As a result of the United Nations not being prepared for the North Korean invasion, we were almost pushed off the peninsula by North Korea's army. The only reason that North Korea failed was due to our troops' determination and dedication.

The three steps from the depression represent the three major actions that turned the tide in favor of our troops. They were the landing at Inchon, the breakout of the Pusan Perimeter, and the pushing of the North Korean invaders back onto North Korea.

The six columns signify the three summers and the three winters our troops were fighting in Korea. The six columns support the five Lintels that bear the names of the battles fought in South and North Korea.

The most sacred section of this Memorial is the bronze plaques on each column that bear the 1,508 names of our Massachusetts men and women who died during the Korean War. The 148 names with asterisks represent the 148 men who are still missing as a result of the Korean War. These men and women were part of the team that took the first armed aggression against the spread of communism in northeast Asia. Through the opening of the Lintels the GI peers out to infinity, looking for our MIAs and hoping we will "Bring Them Home."

Nick Paganella, 20 Antrim Road, Framingham, MA 01701

ROK General Donates \$20,000

Former ROK Minister of Defense and Marine Corps Commandant General Sung Eun Kim, ROKMC (Ret.) Donates \$20,000 For Statues in Worcester, MA, Signifying Korea's Bright Future and Friendship with U.S.

General Sung Eun Kim's personal donations to Korean War Memorial in Worcester total \$30,000; Total Donations from Korea Top \$ 75,000

WORCESTER, MA, USA, July 10, 2006 - Lt. General Sung Eun Kim, ROKMC (Ret.), former Republic of Korea (ROK) Minister of National Defense and Commandant of the ROK Marine Corps, today donated \$20,000 to the Korean War Memorial in Worcester, bringing to \$75,000 the total donations from Korea to help build a heroic-size bronze statues of a Korean boy and a U.S. soldier signifying South Korea's bright future and recognizing America as Korea's strongest friend and ally. The statues will be cast by Boston sculptor Robert Shure, who has received input from the Korean Society of Boston and its President Young Cho, Military leaders in Korea and veterans organizations.

According to Korean War Memorial Chairman Francis R. Carroll, a U.S. Navy veteran who served during the Korean

War, General Kim's donation was made "... on behalf of the people of Korea to thank the United States government who has contributed so much to our country for such a long time..."

General Kim's contribution follows another generous donation of \$5,700 in March 2006 from Korean military leaders aimed at funding an educational sign that will accompany the statues and describe humanitarian efforts during the War by U.S. soldiers who saved 100,000 Korean orphans.

In 2003, General Kim, donated \$10,000 to the Korean War Memorial in Worcester after reading in a Korean magazine about the efforts of the Korean War Memorial of Central Massachusetts and its Chairman Francis Carroll to involve the Korean community in the Memorial in Worcester. In making his original donation, General Kim indicated that "if the United States had not come to our aid 53 years ago, I would surely not be alive today..."

In 2004, Chairman Carroll, USN, and a delegation of Korean War veterans and members of the Korean War Memorial Committee, traveled to Korea to thank General Kim, the Korean Veterans Association, the ROK Marine Corps and the Republic of Korea for their support for the Memorial, their generosity and friendship.

The Korean community donations of \$50,000 from organizations and military, civilian and business leaders in Korea are funding the statues that will be installed at the Memorial as part of Phase II of the Korean War Memorial. Included is the total was a \$20,000 donation from a Korean orphan, Sung Hak Baik, himself saved during the war, and who today is a successful business leader in Korea.

"I am delighted and overwhelmed by the continuing support of my great friend, General Kim, and other friends in Korea who are committed to helping us complete this important Memorial and lasting tribute to our veterans and the eternal friendship between the Republic of Korea and the United States," said Carroll.

We are working hard to complete Phase II of the Korean War Memorial, which has been officially designated as a park by the City of Worcester. Phase II of the Memorial will include a Walkway of Honor with bricks inscribed in the name of veterans who have died in recent wars. The Walkway will complement the existing Wall of Honor that honors the 191 Massachusetts soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in Korea. The goal of the Memorial Committee is to raise \$400,000 to complete the Memorial in 2007.

The Korean War Memorial is located on Worcester Center Boulevard in downtown Worcester, Massachusetts. It is scheduled to begin Phase II in spring of 2007. Anyone wanting more information about the Memorial should call 1-800-343-0939, extension 234.

Meanwhile, donations can be sent to the Korean War Memorial of Central Mass., Inc., P.O. Box 16568, Worcester, MA, 01601, (Tax#04-3382568).

New Memorial Proposed In New Jersey

In January 1947 the United States Marine Corps ordered General Lewis B. Puller to establish Marine Reserve Units nationwide. The 21st Infantry Battalion was organized in New Jersey. Three Companies: (A)ble, (C)harley and Headquarters were located at Dover, N.J. The fourth (B)aker Company was organized and trained weekly at the Bayonne Naval Base.

"B" Company met on Wednesday evenings and went to summer camp for two weeks of training in 1948, 1949 and 1950. It was the only military unit ever established in Bayonne. It trained in Bayonne, and over 60% of its members were residents of Bayonne. The local citizens referred to it as "Bayonne's Own."

The 21st Infantry Battalion was called to active duty on September 7, 1950. It left Bayonne to serve in the Korean War. "B" Company served nobly—and eight of its members making the supreme sacrifice.

Recently, members of "B" Company met in Bayonne and formed a committee. Its purpose is to create and establish a commemorative tribute at their old training site in Bayonne. Their goal is to build a memorial dedicated to the 253 Marines of "B" Company who answered their country's call in 1950. The memorial would contain a special remembrance to the eight members who gave their lives:

- PVT Nicholas Arcuri
- PFC Robert J. Matusowski
- PFC Charles N. Brandner
- PFC Robert V. Sharpe
- PFC Edward H. Joachinson
- PFC Daniel Stiller
- PFC John D. Lawton, Jr.
- PFC Phillip F. Wisneski

Anyone who wishes to provide financial support for this most worthwhile endeavor can make a check payable to "B Company USMC Memorial" and mail it to Patrick F. Nilan, 94 West 14th Street, Bayonne, NJ. 07002.

A Moving Picture

The photo below of D Co., 17th Regt., 7th Div., was taken as the troops were moving from one front to another in Korea in 1951.

It was submitted by Eugene Pitts, 1019 North 3rd Street, Atchison, KS 66002.



D-17-7, Korea 1951

Let Me Call You 'Swede' Heart

The article below on the Swedish Red Cross Hospital at Pusan, South Korea will be of interest to members of the KWVA. It demonstrates their commitment to the United Nations. Even a neutral country such as Sweden was willing to send a critically needed, and fully staffed, medical unit into harm's way.

I personally spent the better part of December, 1952 at this hospital and received the finest medical attention available at that time. We tend to forget, over time, that there is more to war than warriors. So, I salute all those who served in the numerous support units in all wars.

I would like to hear from other KWVA members who spent time at this hospital.

Jerry L. Herring, 1756 South Dahlia Street Denver, CO 80222, (303) 756-3294, jandpherring@earthlink.net

SWEDISH FIELD HOSPITAL FOR KOREA

Two days after North Korea invaded South Korea, June 25, 1950, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution asking all U.N. member states to support South Korea. The Swedish government responded on July 14, 1950 by authorizing the dispatch of a 200-bed mobile field hospital. This hospital unit consisted of 174 doctors, nurses, medical specialists and support personnel. All were volunteers.

The first group left Stockholm, Sweden on August 26, 1950, arriving at Pusan, Korea on September 23rd, where it set up in the Pusan Commercial Middle School compound. It received its first patients on September 25th.

A few days earlier U.S. Tenth Corps landed at Inchon and advanced toward Seoul while other UN forces broke out of the Pusan Perimeter, the 60 by 70-mile southeast corner of Korea where they retreated while building up their own forces. Because of the tactical situation the UN Command decided the Swedish hospital would be of more value as 400-bed evacuation hospital at Pusan than a 200-bed mobile field hospital, thus Pusan became the base for the hospital throughout the war

Bed space was later increased to 600 beds. Between September 25, 1950 and December 31, 1953, the hospital treated 19,100 United Nations personnel and 2,400 Korean personnel. After the ceasefire the hospital remained at Pusan, operating more-or-less as a civilian hospital until April 1957. Even after closing, a small group stayed on until the autumn of 1958 supporting the Korean National Red Cross.

During the war a total of 1,124 Swedish men and women served at the hospital in Pusan.

This item appears on <http://www.korean-war.com/swedish-hospital.html>

the neck and where the upper arm attaches to the socket about one inch below the collar bone. By applying pressure to his wound, we stopped most of the bleeding. The medics by this time had come up the hill with a litter to carry the soldier down toward the aid station. By this time, we had lost twelve or thirteen men in the company, mostly wounded.

Later in the month, when still in a defensive position, the company dug in the best we could on a rocky ridge with my platoon on the left flank. The platoon went from a road that zig-zagged through the mountains to about two-thirds up the ridge where we tied in with the second platoon, which then continued to the top of the ridge. The platoon command post was just to the rear of the middle rifle squad on the reverse side of the ridge below the skyline.

By nine p.m., the usual attack time for the North Koreans, it was quiet, dark, and very warm. The attack began almost like a Fourth of July celebration, with several flares lighting up the night sky. The enemy used the flares for signal communications and control of their units at night. The flares, although above the entire ridge, seemed to light our platoon area the most. Small arms fire accompanied by mortar fire began slowly, then increased until it was heavy all up and down the front line.

