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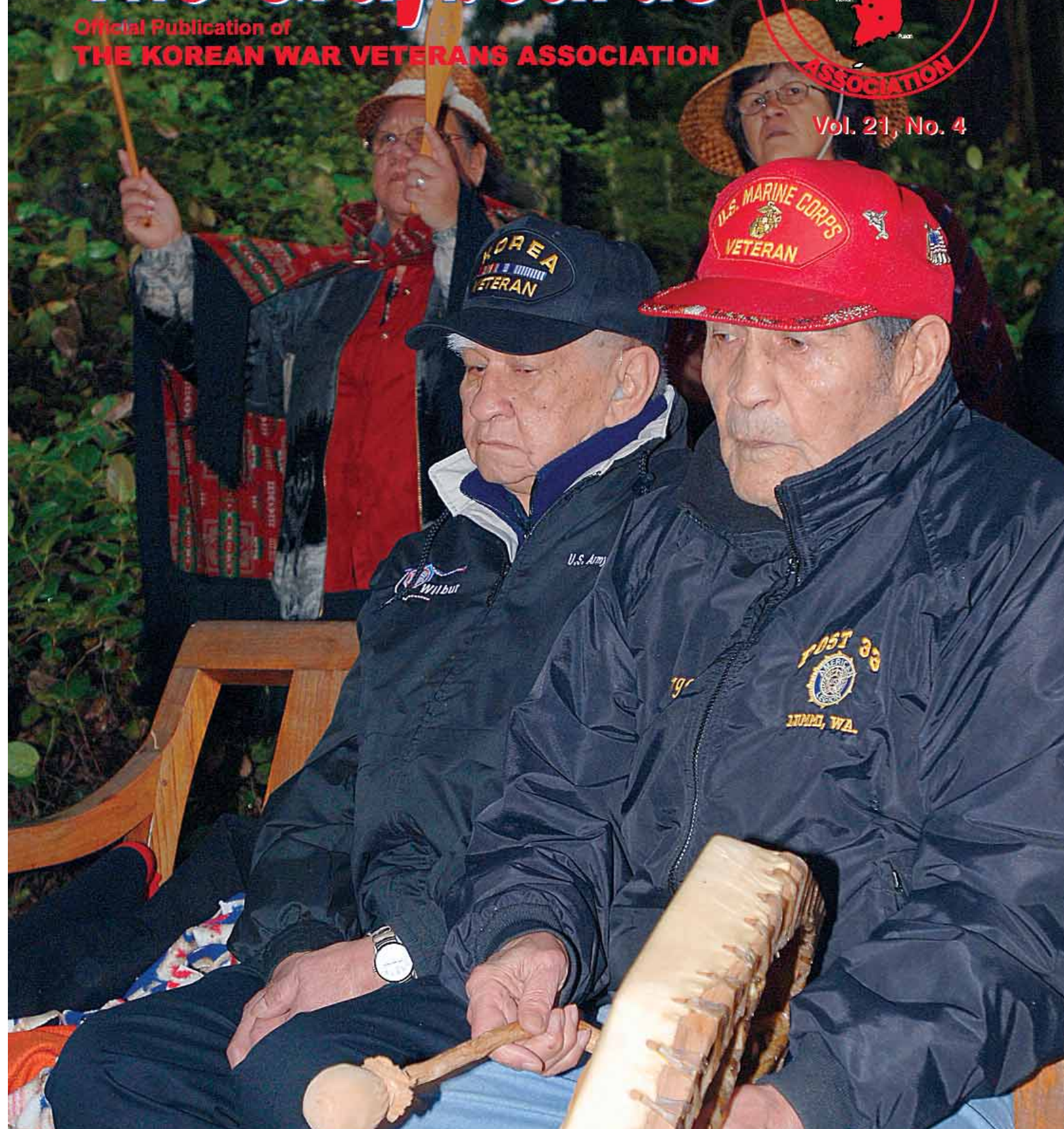
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The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



Vol. 21, No. 4



The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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



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on the KWVA website**



From the President

Louis T. Dechert

General B.B. Bell, the first UN/US Commander in Korea to join the KWVA, delivered

the Keynote Speech to The Gathering at Gaithersburg, Maryland, July 27, 2007. It is a pleasure to share them with our members in lieu of my usual remarks.

Sit back, close your eyes—but not your ears—and listen to General Bell as he gives us his impression of Korea and the Korean War, then and now.

Korean War Veterans Association Comments

By General B. B. Bell, 07-07-27

Who is from Indiana: anybody? South Korea is the size of Indiana: 11th largest economy in the world; 50 million citizens, and one of the great first-world countries of the 21st century; and maybe the greatest first-world country of the 21st century. Now I'm not from Indiana—I'm from Tennessee—but I don't know if the good citizens of Indiana can make the same claims that the good citizens of the Republic of Korea can make so well. It makes you wonder from where it all comes and what has made the wonderful people of the Republic of Korea do what they have done over the last 54 years.

Mr. Ambassador, thanks for joining us tonight. This guy walks in the great halls of the world. I've known him now for 1½ years now. He meets with Condoleezza Rice, President of the United States, President of the Republic of Korea, and everybody in between. He comes here tonight from the sincerity of his heart to thank you for what you have done for his nation and that's the man that is Ambassador Lee. God bless you and thank you, Sir.

If I might, and I don't mean to embarrass you or to highlight you anymore than we already have, Jeff [Brodeur], but I want you to know that when I learned of your son, Vincent [Mannion], and I don't know if you are all aware, but Vincent was griev-

ously injured in Iraq. He is struggling, like many of your friends and many of you did. Not only is Jeff struggling with that; I want you to know that we are all your team. We are all on his team and we always will be. No matter what happens in the future, you can count on your friends here, friends around the world, and you can absolutely count on the United States Army. We are thinking about you, and we are thinking about Vincent and we'll do whatever we can to make this better for you and we thank you for your sacrifice. Let's please give Jeff a hand.

General B. B. Bell, UN/US Commander in Korea

I had a tour in Korea as a young captain, back in the late 70s—I know you look at the late 70s and think you had been out of Korea for some time by then—but I was a captain then up there with the 2nd Infantry Division, up along the DMZ. And I learned a little bit about the ground. When I came back this time, I met a gentleman whom I didn't even know existed when I was in Korea earlier. But I learned quickly that this gentleman was to the Korean people as was General George Washington in many respects to us. That is a great general, General Paik, Sun Yup.

Some of you may have heard of him. He is quite alive and well today, like many of you. He was a young colonel, then brigadier general and ultimately the chief of staff of the Korean army during the Korean War. He asked me right after I got

there, if I would join him, just the two of us, on a terrain walk along the Imjin River. Some of you have been on the Imjin River, I'm sure, or over it a couple of times, going different directions.

So I said "of course" to this real national hero, General Paik Sun Yup. "Of course, sir. I will go with you to the Imjin River." So, we did that. He just held me by the hand and walked me across one of those first battlefields of the first four days of the north Korean assault into South Korea where his division, the First ROK Infantry Division, was committed to defend and delay. He said, "They came right through there."

And I said, "General Paik, what do you mean by 'they'?"

And he said, "It was the T-34 tanks. We couldn't stop them. We tried. We fought them as hard as we could. But we couldn't stop them."

He said, "The only thing that saved us, ultimately, was the American military." And he thanked me for that and I felt ashamed, because I wasn't there with General Paik, Sun Yup in 1950. In fact, I was three years old in 1950. But I could feel the spirit and the sense of pride and honor in this man for what the men of the United States military did for that nation in 1950 until 1953. When you have that kind of experience and then you come to an outfit like the Korean War Veterans Association here tonight and look in the eyes of these men who are here tonight, and their ladies, you can see back to 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955 for some of you—you can see right clear into those days. I can see it in your eyes and I'm honored to be here. And I'm privileged to be in your midst.

THE MISSION OF THE KWVA/USA

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PERPETUATE our Legacy
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MAINTAIN our Memorial
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Continued on page 8

COVER: Korean War veterans Claude Wilbur (L) and George Cagey (R) seated at ceremony as Mayor of Kwangju, South Korea, honors Native American veterans of Korean War. Photos by Tore Oftness, Bellingham, WA. Story on page 34



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Then And Now©

This is a philosophical question: do we really want to know what we looked like “then?” That question came to mind as I was looking at the “then” and “now” photos of some Korean War veterans.

For some people, looking at photos of themselves “then” as opposed to “now” is depressing. The photos of them when they were younger bring back memories of what they could do then that they cannot do (or won’t attempt to do) now. The thought of aging depresses them. That raises another question: why should that bother anybody? We all age: it is part of the natural process.

Other people look at “then” vs. “now” photos as a glimpse at triumph. They have won the battle (albeit temporarily) against life. They have survived the ravages of time and the inherent strife the battle entails, but they are secure in the knowledge that nobody lives forever. For this group, to be able to look at themselves “now” proves they have endured, whereas others have not.

That last thought is particularly enigmatic for veterans. They have dedicated parts of their lives to protecting their fellow citizens’ freedoms. Some did it willingly (read enlisted). Others did it unwillingly (read drafted). In either case, some paid the ultimate price. These heroes gave up their “thens”—and their “nows”—so the rest of us could enjoy ours. We are still here physically! They are still here as well—but only in memory, which is scant solace for the loved ones they left behind. But, does it matter whether our presence is physical or spiritual, then or now?

When you stop to think about it, what



LEFT: Me Then

RIGHT: Me Now (With my wife, who always looks as young as she did “then”)

For some people, looking at photos of themselves “then” as opposed to “now” is depressing. The photos of them when they were younger bring back memories of what they could do then that they cannot do (or won’t attempt to do) now.

really matters is not then or now. What is important is “here.” We are here now. We have spent our “then.” That is the essence of life. We are born, we live, we are replaced, and we die.

E. B. White made that point in his essay, “Once More to the Lake,” in which he wrote about a trip he and his son took to a lake in Maine. (Forgive me for sounding like a college professor, but that is what I was “then.” I am not one now, but like my appreciation for the veterans who never had a “now,” I cannot get my “then” out of my system.) The lake had been White’s favorite vacation spot when he was a child. His father had taken him there every summer. White wanted to recreate his experiences for his son, through whom he found himself living vicariously.

In one passage, White wrote about walking with his son: “Everywhere we went I had trouble making out which was I, the one walking at *my* side, the one walking in *my* pants.” (I italicized the pronouns for emphasis.) White was having a hard time separating his “then” and his “now.” He concluded the essay with this passage, which described his son’s actions as he prepared to swim in the lake (the symbolic baptism, which White chose not to undergo):

Languidly, and with no thought of going in, I watched him, his hard little body, skinny and bare, saw him wince slightly as he pulled up around his vitals the small, soggy, icy garment. As he buckled the swollen belt, suddenly my groin felt the chill of death.

Yes, the author of *Charlotte’s Web* and *Stuart Little* used words like “vitals” and “groin” when he wrote for adults, but he had to make a point. What better way to describe the epiphany that his replacement had arrived, and his “then” had come full circle? That happens to all of us.

Years ago, when my son was born, I wrote a poem. Well, not exactly a poem. I came up with a title. There was no need to write an entire poem; the title said it all. It was simply, “My son, my executioner.” That is not as morbid as it sounds. I was thinking simply that my replacement had arrived. I could get on with the rest of my life knowing that my “now” was secured. All I had to do was guide my replacement through his “then” and “now” and the cycle would continue, as it does for every human being.

Everybody has a “then” and a “now.” The difference is that some people’s “thens” and “nows” are cut shorter than others, often because they pay the supreme sacrifice: death on the battlefield. The rest of us should be thankful that there exist people who are willing to do that, and appreciate their sacrifices. We should be able to look at ourselves in our “thens” and congratulate ourselves for surviving long enough to have a “now.”

That is a good thing to do every now and then. And thanking a veteran should be part of the process.

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EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

“End runs” Don’t Work

One of the cardinal rules of publishing *The Graybeards* is this: end runs don’t work. Let me explain with a football analogy.

The Naugatuck Nailbiters of the Southern Naugatuck Valley Inter-galactic Mid-morning Inter-gender Football League do not have a bruising fullback-type runner. They do, however, have a fleet-footed running back named Gertrude Gazelle who can get to the outside quickly after a handoff. So, they practice the outside running game as a result.

Unfortunately, their center, Percival Phlegm, has a bad habit of creating furrows in the grass every time he snaps the ball. On the rare occasions that he does snap the ball cleanly, which is equivalent to the number of times gimpy gnus outrun loping lions in the Annual Veldt Olympics, i.e., never, Stubby Stonehands,

the quarterback, can’t hold the ball long enough to get it cleanly to Gazelle.

Moreover, the right and left tight ends and tackles are as ineffective at blocking defensive linemen as packages of peanuts are at stopping enraged elephants in search of a snack. As a result, Gazelle never completes an end run successfully. That same principle applies to *Graybeards* submissions.

Contributors occasionally try to get their material into our magazine by sending it to our President, our publisher, our Membership and Executive Assistant, our webmaster, our Catering & Pickle Selection Coordinator...anywhere but to the one person who prepares it for publication—the editor. Sometimes that is an honest mistake. But, there have been a couple incidents recently in which members or former members who are *persona non grata* or representatives from non-compliant chapters have tried to circum-

vent the system and sent their material to some of the folks mentioned above. End runs like that do not work.

As former *Graybeards* editor Brutus Cassius Cato Nero Marcus Aurelius said when putting the first issue of the magazine together, “Tuttus Fruitus Ecce Siliconus Iters Et Tu Romanus Paxus.” (For those of us who don’t speak Latin, that translates roughly to “All roads lead to Tutti Frutti”—or “Rome.” I am not sure which, since I don’t speak Latin either. But, I am betting it’s “All roads lead to Rome.”)

The point is that all material for *The Graybeards* has to come through The Editor, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 at some point.

Why not send it directly there?

Thank you.

The Graybeards Catering &
Pickle Selection Coordinator

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*.

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Tenative Guest List for Reunion

We have an attractive list of guests for the annual convention. At this point they are invited; there is no guarantee that any of them will be there.

Here is the list so far:

- Chief of Staff, US Army, General George W Casey, Jr., has been invited to be the keynote speaker at the banquet.

- Ambassador Tae Sik Lee has been invited to attend and address the Convention during the week.

- Eighth Army Commander, LtGen David Valcourt has been invited to attend and address the Convention during the week.

- Representatives of the US Veterans Administration will also attend.

- Regardless of who attends, one thing is for sure: you should be there. Each of us is, in a sense, a guest of honor at our own convention.

SEE YOU IN RENO!!!

PRESIDENT from page 3



From the left, Ambassador Lee, General Bell, and KWVA President Dechert hold the Scroll of Appreciation shown at right above.

South Korea is the size of Indiana, one of our 50 states. South Korea is one of the great countries of the world. This is your legacy. This is your contribution to the world today and the Korean citizens are so appreciative today. Most of them weren't alive in 1950 either. Some of you gentlemen here tonight were, but most of the population of the Republic of Korea was not alive or were very young. But they will never forget what the American military did in those days. And even the young kids, when I go talk to high schools today, Korean youngsters at 17, 16, 15 years old—they know that this great wealth that they have achieved and obtained, that this modern first-world nation that they have, their great universities, their great hospitals, their great public transportation, their housing, these great cities that have come up from the ashes of war—these have come about from their hard work, indeed, and their determination. But, the foundation, they feel, has an American flag imbedded in it. And you put it there.

