

Tell America

44 – Missouri #1

Your Tell America update article in The Graybeards Nov - Dec 2006 issue was of great interest to me. I am chairman of Missouri Chapter #1 Tell America Program, and have been since 1995. We started our program in 1990. Mr. David Depew was at that time the architect of the National Tell America Program and Tell America National Committee Chairman.

We now have 13 to 15 members who participate in our presentation. We usually have 2-4 members in each program, except on Veterans Day. On Veterans Day we get as many of our members who can attend to spend the whole day at a local high school, and we have veterans from all wars in each classroom of all social studies and history classes. We usually speak to about one thousand students on that day alone.

When the posters came out in 2000, they were a big help. We don't feel we have time to show a video. We think that the more time spent telling our stories, the more interest we stimulate.

I send a copy of the enclosed letter to all the schools in our area at the beginning of each school year. Once we visit a school we are almost always invited back year after year. Most schools have more videos of our program to be used in the future.

To put the Korean War in perspective, we start by giving a look back at the end of WWII and how Korea was split by the Allied forces of Russia and the U.S. North and South, respectively, and how evident it became early

on that Russia wanted to spread communism in the Far East. We then talk about how Russia pulled out of the U.N. and would not allow North Korea to have free elections like South Korea was allowed to do by the U.S. This sets the stage as to why the Korean War began.

Our chapter was very busy between 2000 and 2003, when many museum committees and university professors were interested in hearing first hand from Korean War veterans. They liked hearing our feelings about our country entering the war, our thoughts about the outcome, and the long-term effects that the war had on us.

Our program has reached more than 20,000 students, several hundred teachers, and dozens of college and university professors. We are all proud to have been veterans of the Korean War and feel rewarded from our participation in the Tell America Program.

As you can see from the pictures, we try to include the Korean American Society in some of our school programs. We also are involved in several social activities each year with the society. They are very aware of what the United States did for their country and are very generous to Korean War veterans.

Because of the lack of information in our history books, it is our responsibility to reach as many people as we can. Over the past ten years—and especially since the flood of information that came out at our 50th Anniversary—there seems to be more knowledge about the war.



Dwight Henderson (C), CID 44, speaks to students in Honors History class at Lafayette High School, St. Louis County, as Harry Dietz (L) and Kimmie Foster (R), President of the Korean-American Association, listen



Nick Zak, CID 44 member, speaks to students in Honors History class at Lafayette High School, St. Louis County, as (L-R) Harry Dietz, Dwight Henderson and Kimmie Foster look on

2006 was a culture year for the Korean people. We were invited to be color guard at one of their large entertainment programs. We joined with Missouri Chapters 3, 4, and 6 to form a 20-man color guard. You wouldn't think a bunch of old guys could look so sharp. The entertainers were from South Korea and traveled to many cities throughout the U.S.

This past fall the U.S. Ambassador to Korea and the

Korean Ambassador to the U.S. were in town at the same time. Five of our members and spouses were invited to attend a discussion. We were brought up to date on the developments of the politics, and their thoughts about whether North and South Korea will ever unite under democracy. They are always concerned about China. This program was held at the University Club in Clayton, Missouri. About three hundred people were in attendance.

As you can see, by being involved and active in the Tell America Program, we are included in many other activities in the St. Louis area. If your chapter is not participating in Tell America now, please start. Our students

are always interested and have lots of questions. You will have fun and feel proud and rewarded.

Dwight Henderson
4757 Cactus Wren Court
St. Louis, MO 63128
(314) 892-7110




Kimmie Foster (R) answers questions from Lafayette High School students while Nick Zak, Harry Dietz, and Dwight Henderson (L-R) listen as attentively as the class does



Lafayette High School Honors History students offer undivided attention to CID 44 Tell America presenters and Kimmie Foster



CID 44 members (L-R) Nick Zak, Harry Dietz, and Dwight listen to Kimmie Foster speak to students in Honors History class at Lafayette High School, St. Louis County, MO



ROCKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT
Growing Together,
Learning for Life

Partners in Education
Lafayette High School
17050 Clayton Road
Wildwood, MO 63011-1794
636-458-7200
636-458-7219 Fax
E-Mail: lshd7@rockwood.k12.mo.us

Joan Pischel
School/Community Facilitator

March 23, 2004


Dwight Henderson
4757 Cactus Wren Ct.
St. Louis, Missouri 63128-2308

Dear Dwight,

On behalf of our students, teachers and the Partners in Education Department, we would like to thank you for your valuable contribution to our curriculum enrichment program. It is exciting for everyone involved when an expert from the community can share in the educational process.