Communications between our platoon and the company command post ceased to exist within the first half an hour of the attack. Sgt. Lyons came over to my foxhole and said the platoon sergeant wanted someone to follow the communications line, which was strung out on the ground, up to the company command post and find out what was going on. The moon had not appeared as of this time; it was dark, especially in the gully behind my squad area.

The communication line was well-insulated, yet there was a good possibility that an exploding mortar round could have caused a break. Another possibility was the enemy could have infiltrated through our line and cut the wire. Right after Lyons and I started to follow the line by running it through our hands, we received rifle fire, not knowing if the fire was from the enemy or from our own men. Lyons decided against going any further, so we went back

to our individual foxholes.

The next thing I recall was that the word had come by runner to start withdrawing to a position back behind the company command post. The idea was that the company would still be effectively tied in closer to the top of the hill in a semi-circle, facing down toward our platoon's area. Intentions were good, but in the darkness, confusion reigned. Some men became separated from their squads after leaving their foxholes, others did not get the word to leave their holes and no one knew if they had moved back behind the company command post or not.

Picture this if you can: a group of soldiers, well below the crest of the ridge, in the middle of the night trying to reorganize into some kind of meaningful combat unit. Then the moon began to appear as the clouds broke up—finally we had a moonlit night for the next five hours, until daylight.

The company had two sergeants named Wilson. One was referred to as Old Sgt. Wilson, while the other was called Younger Sgt. Wilson. Old Sgt. Wilson had seen service in WW II. I'm not sure if Younger Sgt. Wilson had or not. Old Sgt. Wilson was an easy-going individual, while Younger Sgt. Wilson was a strict disciplinarian. He once had one of the privates dig a six by six hole in the frozen ground in North Korea because he had been caught sleeping when he was supposed to have been awake.

The moon seemed to have become brighter as the night moved toward day, giving an almost fluorescent sparkle to the frost now forming on the surrounding vegetation. There was a discussion by the two Wilsons as to whether we were retreating in face of the enemy or withdrawing to the rear to occupy a better defensive position.

Younger Wilson asked Old Wilson what he thought should be done. The answer was, "You're in charge, so what you do is okay with me." Younger Wilson replied, "You're older, with more experience, so I thought I would ask." That was at least part of the conversation I remember from that night.

Some of the men, we learned later, did not get the word to withdraw and remained in their foxholes all night, which proved to be a good thing for them. None of those who remained in their foxholes was killed.

The North Koreans had been able to penetrate through the left flank of the company, which was my platoon's area. The fact is those men who stayed in their holes prevented the enemy from taking advantage of their initial success.

Everett, one of those who remained in his position, told of challenging an enemy in the dark and, not getting any response, fired his M-1 rifle, killing the North Korean soldier a few feet from his foxhole. He told of the next enemy who had crawled up to his foxhole only to be killed at point blank range, falling dead on the very edge of his foxhole.

Younger Wilson and all who were with him, including myself, descended the hill with the plan of organizing for a counter-attack. I gave the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) to Pvt. Hires—all 19.1 pounds of it. I then carried an M-1 rifle. At the bottom of the hill, we spread out over an unharvested rice paddy. In addition to my rifle, I was carrying an ammo belt and three or four hand grenades. I was sent out to the far right for security, maybe fifty yards. Unfortunately, the soldier closest to me failed to contact me when the others moved to the area where the counterattack would begin.

The scene was quite pretty, with a bright moon shining down on the ripening rice field, but here I was all alone in the middle of nowhere surrounded by rice up to my armpits. It was a good time to pray, and I am sure I did. After I moved several yards back toward the base of the hill, the rice field was coming to an end and it appeared darker than when I first went out for security. At this time of the year, when the rice is ready to be harvested, there is no water in the paddies. It is dry as any wheat field back in Indiana in late July. I lay down behind a paddy levee which offered good protection from enemy frontal fire if any would be forthcoming.

I kept awake listening for any activity. I heard nothing except the firing of a mortar on to the hill we had pulled off from earlier. I determined it was a 4.2 mm mortar firing some type of registration fire because it was not any type of firing for effect mission.

Around four o'clock, I heard a vehicle moving to my left front. I then knew for

sure there was a road in that direction. Making my way very slowly toward the road, I stopped and decided to lie down behind another levee. The road was about forty yards away. I took off my ammo belt with my canteen attached and took a drink of water. Then I placed it along with my grenades on top of the levee and just waited and listened and thought a lot about back home.

I heard a vehicle moving to the right on the road. I listened to hear if it might be one of those Russian-type jeeps used by the North Korean army. Those vehicles had a tinny, rattling sound. I put on my ammo belt and grenades and crawled closer to the road for a better look whenever the next vehicle would pass. About daybreak the next vehicle came back down the road. It was an American jeep.

In about fifteen minutes, it came back up the road and I could now see that it had on the bumper a White Wolfhound decal (the 27th infantry). It was one of the ammo jeeps carrying ammo to the base of the hill where the attack would begin. The driver told me that part of the company was preparing to counterattack from a position about one mile up the road. He also said that most of the hill was still held by part of the company that didn't withdraw. He then gave me a ride to the staging area.

It was now light enough to make out the men and their equipment. Contact had been established with those on the hill by way of radio. I looked on the ground in a ditch beside the road and saw my BAR harness and ammo belt just lying there. Later I learned that Pvt. Hires decided to carry only one magazine in the weapon and two in his jacket pocket during all the confusion about what was going to happen once day broke.

How did I know it was my ammo belt in the ditch? I had wrapped each magazine with the tin foil that the big radio batteries were wrapped in from the factory. The tin foil kept the magazines clean from sand and dirt until ready to be used. I picked up the ammo belt and carried it up the hill during the retaking of that part of the hill.

The mortars and artillery supported the attack by firing just forward of the ridge. Once we were back on top, the men who stayed there overnight told us about their survival the night before. All the soldiers were glad to see each other.

Guerrilla groups caused several casualties well behind the front lines by infiltrating and catching soldiers asleep in their sleeping bags when no one was awake on guard.

Between the 15th and 26th of September, 1950, the North Korean army's stranglehold on the Pusan perimeter was broken. The 27th Regiment crossed the Naktong River and moved west then north toward Taejon. The river crossing was done during the early hours of the morning before daylight. The river looked wide and muddy.

The Army engineers had placed sandbags below the surface of the water on the river bottom, making a foot path under water. A rope was placed across the river from one bank to the other to serve as a guide to follow. The water depth was up to my chin, so I placed my wallet inside my helmet on top of my head to keep it dry and carried my rifle with both hands over my head.

Some of us filled our canteens with river water as we neared the far side which became shallow. At daybreak, we could see dead animals and human bodies floating on their way to the sea. Fortunately, the water must not have been too contaminated yet, as no one got sick from drinking it.

Summer was coming to an end. It was the middle of September. The Marines had landed at Inchon, the port city for Seoul, and a second front had been opened. The 7th Infantry Division, in cooperation with the Marines, had retaken Seoul on September 26 to propel the United Nations fall campaign off to a good start.

The term "United Nations" was politically correct, but the major nations opposing the Communist forces were just the United States and South Korean. The North Korean resistance had begun to fall apart rapidly, and everyone was talking about being home by Christmas.

Hundreds, then thousands, of North Korean soldiers came pouring out of the mountains in long columns to surrender. Some carried "surrender passes," which guaranteed safe passage through our lines. In small mountain villages, stacks of individual small arms — weapons left by North

Korean soldiers as they surrendered—were piled higher than my head.

Whenever enemy soldiers came toward our lines carrying a white flag, we would always fire a few rounds over their heads from our rifles, causing them to stop and get down on the ground. Then we would send one or two men out to make sure they were not trying to pull off something like a surprise attack.

Those enemies who did surrender had a much better winter than our own troops on the front lines. With enemy resistance crumbling, some American units relaxed their security, which proved to be a mistake. Guerrilla groups caused several casualties well behind the front lines by infiltrating and catching soldiers asleep in their sleeping bags when no one was awake on guard.

One cold frosty October night, I took my squad eight to nine hundred yards out in front of the main company defense as outpost security. We strung out communications wire as we moved to the outpost, to keep in contact with the company command post. Radio silence was in effect at all times unless contact was made with the enemy.

I divided the squad into two sections: each section then sent one man still further to the front to give additional security. Everything was quiet. About 10:30 p.m., I was lying on my back looking up at the stars when I smelled what I immediately recognized as Sterno, the fuel jelly used to heat C-Rations.

Creeping quietly over to my right, I came upon three South Korean soldiers in my squad, huddled under a poncho, attempting to warm their hands when they were supposed to be listening for the enemy. Removing my helmet from my head, and using it like a hammer, I slammed it down upon the head of one of them with a swift chop. It was good that he was wearing his helmet. After that, they all remained alert without a Sterno fire. That was the most exciting thing that happened out on the

outpost that night.

Later, we dug in on the left end of our platoon, where a first-class dirt road turned at a right angle. No vehicle could negotiate the right-angle turn there without an almost complete stop. At one point I observed a lot of dust in the distance to my left, coming from a column of seven or eight vehicles speeding down the road just after daybreak. The vehicles were headed directly into my squad area if they did not slow down to make the sharp turn. They barreled right up to the turn, then moved directly behind my squad off the road, spun their tracks, and came to a halt facing the enemy.