Through those years following the war, the Republic of Korea has lived up to the virtue of our Mutual Defense Treaty and it says that each nation will come to the aid of the other, should that nation be

attacked. It says "in the Pacific Region." But the Republic of Korea has not let those words stop it from coming to our aid: Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan...and just completing deployment last week-350 South Koreans to southern Lebanon, at our request, to help keep the peace between Israel and Hamas.

Most people in the world don't know that just like you who went to a place you did not know to help a people you didn't know then, your ally, the ROK, is doing that for our nation today—all over the world.

They don't have to do these things. They could mind their own business in Northeast Asia and just accrue wealth. But they continue to commit on mission, when we ask. And you know what? I've spent 15 years of my life overseas in military duty in war and in peace, and I know of no other nation that I could make that claim about to that extent. The South Korean people are doing that because of those American flags that you planted in their ground all those years ago.

You and I are not going to be around forever, and we know this. We've lost a lot of our friends—you have. And I think the question for us tonight—by the way, I'm a member of your organization. When I got

the application in the mail like everything else that came across my desk right after I took command, a letter saying "Korean War Veterans Association" would you join our outfit? I passed it to my out box and then I just stopped for a second and I reached into my out box, I pulled it out and I said, "I wonder if I could join the Korean War Veterans Association?" I'm not a Korean War veteran. I'm a veteran of Korea, but not the war. So I got my aide and I asked whether they'd let me join. My aide said he didn't think so, he thought you had to be in the war. I said "go find out." And about a day later, he came back and said, "Sir, you can join. You can absolutely join. Anybody can join who is a veteran of service in Korea." So I joined your outfit and I'm honored to be in it—at any rate, we aren't going to be around forever and the question is, I guess for Americans, who is going to carry the flag in the future—for us?

Will this Alliance that is so powerful and strong today, that is so important to both nations, just finally wither away and be tossed on the ash heap of time like most alliances throughout history have? Or will this alliance be different? Is it possible that what you started in 1950—or whenever

CALL FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Korean War Veterans Association of the USA is called for Thursday, October 25, 2007. The meeting will take place at the Eldorado Hotel, 345 North Virginia St., Reno, NV 89505 beginning at 0900 and continue, with recesses, through 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 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, Oct. 23, 2007
- Summary Minutes of Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, October 11, 2006
- Annual Treasurer's Report
- Old Business, Committee and other Reports
- Awards/Announcements
- Ceremony and Adjournment

Louis T Dechert, National President, KWVA/US, Chairman and Presiding Officer, Board of Directors

NATIONAL CONVENTION LADIES SILENT AUCTION

On October 23rd, the ladies in attendance at the convention will meet in the Ba Binga Lounge. Each attendee is asked to bring a small item to be displayed for a Silent Auction. Look around your house and discover something you think someone might like, and pack it to bring. This is a lot of fun and it is for a very worthy cause.

The proceeds of the auction will go to Operation First Response, an organization active in supplying needed items to returning wounded veterans and assisting their families. (www.operationfirstresponse.org)

On the 25th, in the same room, a local florist will provide flowers, ribbon, and instruction so that each participant can create a lovely corsage to wear to the evening banquet. Be sure to sign up early as space may be limited. Cost is \$15.00.

you served—is it possible that there is something more here than just a war alliance? Is it possible that the bonds between the United States of American and the Republic of Korea are deeper than just beating the enemy?

When you look at our nation today and the 100,000 Korean students who study in our country and love our country and return to Korea and the thousands of Americans who go to Korea, not only to serve, but to conduct business and to meet the people of Korea....when you look at the interaction between the two cultures, the American culture and the Korean culture, you find more in common than you find different: democracy, belief in liberty and freedom, tolerance, equality, bravery, commitment. These are the virtues of a society. We may look different, but our hearts are the same. Those hearts have grown together over these 57 years since war broke out.

So, as you end your meeting this year, on this anniversary of Armistice, as you ponder what is in the future, I would ask and propose that we think of a way to perpetuate this outfit. When I learned a year and a half ago that I did not have to be a war veteran to be a member of the Korean War Veterans Association, when I learned that, I would hope that thousands, and even millions of other Americans, could also learn that same message and grab your legacy and carry it into the future. I think this is our charge today: to not just go quietly into our graves, but go kicking and screaming on behalf of the alliance and on behalf of the bond between our two nations: the bond that brings the east and the west together in common purpose; the bond that says when you need me, I will be there.

That is what this organization is about. It's not about the war, 57 years ago, only.

It's about the future. Let's search for ways to energize the greatness that you brought to these two great nations and find common purpose in the future. That is my hope and my dream. My service in Korea for the last year and one half with my wife Katie has been a blessing. My service over the next year or so until I probably retire—I gotta retire one of these days. I've been in this business a long time—will be just as marvelous as the last 1½.

But, if I simply retire from the US military and go trout fishing and leave it at that, then I will have wasted my life. I want something to happen after that time. I think that what I want to happen is the bond between our two nations to grow and prosper in the future. And I believe that outfits like the Korean War Veterans Association and the other great veterans groups represented here tonight are the path ahead for us.

Thank you for your service to America. And for those who are Korean veterans and citizens, thank you for your service to the Republic of Korea. Thank you for your friendship. Thank you for bearing the loss of loved ones, whether killed or injured in combat, those who have already passed from this earth. Thank you for those in the modern era who have suffered an injury.

I honored SSG Yoon the other day. He was killed in Afghanistan, a Korean war veteran from Afghanistan. We put up a memorial on Yongsan Garrison in his memory. Koreans are still dying on behalf of America, unbeknownst to most people.

It has been my honor to be here tonight. I didn't want to read you a speech. I just wanted to tell you what was in my heart. And I wanted you to thank you for allowing me to be a member of your outfit. God bless you and thank you very much.

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	July 15
Sept-Oct	Sept 15
Nov-Dec	Nov 15

Attacking KWVA's Undeliverable *Graybeards* Dilemma

By Tom J. Thiel

About two months ago I received a telephone call from Bill McCraney, President, Department of Florida, KWVA, asking me for help in locating the true addresses of some 64 KWVA Life Members residing in Florida whose *Graybeards* magazines were being returned as "Not Deliverable." Jacob L. Feaster, Jr., Director, Board Oversight, KWVA National Management Information System, had asked him to conduct this effort.

Shortly thereafter, Director Feaster emailed me a spread sheet (MS Excel format) containing the known information on the undeliverable *Graybeards*. In it he suggested five true status indicators of the listed members: [1] deceased, [2] address is correct as shown, [3] new address identified, [4] some info obtained but actual address not located, and [5] no further info obtained. I addressed the problem this way; other folks might want to use the same approach.

National Web Site Beneficial

I removed some unneeded columns from the spread sheet that all had the same information, and then moved several columns around to be more useful. This would be a personal preference and not necessarily essential.

Of the 64 addresses, only 30 contained a phone number. On the other hand, 25 showed a Chapter affiliation, so I decided my first step would be to locate these Chapters from the KWVA National web site, <http://www.kwva.org/index.html>.

I did this by entering the CID numbers of the 25 listed members into the CID box on the "Department/Chapter Lists" web page. (I left the "All States" button on.) The identity of the Chapters and Chapter Presidents for the 25 persons listed on the spread sheet was quickly determined. For example, there were six individuals with a CID of 106. From the web site I found the Chapter, Treasure Coast Chapter in Port Saint Lucie, FL, and president, Peter Popolizio. (Some were affiliated with non-FL chapters.) I located Peter's email address and sent him an email asking for his help on the six members identified with his Chapter. President Popolizio, and most others so contacted, responded rather quickly.

Unfortunately, only a relatively few were solved with this approach – and it seemed as

though the few that were fell into Mr. Feaster's category 1! That left nearly 60 names yet to resolve. Fortunately, a couple listings were local phone numbers. I quickly placed those calls and was lucky to find two potential new members of my own Chapter, CID 169!

Next, I used some of those "Roll Over Minutes" on my cell phone. I discovered quickly that not only were the addresses a problem, but so were the phone numbers!

Enter Zabasearch

Probably the best free on-line people locator web site I've used is Zabasearch, <http://zabasearch.com/>. Zabasearch found 21 listings for my own name! But not all of these were current numbers, illustrating some of the power and also some of the problems with Zabasearch – multiple listings.

These are good and bad. Good, because by carefully comparing the information on the multiple listings, one is sometimes able to determine or guess a correct listing; bad, because sometimes one has to make multiple calls. Zabasearch also correctly showed my birth year as 1928 on all three listings; another useful bit of information!

Soon after I began making calls, it became obvious that it would be more productive to do a Zabasearch on each individual before making a call; the numbers in the national member base were that out of date. So, I added three columns to my spread sheet to reflect my contact efforts; these were labeled: CONT (for contact made), RSL (for resolution I used 1-5 to reflect Mr. Feaster's categories), and DT (for the date of resolution).

Making telephone calls these days is plagued by the ubiquitous answer machine; a goodly number were answered by this monster! Not everyone returned my call, either! When I left a message I would place a "M (date)" in the CONT column; when there was no answer, I placed a "NA (date)" in that column.

When I was able to contact either the Life Member or a family member with information on the member—and was able to resolve the issue—I placed the appropriate number, from 1-5, and date in the RSL and DT columns, respectively. But since information was not always clear cut, I decided to

use a word processing letter (MS Word) to record and inform KWVA Membership in Washington of the information.

First, I created a blank Word document with five section headings labeled with the 1 through 5 categories listed above. Then, I opened the spreadsheet and highlighted the appropriate row (or line) on the spreadsheet and next selected Edit and then Copy to copy that line to the Clipboard. I then moved to the Word document, moved below the appropriate category listing, and selected "Paste Special" to paste the information from the spread sheet to the Word document. (I use Paste Special to preserve the formatting of the Word document instead of the spread sheet.) I rearranged the information slightly just to improve appearances and readability. Then, I added in my own words what I had learned.

After accumulating a page or so of these, I sent them to Membership@kwva.org piecemeal at the request of Mr. Jim Doppelhammer.

Problems and Comments

A short way into the project the Snowbird problem surfaced. There seemed to be more problems locating members who reside in Florida during the winter months and then move back north in the summer months. Mr. Doppelhammer asked that I provide both summer and winter addresses, since the new KWVA membership database can handle both. The 64 addresses were resolved as follows:

- Deceased, 7;
- Address Correct as Shown, 12;
- New address, 4;
- Some information but member's address not found, 37; and
- No further information, 4.

The large number falling into category 4 was disappointing. However, I was usually able to determine a significant number of things about each address should KWVA continue a more in-depth effort. This included: a) the person answering the phone did not know of the person I was seeking, b) the number had been disconnected or was no longer in service, or c) that Zabasearch was not able to find any alternatives. This group also included a large number messages left that were not answered; I usually only placed a couple follow-up messages.



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.

Changes to the last four digits of the 9-digit zip code also caused a number of problems. Although the physical location had not changed, the zip codes, especially the last four digits, had. A suggested future strategy for the KWVA would be to send returned Graybeards to only the five-digit zip code.

Summary

I found a computer, the Internet and Zabasearch essential for my effort. I do not believe using the 411 locator service would have been successful. Zabasearch gives results in a few seconds; more importantly, it gives additional clues in most cases. And, having rollover cell phone minutes was also beneficial. I incurred no out-of-pocket expenses!

My being fairly proficient with MS Office – Excel and Word – was beneficial, too. I did a lot of Copy and Paste or Paste Special (to preserve document formatting). Also, I usually worked with both spread sheet and Zabasearch on a split screen with Excel in background on top and Zabasearch in foreground on the bottom.

Zabasearch enables one to trace an individual within their given community and also normally shows the birth year, both useful for this activity.

I have heard criticism of the National KWVA, especially what it does with “our money.” Among other benefits from our National dues, the maintenance of a national member database is one huge benefit.

We should do everything in our power, either individually or collectively, in Chapters or Divisions to keep membership information current. This is to ensure that The Graybeards and other important documents reach their desired destinations and we do not have to undergo exercises such as this one.

Overall, I’d rate the effort worthwhile and encourage anyone of you who might be asked, to undertake the job – you will be rewarded, I promise you!

While I believe my system worked, I sincerely wish my success rate had been better. And, I wish there had been many fewer members associated with category 1!

Tom J. Thiel is the Secretary-Treasurer of CID 169, Lake County, FL. Reach him at 19147 Park Place Blvd, Eustis, FL, 32736, (352) 357-3943, thiel5@comcast.net.

ALABAMA

- ★ DAVID A. BATES
- ★ KENNETH E. DRAPER
- ★ BISHOP L. THOMPSON

ARIZONA

- ★ CHARLES L. ANGER, SR.
- ★ JOSEPH AUGUST
- ★ HARRY W. BRUSHNAHAN
- ★ JAMES F. CALLAWAY
- ★ ELTON C. DAVIS
- ★ PHILIP N. MARINELLI

ARKANSAS

- ★ EDMUND H. SAVAGE

CALIFORNIA

- ★ PATRICK H. LYNCH

CONNECTICUT

- ★ DONALD L. PETERS, SR.

DELAWARE

- ★ HARRY D. NEWELL

FLORIDA

- ★ HOWARD W. FLORA
- ★ H. CURTIS HOAG
- ★ JOHN J. LYONS

ILLINOIS

- ★ JASPER E. HULLINGER
- ★ RICHARD T. MALDANER
- ★ WALTER P. TAJDUS

INDIANA

- ★ CHARLES L. BOWERS
- ★ WILLIAM HASTE
- ★ RALPH M. MESING
- ★ ALBERT TORRES

MAINE

- ★ JACK COSTING
- ★ CARROLL E. TRIMM

MARYLAND

- ★ ROBERT J. HANCY

MASSACHUSETTS

- ★ JOSEPH F. MCCARTHY

MICHIGAN

- ★ JACK DOUGLAS BURGESS
- ★ HALBERT J. DAVENPORT
- ★ GILBERT F. O’MALLEY
- ★ DANIEL D. VANDERHOOF

MISSOURI

- ★ DAVID P. DEPEW
- ★ LEONDUS HULL
- ★ VALLIE H. STUMP

MONTANA

- ★ GEORGE C. BANTA

NEVADA

- ★ CARL A. ANDERSON
- ★ BOBBY E. PARRISH

NEW JERSEY

- ★ PETE GENTILE
- ★ KENNETH L. MURRAY

NEW MEXICO

- ★ ANDREW J. ALDERETE

NEW YORK

- ★ RONALD C. BERTRAND
- ★ BERNARD A. IAMMETTE
- ★ CAVAN J. KELSEY JR.
- ★ ROBERT E. LAKIE
- ★ KENNETH F. MILLER
- ★ ROBERT F. MORRELL
- ★ THOMAS J. O’BRIEN
- ★ STEPHEN M. SANTERAMO
- ★ ANDREW TOMCHIK
- ★ EDWARD N. TORANO.