Introducing "real world" expertise and timely information makes learning come alive! Through the many efforts of dedicated professionals like you, our students have benefited from unique learning experiences that reinforce classroom studies.

Please accept this 2003-04 Certificate of Appreciation with our thanks. We are most grateful for the generous gift of time and knowledge that you shared with our students. More importantly, you have made a very positive impact in the education of our students. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Joan Pischel
Lafayette High School/Community Facilitator
Partners in Education

enclosure

Letter of Appreciation to CID 44 for Tell America presentation

270 – SAM JOHNSON [TX]

The Chapter conducted an all-day "Tell America" presentation on February 7, 2007 to American History students at Plano (TX) Senior High School. The Chapter initiated the informative program to counter a state-adopted textbook author's claim

that the Korean War was a "useless war."

At the end of each class session, the vets lauded the students for their extreme interest and insightful questions.

Jerry Karsten, via email

Keith Fannon (standing) and Richard Sanchez, of CID 270, at Tell America presentation at Plano (TX) Senior High School



Continued ➤

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

Chapter members John Laura and John Reidy spoke at East Syracuse High on 2 Feb. 2007. They showed some pictures taken during the Korean War and related their experiences about

what they did in Korea. Reidy was an infantry soldier; Laura was a dentist

*John Laura,
jlaura1@twcny.rr.com
(via email)*



Left, John Laura shows illustrations and at right, John Reidy shows some of his souvenirs to East Syracuse Minoa Middle School students.

Thank you for coming and teaching us about the in sides of the wars. I learned a lot of thing about what happen. The small thing and the big things.

Not only I want to thank you for coming and telling me what happen in the war. I want to thank you for fighting in the war. Ever one who went and fought in the war is a hero of mine, because I have a place to live and a place were I can call mine.

Thank You

**Dwight Henderson
1st Vice Commander – Missouri Chapter #1
Chairman of Tell America Program**

**4757 Cactus Wren Court
St. Louis, MO 63128**

To: Head of History Department

Good Morning,

One of the most important conflicts in America's struggle against international tyranny was fought in Korea from 1950 to 1953. That war demonstrated the resolve of the United Nations and the United States to halt aggression against any free nation, throughout the world. It was the first step in the momentous collapse of the Soviet Union, which so affects all of our lives today.

Korea was the bloodiest war fought in America's 20th century! America's armed services lost over 54,000 killed in 37 months. You hear a lot about Viet Nam, where we lost 58,000 in 10 years of war. Compared to America's other wars, Korea cost more lives per day, kept our servicemen under continuous combat conditions longer, faced our troops with a larger number of enemy forces, and left us with a higher percentage of missing in action than any other war.

Unfortunately, as significant as the Korean War was to the history of the 20th century, today it is called "The Forgotten War." Coming so soon after World War II, Korea was never popular, and there was little coverage by the news media. People really preferred to get on with their lives.

However, we who fought in Korea believe it is vital to America's future generations to understand what happened there, the consequences of America's commitment, and what Korea's significance was to their lives ... today and tomorrow.

Accordingly, we have prepared a brief 50-60 minute program explaining the Korean War, and the sacrifices the youth of that day made in waging it. We supply first hand accounts by local combat veterans. We also include (for teachers) a hand out "A Brief History of the Korean War," which can be used to prepare lesson plans for history classes.

This program has been given at schools throughout America and is always received enthusiastically, as demonstrated by the interest and perceptive question students ask afterward

We'd very much appreciate the opportunity to tell your students about the Korean War and its impact. It could be presented at almost anytime, to single classes or in an assembly.

Thank you,

Dwight Henderson
Chairman, Tell America Program

John Laura received this letter after talking to the East Syracuse Minoa Middle School