All the vehicles were from a British Reconnaissance Group—some were tracked; others wheeled—going on a patrol. The soldiers jumped out of their vehicles, started their fires, and began making tea with clock-like precision. One individual, who I judged to have some service in WWII, asked, “Say, Yank, where is your *\$#@!* MacArthur at today?” We all talked about which units were on our right, when was the last time we saw the enemy, etc. After a brief time, they put out their fires, put their teapots away, and loaded up in the same professional manner they had begun. They then moved out just as they arrived, at a fast speed, paying no heed to the possibility of mines in the roadway.

Changing from one area to another over a wide division front became a routine matter for the 27th Infantry during the first few months of the war. We saw action in the west and the east, as well as division reserve. One afternoon I was in a truck convoy moving to one of these locations when the truck came to a halt. The truck I rode in was well to the rear of some fifteen trucks. A couple men jumped off for flank security as was the rule at all halts. Most of us just sat in place in the back of the trucks.

Small arms fire accompanied by mortar fire from the enemy had brought the convoy to a halt. Our first thought was that someone up ahead in the leading trucks would take care of the matter. When bullets started to whiz over our heads, however, we all jumped off the truck into the ditches on both sides of the road. We wasted very little time in sending troops to the high ground away from the trucks. A forward observer somewhere within the convoy called back for artillery fire, which came swishing in about treetop level. The

artillery is a great persuader against any dug-in enemy. We were back on the trucks and on our way in roughly twenty-five minutes.

We had one casualty—one of the South Korean soldiers had been struck in the right cheek with a long piece of shrapnel that pierced his cheek but nothing else. The medics bandaged him up with a compress on his cheek that was tied on top of his head. The soldier went back to the aid station with the shrapnel still in his cheek.

For some reason I want to associate this episode with the same place where Quigley was killed, along with three other men from the Reconnaissance and Intelligence Platoon. Quigley was a member of Company B before volunteering for I&R Platoon. This particular road came to a T, with huge banks at the left and at the top of the T where the enemy had been well dug in for their ambush. Everyone was killed, their boots and weapons taken and their jeep set afire.

In early October, when everything was going great for company B, we found ourselves back in the rear area as security for a couple of 155-mm artillery batteries. To infantrymen, an area this far behind the front line seemed like a safe place.

No one seems to know more about what is taking place on the front lines than the infantrymen dug in or attacking. They know very little about what the bigger picture might be, for their world is concerned with a little bit of real estate to hold or to capture. To hear the latest rumor, just go one hundred yards to the rear. Go back another six or seven hundred yards and the rumor is three or four times larger.

Getting back to guarding the artillery—a couple other soldiers and I decided that fried chicken would be nice to have since we had been eating mainly C-rations for several days. Upon entering what appeared to be a small deserted Korean village, a short way from the artillery, we hoped to get four or five chickens. The first three chickens were no problem. The last two were as wild as could be and proved difficult to catch, especially since we were weighed down with our arms belts, canteens and M-1 rifles.

Someone suggested, “Why not just shoot their heads off with the M-1 rifle?” Easier said than done. I am sure no one

who was trying to get those chickens was qualified as an expert marksman. Several shots were fired in an effort to bring down those last two chickens. Of course, it was second nature to us to shoot our weapons, and we paid no attention to the sounds we were making. Not so for the artillerymen, who put everyone in the batteries on alert for an enemy attack.

The word spread like wildfire to the rear. Just another rumor, but real for those not knowing that all the shooting was about getting a few chickens to fry. Word soon came down from the rifle company command post that there would be no more shooting of chickens, or anything else for that matter. We cleaned the chickens in a creek. Then, I carried them over to one of the artillery mess tents to see about getting someone frying them.

Using the story, which was partly true, that we had been eating only C-rations for the past three weeks, I asked one of the cooks to fry them. Even though the mess tent was all cleaned up and the cooks were already making preparations for the morning breakfast, the mess sergeant had a kind heart for the infantry, and he said, “OK, come back in an hour and they will be done.”

I went back in an hour and got the fried chicken, plus some bread. When I got back to our assigned area, the squad enjoyed the fried chicken, which we shared with some of the other members of the platoon.

I distinctly remember this happening because early the next day, with frost on the ground, I washed up and took a swim in the creek. From this swim I believe I got a severe sore throat that followed me for the next couple of days. I am sure it wasn't from the chicken, so it must have come from the swim.

As we pushed north out of the Pusan Perimeter through Suwon, Seoul and across the 38th Parallel, we saw many dead civilians. Some of the things the media didn't report were massacres big and small by the North Korean army. They always claimed that those shot were corrupt or working for a corrupt government. One very vivid scene I observed was the bodies of seven or eight Korean civilians, all killed by bullets to their heads. They were all tied together with wire in a circle, back to back.

...to be continued

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The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 101238, Arlington, VA 22210-4238 (Telephone: 703-522-9629)

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WEB SITE: www.kwva.org

Fanfare For The Commo Man

Jim Taylor submitted several chapters from an unpublished book he wrote thirteen years ago. As he explained:

"Enclosed please find several chapters of a manuscript from a personal narrative I wrote back in 1993. These excerpts describe some of the vicious fighting that took place back in the early days of the war, August 1950 through October 1951, while I was in Korea.

In all the years I have belonged to the KWVA (since 1984), I have never read a story in the magazine written by anyone about what the dangers were for a commo man in the Korean War.

I was a sergeant in charge of a Liaison crew, attached to the 1st Battalion, 21st RCT, 24th Div. I was with the 52nd FAB. In the 14 months I served in Korea, I saw a lot of hell. The chapter about Hill 99 tells how vicious it was.

K Company was all but wiped out that night in September 1950. My comrade and I were blown off the top of a hill the same night and almost captured.

These excerpts might make interesting reading for some of the fellows who weren't there the first year. They also touch on a part of combat that most veterans know nothing about, the Liaison crew, and how dangerous their job was. When an infantry patrol went out at night, it generally consisted of from 12 to 15 men. By comparison, when a line went out in the middle of the night, only two commo men went out to fix it. We were very vulnerable, and the enemy set many traps for us. When this happened we had to fight our way out by ourselves.

We traveled with the infantry day and night. And, because the front lines were over run countless times by the enemy, we were in many fire fights with them. Because of this, I have always felt the forward Liaison crews in the Korean War really deserved a Combat Badge, for all the hell they had to go through."

.....

So, let's start with Taylor's story about Hill 99 to get a feel for what the commo men went through. The events he described occurred in September 1950. And remember, if anyone agrees with Taylor that the stories of some service specialists in Korea are not often told, do what he did. Write one (or more), and submit it/them to *The Graybeards*...

HILL 99

By Jim Taylor

About three a.m., a [North Korean] patrol walked right by the front of the hut. Because it sat by itself out in the open, they never figured on anyone being inside. They had bigger game in mind anyhow.

They headed down the valley toward Baker Company, and were planning the same hit and run attack as last night. It wasn't long before the fireworks started. It lasted for about an hour, and then the shooting became sporadic. It stayed that way for about another hour; then the shooting began to get closer.

The North Koreans were apparently fighting their way back down the valley, because Baker Company was pushing them back. Finally, the shooting was right outside the hut. I had my back to the inside wall in the switchboard room, where I was facing the opening leading out into the yard. I had my M-1 pointed at the doorway, fully expecting at any time to see the enemy come through it. Evans, Chill, Sova, and Cornell were also waiting, with rifles pointed at the door. We sat that way for about an hour or so, while the shooting continued outside. It seemed that two of the North Koreans had their backs to the wall on the opposite side that I did, because every shot sounded like it was only a foot away from my head. I could hear the zing of bullets as they hit the wall behind me. What a place they had picked to finish their fight.

It was daybreak before they moved father up the valley and dug in as snipers in the hills, overlooking the valley. Then a platoon of infantry had to go and flush them out.

It was their normal method of harassment, using these night attacks. They wanted to make sure you didn't get any sleep.

Later that morning, while checking lines again, we went by a medic tent. I stopped in as I needed a couple of bandages for a cut on my hand. The captain in charge was treating a GI for a flesh wound he received from a bullet in his upper right

In the soldier's shirt pocket, over his heart, was a pack of Lucky Strike cigarettes. He showed me a hole in the pocket. ...and pointed to a hole in the pack where a bullet had penetrated the first row, then ricocheted out the side of the pack

arm. In the soldier's shirt pocket, over his heart, was a pack of Lucky Strike cigarettes. He showed me a hole in the pocket. Then, he then took out the pack of cigarettes and pointed to a hole in the pack where a bullet had penetrated the first row, then ricocheted out the side of the pack, striking him in the arm.

I'm sure he will smoke till the day he dies, because that pack of "Luckies" saved him from taking a bullet in the heart. Indeed, it was a "Lucky Strike."

As we continued moving toward the 38th Parallel, we reached a position north of Chunju. Meeting stiff opposition once again, we dug in near Hill 99. We set the switchboard up in a small schoolhouse, which was located about a quarter of a mile from Hill 99. That night mortar fire from the North Koreans knocked out the FO line to K Company. It was just before midnight.