OHIO

- ★ TOM B. BLAIR
- ★ DONALD J. CAMMEL
- ★ ROBERT E. DONELSON
- ★ CHARLES EUGENE GROVES
- ★ WILLIAM L. KIRCHNER
- ★ THOMAS E. SCHWARTZKOPF
- ★ HOWARD D. SEILING
- ★ VERNON W. SIZEMORE
- ★ EDMUND E. YORK

OREGON

- ★ PERRY R. EHRENSTEIN
- ★ ARTHUR W. WILSON

PENNSYLVANIA

- ★ IAN M. G. QUIMBY
- ★ EARL E. WHITE

SOUTH CAROLINA

- ★ ROBERT H. BUSEY
- ★ RAYMOND O. MCDANIEL
- ★ VERDY E. ROBERTS

SOUTH DAKOTA

- ★ LEONARD J. HAMMICH

TENNESSEE

- ★ WILLIAM H. BERKLEY, JR.
- ★ CHARLES R. CAMPBELL
- ★ PAUL D. DELK
- ★ WALTER M. GRIMES
- ★ RALPH R. JONES, JR.
- ★ LENTIS LEE
- ★ G. B. NETTERVILLE

VIRGINIA

- ★ GEORGE C. SEMAN, III

TEXAS

- ★ CHARLES D. NELSON
- ★ HAROLD L. VALDERAS

WISCONSIN

- ★ MAX FARNING

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, 2008

*****5 Digit
R012345 01/01/08
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 bar-code does not extend across the full label, then your zip code does not have 9 digits and your address is not complete according to the USPS. Contact your local Post Office for proper format.

Official Membership Application Form

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 22857, Alexandria, VA 22304 (Telephone: 703-461-0061)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Assigned Membership Number: _____

KWVA Regular Annual Dues = \$25.00 ♦ Associate Membership = \$12.00

Ex-POW, Gold Star Parent or Spouse & Honorary - \$0.00

Regular Life Membership: (May be paid in lump sum or 6 equal payments by check over a 12 month period.)

Ages up to and through 35 years of age:\$600

Ages 36 through 50 years of age:\$450

Ages 51 through 65 years of age:\$300

Ages 66 years of age and older:\$150

Please Check One:

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal Member # _____

Please Check One:

☐ Ex-POW

☐ Regular Member

☐ Life Member

☐ Associate Member

☐ Honorary

☐ Gold Star Spouse

☐ Gold Star Parent

(Please Print)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle/Maiden Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Year of Birth: _____

Email _____

Chapter Number/Name (if applicable) # _____

All Regular members please provide the following information if applicable

Unit(s) to which Assigned

Branch of Service

Division _____

☐ Army

Regiment _____

☐ Air Force

Battalion _____

☐ Navy

Company _____

☐ Marines

Other _____

☐ Coast Guard

Dates of service:

Within Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

Without Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes as indicated, is true and correct."

[If you are applying for membership in a category other than Section 1, par A.1., of the "Criteria for Membership," complete the "Certification of Eligibility for KWVA Membership" form on next page.]

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to: KWVA

Mail to: Korean War Veterans Association Inc., P. O. Box 22857, Alexandria, VA 22304

Credit Card # _____ ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD

Expiration Date _____ Your Signature _____

Adopted 07/25/2007

CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR KWVA MEMBERSHIP

In addition to completing the KWVA membership application form on page 1 above, persons who make application for membership and qualify under one of the categories listed below, are required to fill in the appropriate blanks, sign in the space provided below and attach this page to the completed membership application form on previous page.

Check One

- ☐ Medal of Honor: I am a recipient of the Medal of Honor for service during the Korean War and the date on which it was awarded was: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ Ex-POW: I was held as a Prisoner of War at some time during the period June 25, 1950 to the present,
From: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____ To: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ UN Command/Korean Armed Forces: I served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United Nations Command or in the Republic of Korea Armed Forces during the Korean War era (June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955):
From: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____ To: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ Gold Star Parent: I am the parent of : Name [print] _____, who was
() killed in action, () missing in action or () died as a Prisoner of War
on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ Gold Star Spouse: I am the spouse of: Name [print] _____, who was
() killed in action, () missing in action or () died as a Prisoner of War
on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ Associate: I have a legitimate interest in the affairs of the Korean War Veterans Association and agree to accept the terms and conditions set forth in its charter and bylaws.
- ☐ Honorary: I was elected as an honorary member of KWVA by a vote of the Board of Directors
on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes indicated is true and correct."

Signature: _____ Month ____ Day ____ Year ____

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

Section 1. Qualifications of Members. Membership in this Association shall consist of Regular, Associate and Honorary Members. No person shall be excluded from membership because of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, or physical or mental disability, as long as the individual meets the criteria of service requirements as stipulated below. Only Regular Members as defined in A. below have a vote in National or Department matters.

A. Regular Members.

- 1. Service in the United States Armed Forces.** Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, defined as Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, said service being within Korea including territorial waters and airspace (September 3, 1945 – June 25, 1950) within and without (June 25, 1950-January 31, 1955), or who served honorably in Korea from February 1, 1955 until the present time is eligible for Membership.
- 2. Medal of Honor.** Any Medal of Honor recipient, so honored for service during the Korean War is eligible for life membership.
- 3. Prisoner of War.** Any person held as a prisoner of war by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces during and after hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward is eligible for life membership.
- 4. United Nations Command and Korean Armed Forces.** Any person who served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United Nations Command or in the Republic of Korea Armed Forces during the Korean War era and thereafter is eligible for membership. However, UN/Korean membership of the Association may not exceed 10% of the total membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.
- 5. Gold Star Parents.** Any person whose son/daughter was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War is eligible for life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.
- 6. Gold Star Spouses.** Any person whose spouse was killed in action, missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War is eligible for life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

B. Associate Members. Any person with a legitimate interest in the affairs of this Association and who wishes to support its aims, and not being eligible for Regular membership and who agrees to accept the terms and conditions set forth in the charter and bylaws shall be eligible for associate membership in the Association.

C. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as Honorary Member by vote by the Board of Directors.

D. Ineligible. Any person who has been separated from the service of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the United Nations Command, or the Republic of Korea under conditions other than honorable shall be ineligible for membership in this Association.

WEB SITE: www.kwva.org

Adopted 07/25/2007

Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA)

2007 National Convention ♦♦ 22-26 October

ELDORADO HOTEL AND CASINO

345 North Virginia St., Reno, NV 89505 • (800) 648-4597



REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE: 8 October 2007

Name _____ Nickname: _____

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 _____

Nat'l Paid Up KWVA Member? _____ (Required to attend meetings) KWVA Chap. No. _____ Nat'l Member No _____

Korean Service, MOH Recipient, Registration lunch and banquet fees waived

REGISTRATION & EVENTS

	# of People	Price/Person	Total
Registration Fee: For Member (No registration fee for spouse/guests).....	1	\$25	\$25

October 22 Registration (1300-2000)
Mini Conventions, Meetings, Free Time
Opening Ceremony (2000-2200)

October 23 By Laws Committee, Hearings (0900)
Board Of Directors Meeting (1300)
Ladies Activity (1400-1600)
Mini-Conventions, Reunions
Membership Committee (1800)
Budget & Finance (2000)

October 24 Committee Meetings, Hearings (1000-2200)
or those not on committees or attending special functions, free time!

October 25 Annual Membership Meeting (0900-1200) Follow-Up National Directors Meeting			
Ladies Activity (1:30 pm-4:00 pm)		\$15 =	\$ _____
A local florist will provide flowers ribbon, and instruction so each participant can create a corsage for the evening event.			
Mini Conventions Conclude (1300-1700)			
Closing Ceremonies, Banquet, Entertainment		\$30 =	\$ _____
Select choice of Chicken _____ or Beef _____		TOTAL	\$ _____

October 26 Have A Safe Trip Home!

To Register For Convention: Compute your fee; registration, banquet, spouse event if attending, send check (only) payable to KWVA 07. Make a copy of form, mail with check to Richard Hare, Treasurer, KWVA, 1260 South Hampton Dr., Alexandria, LA, 71303; (318) 487-9716

Hotel Reservations: call the hotel direct at (800) 648-5966 and ask for Conventions. Make sure that you mention you are with the Korean War Veterans Association-# NKW 1021. The price is \$80.00 per night. Free Parking, Free shuttle airport to hotel!

KWVA Federal Charter Bill Introduced Again

Bills to grant a Federal Charter to the KWVA have been introduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House bill number is HR2852 IH. The Senate's is S1692. It is the sincere expectation of the KWVA that the legislation will quickly pass both houses of Congress, allowing the KWVA to join the ranks of Federally Chartered Veteran Service Organizations.

Representatives Steny Hoyer (D-MD-5) and Sam Johnson (R-TX-3)) co-sponsored the House bill. Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) sponsored the Senate bill. This is the time for all members of the KWVA to contact their Representatives and Senators to urge them to sign-on as Co-Sponsors of this legislation.

Here are some introductory remarks by representatives:

Speech of Hon. Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland in the House of Representatives, Monday, June 25, 2007:

Madam Speaker, today on the 22nd anniversary of its founding, I rise to offer legislation that would grant the Korean War Veterans Association a Federal Charter, enabling the Association to expand its mission and further its charitable and benevolent causes. The Association, comprised exclusively of Korean War veterans, has over 25,000 members and is one of the few such organizations of its size without a Federal Charter. Being awarded such a charter will afford the Korean War Veterans Association the same status as other major veterans' organizations and allow it to participate as part of select committees with other congressionally chartered veterans and military groups. A Federal Charter—at no cost to the government—will also accelerate the Association's accreditation with the Department of Veterans Affairs, enabling its members to assist in processing veterans' claims. More than 50 years have passed since the war-weary men and women who served in Korea returned home. Half a century later, history has revealed that the sacrifices made by these brave soldiers stemmed the expansion of communism and effectively con-

tributed to a more peaceful world. Granting this Federal Charter is a small expression of our appreciation for the extraordinary courage and sacrifice of our forces in Korea. This bipartisan legislation is an opportunity to express our gratitude and respect for our military, past and present, and to give Korean War veterans the long-awaited recognition they deserve to ensure that the "forgotten war" is forgotten no more.

The Honorable Timothy J. Walz of Minnesota said on that same day:

Madam Speaker, 57 years ago today, on June 25, 1950, the Korean War began when North Korean forces invaded South Korea. Two days later, President Truman sent U.S. forces to support South Korea and the United Nations followed suit. This initial conflict led to a 3-year war in which American forces defended South Korean territory against Communist invaders from North Korea and China. The United States and our allies suffered numerous successes and setbacks, engaging in a difficult struggle for terrain on the Korean peninsula. In the end, over 54,000 American service members died during the Korean War and over 100,000 were wounded. We are still living with the legacy of the Korean war today. Thousands of American service members remain on guard on the Korean peninsula along the Demilitarized Zone. While the Korean War is sometimes called the "Forgotten War," it is certainly not forgotten in the 110th Congress. I am proud to honor the commitment and service of those soldiers who fought in Korea and those who continue to stand watch at their posts on the peninsula today. On this day, the 57th anniversary of the start of the Korean war, we honor the sacrifice and service of America's Armed Forces and pledge to continue to work on their behalf in this Congress and beyond.

Interested parties can track the bills' progress at <http://thomas.loc.gov> or www.kwva.org

Please assist our Legislative Co-Directors, Mr. Ed Buckman and Mr. Robert Banker, in their efforts to secure passage of this long overdue legislation.

Notice for annual membership meeting rules of decorum & debate for the annual membership meeting on October 24, 2007 in Reno, Nevada which must be approved by the membership.

KWVA Annual Membership Meeting Rules Of Decorum & Debate

(Based on Robert's Rule of Order Newly Revised 10th Edition)

1. A voting member must obtain the floor and be recognized by the presiding officer using his position and name before addressing the assembly.
2. The voting member is to stand when addressing the assembly and if the member makes a motion, that member has the first right to speak to the motion.
3. Voting members must be courteous and never attack or question the motives of other members.
4. Discussion shall be focused on the matter or idea in question and not on personalities.
5. Voting members are limited to 10 minutes on each subject during discussion and may speak the second time only if all other voting members who wish to speak have spoken on the pending motion.
6. A voting member may speak more than twice if the assembly grants additional time, by a majority vote of the voting members present.

7. The chair may recognize non-voting members attending the meeting only after voting members have completed their discussion on the pending motion.

8. The chair may call for voting by a show of hands, or a voice yea or nay or standing vote. A secret ballot vote may be called for by a request of one-fifth (1/5) of the voting members present.

9. The above rules may be amended, suspended, or rescinded by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of at least a quorum of the voting members present.

Any amendment(s) to the above rules must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of at least a quorum of voting members present, before the entire set of rules may be voted on for approval by the same two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum.

Notice given in the 2007 July/August *The Graybeards* edition

Approved: _____.

Proposed Changes to the KWVA Bylaws

2005 Bylaw changes approved by the Board of Directors at their 10/10/2006 and 7/25/2007 Board Meetings. Now presented in the July/August *The Graybeards* edition as required by the Bylaws for approval by the membership at the Reno, Nevada October 25, 2007, Annual Membership Meeting.

All changes approved by the Board of Directors are shown in bold print

CHARTER SECTION

ARTICLE I, PREAMBLE: **(Simplified the wording on who is eligible for membership by using the categories of membership in the Bylaws Section to remove eligibility confusion).**

Third: Its particular business and objectives shall be:

1. To organize, promote and maintain for benevolent and charitable purposes an Association of persons who have seen honorable service during the Korean War at any time between September 3, 1945 and the present time, both dates inclusive, and of certain other persons, with the qualifications for membership set forth in the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. Bylaws

- 1. To organize, promote and maintain for benevolent and charitable purposes an Association of persons who have seen honorable service in Korea and of certain other veterans and persons, with the qualifications for membership set forth in Article I, Membership, of the Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated Bylaws.**

BYLAWS SECTION:

ARTICLE I, MEMBERSHIP, Section 1, Qualifications of Members.

(Simplified the wording on who is eligible for membership)

A. Regular Members.

1. Service in the United States Armed Forces.
Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, defined as Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, said service being within Korea including territorial waters and airspace (September 3, 1945 – June 25, 1950) within and without (June 25, 1950 – January 31, 1955), or who served honorably in Korea from February 1, 1955 until the present time is eligible for membership.

- 1. Service in the United States Armed Forces. Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, defined as Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, said service being within Korea including territorial waters and airspace or who served outside of Korea (June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955) is eligible for membership.**

ARTICLE I, MEMBERSHIP, Section 3 Dues.

(Removed the confusing prorated dues problem).

- B. Payment of Dues. National dues shall be sent to the Membership Office listed on the Official Application Form

and be collated by the National Treasurer. All dues, after initial application payment, shall be due and payable on January 1 each year and be valid for a calendar year (1 January – 31 December). Dues shall be prorated for all new members the second year to bring all dues paying members to the calendar dues date. Life Membership may be paid in a lump sum or in six (6) equal payments over a twelve (12) month period. All dues collected by any Regular Member, Chapter or Department shall also be sent to the Membership Office.

- B. Payment of Dues. National dues shall be sent to the Membership Office listed on the Official Application Form, and collected by the National Treasurer. All dues shall be due and payable on the day before their Anniversary date recorded by the Membership Administrative Assistant, at the time of their initial application payment. Life Membership may be paid in a lump sum or in six (6) equal payments over a twelve (12) month period. All dues collected by any Regular Member, Chapter or Department shall also be sent to the Membership Office.**

ARTICLE II, ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(Changed Title to include the many items covered in Article II, rather than just Election of Officers).

ARTICLE II, OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS

ARTICLE II, Section 2. Board of Directors.

(Changed President's right to vote in any ballot vote by mail and explained voting in more detail)

- A. Voting.
All votes of the Board of Directors shall be by simple majority, unless stated otherwise hereinafter, of a quorum of at least eight (8) elected members in attendance. Only the elected twelve (12) Directors and the First and Second Vice Presidents have an automatic Council vote – the President has a tie breaking vote only. Appointed officials of the Board of Directors do not have a vote.