The switchboard operator had been giving a line check every half-hour. After checking the other FOs, we could not get a response from K company. Sova and I had the 12 - 4 a.m. shift. Since it was almost midnight, we climbed into the jeep and headed toward Hill 99. I drove with the parking lights on so I could at least make out the ground immediately in front of the jeep. It was a dark, cloudy night, and visibility was very limited. We knew the line had to be out somewhere up ahead, because that's where all the mortar fire was coming from

I drove for a distance before we stopped to check the line. Sova jumped

out and called back to the switchboard. He got Chili, so we continued. Before long we approached the foot of Hill 99. All of a sudden a figure jumped out in front of the jeep. It scared the hell out of me, so I grabbed for my 45, pulled it out, and pointed it at him. The figure spoke in a broken pitiful way. "Watch where you're driving," he admonished. "There are wounded men all over the area." Then, he added, "I'm the company commander of K company, and I need this jeep to take my wounded back to the Aid Station."

I said, "Captain, this is a commo jeep, and we are trying to put this line in back to the artillery; it's out up ahead somewhere." But, I told him, "As soon as we find the break and fix it we will take some wounded back with us."

He didn't say anything. He just turned and walked away. At that point, as we moved forward, we could hear the moaning and crying of the wounded. We could just barely make out the dark forms lying on the ground. I drove until we came to a small hill.

I stopped, and Sova got out and checked the line. After putting the clamps on the line, he cranked the phone and heard Chili say, "Delta Blue." That was our code, so we knew the line was good to there. I drove farther up the hill.

As we approached the top of the knoll I stopped—and Sova checked the line again. This time there was no response, so we knew it was out in this immediate area. The road—if it could be called a road—was very narrow. On our left side, the hill continued to rise, while to our right it became a very steep drop off. Also off to our right was Hill 99. It was considerably higher than the hill we were on. If the enemy was up there, they were looking right down our throats. The only advantage we had was that it was very dark because of the clouds.

We picked the line up and walked with it for only a few feet before we found the break. There was a large gap in the line, so probably a mortar hit it. Sova grabbed one side, and I grabbed the other. We were facing each other as we worked on the splice. We could barely see the wire, but we had done it so often we could splice it in the dark.

Suddenly, the clouds separated, and a

We heard about five "CHUG" sounds off to our right, followed by the whistling sound of incoming "mail." We dropped the line, turned to our right, and took about two steps toward the drop off when the mortars started to explode. We had started to dive off the side, but the force of the explosions blew us off.

full moon hit us just like a spotlight. I said, "Uh oh," as I looked Sova right in the face.

We knew that if the enemy was looking down here, they might miss us, but that jeep stood out like a sore thumb. We were right. All of a sudden we heard the "CHUG" of a mortar, followed by a whirring sound, and then a loud "SPLAT" right above our heads. Sova said, "Damn, we are in for it now." He was right.

We heard about five "CHUG" sounds off to our right, followed by the whistling sound of incoming "mail." We dropped the line, turned to our right, and took about two steps toward the drop off when the mortars started to explode. We had started to dive off the side, but the force of the explosions blew us off.

I was thrown head first and rolled end over end. As I was rolling, I decided I would roll all the way to the bottom to get away from the mortars. I changed my mind in the blink of an eye, though, as soon as I heard the jabbering of North Koreans down at the foot of the hill. At that point, I dug my boots into the ground and came to a stop.

I flipped over and buried my head in the ground as the mortars screamed overhead and exploded all around us. It seemed like an eternity. In fact, it was only a matter of a few minutes before the mortar fire stopped. I didn't move right away, as I wasn't sure that it wouldn't start again. Finally, I heard some movement to my right. Then, Sova whispered, "Hey, Taylor, are you all right?"

I whispered back, "Yeah. How about you?"

He said, "I'm okay, but don't come any closer this way. Two shells hit the ground between you and me that didn't go off."

"Let's go topside," I said. "We got North Koreans down below us."

As we climbed up the hill, the moon came out again, so we dropped beside the road and waited for some cloud cover. As

we waited, I scanned the road and the jeep for damage. The jeep obviously had been hit by shrapnel, as the windshield was cracked, and I could make out some holes in the body. The road was also pockmarked with holes.

Finally, the clouds covered the moon, making it dark enough for us to make a break for it. When we got to the jeep, I jumped in, cranked the starter, and turned the vehicle around. We took off a bit faster than we came up.

When the jeep reached the bottom of the hill, a figure jumped out in front of us once again. It was a medic, and he asked, "You guys can take some of these wounded back to the Aid station with you, can't you?"

"Sure," I told him.

We jumped out of the jeep, and helped load 2 stretchers onto the hood and 3 walking wounded into the back. The medic said, "Tell the Aid station that the whole company is shot up and we need a meat wagon here—fast."

We said, "Okay." I took off slowly with the precious cargo we had on board. As we drove, I asked one of the guys in the back how the company got so shot up. I waited for an answer, but none came.

Sova turned and looked at them, also waiting for an answer. Finally, one of the wounded blurted out, "A banzai attack! We pulled a banzai attack on them, and it backfired."

Another one said, "It was stupid idea."

As we continued on the narrow and rough road, the guys on the hood were moaning quite a bit. I noticed when we loaded them that they both had been gut shot. That's one of the worst places to get shot. Usually, a man doesn't survive that type of wound.

Finally, we arrived at the Aid station, which was tucked in between two small knolls on the left side of the road. It was a tent about 20' x 10'. Outside the tent were some wounded on stretchers waiting to be

looked at. There were also ponchos spread out on the ground with a dead GI under each one.

As we started to unload the two stretchers, a medic came over to help. I told him about the situation at Hill 99. He just shrugged his shoulders and said, "We don't have any meat wagons available. Soon as we do, we'll send them up."

As we took the second stretcher off, I could see from the light in the tent that this guy wouldn't make it. He was shot just above the testicles with about five slugs, and was bleeding profusely. He was a blonde-headed kid about 20, same age as me. He was a good looking guy, and probably had had a nice girl back home.

What a disgusting war.

We drove from the Aid station up the hill to the small schoolhouse where the rest of the crew was. We told Evans what had happened. He said, "That damn line has got to be repaired in case of an attack again so they will have artillery support."

He said, "Come on, Taylor. Let's go." So back up we went.

When we got to the base of Hill 99, we were stopped by the company commander. He wanted to commandeer the jeep so he could start moving his wounded back to the Aid station. Evans told him we needed the jeep to keep the lines in to the FOs.

We continued up the hill until we reached a point where the break in the line was. When I got out, I found it right away. I said, "We better get this spliced fast before the damn clouds uncover that moon again."

Evans agreed. We repaired it in record time and started back down the hill.

When we reached the bottom of the hill, the captain stopped us once again. He said, "For God's sake, let me use this jeep to take some of my wounded back. There are no vehicles available in the rear, and my boys are dying."

He was crying.

Evans told him, "We'll load as many on the jeep as we can, sir, and try to find some transportation to send back for the rest."

We got out and helped to load two more on the hood, and managed to get 4 more in the rear. The two guys on the hood

were both shot up pretty badly, and moaning loudly. Two of the guys in the back were crying. The other two were silent.

When we got them to the Aid station we told the captain in charge there how bad the situation was. He informed us he had asked Headquarters for transportation. As I helped unload one stretcher, I noticed the guy had one hand almost shot off, and wounds in both legs. He would be headed back to the States.

After unloading the jeep, we drove back up the hill again. When we reached the hut, I headed for my sleeping bag, which was next to a window, and slipped

inside it. I went out like a light. I was awakened by quite a bit of talking from outside the hut. I crawled over to the window to see what the talking was all about. I looked down at the Aid Station and saw where they had been bringing back the dead and wounded from Hill 99.

The ground was littered with wounded. Most noticeable were the ponchos spread out on the ground. I counted 143 ponchos. Under each was a dead GI from Hill 99.

What a rotten war.

Jim Taylor can be reached at 2550 SR 580 E #174, Clearwater, FL 33761, (727) 723-8024.

BOOK from page 55

the voices of the veterans, the reader can experience the shock and terror of attack, as well as the more mundane trials and frustrations caused by a lack of necessities, bad food, bad weather, and illness.

One of the strongest threads in the book is the camaraderie and solid ties of soldiers from Hawaii, as many of the veterans interviewed recall continually seeking out "local boys" from Hawaii while in Korea. Numerous veterans tell of keeping track of the movement of other Hawaiian soldiers, especially those wounded or killed. One veteran detailed his reaction to encountering a local boy:

I was the only one from Hawaii assigned to Easy Company. But the next day when I went to the supply tent to draw some equipment, I met the supply sergeant, Sergeant Burgess, who was from the island of Kauai. He asked me if I was a local boy. When I told him I was, he pulled me to the side and gave me

the low-down – the things that I needed to know to survive in Korea. I felt really good meeting someone from Hawaii. I never saw him after that, but it raised my morale quite a bit (p. 47)."

Included in the book are numerous photographs, allowing the reader to put a face with a name of some of the soldiers who shared their stories. Also included are a few letters from soldiers to their families, as well as reprints of articles that appeared in Hawaiian newspapers. These brief articles provide an objective source to corroborate the first-hand accounts of the stories presented and give

insight into the media's vastly different perspective on the events of the war. But it is certainly the veterans' detailed, first-hand accounts of their experiences that are most riveting. Through their eyes, we see the war the way it really was.

By no means are these recollections the clichéd stories of Hollywood war movies. The voices are real, and the memories from nearly fifty years ago are sometimes humorous, and more often vivid and surprising. One veteran recalled his surprise at his own actions when he should have had a break from the war: "...I almost cracked up on R&R. I constantly thought about my buddies on line, especially the guys from Hawaii. Every time I took a hot bath, ate a hot meal, and slept on a nice bed it bothered me. I felt guilty as hell and worried about the Hawaii guys back at the company (p. 63)."

Baldovi concludes the book with a roll call of those "local boys" killed in action, and includes a number of informative appendices, such as a glossary of terms used frequently by those telling their stories, descriptions of weapons used during the war, and a bibliography. These additions make the book fine reading for those who have first-hand knowledge of the Korean War, and for those who don't.

For readers unfamiliar with what it was like to be a part of the war, the voices in this book truly do provide a realistic and eye-opening view from the foxhole.

Kris Barnett

Remember The Tide Locks Explosion?

Dick France sent us these photos of the 14th Transportation Port Battalion in Inchon. One of the events he mentioned was the "Tide Locks" explosion. Anyone remember it? Please let the editor know.

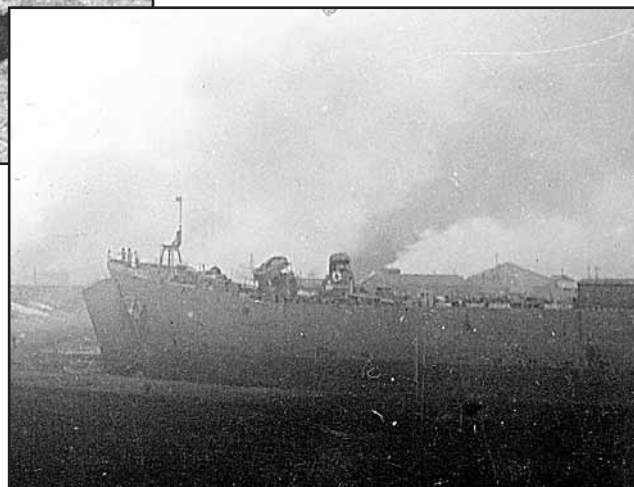
France, who served in Korea 1950-51, can be reached at 13405 Oakview Blvd., Garfield Heights, OH 44125, (216) 663-7560.



Some of the fellows: Dick France, Fish, and Bobby



"Whitie" and Dick France.



LST loading at Charlie Pier, Inchon, with a big column of smoke from fire in the background.



Ammo going in smoke in Inchon



Waiting for tide to come in: the big fire is in the Tide Locks

Ray Kalil

Amateur Aerial Photographer

The bodies were piling up by the hundreds at 300 and 400 hundred yards. With phone lines cut by the heavy incoming mortar and artillery fire, and none of the three radios in the half-tracks working, they had no idea of the overall situation.

By Jack Walker

Korean War veteran Ray Kalil, who learned to fly at 60 years of age, took this picture of the new bridge over the Cumberland River at Nashville which the City Council has voted to name the Korean War Veterans Memorial Bridge. Ray was just ecstatic upon learning of this action for which he had lobbied, because those driving over the bridge will be reminded of the "Forgotten War."

Kalil has been a "light-weight" here in Tennessee, holding the Weight Watchers franchise for the middle and eastern portions of the state. However, in Korea he was a real heavy weight, commanding a platoon of M-16s, which were half-tracks mounting a turret with four 50 caliber machine guns firing in unison, having a maximum rate of fire of 2,000 rounds a minute. With no air opposition to ground forces, these AAA Automatic Weapons Battalions self-propelled were employed on the front lines for anti-personnel purposes.

His platoon of B Battery, 145th Bn., 45th Inf. Div. was attached to the 20th ROK Division when on 10 June 1953 the 60 and 68 CCF Armies began one of the largest offensives of the entire war because Syngman Rhee was refusing to sign the cease fire agreement. He never did.

By 14 June there were 13 battalions of CCF pushing against Ray's sector. He had 3 half-tracks on the highest point in the area, Hill 1220, while Lt. Harris Hollins, his assistant, had 4 at another location. A ROK officer ran by shouting that most of their positions were being overrun. Ray kept his gun firing through the night. Then, just before daybreak everything became quiet. His men reported that there were no South Korean troops on either flank.

They began receiving small arms fire from their left and from their rear. Kalil circled his "wagons," the M-16s, in the best western tradition and continued to bang away at the enemy. The bodies were piling up by the hundreds at 300 and 400 hundred yards. With phone lines cut by the heavy incoming mortar and artillery fire, and none of the three radios in the half-tracks working, they had no idea of the overall situation.

Surrounded as they were, they destroyed maps, charts and other important papers. Ray almost burned \$600 in MPCs, but he stuck it back in his wallet, thinking whoever got it would "deserve it."

It was 72 hours before the situation was restored. During that three-day period they fired over 2,500,000 rounds of .50 caliber, finally being resupplied with ammo and barrels by Marine helicopter. Later, acting Battalion Commander Major Palmer LaPlant told Ray that he was recommending him for a Silver Star and for an equivalent ROK medal. Kalil recommended gunner Calvin Jordan for a Bronze Star.

It would seem that they had been in enough fighting for a whole war. But, on 4 July, the CCF launched another one of their largest attacks of the war, which were always directed first at the South Korean troops, which Ray's platoon was supporting. This time the three M-16s were completely surrounded for ten days. During the two engagements the platoon of seven M-16s inflicted over a thousand KIAs on the enemy.

Men from the 5th Regimental Combat Team came in this time to rescue the troops at Hill 1220. Ray hugged and kissed on the cheek the first one to get there.

Previously, Ray had been promoted to

1st Lieutenant. Then, he was made Battery Commander. Later, after the cease fire, he moved up to Battalion Staff.

After coming home, Ray enrolled in Gettysburg College and became a math teacher. Some time in the 1960s a team of Army recruiters came to Bellport Senior High School, Brookhaven, NY where Ray taught and was assistant principal. With a mental lapse, he had to ask one man about the red pentagon patch on his right shoulder indicating the unit he served with in wartime. When the reply was 5th Regimental Combat Team, Ray exclaimed, "O Lord," and began to relate how they had saved his hide in Korea.

The sergeant's face turned to an almost ashen white, then exploded from the chair, exclaiming, "My God, was that you?" It was the very man Ray had hugged. Some incredible coincidence!

Ray will always think of the man as a good fellow, and it turned out that his name was Goodfellow. He hopes to see him again some day.

The South Koreans issued a Certificate of Appreciation to B Battery, and the ROK medal to Kalil. Unfortunately, Uncle Sam never came through with the Silver Star, and every means of inquiry has been to no avail. Neither did Calvin Jordan get his Bronze Star. But, a few years ago Ray started to work on it. Finally Jordan's Congressman went to bat for Calvin, and Ray made the presentation at the 2003 Reunion of the 45th Division in Oklahoma. It must have been a rewarding moment.

The Nashville Chapter (CIN 86) of the KWVA, which Ray helped to organize, meets in his Weight Watchers Building, where materials are stored for the displays at the State Fair, the twice a year Military Collectors Show and other events in which Ray is the main cog. He was in the first group for Operation Stand Down, which seeks to rehabilitate homeless veterans.

The Tennessee State Museum displayed his private pistol, a .380 Hammerless Colt, which he took with him to Korea. The story is related how in his sleeping bag he dispatched two armed Chinese creeping among his men one night.

A SALUTE TO RAY KALIL, a soldier's soldier, and a veteran's veteran, from his comrades in Chapter 86.

Korean War Veterans Mini-Reunions

772nd Military Police Bn. Veterans Association

The 772nd MP Battalion held its 11th reunion in Mobile, AL. The attendees shared many memories of their time in Korea.

Joel Davis was elected President of the Association for a second time. Joe Kelly will be the host for next year's reunion, which will be held in Milwaukee, WI.

Davis noted that, "We are always looking for other members of the 772nd to join us."

*Joel Davis, P.O. Box 342
Luckey, OH 43443-0342, (419) 833-1613,
jcdavis@wcnet.org*

772nd MP Battalion attendees in Mobile, AL



936th Field Artillery Battalion

Korean War veterans of the 936th FAB participated in a Korean War Veterans Remembrance Day at the Full Gospel Mission Church in Broken Arrow, OK, on June 24, 2006.

Korean churches in the Tulsa, OK, area sponsored the event to show their appreciation and to honor Americans who fought to defend South Korea from communist North Korea during the Korean War.

*Wayne Bohannon, 10617 East First Street
Tulsa, OK 74128-1403, (918) 437-5324*



936th FAB members at Broken Arrow get-together—all of whom are former northwest Arkansas residents now living in the Tulsa, OK, area (Front, L-R) Jim Durham, Jerry Fox, Doyle Hensley (Back, L-R) Jim Rakes, Tom Lierly, Wayne Bohannon, Ken Hulse, Bob Daugherty

Herschell and DeBlasi

After reconnecting via the Korean War Project website, George Herschell of Webster, New York, came to pay his buddy Tony DeBlasi of West Newfield, Maine a visit on Tuesday, June 13, 2006. The two hadn't seen each other since they were in Korea, 53 years ago! They and their wives had a great time, comparing notes and enjoying each other's company.

The vets had a lot to talk about, not all of it centered on the embattled hills and rice paddies of Korea during a mid-century "forgotten war" that nearly triggered World War III. George is a retired architectural artist and sports car illustrator, and Tony is a retired writer. They have both raised families and kept active in their vocations and avocations.