- A. Voting. All votes of the Board of Directors shall be by simple majority, unless stated otherwise hereinafter, of a quorum of at least eight (8) elected members in attendance. Only the elected twelve (12) Directors and the First and Second Vice Presidents have a Board vote – the President has a tie breaking vote only at any called meeting. In the case of a mailed ballot vote the President is allowed to vote. Appointed officials of the Board of Directors do not have a vote.**

ARTICLE II, Section 2 Board of Directors, D.

(There are no provisions in the Bylaws for a telephone busi-

ness meeting and twelve (12) members are more than a normal 2/3 vote, and there was no stipulation if the President should refuse to call a necessary meeting).

D. Business Without a Meeting. Any elected member of the Board of Directors may call for business to be conducted without a meeting. The National Secretary and at least twelve (12) other members must be informed and asked to acquiesce, by telephone, to a telephone conference meeting or by mail ballot from the Secretary, to every Board of Directors voting member, stating the motion(s) or request and their vote for or against. Any such action must be ratified by a quorum at the next Board of Directors meeting.

D. Business Without a Meeting. Business may be called for by the President or when a previous Board of Directors meeting motion authorizing a mail ballot, has been made. Should the President not agree to a call, a majority of the voting Board of Directors may call for the meeting by ballot, with a signed petition to the Secretary. The Secretary shall send a ballot by Return Receipt Mail to every voting Board of Directors member, stating the motion(s) or request(s), and their vote for or against. Any such action must be ratified by a quorum at the next Board of Directors meeting.

ARTICLE V, DEPARTMENT AND CHAPTER, I. DEPARTMENTS, Section 5. Department Council/Board.

(Clarified the wording to get rid of the use of too many Regular members words).

The Department shall have a Department Executive Council or Board of Directors consisting of the elected officers, and Directors to form at least a Council/Board of ten (10) who are current Regular members of KWVA, Inc. in good standing, and each current Regular member of KWVA Chapter President or a current Regular Member of KWVA selected by the Chapter's membership.

Section 5. Department Council/Board. The Department shall have a Department Executive Council or Board of Directors consisting of the elected officers, Directors, and Chapter Presidents or a Chapter member selected by the Chapter's membership, to form at least a Council/ Board of ten (10) who are current Regular Members of KWVA, Inc.

ARTICLE VIII, CHARTER AND BYLAW AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

(Added information on what the quorum requirements are for a vote at a meeting, and also for mailed ballots or ballots placed in *The Graybeards*, and what to do if a change is made to Charter).

Section 1. Charter. Any proposed amendment to the Charter may be submitted by any National Regular member in good standing. The proposed amendment shall be sent to the National Secretary to be read to the Board of Directors, for their approval or non-approval recommendation to the membership, and then shall be available for the consideration of the members when published in *The Graybeards* and voted upon at the following Annual Association Membership meeting for

approval by two-thirds of a regular membership, or if no quorum is available, by ballot vote of the National Regular members with the ballots sent by mail or in the following *The Graybeards* publication.

Section 1. Charter. Any proposed amendment to the Charter may be submitted by any National Regular member in good standing. The proposed amendment shall be sent to the National Secretary to be read to the Board of Directors, for their approval or non-approval recommendation to the membership, and then shall be available for the consideration of the members when published in *The Graybeards* and voted upon at the following Annual Association Membership meeting.

If no quorum is present a ballot vote shall be sent, by direct mail or inserted in the following *The Graybeards* publication, to current Regular Members. Approval of the proposed amendment will require a two-thirds (2/3) approval vote by a quorum defined in Article IV, Annual Association Membership and Special Meetings, Section 2 as (75 at a meeting or 200 by mail). Once a Charter amendment is approved the Incorporation State as well as the Internal Revenue Service is to be notified for their approval.

Section 2. Bylaws. Any Chartered Department, Chapter or Regular Member in good standing may propose amendments to the Bylaws by presenting them in writing to the Chairman of the Bylaws Committee at least forty-five (45) days before the next scheduled meeting of the National Board of Directors. Such proposals will be considered at that meeting and if approved by the Board of Directors, then published in the next scheduled *The Graybeards* publication for ratification by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the National Regular membership quorum at the next scheduled Association Membership Meeting or by ballot vote of the Regular members sent by mail or in the following *The Graybeards* publication. Referendum voting for any Association business information is also authorized for guidance of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Bylaws. Any Chartered Department, Chapter or Regular Member in good standing may propose amendments to the Bylaws by presenting them in writing to the Chairman of the Bylaws Committee at least forty-five (45) days before the next scheduled meeting of the National Board of Directors. Such proposals will be considered at that meeting and if approved by the Board of Directors, then published in the next scheduled *The Graybeards* publication for ratification by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, of a Regular membership meeting quorum, at the next scheduled Association Membership Meeting.

If no quorum is present a ballot vote shall be sent by direct mail or inserted in the following *The Graybeards* publication and sent to current Regular Members. Ratification of the proposed amendment will require a two-thirds approval vote by a quorum defined in Article IV, Annual Association Membership and Special Meetings, Section 2 as (75 at a meeting or 200 by mail). Referendum voting for any Association business information is also authorized for guidance of the Board of Directors.

KWVA Board of Directors Gaithersburg, Maryland Summary Minutes

This is a summary of the Board of Directors Meeting, held at the Holiday Inn in Gaithersburg, MD, on July 25, 2007. This Summary is subject to confirmation when the "Verbatim" court recorder record becomes available to the secretary.

Call for the Meeting

Letter of Transmittal (Call for Meeting)

June 24, 2007, Pres/Chairman:

Memo- President Dechert to all Board Members, April 8, 2007, Board Procedures and Coordination-Meetings at Gaithersburg, MD and Reno, NY;

Memo-25th Anniversary of First National Gathering of Korean War Veterans, etc., Jack E. Cloman, April 9, 2007.

Place of announced meeting: Holiday Inn. Gaithersburg, MD.

Call to Order

- The Board attended the Memorial Service at 0800.
- President Dechert called the meeting to order at approximately 0930.

- To the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance

Director Mc Hugh led the Call to Colors and Pledge of Allegiance.

- Invocation National

Chaplain Leo Ruffing led the group in prayer.

- Administrative Announcements and Adoption of Agenda
- After discussion of the probable meeting schedule and other announcements,
- Director Mac Swain made a motion that the Agenda be approved. The motion was seconded and carried with no objections.
- Also, the Board approved the Rules of Decorum & Debate by a 2/3 Majority vote.

Oath of Office, New Directors

- Judge Advocate Leo Agnew swore in new Directors Thomas Edwards, Tom McHugh. and Charlotte Ayers.

Roll Call and Introductions

- The roll was called by Secretary Hutton:

Present were:

- Louis Dechert, President
- Byron Dickerson, 1st Vice President
- Jim Ferris, 2nd Vice President
- Bill Hutton, Secretary
- Dick Hare, Treasurer
- Charlotte Ayers, Director
- Robert Banker, Director
- Jeff Brodeur, Director
- Michael Doyle, Director
- Marvin Dunn, Director
- Tom Edwards, Director
- James Fountain, Director
- William Mac Swain, Director

- Tom McHugh, Director
- Warren Wiedhahn, Director (arrived late, at 10:40, previously excused)
- Chris Yanacos, Director

Director Lee Dauster was absent. The Board was informed of the nature of the absence and voted to excuse Director Dauster.

Declaration of Quorum affirmed by Secretary Hutton

- Introductions by President Dechert

- Jimmy Faircloth, Attorney
- Boyle Henderson, CPA
- Jim Doppelhammer, Webmaster
- Annelie Weber, Executive Assistant
- Jake Feaster, Supervisor, Membership Management
- Dick Brown, Acting Sergeant-at-Arms
- Frank Cohee, Assistant Secretary

• Treasurer Richard Hare introduced Boyle Henderson, CPA. Mr. Henderson presented the Audit Reports conducted by the firm of KnightMasden for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2005. The audit firm stated that the records for the first half of 2004 were virtually worthless, but that a base has now been established for future Audits. President Dechert reinforced how important a central office is to establishing permanent record storage.

• Mr. Hare presented the financial report for the six-month period ended June 30, 2007. The current assets, including \$459,582.69 invested with A. G. Edwards, is \$526,798.55. Essentially, primarily through the efforts of the office staff and innovations by Webmaster, Jim Doppelhammer, the KWVA had an increase of \$55,000.00 in revenue.

However, expenses continue to rise, particularly for publication and distribution of *The Graybeards*. The cost of postage for mailing one magazine is \$1.63. Mr. Hare commented that we are now in a "Down Revenue" period until December.

- A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report, and carried with no objections.

• All the Directors received a copy of the 2004 and 2005 audit reports, a June 30, 2007 six-month statement, and the proposed 2008 budget.

• The Board accepted the Audits and the six-month statement with all questions answered; they will be presented at the Annual Membership Meeting in October at Reno, NV, along with the Board's approved 2008 budget.

Minutes Of Last Meetings

Secretary Hutton referenced minutes of previous meetings 10.11/12. 06, printed in *The Graybeards* (Nov-Dec, 2006), 5.20.07, printed in *The Graybeards*, (Mar- April, 2007) and 5.06.07 (Business without a Meeting) printed in *The Graybeards* (May-Jun, 2007). A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion was carried with no objections.

Old Business Election Report

- Director Robert Banker reported on the 2007 election. He

thanked Annelie Weber in particular for her assistance.

- As an action item, the Nominating Committee Chairman presented a motion to establish that May 30th become the cut-off date for future ballots. This motion was seconded and passed with no objection.

Report of Reunion/Convention Committee

- 2nd VP Jim Ferris reviewed plans for the October 2007 Convention and presented his committee's recommendation for Myrtle Beach, SC as the site to be considered for 2008.

For 2009, there was considerable discussion, with Foxwoods Resort in CT, and Long Beach, CA as possibilities. Director Ayers suggested Virginia Beach as perhaps a better choice for 2008. A motion was made and seconded to have the 2008 Convention at Virginia Beach and carried with no objections. The Reunion Committee will have other recommendations for the Annual Meetings in 2009 and 2010 at the October 2007 Board and Annual Membership Meeting.

Report of Bylaws Committee

- Chairman Mac Swain presented additional Bylaw changes requested by members, chapters and committees. Nine (9) changes were presented to the Board.
- A motion was made by Bylaws Chairman Mac Swain to conduct the presentation by paragraph, to discuss only those changes that the Board had objections to, and to amend those or eliminate any that the Board did not want to approve, before consideration of the next change. Each request was discussed and recommendations were made by the Bylaws Committee to either approve or not to approve. Two Bylaw change requests were left unchanged and one Bylaw change was amended by a motion from the Board. The Board objected to the other six (6) Bylaw change requests.
- Chairman Mac Swain then made a motion that those two (2) Bylaws with no objections and that the one amended Bylaw change be approved by the Board of Directors for presentation to the membership. The motion was seconded and the motion carried. The bylaw changes approved by the Board of Directors at their 10/10/2006 and 7/25/2007 Board meetings for presentation to the Membership will appear in the July/August 2007 *The Graybeards* (This Issue) before being presented at the 10/25/2007 Annual Membership Meeting for Membership approval.

Legislative Matters

- Director Bob Banker updated the Board on the status of Federal Charter Bills, HR 2852 and S. 1692, the bills to award a Federal Charter to KWVA.

He stated that a real push by all directors was required to call on all Representatives and Senators to move and pass the bill. He requested that the Board of Directors reaffirm its support for the Federal Charter, using a roll call rather than a voice vote to ensure that all members of the KWVA have a record of each Board Member's vote on this issue. A roll call was taken with all present voting yes.

Report of Legal Actions

- In Director Dauster's absence, Attorney Faircloth spoke to the issue of the KWVA suit against the insurance company handling the losses occurring under a previous administration.

Report Concerning the National Capitol Area

Office

- Secretary Hutton reported on the progress in the new office. The Board approved expenditures through three months and directed that a lease contract be presented by the President at the Reno Board Meeting.

New Business 2007-08 Appointments

- President Dechert presented an Action Item of his nominations for 2007-8, including two new Special Committees: The National Ceremonies Committee, and The 2007-2008 National Transition Committee. A motion was made and seconded to approve the appointments and the motion carried with no objections. The data are available on the KWVA Website, www.kwva.org and will be published in the Sep/Oct 2007 edition of *The Graybeards*.

President's Report

- The President referred to his Report on accomplishments previously mailed to the Board, printed in *The Graybeards*, and posted on the website for the membership. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report and carried with no objections.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Hutton reported on *The Graybeards* and the website. On *The Graybeards*, the primary discussion centered on a decision to change to a new type of USPS mailing, called "Periodical" or "Magazine" Status. This form of mailing should ensure members of faster delivery as well as "Tracing" capability on delivery status. Members should receive *The Graybeards* in about the same time as First Class Mail. Given the current amount of advertising (about 4% of content), we hope to see a reduction in expenses, as opposed to the current 3rd Class rate.

On the KWVA website and internet use, Mr. Hutton urged that a larger percentage of members be encouraged to find a way to access the site. It is estimated that only 40% of the members use the KWVA website. He also discouraged the use of the medium as a vehicle for "Venom Release."

- Jake Feaster, Assistant Secretary and Supervisor of Membership Management, was introduced and presented a detailed report on the Chapter and Membership Databases prepared by himself and Webmaster Jim Doppelhammer.

He explained how the Directors could use the system to monitor Chapter "Compliance." Supervisor Feaster also brought up the issue of how to enforce compliance and what penalty should be given to non-compliant Chapters. This action was referred to the Membership Committee.

Report of Budget and Finance Committee

- Director Marvin Dunn, Chairman of the Committee, presented the proposed 2008 Budget. One Action Item presented to the Board was to increase the Associate Member dues to \$16.00 to bring it in line with the increase previously approved for Regular Members in 2006. The vote was 7 for and 6 opposed. The 2008 budget calls for income of \$428,400.00, if it is approved at the October Director's and Annual Membership Meeting. This includes the expectation of \$250,000.00 from dues and \$125,800.00 from fund raising. Projected expenses would also equal \$428,400.00. The largest expense item is the editing, printing, and mailing of *The Graybeards*, estimated at \$172,000.00.

• **Note:** The following was discussed during the Convention Report, but is more appropriate to be inserted under Fund Raising/Finance. Secretary Hutton described a new book about to be released by the Pulitzer Prize winning author David Halberstam, called *The Coldest Winter*. It was a five-year project. Immediately after completing the final draft, Mr. Halberstam was killed in a car accident. The book will be released to the public in late September. (There is a related article in the June/July, 2007 *The Graybeards*). The KWVA has the opportunity to buy a bulk quantity at a substantial discount and resell them to our members at a discount for them, and raise significant funds. This was referred to the Fund Raising Subcommittee of the Budget and Finance Committee, with authority to act.

Report of the Tell America Committee

• Director Yanacos presented a report on the Tell America Committee, which is primarily the work of members Larry Kinard and James Yaney. There are now Video CD's available to support the program, which continues to be highly successful, particularly as aimed at the Junior High level.

Revisit Program Report

• Director Wiedhahn reported for Tom Clawson, Committee Chairman for the Revisit Program. Mr. Wiedhahn complimented President Dechert for his direct efforts in Korea to get the criteria for eligibility expanded. We now have a total quota of 338 positions. Now eligible are widows and children of Korea KIA, of veterans passing since the combat years, and spouses and children of veterans who cannot travel.

Report of the Membership Committee

• Director Jeff Brodeur presented the report, which reported a net increase of 163 members. This is considering deaths, closing chapters, non-renewing members and other losses. He discussed the "We Want You Back" program, which has brought many former members back to the rolls. Mr. Brodeur also presented a picture of a proposed plaque that would be added to the Korea Veterans Memorial, specifically honoring the Korea Service Veterans serving in Korea since the Armistice. The motion to approve this action was passed unanimously, with slight changes in wording. He also asked for approval on a motion to add birth year and clarify "Credit Card" payment for life wording on the application for membership. It was approved by the Board, the SPM to be changed accordingly.