George is U.K. Liaison Officer of the MG Car Club (Western New York Centre) and keeps and drives three vintage MGs, which he maintains in mint condition. Tony, who has written a book on the Korean War that is being entered in the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project, is organist at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Sanbornville, N.H. Both men, proud to have served in Korea over half a century ago, are 75 this year.

The photo of Herschell and DeBlasi was taken by Linda Norwald, who keeps a bulletin board of local veterans on display at her post office in West Newfield, Maine.



Korean War veterans George Herschell and Tony DeBlasi at the West Newfield Post Office's Vets Bulletin Board

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.

SEPTEMBER

Society of the Third Infantry Division (including attached units in war and peace time), 5-10 Sept., Nashville, TN, Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel, (615) 259-2000, \$89 per night plus tax. POC: John Shirley, (925) 447-2256, jbs Shirley@comcast.net, or Linda Irvine, (360) 663-2521, info@theReunionBrat.com

300th Armored Field Artillery Bn., 7-10 Sept., Little America, Cheyenne, WY. POC: Dick Thune, 515 2nd Street, S.E., Plainview, MN 55964, (507) 534-3822, or Don Crawford, 13818 Illinois Highway 9, Good Hope, IL 61438, (309) 456-3992. (The 300th Armored Field Artillery Association is seeking members who served in the Korean War, 1950-53. Our Association is active, with "Cowboy Cannoneer" newsletters and reunions every other year.)

3650th Basic Military Training and Indoctrination Wing, Sampson Air Force Base Veterans Association, 7-10 Sept., Sampson State Park, Romulus, NY. POC: Chip Phillips, P.O. Box 331, Williamsville, NY 14231-0331, (716) 633-1119, (716) 633-9118 (fax), chip34@aol.com

75th Air Depot Wing, (Korea 1952-55), 7-10 Sept., Springfield, IL. POC: Walter Walko, 13616 Paradise Villas Grove, Colorado Springs CO 80921, (719) 488-1106, wawlaw2@juno.com

630th Engineers, Light Equipment Co., Korea, 10-13 Sept, Branson, MO, Fall Creek Inn. POC: Oscar Viehland, 9587 Woodland Rd, Robertsville, MO 63072, (636) 285-4402, ogvccv@ruralcom.net

USS Sphinx (ARL-24), 11-14 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Frank Ironi, 954 Lilac Drive, Sauk Center, MN 56378, (612) 352-3271

538th Ordnance MAM Co., (Korea, 1950-55), 11-14 Sept., Carol Stream, IL. POC: Ann McMahon, (630) 933-9901.

532nd EB & SR, 11-16 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Jake Harding (913) 362-0941 or Billy D. Gray, 6671 Nightingale Rd., Okawville, IL 62271-1755, (618) 243-6197.

USS Essex (CV/CVA/CSV 9), 11-17 Sept., Johnson City, TN. POC: Bruce Sims, (770) 707-1812, essex9@bellsouth.net, website is www.ussexexc9.org

17th Infantry Regiment, 13-16 Sept., Colorado Springs, CO. POC: Donald Shook, (724) 367 - 1096, deshook@7thininfantry.com (Association and Reunion open to anyone who served with the 17th during times of war and of peace. Family members welcome.)

USS Weiss (APD 135), 13-17 Sept., Nashville, TN. POC: Jim Morton, 5205 Route 219, Great Valley, NY 14741, (716) 945-3679, apd135@yahoo.com

USS Soley (DD 707), 13-18 Sept., San Antonio, TX. POC: Eugene Blum, 6749 San Benito Way, Buena Park, CA 90620-3741, (714) 527-4925, eblum@juno.com, or visit website at www.usssoley.org

VS-931 & VS-20 Antisubmarine Squadrons, 14-16 Sept., Nashville, TN. POC: J. Robert Wagner, 2996 Runnymede Drive, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-7179, (610) 277-4374 (Phone & Fax), bobwagner@msn.com

51st Fighter Interceptor Wing (Korean War), 14-16 Sept, Marietta, GA, Crowne Plaza. POC: J. E. Young, (770) 435-5705, jeyoung65@aol.com, or 51st FIWA website, www.keithfannon.netfirms.com

999th AFA (Armored Field Artillery) Bn., "Never Die," Korea, 1950-54, 15-17 Sept., Romulus, MI, Marriott Detroit Airport. POC: Bernie Jones, 2317 Carleton West Rd., Carleton, MI 48117, (734) 654-6915, oldred49@provide.net

A-1-1 (Korea 1950-53), 17-20 Sept., San Francisco, CA (Marines Memorial Club & Hotel). POC: Dick Wilson, 31852 Via Puntero, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675, (949) 473-7186.

1st Radio Squadron, Mobile/6920th (Korea, 1950-55, USAFSS), 17-20 Sept., Colorado Springs, CO. POC: Phil Perry, (717) 545-0974, perryper101@aol.com.

40th Inf. Div., 160th Regt., Co. A (Korea), 18-20 Sept., Branson, Mo., Settle Inn. POC: Roger Lueckenhoff, 208 Steeplechase Rd., Rolla, MO. 65401-3784, (573) 364-4145, lueck@fidnet.com

72nd Engineer Combat Co., 18-22 Sept., Pigeon Forge, TN, Holiday Inn Express (call 888-774-4366 for reservations at group rate of \$52.99). POC: Robert C. Mount, 6518 Fish Hatchery Rd., Thurmont, MD 21788, (301) 898-7952 (Ph), (301) 898-5549 (Fax), taxpreper@aol.com

44th Engineer Battalion Association (Broken Heart Battalion), 19-23 Sept., Fort Carson/Colorado Springs, CO. POC: Lt Col [Ret] Ken Jobe, (757) 428-0328, kejo425@AOL.com, or Bernie Resnick, (603) 434-6406, BigBMR@AOL.com, for registration, reservation, and membership information. The gathering is open to all Korean War, post-Korean war, Vietnam, and Iraqi War members of the Association,

as well as supporting and associated units.

6147th TAC CON GP (and all units thereof), the Mosquito Assn, Korea, 19-25 Sept., Atlanta, GA. POC: Dick Souza, (978) 453-3887, skeeterloc@aol.com

USS Colonial (LSD 18), 20-23 Sept., Gaithersburg, MD. POC: Loren Kerby, 3013 Emerald Ct., Platte City, MO 64079, (816) 858-3158, kerbyplatte@aol.com

VMF 311 (K-3 Korea), 20-24 Sept., San Diego, CA. POC: Jim Galchick, (330) 337-9383, jimsue@raex.com (Any member of VMF/ VMA 311, any year, any place)

USS Hawkins (DD/DDR 873), 20-24, Columbia, SC. POC: John Chapman, 3701 Plantation Blvd., Leesburg, FL 34748, (352) 326-2800.

11th Engineer Bn. Assn. (all years), 21-25 Sept., Santa Fe, NM. POC: Fred Boelsche, 54 Edstan Drive, Moonachie, NJ 07074-1239, (201) 641-5828, FredB11thEng@hotmail.com

GHQ 1st Raider Co/X Corps Sp Opns Co, 20-22 Sept., Spring Green, WI, Round Barn Lodge. POC: Robert Graves, (608) 588-2951

92nd Armored Field Artillery Bn. (Korea), 21-24 Sept., Bridgeton, MO, Crown Plaza Hotel, St. Louis, MO Airport. POC: Guy McMenemy, (281) 469-2819, BraveCannons@sbcglobal.net

369th E.A.S.R., All companies, officers, enlisted men, Korea (1950-53), 22-24 Sept., Port Angeles, WA. POC: John Singhose, 57584 Highway 112, Port Angeles, WA 98363, (360) 457-5944

712th TROB (Korean War), 24-27 Sept., Evansville, IN. POC: Robert G Shannon, 17 Sandpiper Dr, Whispering Pines, NC 28327-9393, (910) 949-3920, rgshannon@ac.net

86th Ordnance Co. Assc., 27-29 Sept., Cumberland/LaVale, MD. POC: Richard Schildbach, 101 South Whiting Street, Alexandria, VA 22304, (703) 370-2707

USS Eversole (DD 789), 27 Sept. - 1 Oct., San Diego, CA. POC: Tom Trainham, 218 Whistle Way, Locust Grove, GA, (770) 320-7511, tjt1958@yahoo.com

45th In. Div. ("Thunderbirds"), 28 Sept. - 1 Oct., POC: Raul Trevino, 2145 NE Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111, (210) 681-9134

Co., C, 89th Tank Battalion (Korea, 1950-53), 28 Sept., - 2 Oct., Erie, Pennsylvania. POC: Richard Vesely, 16263 Big Turtle Dr., NE, Bemidji, Minnesota 56601 (218) 243-2005, vesfam@hotmail.com

26th Inf. Scout Dog Platoon, 29 Sept.-1 Oct., Sturgis, SD. POC: Robert E. Fickbohm, 18113 Winkler Rd., Newell, SD 57760

Chanute Air Force Personnel (Military and Civilian, all ranks), 29-30 Sept., Chanute Air Museum, Rantoul, IL. POC: Don Weckhorst (217) 379-3253, or Dale Lyons (217) 892-4861.