Mr. Brodeur presented an application for re-instatement of membership from Harley Coon, a former member, who was expelled in 2005. The application had been received by the Secretary and referred to the Membership Committee by direction of the President since Board Action was required. A reinstatement requires a 2/3 Board majority vote of the Board present. After a lengthy discussion, the application was rejected by the 2/3 majority required by the Bylaws.

• The H. Edward Reeves Chapter 311 of Arizona has been granted a new Charter. Because of difficulties with the Department of Arizona, the Chapter has requested the National Sergeant of Arms to represent the President and make the award directly to the Chapter. A Board motion was made, seconded, and approved with no objection to do so.

Report of the Resolutions Committee

• 2nd Vice President Ferris represented Director Dauster, who had forwarded 10 Resolutions to the Board for presentation. Because of Mr. Dauster's absence and familiarity with the material, the Board elected to defer the Resolution Review to the October Board Meeting. A motion was made and seconded and the motion carried with no objection. President Dechert stated that it is imperative that appropriate Board Committees meet and review issues prior to that Board meeting.

KWV National Museum & Library Report

• Director Mac Swain reported the status of the KWVNM & L now named Korea War National Museum. Their web site is <http://www.kwnm.org/>, and their new location is Springfield, IL. In conversation with Bob Mitchell of KWVA Lone Star Chapter in Houston, who is on the Board of KWVNM, Director Mac Swain reported that funding is increasing, with donations averaging \$60,000.00 per month.

Although there are certain signs of development in the land area, Director Mac Swain advises the KWVA not to commit any support until there is more substantial evidence of it "actually" becoming the Korean War National Museum

Ethics and Grievance Report Committee

• Chairman Steve Szekley and the President/Chairman were prepared to present his report. However, a motion was made to table his report until the October Meeting. This was done in the interest of time. A motion was made and seconded and the motion carried with no objection.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

• President/Chairman Dechert opened the meeting for comments from the floor. Clyde Hooks, Department of South Carolina Commander, again brought up the question of the regionalization of Directors. (He had previously had floor discussion when the Board discussed, and rejected, the action by vote on the issue during the Bylaws report.)

He brought up the issue of whether the Board was representing the members properly. He also questioned whether the board had followed proper procedures in past meetings such as previous closed sessions. The KWVA's Attorney, Jimmy Faircloth, requesting and receiving permission to speak, stated that the Board had followed proper procedures in every instance. President/Chairman Dechert added that the Board has done the very best it can in matters that are very sensitive, trying to protect the "Good of the Order" of the KWVA, and the personal reputations of the people affected. He then specifically asked Director Mac Swain, Chairman of the Bylaws Committee, if he (Dechert) had ever violated the Bylaws. The answer was "no." He then asked Director Mac Swain if he (Dechert) frequently asked him for Bylaws compliance before taking actions. The answer was "yes."

• Motion to adjourn was made and seconded; the motion carried with no objection.

• Meeting adjourned at approximately 1835 hours.

To the Colors

• Led by Acting Sergeant of Arms, Dick Brown.

Surviving Spouses/Children Eligible for Associate Membership

We frequently receive notes of appreciation like those below from surviving spouses and/or children of deceased KWVA members telling us how much their husbands/fathers/relatives enjoyed being part of the Association and reading *The Graybeards*. Some even lament the fact that they can no longer be a part of the Association. Good news: they can!

Surviving spouses and children are eligible for Associate Memberships. All they have to do is complete the 2-page KWVA Membership Form found in each issue of *The Graybeards* or on the KWVA website at www.kwva.org and mail to KWVA Membership at P. O. Box 22857, Alexandria, VA 22304-9285, along with the appropriate dues payment.

SAMPLE NOTES

Verdy Roberts

Please be advised that my husband, Verdy E. "Gene" Roberts, passed away on February 24, 2007. He was proud to have been a member (though only for a short time) of the Korean War Veterans Association and very proud to have served his Country as a Marine at the Chosin Reservoir.

Sincerely,

/s/Barbara C. Roberts

William Haste

William Haste was proud of *The Graybeards*, the KWVA, the Army, and the time he spent on his trips back to Korea and telling other veterans of the Association.

He wore his Korea Veteran cap proudly every day and to all public gatherings. He is the reason I became a member of KWVA. I hope you and his old Army buddies will remember him.

(Unsigned)

Ruby Valderas

It is with great regret that I advise you of the death of my husband, Judge Harold L. Valderas.

Many of you individually have corresponded with me, and I am sincerely grateful for your kind comments. Several organizations have sent write ups from your monthly newsletters, for which I am equally appreciative. I will miss Harold greatly, and I am sure that many of you who have had long relationships with him will also.

It was my privilege to have met so many fine friends of Harold's, and I will cherish the friendships that I formed through his many personal and business contacts

If you need to contact me for any reason, my address and phone number are shown above.

Sincerely,

/s/Ruby Valderas

Membership Report

Presently, we have 316 more members in the KWVA for 2007 than had in 2006. At this time last year (2006), we had 16,632 members. This year we have 16,948 members. That is an increase of 316 members.

We need to recruit more new members. Incidentally, new KWVA Posters are on the KWVA website.

KWVA Membership Chairman.
Jeff Brodeur

Iowa-Tagged Duck Shot In Korea

That was the headline in a 1954 article in the Des Moines Register [IA]. Darrell E. Jensen, who served with Easy Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Marines in Korea, sent a copy of the article, which his mother cut out. Here is a copy of a copy:

FAR EAST—Two "natives" of Iowa met in South Korea recently and set the men of the "Pantherjet" Squadron, Marine Air Group 33, First Marine Aircraft Wing, conjecturing as to how far a duck can fly.

At a duck and pheasant roast held on Christmas Eve, somewhere in Korea, Cpl. John P. Wade, of Waterloo, Iowa noticed a metal tag on the wing of a duck he was sharing with several comrades.

Slipping the tag into his pocket, he forgot the matter until several days later. When he examined the tag, Wade found that it bore a number and the inscription "Whelp, Iowa—54."

The birds served at the banquet on Christmas Eve were all killed that same day by M/Sgts. Eddie Bennett, of Greenville, N.C. and Lee Mayer, of Oconto Falls, Wisc.

In three hours of hunting before sunset, they each got the limit of six ducks. When they heard that a tag had been found on one of the ducks, they started trying to locate the man who found it.

They didn't trace the tag to Wade until the middle of January and by then it was impossible to determine what kind of duck bore the tag.

However, their kill that day was almost all mallards, drakes and hens mixed.

The question now is, "How did an Iowa duck get to South Korea?" Through the Aleutians by way of Japan is the best bet. But, who knows? Maybe it hitch-hiked a ride on a plane.

Anyone have any ideas? And did anyone else have a similar Christmas meal?

Incidentally, Jensen can be reached at the ironic address of 2325 Pheasant Avenue, Hamlin, IA 50117, dj59@glidenwrljblue.com.

Members in the

Henry Danilowski

Korean War Era Collection Donated To Library

Bayonne, NJ native Henry Danilowski donated a collection of photographs and documents from the Korean War era to the Bayonne Public Library. Danilowski served as a photographer for the Marine Corps Reservists whose unit met in Bayonne. Bayonne City Council President Vincent Lo Re, Jr. thanked Danilowski on behalf of the City of Bayonne.

Since last year, there has been a memorial at the Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor to honor Danilowski's fellow Marine Corps Reservists who died in Korea at the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. That memorial is located along the southern side of the Peninsula.



(L-R) Marine Corps veterans Henry Danilowski and Jack McGreevey, Bayonne City Council President Lo Re, and Marine Corps veteran John Sinnicki at Bayonne Public Library

At the time of the Korean War, the Peninsula was a Navy Base. The facility became the US Army's Military Ocean Terminal in 1967. The Army left in phases between 1995 and 1999. Today, the Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority owns the property.

John Sinnicki, 7 Harbour Place, Barnegat, NJ 08005

Ray Green

Ray Green, who served with the 40th Inf. Div., 160th Inf. Regt., H Co., was the guest speaker at the Stamford [CT]



(L-R) Marie Wicks, CT Scholarship winner, Ray Green, Mrs. Wicks at DAR dinner



Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution's Annual Evening Dinner meeting held to honor scholarship winner Marie Wicks. Ms. Wicks was a Stamford High School senior.

Coincidentally, Marie and her mother were born in Korea.

Dody Green, 16 St. Charles Ave., Stamford, CT 06907-2415

Marvin Nigg

Marvin Nigg, who served in the Korean War with G & I Companies, 7th Marines, 1st MarDiv, is a ceaseless promoter of "The troops." He has a sterling collection of military vehicles that draws him invitations to participate in parades from Memorial Day to Labor Day. He and his vehicles take part in eight parades each year, including the largest "Flag Day" parade in the U.S.

Nigg estimates that his vehicles were on display to more than 60,000 people in 2007 alone.



Marvin G. Nigg's "Motor Pool"

John Pariza

John Pariza, of Austintown, OH, received his second Purple Heart on June 24, 2007—56 years late. LtCol (Ret) Roderick Hosler read the certificate and pinned the Purple Heart on John as his three daughters and members of CID 37 looked on.



LtCol Hosler pins Purple Heart on John Pariza



LtCol Hosler, John Pariza, and the Pariza daughters



CID 137 members in attendance at Pariza Purple Heart award ceremony (L-R, Front) Dominic Lentini, John Pariza, LtCol Hosler, Phillip Cardelein (L-R, Second Row) Harold Pitts, Leo Taillon, Frank Sloat, Harold Baringer, Sam Morton, Robert Bakalik, Ray Ong (hidden behind Pariza), Dean McClain (outgoing president), Milton DeLawder, Pete Pizzulo (L-R, Third Row) Zeno Foley (incoming president), Charles Langer

John dropped out of school at age fifteen and entered the U.S. Army. He was wounded twice, in 1950-51. John was with the 5th RCT while in Korea.

*Joan Onstott, 3022 State Route 59 Lot E6
Ravenna, OH 44266-1673*

Don Edwards

Don Edwards was featured in a June 28, 2007 article in the *Tucson [AZ] Citizen* following a "Revisit Korea" trip to South Korea. While there, he etched the name of a friend from high school, Donald Cunha, whose name is on the wall at the Korean National War Museum in Seoul. He told the reporter, Rachel Hamilton, that he intended to give the etching to Cunha's sister.

Edwards summed up his experience with these words: "Every day we basically had tears in our eyes and chills up our spines. It was like a week of being honored in the Rose Garden at the White House."

And, just to reinforce for Korean War veterans the value of their contributions, he told Hamilton, "You see the respect they

John Pariza displays his Purple Heart certificate



have for democracy and peace. It was just remarkable. This country is just so appreciative of what the Americans did for them."

Neil McCain

Neil McCain, of Grants Pass, Oregon, who joined the KWVA in February 2007, recently wrote a letter for his local newspaper and participated in the Boatnik parade for the first time as a member. McCain, a member of CID 257—Rogue Valley [OR], served aboard USS Lofberg (DD 759) in Korea.

Reach McCain at 4315 Lower River Road, Grants Pass, OR 97526-901, (541) 660-6104, McCain@clearwire.net



THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2007 • DAILY COURIER, GRANTS PASS, OREGON

Korea vet honored by salute at Boatnik parade

I am a Korean War veteran and have lived in Grants Pass for 37 years. I recently joined a National Korean War Veterans Association, then a local chapter based in Medford.

I have attended 36 Boatnik parades, always with my children, then with grandchildren, often with some of them in the parade. Never once was I ever in the parade or any parade, but the chapter in Medford stated it had a float.

The float was a small trailer with a riding lawnmower pulling it, probably the smallest float in the parade. Three veterans were riding. I was the one in the back.

As we started in the parade, I asked the veteran in front of me what to do. Wave when waved at was the answer, as they had been in only two parades prior.

As we came from C Street onto Sixth Street slowly, the crowd stood up on both sides

and began clapping. Then some said, "Thank you for your service." Well, this humbled all three of us. This continued the entire length of the parade.

The honor and respect given to us three vets placed a lump in all of our throats, and tears were in all of our eyes.

I am 74 years old and, unlike the Vietnam vets who were dishonored, we Korean War vets have always been called the "Forgotten War." Very few had any reception, bad or good. More than 37,000 were killed. We Korean vets have learned to deal with it.

The honor and respect we had at the Boatnik parade was a lifetime remembrance. The letter to the editor is the only way I know to express it. The honor people showed us, we will accept for all in our organization and will also tell other veterans about it. Thank you from our hearts.

NEIL MCCAIN
Grants Pass

CID 257 members in the Oregon Boatnik parade

Dean McCain's letter to the local newspaper

Korean Issues Before Congress

By Rep. Vito Fossella (R-NY13)

The Republic of Korea has been an unwavering ally of and strong partner to the United States for decades. Our shared commitments to a nuclear-free Korean peninsula and to advancing the principles of freedom and democracy there and around the world unite us in a common cause. Indeed, it is in the interest of both nations that we continue to nurture the deep economic, cultural and strategic ties between us.

As the lead Republican co-chair of the U.S. House of Representatives' Korea Caucus, I am always working to strengthen our relationship with Korea. Through the Korea Caucus, which now boasts more than 70 Members of Congress, we have taken an active role on issues such as winning the War on Terrorism, ensuring a peaceful and nuclear-free Korean peninsula, promoting free trade, reforming the visa waiver process and resolving the comfort women controversy.

Free Trade

Earlier this year, the United States and the Republic of Korea concluded negotiations of a free trade agreement (FTA) that will solidify our competitive presence in Asia and strengthen our partnership with one of the world's fastest growing and most dynamic economies. The US/South Korea FTA is the most commercially-significant free trade negotiation we have embarked on in the last 15 years. Today, Korea is the world's 10th largest economy with an annual GDP rapidly approaching \$1 trillion. In 2004, the United States exported over \$28 billion worth of American products to South Korea, including \$1.4 billion specifically from New York companies.

The United States' export volume is expected to increase with the agreement by removing trade and investment barriers, which will ultimately increase market access for our farmers, industry workers and businesses. At the same time, I have led a bipartisan group of my colleagues in urging the Administration to ensure that the agreement

is fair and balanced for workers in the United States and provides assistance to help those who may be impacted.

Visa Waiver Reform

South Korea is a longtime ally and international partner in anti-terrorism, but has yet to be allowed into the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). The VWP eases the entry of the nationals of certain qualified countries into the U.S. when they come here to visit for business, personal, or tourism purposes. To bring visibility to the issues, I authored a letter, signed by 34 of my colleagues, urging the Administration to consider South Korea for the VWP as soon as possible. It is our hope that once South Korea fully meets all the statutory criteria, it will be allowed to join the program along with the 27 other Visa Waiver countries.

The War on Terrorism

Also this year, I cosponsored a House Resolution expressing the appreciation of the United States to the Republic of Korea for its efforts in the War on Terrorism and reaffirming the strong alliance between the nations. The Republic of Korea has been an unwavering ally in the War on Terrorism. It has troops on the ground in Afghanistan and Iraq and has made a financial commitment to help rebuild Iraq to ensure democracy takes root in the Middle East. The Resolution reaffirms the strong bonds between our nations as we fight the threat of terrorism and look to foster peace and democracy in the world.

Resolving the Comfort Women Issue

In an effort to bring a sense of peace and healing to Korean women who were forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese Imperial Army from the 1930s through World War II, I cosponsored a House Resolution calling on the Japanese government to formally apologize to the 200,000 "comfort women."

The forced military prostitution of innocent women by the Japanese government during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands was consid-



Rep. Fossella meets with Staten Island resident David Hansen, who was recently named as a Pacific Fleet Navy Sailor of the Year, and his wife Sandra.

ered unprecedented in its cruelty and magnitude. The women suffered gang rape, forced abortions, humiliation, and sexual violence resulting in mutilation, death, or eventual suicide in what is considered one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the 20th century.

An apology cannot undo this damage, but it is important for the victims to know that the Japanese government has accepted responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner. It is also my hope that this Resolution will signal to our friend and ally, the Government of Japan, that working to officially resolve its longstanding historical issues will not only restore honor and dignity to the comfort women survivors, but strengthen the trust and cooperation among our other friends and allies in the region.

U.S.-Korean relations is a very active issue area on Capitol Hill. It is exciting for me to be so involved in fostering these relations between great allies. At the heart of my effort, I am inspired by the service our Armed Forces gave during the Korean War. Many of my constituents are veterans of that war, and countless others knew family and friends who severed, and some who made the ultimate sacrifice, during that conflict. I pay homage to those sacrifices to ensure that peace and stability eventually come to the entire Korean Peninsula. Like all Americans, I look forward to the day when we can live in a world with one Korea.

Rep. Vito Fossella (R-NY13) represents Staten Island and Brooklyn.

Note: Representative Fossella has been a friend of the Korean War Veterans Association. He was a signatory on our legislation for a Federal Charter in the 106th, 107th, 108th, and 109th Congresses.



Monuments and Medals

Korea: the Forgotten War, Remembered

Wisconsin Korean War Memorial Ceremony A Success Despite Downpour

June 3, 2007 was not a good day to hold a two-hour commemorative ceremony and program at the Wisconsin Korean War Memorial in Central Wisconsin, but the rain-filled event was a huge success nonetheless.

Early morning set-up came during a torrential rain storm. Fortunately, the rain stopped for the first half of the program. However, the Hon. Sung Hwan Son, Consul General for the Republic of Korea in Chicago, was half-way through his remarks when the deluge resumed and continued for the remainder of the event.

Continued ➤



Members of KWVA Chapter 245 with ROK Consul General Sung Hwan Son



Sgt Mary Flynn, WIARNG (veteran of OIF) visits with VP Verlyn Larson (Korean War vet, CID 275). Note: both wear 2nd Infantry Division patch!



Col Mark Anderson, commander, 32nd Separate Infantry Brigade, WIARNG.



Korean Memorial Association Chaplain Sharon Pieper offered prayers



Memorial Honor Guard "Presents Arms" during playing of the national anthems



First row of dignitaries



The Wisconsin Korean War Veterans Memorial



Retirement of the Colors from the island memorial, with Cliff Borden saluting



Sgt Mary Flynn reads names of Wisconsin KIA in Iraq and Afghanistan during past year. Emcee Cliff Borden (CID 245) stands beside her.

Immediately, the sergeants-at-arms broke out black umbrellas for the speakers, and the crowd of several hundred persons refused to be discouraged by the weather. Most of the crowd came prepared and swiftly broke out umbrellas and rain gear.

Master-of-Ceremonies and event chairman Cliff Borden warned of thunder and lightning, which might interrupt the program, but the possibility never materialized. The nine previous annual programs were held under sunny skies.

The 2007 program was varied and memorable. For the fourth consecutive year, the Korean War veterans paid special tribute to the men and women of Wisconsin who were killed in action while serving in war-torn Iraq and Afghanistan. There were speeches by dignitaries and a special musical performance by Korean-born Dr. Soojin Kim Ritterling, who sang the folk ballad known to nearly all Korean War veterans, "Arrirang." That was followed by a dramatic solo on

a Korean drum.

Soojin was born in South Korea, received her bachelors and masters degrees in South Korea, emigrated to the U.S. with her husband Dave in 1982, became a naturalized citizen, and received a doctorate in Music Education in the U.S. She is now an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. What a contralto voice she has!!

Her daughter, Ji Heh Ritterling, is also a musician. She performed with her mother on percussions last year, but she did not actively participate this year. Ji Heh was born in the U.S.

The ROK KWSM was pinned on a retired Naval Reserve officer who had served as a medical officer in Korea during the War by a Naval Reserve Flag Officer. Main speaker Dallas Mossman, who was a captive of the "Chicoms" for 817 days, shortened his remarks in view of the soggy weather.



Marvin Freedman, Vice Chair, Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs



Hon. Sung Hwan Son, ROK Consul General in Chicago



Main speaker Dallas Mossman of Montrose, MI, National President of the 2nd Infantry Division Association.



Association President Laverl Pieper at the mike with Emcee Borden



Rear Admiral Marshall Cusic, MC, USNR pins ROK KWSM on Capt. A. Charles Alexander, MC, USNR (Ret).



Attorney Sam Walton, NYC, grandson of Captain Alexander, presents flag which flew over the USS Wisconsin to President Pieper



Soojin Kim Ritterling plays ancient Korean drum in pouring rain, but under umbrella high held by Sgt-at-Arms Gordon Faust of CID 245



Senior Boy Scouts of Plover Troop 201 salute after laying wreaths at foot of bronze statuary grouping



Official Firing Detail "Presents Arms" during sounding of "Taps."



Soojin Kim Ritterling (L) and Ji Heh Ritterling

Finally, Boy Scouts of Plover Troop 201 marched across the causeway to the island memorial and placed six wreaths at the foot of the life-sized bronze statuary. In the words of one Korean Army veteran, it was a “CAN DO” performance.

Cliff C. Borden, Jr., 4304 Drexel Ave.
Madison, WI 53716-1630, (608) 222-7806

Monument In Emporium, PA

A committee has succeeded in getting a Korean War Memorial placed next to a Vietnam War Memorial in Emporium, PA. The committee comprised members of three services: Jack Jones (U.S. Army), Elwood Austin (U.S. Navy), Roland Turley (U.S. Army), and Mr. Slaugehaux (USMC).

Jack Jones, 174 Carson Street
Emporium, PA 15834-2016



Korean War Memorial (R) and Vietnam War Memorial (L) in Emporium, PA

A Brief History Of The 6146th Air Base Unit Through A Son's Eyes

Herb G. Potter, a former member of the 6146th Air Base Unit, aka the Korean Air Advisory Group, sent in this brief history of the unit. As he noted proudly, it was written several years ago by his son Mark, whose teacher labeled it as “An outstanding paper: well documented and clearly written.”

We print it here in its entirety because it is of interest to our readers. Plus, it contains a few revealing stories of human interest. We have not made many revisions to the essay, and we have eliminated the academic references. Rest assured that Mark Potter was thorough in his documentation of the information in his report. The revisions we have made are limited to a few cosmetic changes to fit our publishing format.

We have also included an epilogue written by Herb Potter.

If more contemporary students would take the time to do research papers like this one, perhaps the Korean War would no longer be the “Forgotten War.”

This report is dedicated to Colonel Dan Hess, U.S.A.F. ret., who led the 6146th through its brightest and darkest days.

My reason for choosing this topic is that my father is a Korean War veteran. In fact, he has even donated some of his personal articles from the war to the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio and they are on display there. My father has told me about the war and I find it interesting. In this paper I will discuss the birth of the 6146th Air Base Unit (Korean Air Advisory Group). This was my father's unit.

From 1910 to 1945 Korea was part of the Japanese Empire. On August 14, 1945, Japan surrendered. The United States accepted the surrender of Japanese troops south of the 38th Parallel in Korea. Russia, in turn, accepted the surrender of the troops north of the 38th Parallel. The arrangement was for practical reasons only and was

never meant to be a permanent dividing line in Korea. However, it became a permanent boundary between North and South Korea.

The military status of North and South Korea differed greatly. The North numbered about 100,000 men with thousands in reserve. They were backed by Chinese Communists and Russia. The South forces numbered a small 40,000 men.

On June 25, 1950 seven (7) infantry divisions and one (1) armored division of North Koreans attacked across the 38th Parallel. Their main target was the South Korean capital of Seoul. The North Koreans were battle seasoned veterans who had fought with the Chinese Communists or Russians in World War II. They were well trained and well equipped with Russian tanks and aircraft.

South Korea tried to defend itself, but by June 28th Seoul fell. The South Korean

Forces became so disorganized there was a real danger that they might be defeated before aid arrived. Between June 27-30 the United Nations authorized member nations to send military aid to South Korea. President Harry S. Truman ordered United States ground forces into action.

The United States forces entered the conflict on July 1, 1950. General Dean was instructed to get his men into South Korea and to fight a delaying action. The first men were led by Lieutenant Colonel Charles B. (Brad) Smith. This group was made up of some 400 infantrymen and an artillery battery.

The United States Air Force started out by flying cover and to gain air superiority over the few North Korean planes. The first kill by an American pilot was scored by Lieutenant William G. Hudson of the 68th Squadron. He and other pilots were patrolling when five Yak-7's (Soviet made) appeared over Seoul. They were immediately pounced upon by five F-82s. The dogfight lasted five minutes, and resulted in 3 Yak planes shot down and the other 2 retreated.

Bout I was the first United Nations Air Force contingent in Korea. This unit, under Major Dean Hess, consisted of about 250 American officers and enlisted men, all of whom were volunteers. Many of the men came from the 35th Fighter Interceptor Group of which my father was a part.

The orders came to ship out on June 27,
Continued on page 56

Korean War Veterans' Mini-Reunions

180th Medical Company (Korea) Has First Reunion In 50 Years

To commemorate the 54th Anniversary of the end of the Korean War, the 180th Medical Company, 45th Infantry Thunderbird (Oklahoma) Division had their first reunion since the end of the Korean War.

Approximately twenty combat veterans and their wives and families gathered at the Holiday Inn-Boston/Brockton, Massachusetts on May 4th and 5th, many seeing each other for the first time in over fifty years. The Breakfast Reunion Room was filled with Tri-Fold Photo Boards depicting their Basic Training, Combat Medical Schools, Advanced Amphibious Landing, Glider Attack and Jump Training in Hokkaido, Japan; and finally photos in combat in North Korea. During the afternoon, the group visited the historic sites in Boston.

That evening, all attended a formal dinner reunion at which the combat medics all gave a brief talk on their experiences in North Korea and highlights on what has happened during these past 54 years. Col. Bat Shunatona (Ret.), who was in charge of the 1st Bn. Aid Station in North Korea, presented a slide show which included photos of the Combat Medics at work and at play—to the enjoyment of all.

A Silver Star recipient, former S/Sgt. Henry Ford, of Brighton, MA, who was



A few of the Combat Medics who attended their mini-reunion (L-R) Carl Widman (Quincy, MA), Robert Dame (Southampton, MA), Bat Shunatona, (Oklahoma City, OK), Patrick "King" Sbarra (Cape May Point, NJ), Lewis Knapp (Stormville, NY), William Archer (Quincy, MA), Raymond Coffin (Lowell, MA). Sbarra and Coffin had served together during the Korean War and this was the first time they had seen each other in fifty years.

very popular in the Company and who all of us were hoping to see again, had died in December of 2005. His two sons attended the Reunion in his honor and memory; they are Billy Ford and Henry Ford, Jr.

Patrick Sbarra, a Life Member of the KWVA and coordinator of the reunion, gave applications to the Combat Medics

to join the Korean War Veterans Association and to all who were not able to attend the reunion due to other family commitments.

*Patrick R. Sbarra, P.O. Box #157,
Cape May Point, NJ 08212,
(609) 884-6652*

772nd MP Bn.

The 772nd MP Battalion held its 12th annual reunion in Milwaukee, WI. Everyone enjoyed the gathering, their tour of the area, and the reminiscing.

*Joel C. Davis, P.O. Box 342, 348 Wayne Ave., Luckey, OH 43443-0342,
jcdavis@wcnet.org*

Attendees at the 772nd MP reunion (Back) Dean Tribble, Gene Michaels, Bob Foss, Donald Jamieson, George Lamp, Ralph Filippelli, Edward Czarnecki, Jack Warneka, Robert Cumiskey, Arthur Kelle, Phil Willsmann (Middle) Bill McDonald, Bill Smith, Lowell Morgan, Willis Sanford, Kennie Coleman, Joel Davis, Victor Belson, Arthur Baer (Front) Bill Gambino, Joe Kelly, Wayne Shireman, Dennis Davis, Price Wende



84th & 62nd Engineer Construction Battalions



ABOVE: Bob Donatini (L) and Jerry Shaver (R) consult at Korean 84th & 62nd ECB gathering.

RIGHT: 84th & 62nd ECB Banner



In a week of celebration flanked by visits from the Queen of England and the President of the United States, another group of visitors converged in the historic Virginia Beach area. The 84th and 62nd Engineer Construction Battalions gathered at the Oceanfront Sandcastle resort in Virginia Beach on May 7-10 for their 18th consecutive reunion.

Thirty-two veterans came together with their guests at an event that is “more like a family reunion,” according to Bob Donatini, of Canton, Ohio. The annual event is all about “camaraderie, and bonding with each other and their families.”

Since the first reunion of this group of veterans was held 18 years ago in New Iberia, La., it’s been held in a different location every year. Among the attendees, most didn’t know one another during their service in Korea, but many friendships have been forged since that first reunion.

Jerry Shaver, of Limerick, Penn., said that he first began coming to the reunions 17 years ago after seeing an ad in a VFW magazine. “I didn’t know a soul,” he recalled. “You’re so young when you’re in

the service, you wouldn’t recognize anyone today. But the more you talk, the more you find out you have in common.”

“It’s a brotherhood,” according to Ted Anbuhl, of Mobile, Ala. He expressed his sentiments about his time in the service: “My grandchild asked me, ‘Grandpa, what did you do in Korea?’ And I said, ‘We did what we had to do so you could do what you want to do.’”

The group has become like a family, according to the veterans. Bob Wisler, of Telford, Penn., has been to 16 reunions and “has never met a nicer bunch of people.”

Shaver stresses that this group gathers out of a mutual love. “At the first one, I didn’t recognize anyone, but four days later, the feeling was that I’ve known these people my whole life.”

While next year’s reunion site is already set for Rochester, the veterans are looking even farther into the future, planning a special 20-year reunion in Washington, D.C., in 2009.

C Co., 23rd Regt., 2nd Infantry Division (1952)

I have attached a picture of seven men who were in C Co., 23rd Regt., 2nd Infantry Division in 1952-1953. They were all in the front lines during the war, and in a number of battles. Miraculously, all of them made it back home and are still living today.

They have had several mini-reunions over the past six or seven years, but this one was special: it was the first time that all seven were able to make it at the same time.

This reunion took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Burkes of Ona, West Virginia, on June 1-2, 2007. All of the men were accompanied by their wives. Some of the children also attended.

Five of the men were in the same squad while in Korea. The top right photo shows them just prior to going out on patrol.

*Mary Eleanor Spencer (via email),
mameme@juno.com*

Members of C Co., 23rd Regt., 2nd ID ready to go out on patrol (L-R, Front) Cooper and Spencer (L-R, Back) Coppersmith, Fellmer and Burkes. (Note the company mascot, a monkey named Charlie, in the lower left hand corner, apparently giving them last minute instructions.)