OCTOBER

Baker Co., 15th Regt., 3rd Div. (Korean War), 1-4 Oct., Ft. Benning, GA, Holiday Inn Columbus North, 2800 Manchester Expressway, Columbus GA 31904, \$79.00 plus 14% tax per night, (800) 465-4329, ask for unit rate. POC: George Ertel, (423) 496-7571, gertel@bellsouth.net, or Bob Kent, (299) 334-5283, bgnk2@yahoo.com

194TH Combat Engr. Bn., All companies (Korea 1951-1954), 2-5 Oct., Laughlin, NV, The Ramada Inn. POC: (east coast) Bob (Sandy) Sanford, 432 Walnut Hill Rd, Woonsocket, RI 02895, (401) 766-8262, boblorsan2@aol.com. (west coast) Bill Alexander, P.O. Box 5036, Blue Jay, CA 92316, (909) 337-3796

13th Engineer Combat Battalion, 5-8 Oct., St. Louis, MO. POC: Edward Larkin, (502) 231-3552, eflarkin@earthlink.net

1st Field Artillery Observation Battalion, 5-8 Oct., Springfield, IL, Northfield Inn, 3280 Northfield Dr. POC: Ralph Mueller, (724) 348-5359, or John Palla (708) 246-2140.

Co. "F" 279th Inf., 45th Div., 5-8 Oct., Branson, MO. POC: John Hill, 3419 Dobbs Farm Rd., Kinston, NC 28504-8923, (252) 522-1310, hillaud@msn.com

USS Bayfield (APA 33), 5-9 Oct., Nashville, TN, Sheraton Music City Hotel. POC: Florence Tarantino, (908) 604-2688, George Brewer, (772) 288-1526, or Art Nelson at artbets@cox.net

1st Ordnance MM Co. (WWII/Korea/to Present), 12-14 Oct., Warner Robbins, GA. POC: Bobby Lamb, (912) 836-5313 or George Kvet, (330) 854-9754

160th Inf. 40th Div. (Korea, 1950 to 1953), 12-15 Oct., Nashville, TN. POC: M/Sgt. Duane E. Whaley, (951) 245-9726, or David Mays (256) 766-3773, docmays@bellsouth.net

44th Inf. Div. (All units assigned to it in Korean War, 1952-53), 13-15 Oct., Peoria,

IL, Holiday Inn City Centre. POC: Howard Ferrill, 8902 Windsor Ct., Granbury, TX 76049, (817) 579-1608, hmf12@juno.com, Charles W. Munie, 465 S. Linden, Decatur IL 62522, (217) 423-6265, camunie@aol.com, or Duane Green, 1616 W. Queens Ct., Peoria, IL 61614, (309) 691-8341, dgreen6357@aol.com

Veterans of the Korean War (All branches are welcome), 18-21 Oct., Virginia Beach, VA. POC: Floyd D. Newkirk, (757) 340-9801, fnewkirk1@cox.net. Website, www.VKWR.org

32nd Inf. Regt. Assn. (The "Queen's Own"), 18-22 Oct., Charleston, SC. POC: Helen Dyckson, P. O. Box 5930, Spring Hill, FL 34611-5930, (727)697-2135, helend@verizon.net

"L" Co., 279th Infantry, 45th Division, 26-29 Oct., eastern Oklahoma, Western Hills Lodge. POC: Paul Elkins at (907)260-6612; e-mail p.s.elkins@att.net

USS Algol (AKA 54), 18-21 Oct., Washington DC. POC: Art Nelson, artbets@cox.net, Tony Soria, (209) 722-6005, Ron De Witt, aka54ussalgol@aol.com, or Bob Valdepena, s1027@gvtc.com

Army Security Agency Korea (ASA Korea) Veterans, 19-22 Oct., King of Prussia, PA, Radisson Valley Forge Hotel, 1160 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA 19406 Information is available on our web site, www.asakorea.org. POC: Rev. Charles "Preacher" Knappenberger (215) 918-2992, preacherk@aol.com, or Allen Koehler (610) 584-5379, tennislob31@comcast.net.

106th Ordnance Co., (HM) (Korea) 25-27 Oct., Branson, MO. POC: Paul Sloan, 5962 Farm Road 117, Willard, MO (417) 742-2410, rjweeks@hotmail.com

279 Inf. Regt., 45th Inf. Div., & 45th BDE (All Wars), 27-29 Oct.. POC: Reunion Committee, P. O. Box 1413, Miami, OK 74355-1413, (918) 542-6782.

Co. "B," 279th Inf. Regt., 45th Inf. Div. (Korea), 27-29 Oct.. Wagoner, OK, Western Hills Guest Ranch, P.O. Box 509, (800) 368-1486. POC: John A. Harshbarger, 9717 Richmond Rd., Glencoe, OK 74032-0509, (580) 669-2920.

NOVEMBER

Baker Company 21st Inf Bn, USMCR (Bayonne Naval Base 1947-1950) 11 Nov., 2006 Reunion and unveiling of Memorial, POC: John Sinnicki, (609) 698-7534, veteran2@comcast.net

Korea Task Force 2000 (Reunion/Marine Corps Birthday celebration), 6-11 Nov., Kanehoe Bay, HI. POC: Gene Richter, 16529 Carriage View Court, Grover, MO 63040, (636) 458-4168, r1137993@aol.com Reunion includes a visit to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Engineer OCS Association, 8-13 Nov., Las Vegas, NV. POC: E. T. Mealing, (404) 231-3402, TEOCSA@comcast.net

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Thanks For The Shoes

By Fred J. Yondorf

I was in Korea from January 1953 to March 1954, where I was assigned to Medical Co., 14th Inf. Regt., 25th Div. I was also assigned as the medic for the Tank Company & Item Company during my tour of duty.



We had a Korean house-boy at the Medical Company HQ, named Kim Won Sik. I had written to my wife Dorothy her to tell her that Kim needed shoes, which she sent to him. He wrote a letter of thanks to her for the shoes, and to tell her that I was okay.

Shortly thereafter, the ROK picked him up for military duty. Here is a copy of the letter—mostly unedited. The letter is not legible in its entirety, so the editor guessed at a few words.

Dear Sir,

How is going about today lately? I am fine every time. I hope you are fine everything.

My name is Kim Won Sik and my friend with your husband is a very fine. Don't worry about your husband.

Because I am Korean boy don't I press on clothes and I work very well. But I do promise of you that I do self best I can take care of your husband.

Do you remember if you send me shoes. I been get it two hours ago, also. I am better off thanks to you.

I couldn't write letter much good. Big pardon me please.

I say good bye to you. As soon as you get this letter please answer to me. I will write to next time.

Kim Won Sik

Well, the letter may not have been perfect, but the thought was sincere. And, the thanks fit those that Koreans have offered U.S. forces for over a century—whether it's for a pair of shoes or their freedom.

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

THE REVISIT OF A KOREAN WAR VETERAN

MAY 2006
KOREA/CHINA

James and Charlotte Powell,
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The ready room was a small bar room in the middle of the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in downtown Los Angeles on May 13, 2006. We were about to embark on a trip that we highly recommend for anybody who wants to compare the South Korea of today and the one we saw 50 years ago. And, the side trip to China is enlightening as well. The Revisit Korea tour we took was to honor the veterans of the Korean War.

The South Korean government has asked any veteran of that time to return and be awarded a peace medal. It is given to each veteran who survived the war, because the people of Korea want to show their appreciation. The combat veteran will be given five days of touring the

country in which he spent part of his life. He will be put up in the best hotels, fed for the duration of the tour, and treated to free attendance in his honor at banquets.

One of the events the organizers planned for the last evening meal before returning from Beijing, China, was held upstairs in a fine restaurant. There were three tables of ten members each. The service included 21 courses of exotic Chinese foods for each table. Wine was served, and toasts were about to be made, when the electricity was shut off!

No problem for Bob Perry, the tour guide. He went to the management with a cigarette lighter and set up candles. So, the dinner by candle light was complete to the delight of everyone.

But, we digress. The highlight of the tour was, and is, the Korean experience.

The hotels are top of the line: no cheap locations. Places were coordinated, and they welcomed the veterans in grand style. The meals were provided without hesitation. Breakfast was buffet style, and box lunches were provided for us when we were out on tour. Dinner was on one's own. It might include a KFC or McDonald's, or any of the local snack stands that are available. Meal tickets were issued and could be used or not.

The weather cooperated and was better than expected. Rain from a passing storm was brief. At times it was foggy or cloudy, but the weather was nice overall.



Korean Military Academy cadets assemble for the President of Korea at Taejon



Cadet flag leaders at Taejon



A KWVA group on a Revisit Korea tour

A North Korean observation post at the 38th Parallel

Some extra activity was available at local theater, where acrobats performed or an opera was enjoyed by some at their own expense. The museums showing the past war activities and our trip to the Demilitarized Zone, where the tensions of the North Koreans can be felt as they pursue their own way, were stimulating.

The Incheon Landing Museum, which tells the story of the manner in which South Korea was saved, was impressive. Much of the old Korea which was smashed by the war has been obliterated by the high rise developments, where 42-story apartments now stand. The veterans were amazed that there had been such a drastic industrial comeback from such a poor beginning.

The Japanese had subjected the Korean people to years of oppression. Before that, there were other oppressive governments. So, now that the people have been granted

their own direction of governing themselves, they have become peacefully industrial and have shown they can do well.

The reasons for honoring the Korean War veterans are many, but the improvement of life is what they are very proud of. It can be traced back to the efforts of guys

who had never heard of Korea or its people. Many died then—and have died since—to secure the peace. The United Nations Command that is still assigned to counter the threat is symbolic of the real threat to the peace.