Members of C Co., 23rd Regt., 2nd ID at get-together: (L-R) Fred Etheridge (Kennet, MO), Leonard Burkes (Ona, WV), Don Cooper (Harrisburg, IL), Darwin Coppersmith (St. Louis, MO), Harry Fellmer (Newwaygo, Mich), John R. (Bob) Spencer (Lakeland, FL), Richard (Red) Schnurbusch, (Endicott, NY)

68th Fighter Squadron

Members held their biennial reunion in Oklahoma City, OK. More than 150 people were at the Murrah Memorial.

The reunion gave Stan Grogan, Hosea Skinner, and Al Farnsworth the opportunity to catch up. They flew together in many night combat missions in the Korean War with the 68th Fighter Squadron.

*Stanley Grogan, 2585 Moraga Drive,
Pinole, CA 94564-1236*

Stan Grogan (L), Mr. & Mrs.
Hosea Skinner (C) and Mr. &
Mrs. Al Farnsworth at
Oklahoma City



Co. A, 223 Inf. Regt., 40th Inf. Div



Members got together at the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas, NV in April 2007.

*John A. Fiesta, 1752 Greenfield Drive
P. O. Box 4060, Hidden Valley, PA
15502, (814) 443-0602.*

Members of Co A., 223 Inf. Regt., 40th Inf. Div.
at Las Vegas (L-R) Sgt Bud Silvestri, SFC
Norman Hackler, SFC Vern Williams, SFC James
White, MSgt Ralph Salcido, MSgt John Fiesta

Have a Mini-Reunion?

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

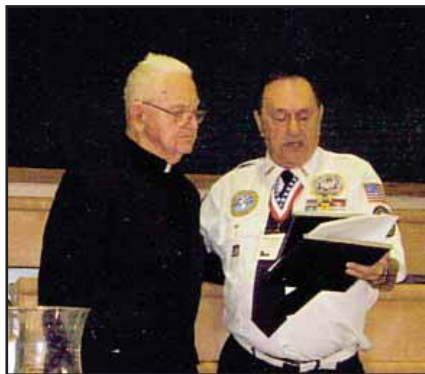
Mail to Art Sharp, Editor, Korean War Veterans Association, 152 Sky View Drive., Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Father Stegman Honored



ABOVE: Fr. Leonard Stegman (L) and KWVA Director Marvin Dunn (R).

RIGHT: Director Marvin Dunn reads proclamation to Fr. Stegman at celebration



On Sunday, June 4, 2007, KWVA members and friends gathered at St. Mark's Catholic Church in San Antonio, TX, to honor almost-former National Chaplain Father Leonard Stegman. (Fr. Stegman actually gave up his National Chaplain position after Veterans Day 2006, but he agreed to hang on until a suitable replacement could be found.)

The celebration honored Fr. Stegman for his 90th birthday and 64th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Fr. Stegman has helped hundreds of thousands of soldiers and veterans—and their families—in his many years of ministry. According to KWVA President Lou Dechert, “He is one of the Godliest men I know. He has a great legacy by which he will always be remembered. This is a special man, and it is an honor for me to share his good news with the membership.”

Dechert requested the Department of Texas to represent the entire KWVA to make the day a great one for Fr. Stegman. “Such men are hard to find, I assure you,” Dechert commented.

KWVA members presented a proclamation in his honor, which read:

THEREFORE, I proclaim and declare Sunday, June 3, 2007, as the Korean War Veterans Association's Father Leonard F. Stegman Day throughout the Association. Members are encouraged to appropriately honor National Chaplain Leonard F. Stegman in all appropriate ways on that date.

Of course, that doesn't mean that June 3, 2007, was the only day on which Fr. Stegman should be honored. That should happen every

day—and hopefully it does.

If anyone wants to contact Fr. Stegman, he can be reached at National Chaplain Leonard F. Stegman, 7123 Thrush View Lane, #28, San Antonio, TX 78209, (210) 822-4041, Hall06@aol.com

We thank KWVA Director Marvin Dunn for his help in putting this material together—including the photos.

Marvin Dunn, 1721 Briardale Ct., Arlington, TX 76013

Fr. Stegman's Bio

Fr. Len Stegman, son of Alex & Frances Stegman, was born on May 31, 1917 in Offerle, KS. He was one of 18 children; seven brothers and sisters still survive. He was ordained a priest, June 23, 1943 at St. Mary's Church in Marathon, Wisconsin.

From 1943 to 1948, Fr. Len served in parishes and assignments in the Midwest. He entered the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps in April, 1948. During his 29-year military career, he served in Europe, Japan, Korea (1st Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Div), Vietnam (Command Chaplain), the U.S. Army Chaplain School, U.S. Army Material Command and the U.S. Army Chief of Chaplain's Office.

He graduated from the U.S. Army Command and Staff College, the U.S. Army War College, and the Preacher's Institute at Catholic University. Along the way he received two Masters Degrees from George Washington University.

He retired with these awards: Purple Heart, 2 Silver Stars, 3 Legion of Merit, Bronze Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, UN Service Medal, National Defense Medal, Civic Action Honor Medal, and various other awards. He has been an active member of the 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus since 1957.

After retirement in 1977, he located in the Washington, D.C. area. He assisted at many parishes, furthered his education, taught retirement planning at government agencies, and became actively involved with Worldwide Marriage Encounter. He helped to conduct Marriage Encounter weekends in the U.S., Europe, and Iceland.

Fr. Stegman relocated to San Antonio in 1988. His involvement with Marriage Encounter continued as he served in local, state, and national leadership roles. He assists at many local parishes, to include Ft. Sam Houston, Randolph AFB, and Lackland AFB. He became the spiritual director for the San Antonio Korean Catholic Community and became instrumental, with the help of then Archbishop Patrick Flores, in obtaining a native Korean priest for their community.

He has served as chaplain for many veteran groups, including The Catholic War Veterans (where he served at state level), Military Order of World Wars, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Korean War Veterans Association (serving the latter in two terms as National Chaplain). He has served two terms as the President of the Military Chaplains, USA. He currently is the National Chaplain Emeritus for the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Tell America

2 - NORTHWEST ALABAMA II [AL]

By the end of this school year, the Chapter had made presentations to a total of 2,785 students at three high schools and two middle schools in the area. These were all-day presentations divided into 45-minute class periods.

We began each class with a "WHERE, WHEN, AND WHY OF THE KOREAN WAR," followed with two or more members telling personal experiences. We allowed at least ten minutes for questions from the students. Those making the presentations represented four branches of service (Army,

Navy, Marines, and Air Force). Each school library received a copy of the book *Faces of War*; which contains pictures and over 180 personal stories of the Korean War.

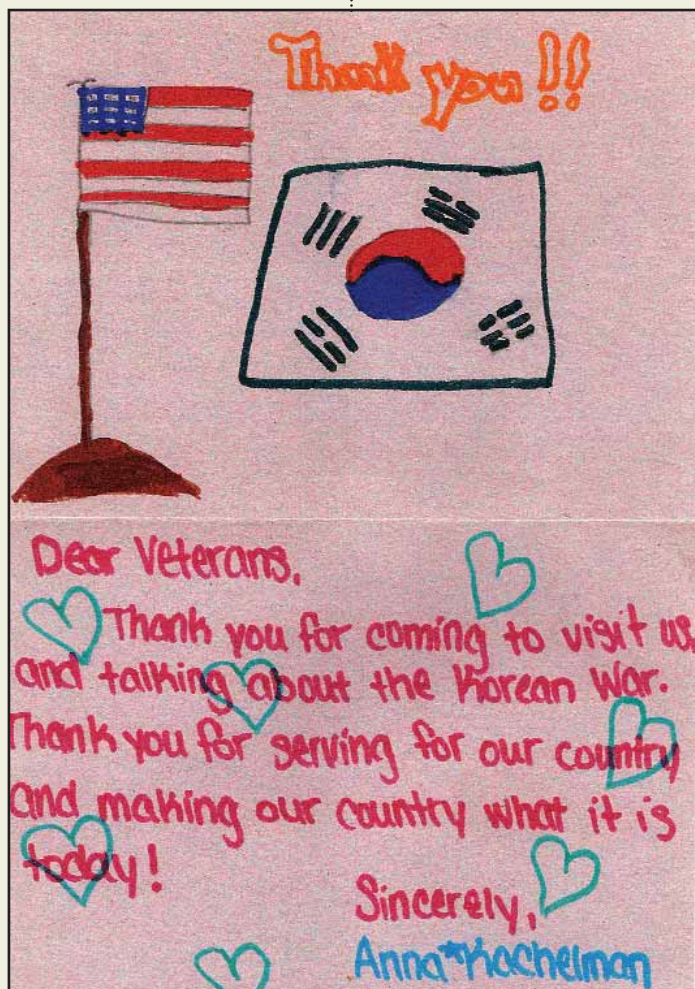
We know that each student went home with a better knowledge and a personal perspective of the Korean War.

We challenge all other chapters to surpass our number of schools and students in our Tell America Program.

George Ellis
1020 Wildwood Park Road,
Florence, AL 35630



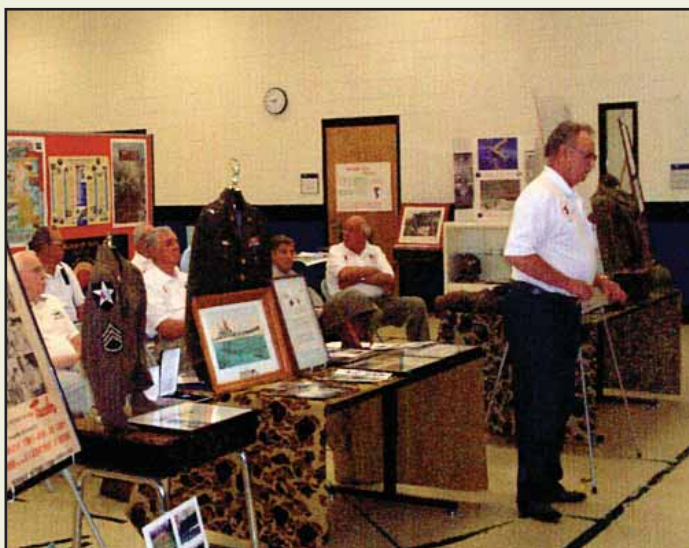
George Ellis of CID 2 presents copy of *Faces of War* at Hibbett Middle School as (L-R) Wayne Higgins, teacher and director of "Wheeler Rifles," Cadet Russell, Librarian Ms. Angie McMullin, Cadet Drake look on



Thanks from a Hibbett Middle School student to CID 2 Tell America presenters



CID 2 President Bill Gober explains Chosin Reservoir campaign to students at Hibbett Middle School



Bob Norris explains the Air Force's role in the Korean War to Hibbett Middle School students

11 – GREATER DANBURY AREA [CT]

Upon invitation from the Superintendent of Schools in Monroe, CT., Chapter members Gerard (“Art”) Sheehan and Franklin Heffelfinger presented seven presentations over the period May 14 - 16, 2007 to the entire junior class of Masuk High School in Monroe, CT.

Their presentation included information on the background and events that led up to the Korean War and the periods 1950-1951 and 1952-1953, with which Sheehan and Heffelfinger were most familiar with respectively. The presentation concluded

with a display of photos, items of memorabilia, questions and answers, and an appeal for the students to never to forget the military and political achievements that resulted from the war, and that as young Americans they should forever know that “Freedom Is Not Free.”

Sheehan was a member of the First Cavalry Division, while Heffelfinger served with both the First Cavalry and the 45th Infantry Divisions.

*Gerard A. Sheehan,
572 Moose Hill Road
Monroe, CT 06468-2413*



CID 11 members (L-R) Gerard (“Art”) Sheehan and Franklin Heffelfinger at Masuk High School, Monroe, CT

54 – THOMAS W. DALEY JR. [NJ]

On March 30, 2007, Chapter members participated in a “Tell America” program at the Gateway High School, Woodbury Heights, New Jersey. The program was well received by the students and faculty, who thanked all the Korean War and Korean Service veterans for their service to their country.

We presented to history teacher Ms. Amy Rosell a few dozen back issues of *The Graybeards* magazines. She said these would be used in her classes when she is teaching about Korea. (Notice in the nearby photo that she is hold-

ing a copy of *The Graybeards*.) Gateway is a great school, and Ms. Rosell is a great teacher. We all were proud to tell of our experiences to her classes.

Since 2000 our Chapter has visited over 100 schools and appeared at many memorial services for veterans and their families. We can truly say we have touched the hearts and minds of our fellow citizens. As we impress upon them—and it is a lesson that always bears repeating—“Freedom is not free.”

*Andrew Thomas “Andy”
Jackson, 117 Kingsdale Ave.,
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003*



At CID 54's Tell America presentation. (L-R) Dom Carrera, Gennaro Porco, Andy Jackson, USAR (Ret), Amy Rosell, Bill Millicent, Charles Kerber

105 – CENTRAL NEW YORK [NY]

On May 11, 2007, members of the Chapter participated in a USA Support Group function at Gillette Road Middle School in Cicero, NY for families of troops on active duty. The Tell America members were Ed Grala, Jim Low, and Vic Spaulding.

Over 1,200 students came to the event and asked questions. They expressed great interest in memorabilia from WWII, Korea, Bosnia, and present conflicts.

The same group, along with Lloyd Pitman and John Reidy, participated in a similar program at Homer, New York's Living History Club Days in honor of Pfc Shawn P. Falter, who was killed in Iraq. We were greeted warmly concerning our military service and information about how the military functioned.

*John F. Grala, 341 Clover
Ridge Drive, Syracuse, NY
13206, (315) 463-8455*



Ed Grala, Jim Low, and Vic Spaulding of CID 105 at Gillette Road Middle School

Continued on page 60

Mayor of Kwangju, South Korea, Honors Native Veterans of Korean War

By Emily Weiner

On a drizzly March 2007 morning in Big Rock Garden Park in Bellingham, Wash., 90 miles north of Seattle, the mayor of South Korea's fifth largest city honored U.S. veterans of the Korean War, including members of local Native American tribes. Mayor Gwang-tae Park, of the Metropolitan City of Kwangju, South Korea, which has a population of 1.4 million, included in his recent tour of U.S. cities a visit to the Korean War Children's Memorial, in Bellingham, which has a population of 73,000.

As Mayor Park and fourteen members of his delegation entered Big Rock Garden Park, they joined a procession led by the Cagney Family Ceremonial Drum Group, of Lummi Nation, which is located just north of Bellingham. The musicians chanted traditional Native American songs while the Korean delegation and Native Americans walked along the winding garden paths, which are lined with flowering plants and dozens of sculptures.

Nestled in a grove of towering cedars and Douglas fir trees, the Korean War Children's Memorial pavilion has a Korean tile roof supported by five pillars. Down the path from the pavilion, Mayor Park laid a wreath at the base of the Korean granite 12-story pagoda, which honors the 12 residents of Whatcom County who died in hostile action in the Korean War. One of the names chiseled into the pagoda is Kenneth O. Brown, who was a member of the Lummi tribe.

"Freedom is not free," read inscriptions on both the pagoda and on a nearby six-foot-tall traditional Korean stone lantern, which honors all the Whatcom County veterans who served in the Korean War. Mayor Park laid a spray of flowers at the base of the lantern. The pagoda, the lantern and the pavilion were dedicated in 2003.

After laying the wreath and flowers, Mayor Park placed Korean wool blankets on the shoulders of 89-year-old Mary Cagey, an elder of Lummi Nation, her brother-in-law George Cagey, a Lummi elder and Korean War veteran of the 1st Marine Division, who fought at Chosin Reservoir, and Swinomish elder Claude Wilber, also a Korean War veteran. The blanketing ceremony is a tradition-



Mary Cagey, pictured at right and above, is the Elder of the Lummi tribe and presents her family drum to Mayor Park (above).

al high honor of Coast Salish tribes.