Continuing on the tour of South Korea, the group attended the Korean War ceme-

The Honor Guard at the tomb of former Korean President Syngman Rhee



The Korean War Memorial



Honor ceremony at the Korean Memorial

tery and museum. Men who died for freedom each have their name placed on the museum walls, where fresh flowers are placed daily to commemorate the heroic efforts of these patriots. The monuments and statues reflect in marble the manner in which men from South Korea died in the cause of freedom.

One of the inspiring tours presented to the Korean War veterans was a trip to view the site of the Inchon Landing, which was directed by General McArthur in 1950. The vista and the surrounding monuments in honor of the divisions and their men tells the story of the invasion which cut off the Chinese and North Korean warriors as they attempted to take possession of South Korea.

After we spent five glorious days visiting Korea and being awarded the peace medal from the Republic of Korea, the KWVA President personally thanked the veterans, toasted them, and wished them well.

We were advised by our tour guide, Bob Perry, that we would move to Beijing, China. Some of the group would not be taking the trip over for the five days that had been scheduled. Only those who had signed on to make the additional trip would be going. This reduced the group to 23 members, while the rest of the entourage would be returning to the states.

It was a teary-eyed group that took their leave. They had been through a very closely knit and well organized tour, up to this point. But Bob Perry knew what steps to take, and the China group headed for the airport, while the others left for the USA.

According to plan, the 23-person entourage boarded a Korean aircraft for the short flight to Beijing, China, where we were scheduled for five nights at the Grand View Garden Hotel, one of the best in that city. After our stay, the group would return to the USA.

After being installed in our beautiful hotel and exchanging our money into the Chinese Yuan, we boarded a big, beautiful bus. The first stop was Tian'anmen Square. The huge acreage of paved asphalt covers such a parade ground it makes quite an impression. Here is where so much of China's history has been paraded for the Emperor of China, before the Ming

Dynasty, as well as for the Imperial Dynasty following each emperor.

Every building and every bridge has a meaning in the minds of the Chinese. Each one is sacred to these people, and they want to hang onto the past.

Chairman Mao is still revered for bringing the country into the 21st century. The wars, the economy, and the very existence of the peasants have been dependent upon the whims of this great man of Chinese history. For example, there is no more Communist Red China, for it has been replaced by another, more capitalistic economy. Still, the Chinese are very happy, gracious, and friendly. More importantly, they recognize the value of the tourist!

Everywhere, there are flowers in very well-kept gardens. All slums, decaying buildings—and even the poor, of which there are thousands—have been placed behind ten-foot-high walls. There are those who can afford bicycles, and they make a living selling their wares from them. Then there those who drive nice cars. They honk their horns and speed around anyone in the way. However, we observed very few actual stops by police. There were no rusted-out vehicles or run-down bicycles, though repair shops abound.

Many KFCs or McDonalds and a Wal-Mart have began services. Downtown Beijing has 8-lane traffic streets with malls as nice as those in New York—and they are kept as clean as the government can keep them.

One of the spectacular tours to a jade manufacturing plant was made. Here, jade of every color is brought in from the mountains of China. Of course, they wanted to sell everyone on the many tours everything they had. Many visitors come from all around the globe, so they were ready for the exchange of tourist money.

A trip was scheduled to a school for the poor elementary grades. The Chinese government pays for the educational administration, although supplies and food must be arranged by the people. It was very clean and orderly, and the teachers are well trained.

The rickshaws, with their wild drivers, took each tour that came by, and there was a constant schedule. They drove us to a

Chinese lunch and a home, where we were treated as royalty to another rice and meat meal in the tradition of the common Chinese. The houses were close enough so that one had to turn sideways to get through, although the drivers made it just fine. The tours were a way of life for the men and their families. Many were single, but many were fathers.

All along the way the workers were cleaning the restrooms, the drains, and the walkways. The restaurants were especially clean. The waitresses and the men were in the early 20s; the managers were in their 30s, and well trained.

The Great Wall of China is, of course, a big attraction. Traveling by bus, we were advised by our tour guide as we approached that we would be going into a higher elevation. That meant we would be thinking we were on lower ground than we actually would be. So, we had to be aware that the breathing would become more difficult, and the steps would take more effort than before. He was right, of course.

Many others who went before us could be seen resting. Those older than 40 would be sitting this one out. Some of our group made the effort to climb higher, but most were glad to make the restrooms and observe the beauty of such an old wall. The history alone was something to behold.

There, as always, were many shops where people tried to unload their merchandise on the tourists. It was, like everything else, a tourist trap. However, travelers from around the globe made it interesting to converse with others who came from England, Australia, Germany, or elsewhere. These folks, after all, had the same tourism thoughts that we had. So, as we gazed at the Great Wall in amazement, we were all impressed.

It is my fervent hope that you enjoyed this tale of an excursion taken by a group of old Korean War guys and their wives.

We returned to the good old USA and were impressed that we had been gone and seen so many things in the short span of two weeks. We recommend that a trip be taken whenever the opportunity arises. Perhaps then you will realize, as we have, that we should all make love, not war.

A Joyous Gathering

CID 259/Department of Indiana

Here in Indianapolis we have two South Korean churches whose members have participated in Chapter 259's programs as well as our Department of Indiana's Christmas events. Department and chapter members were invited to attend one of the churches' biggest holidays on New Year's Day.

It is one of Korea's special events, during which the youngsters pay homage to their elders. This one was put on with the seniors' help; the food served was endemic to the Korean culture. We veterans in attendance were honored by speeches—and by everyone there.

A while ago I received a letter from Mr. Kyung Ho Kim of the Korean Seniors Alliance in which he enclosed the letter below. It demonstrates the close ties between the Koreans and the veterans who helped them win and maintain their freedom—and reminds us of how special that bond is to all of us.

Don Ellwood
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The Letter, by Bo Myung Park

19 March 2005

As we encounter and learn new things, it is only natural that we gradually forget what happened in the past. However, no matter how much time has gone by, the individual heritage and our own nation's history should not be forgotten. Rather, it should be taught and passed on to our next generations.

Just as a person cannot exist without one's ancestors, how could a nation exist without its people? The Republic of Korea (ROK), one of the smallest nations on the earth, was big news throughout the world when the ideological differences between the North and the South resulted in an unforgettable event for us called the Korean War.

Then, we should also not forget the numerous soldiers of the United Nations who have sacrificed their blood for this small, almost unheard of, nation. Those of us who live in the United States often run into older gentlemen who cheerfully greet us with a few Korean words such as "An-nyung-ha-se-yo" (How are you?), "ban-ga-sum-ni-da" (Glad to meet you), "kimchee ma-shi-suh" (Kimchee tastes good), "Ja-ahl-ga-she-yo" (Good-bye), or "ah-jum-ma" (Lady; a title used for females).

Who are these men? Most of them are veterans in their 80s who fought in the Korean War in their young 20s! What is their correlation to us? They are the patrons who helped us in the war. And, as the Korean old saying goes, they are "Pyung-hwa-eh Sado," or the Apostles of Peace!

On March 19th, 2005, the Korean Seniors Association of Indiana (Kyung Ho Kim, the president) invited the Council

General of ROK in Chicago, Illinois, Mr. Wok Kim, and jointly held a memorial with the Korean War Veterans Association of Indiana at the American Legion Building in Fishers, Indiana. Inside this large hall, there were three small palm-sized Korean flags as a stage centerpiece. Even though these flags were mistakenly hung upside down, everyone seemed pleased to see them.

For some, it may have reminded them of their comrades who fought in the war together. The chaplain prayed after saluting the Stars and Stripes of the American flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, as the name of each veteran was called, each person stood up in their fragile body, but answered with a saluting hand and firm voice.

Witnessing their presence was humbling and regretful after forgetting them for so long. They sacrificed their youth as they fought for a small unknown Asian country for the sake of liberty! They truly are the Apostles of Peace! Even at this time, how many American soldiers are shedding their blood in the unfamiliar territory of Iraqi deserts, fighting for freedom? And how many of their families are praying earnestly for their safe return?

The Council General, Mr. Kim, offered his gratitude to the veterans and thanked members of the Korean Seniors Association of Indiana for inviting him to the memorial service. Also, he commented on the positive outlook on a closer alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea, the Korean government's effort in pursuing the peaceful coexistence between the North and the South, and the positive progress being made to end North Korea's nuclear warfare.

I came to stand on one corner of the front stage where my eyes were gazing at the Korean flag framed on one wall. On the top was written, "The Korean War, June 1950-1953." At the bottom was written "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE." If we realize that the freedom we have gained was by the sacrifice of many soldiers, shouldn't we bow down to them and show respect as we do to our parents on New Year's Day?

Ms. Duk Hee Park, a yoga instructor and a choreographer, received a big round of applause for performing a dance representing Korean liberation from Japan, and the United States and the United Nations bringing freedom and democracy after the Korean War. But, sadly, Korea still remains a divided nation.

Also, a group of young people from a local Korean church sang traditional Korean songs, "Ah-ri-rang", "Hyang-soo," and "Jun-wu-ga," as well as "The Army goes rolling along" and "America the Beautiful." There was a large cake decorated with the American and the Korean flags, as well as authentic Korean food and rice cakes, which we all shared together.

It truly was a joyous gathering of thanksgiving and remembering our old friends and allies!

Translated by Kyung Ah Park



The Illinois Korean War Memorial, Springfield, IL

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