Mayor Park said the blankets were an expression of his thanks for the elders' help in honoring U.S. veterans who fought in Korea, and for including the day's ceremony in the oral histories of their families. Then he lifted his arms in a gesture borrowed from Coast Salish tradition, hands in front of his face, elbows bent, and thanked the elders in the Lummi language, "Hý shqe, hý shqe," (pronounced HIGH-shke).

Then Mary Cagey bestowed on Mayor Park the octagonal drum she had been playing, which is hand-painted with an eagle whose wings are shaped like whales.

"Hý shqe," Mayor Park responded, "Hý shqe."

The ceremony was filmed by a crew from KOAM-TV, a Korean-language station in the Seattle area, and later shown on television in South Korea.





Drummers at Lummi “blanketing” ceremony (L-R) Douglas Bob (wearing his traditional warrior’s shirt), Johnny Bob, Joseph Johnson, Christopher Heath

EDITOR’S NOTE: We thank George Drake, of Bellingham, WA, who commissioned the article and the photos. All photos are credited to Tore Ofteness, a professional photographer based in Bellingham.

Women of the Cagey Ceremonial Drum Group. Note the traditional cedar bark hats



Mayor Gwang-tae Park “blankets” George Cagey



Mayor Gwang-tae Park “blankets” Claude Wilbur

FEATURED CHAPTER

142 KOREAN WAR VETERANS [MD]

Our Chapter held a fund raiser on the weekend of 6-9-07 through 6-11-07 at the Hagerstown, Maryland Valley Mall. At the time this was scheduled, the intent was, by use of the Rose of Sharon, to collect funds to be used for maintenance of the National Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC. Since Hagerstown is the major city in Washington County, we also had a second purpose, which was to get commitments from Korean War veterans from Washington County and surrounding areas as a preliminary to establishing a new chapter in Washington County.

We were very successful with regard to this second purpose: we received commitments from about 45 potential members. As a result, we will help establish a new chapter there.

Our primary goal changed when it was found that the Maryland National Guard has been mobilized to go to Iraq. Through the diligent efforts of Bob Eader and Bob Mount, it was determined that for approximately \$6.00 per set we could get a cooling cap which cools the forehead and a cooling tie which cools the back of the neck, reducing the body's core temperature. These items contain polymer



CID 142's display at the Hagerstown, MD Valley Mall



CID 142 members Bob Eader (L) and Ken Davis (R), holding sample cold gear



Past CID 142 Commander Robert Miles administers oath to new Chapter officers (L-R) Robert Mount, Glenn Wienhoff, Leroy Hansberger, Kenneth Davis



Lou Surratt (L) and Marty Goge (R) at CID 142's display. Marty is holding special clothing worn by troops in Iraq



CID 142 members at the mall (L-R) Commander Leroy Hansburger, Glen W. Wienhoff, Chip Chipley, Tony Malavendo

crystals that swell and turn cold when soaked in water for a few minutes. Both stay cold for many hours, and are reusable over and over. When considering that temperatures in Iraq at this time of the year can reach 140 degrees, it is obvious that these would be of great benefit to the troops.

Upon being shown samples of these items and hearing an explanation of our intent, the donors at the Hagerstown Valley Mall were very generous and happy to donate. As a result, with some additional donations from the Frederick Area having been added to these donations, we were able to raise over \$3,000.00. By using the money we raised, we have ordered sets to equip all the Maryland National Guard troops who have been mobilized for deployment to Iraq.

This proved again that by using the Rose of Sharon in fund raisers, and by letting the potential donors know that their money is going for a worthwhile cause, whether it be to help maintain the National Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC, for scholarships for grandchildren or great grandchildren of Korean War veterans, or, in this case, to give some measure of comfort to the troops in Iraq, great things can be accomplished.

*Lou Surratt, 116 Grand Oak Drive
Hagerstown, MD 21740
(301) 393-0994, BOP5@msn.com*

The Chapter also held its annual election of officers. The new officers are:

- Commander – Leroy Hansberger
- Vice Commander – Glenn Wienhoff
- Secretary – Kenneth Davis
- Treasurer – Robert Mount

Richard L. Martin, P. O. Box 1647, Frederick, MD 21702-0647, (301) 663-6360, rlmaem@comcast.net

Special thanks to Tony Malavenda, 6351 Springridge Parkway, Frederick, MD 21701, for several of the photos.



Reggie Kephart of CID 142 and his fire truck at Union Bridge parade on May 30, 2007



Marty Goge of CID 142 shows people special "cooling" clothing to be used by troops in Iraq



CID 142's float at Union Bridge, MD parade on May 30, 2007



CID 142's float at Union Bridge, MD parade on May 30, 2007



CID 142's Color Guard at Urbana High School for memorial service before Memorial Day 2007 (L-R) Reggie Kephart, Bob Mount, Chip Chipley, Glen Wienhoff, Jim Miller, Tony Malavenda



Glen Wienhoff, CID 142, at mall



CID 142 members at Hagerstown Mall soliciting contributions to support troops being activated for service in Iraq (L-R) Tony Marra, Jim Miller, Lou Surratt

12 CAPT PAUL DILL #2 [DE]

Members attended the Department of Delaware convention at which the Chapter's new officers were sworn in by KWVA President Dechert:

- Commander – Mick Schroeder
- Chapter Rep. – Frank Howerton
- Adjutant – Fran Daney and Edwin Pickhaven

Russell Cunningham

33161 Woodland Court, S, Lewes, DE 19958-5226



President Dechert "oaths" new CID 12 officers at Department of Delaware convention



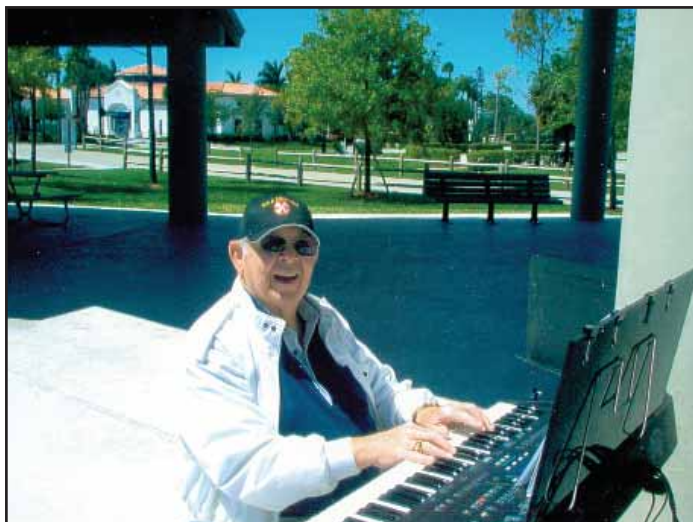
Reverend Kim, CID 12 President Mick Schroeder, and KWVA President Dechert at Department of Delaware meeting

17 LT RICHARD E. CRONAN [FL]

We held a picnic on April 16, 2007 at the South County Civic Center. Twenty-two members and wives attended. Our guest of honor was Reverend John Cho, of the Boca Raton New Hope Church.



CID 17 President Al Ratner (L) and Rev. John Cho (R)



Ziggy Friedman, CID 17 member, provides the music at Chapter's picnic



Herb Dareff, Past President of CID 17, cooks for Chapter's picnic attendees



CID 17 members in chow line at picnic

The day was cold and wintry—at least by Florida standards—with temperatures in the low 40s, and a wind of 25mph. We had plenty of food, but the weather kept our attendance lower than we expected.

Our “cook,” Herb Dareff probably had the warmest place to be that day.

Arnold Bob Kempler
206 Piedmont E 206, Delray Beach, FL 33484

19 GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

At our recent luncheon/meeting a wonderful lady named Dolly Odell entertained us. Dolly performed in Korea in 1952 and 53 with a USO troupe, along with Danny Thomas and Jonathan Winters.

She performed many of the songs of that era while our Chapter members joined in the singing. Everyone had a grand time.

James Conway
1184 Fourteenth Place NE
Atlanta, GA 30309-3505 (404) 875-6170.



Dolly Odell and Robert Hendershott at CID 19 meeting

General (Ret.) Harold Dye and Dolly Odell at CID 19 meeting



Dolly Odell sings to Joe Anastasia at CID 19 meeting

National KWVA Fund Raiser Flower Rose of Sharon

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

56 VENTURA COUNTY [CA]

Chapter members participated in a well-attended Veterans Day ceremony in Santa Paula, California.

*KWVA Chapter 56, 1121 New Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060*



CID 56's Rifle Squad at the 2007 Santa Paula Memorial Day service



Eutimeo Baes (L) places a wreath for CID 56 at Memorial Day service, and Mike Hidalgo (R) places one for his brothers



Korean widow Connie Borrego places wreath in honor of her deceased husband and CID 56 member Hector



Part of the large crowd that attended the 2007 Memorial Day service in Santa Paula, CA



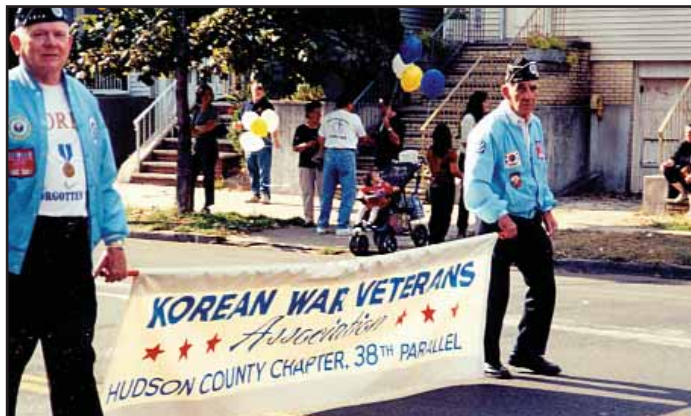
Some of CID 56's members at 2007 Memorial Day service: Manuel Salazar, William Cobos, David Garcia, Gilbert Cabrera, Fred Rodriguez, Mike Hidalgo, Everett Baca, William Duarte, Robert Bermudez, Ben Espinoza, Rudy Arellano, Henry Aguilar, Eutimeo Baes

94 HUDSON COUNTY [NJ]

The Chapter has been involved in numerous activities in recent months. Activities have included participation in the 2006 Veterans Parade in Jersey City, the Bayonne Columbus Day and St. Patrick's Day Parades, and a Memorial Day parade. Members also visited Public School #16, Cornelia F. Bradford School, for an annual Veterans Day ceremony.



CID 94 member Larry Barulli waits for the Memorial Day Parade to start



John Fallon and Bob McKnight carry CID 94's banner in Bayonne, NJ Memorial Day Parade



CID 94's train carries passengers in Bayonne Memorial Day Parade



CID 94 members gather around Korean War photos at an exhibition in Tom's River, NJ

Chapter President Ralph "Lucky" Pasqua spoke at the Bayonne Middle School on November 22, 2006, and other members joined in the city of Bayonne's Salute to Veterans at City Hall on November 9, 2006.

Several Chapter members attended a luncheon at the Korean Consul General office in New York City on January 19, 2007. More than ten different courses were served, some of which, as which one member said, "Were reminiscent of the foods the KWVA members ate while serving in the military forces in Korea during the three years of fierce fighting on the Korean Peninsula from June 1950 to July 1953."

*Lawrence P. Barulli, 38 E. 46th Street
Bayonne, NJ 07002-4026*



Members of CID 94 wait for Bayonne parade to start



Korean War monument in Jersey City, NJ, with CID 94 members gathered around



CID 94 Color Guard waits for Bayonne parade to step off

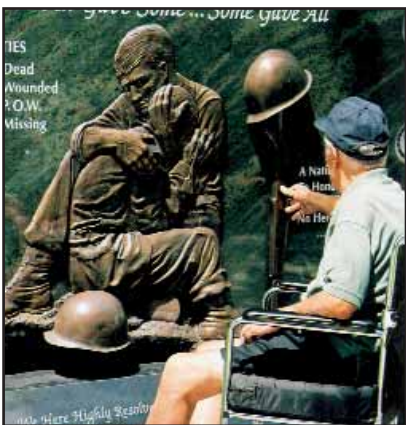
106 TREASURE COAST [FL]

Tony Ricigliano was extremely influential in the procurement of funds to help build the Korean War Memorial in Port Lucie, FL. The monument, which is located in Veteran's Park, Midport Road, in Port St. Lucie, was dedicated on January 14, 2006. Col Michael Davino, Central Command, was the keynote speaker.

Port St. Lucie's mayor, Robert Minsky, who is a Korean War vet-



Former CID 106 Commander Tony Ricigliano and his wife approach the Korean War Memorial in Port St. Lucie, FL



LEFT: Tony Ricigliano of CID 106 pays his respects at the Port St. Lucie memorial

BELOW: A full view of the Korean War Memorial in Port St. Lucie, F



eran, also addressed the crowd. One of the comments he made was that he had never seen so many people at a ceremony before.

Ricigliano's name is at the bottom left of the Memorial base, just above the designer's name. That would be Peter Popolizio, who is now our Chapter Commander. The builder bore some of the cost of the Memorial.

Unfortunately, Tony Ricigliano suffered a stroke on January 5, 2006. Ironically, he was at the Memorial at the time. He missed the dedication by only ten days.

The Chapter sends its best wishes to Tony.

Richard H. Curry
1126 SW Sarto Lane, Port St. Lucie, FL 34953-2688

113 THOUSAND ISLANDS [NY]

The Leadership Development Class One at one of our local high schools, Lyme Central, recently conducted a Veterans' Memorial Fund. Our chapter voted to make a donation of \$100.00 to this fund.

The class' project description stated:

The Leadership Development Class plans to conduct fundraising to create a Veterans Memorial for the town of Lyme. We want to develop a place to reflect, bring families and friends together, a place to honor our veterans, and a peaceful place to think or pray. Our project will coordinate with local citizens to accomplish the Memorial.

Class members had an action plan as well:

We will conduct a letter writing campaign. We will conduct a Community Walk and an activities day for families and friends. We will conduct a town-wide mailing to inform residents of our project.

The goal was to raise \$5,000 by graduation.

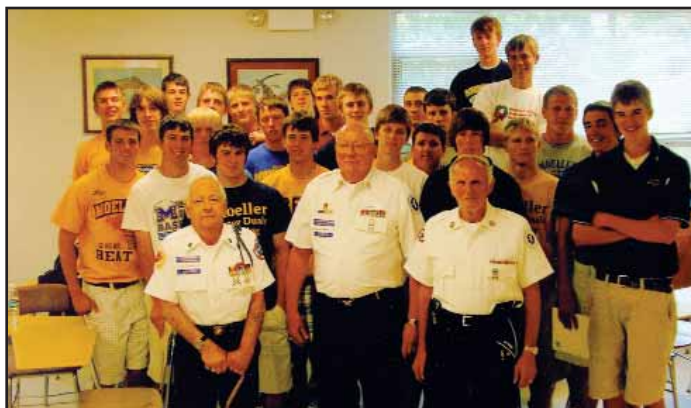
*Robert J. Hodkinson, 1720 Huntington Street
Watertown, NY 13061-9155, (315) 782-1715*



CID 113 Treasurer Robert J. Hodkinson (L) presents a check to five members of Lyme Central Leadership Development Class as Chapter Commander Joseph A. Hale (R) looks on

121 GREATER CINCINNATI [OH]

We participated in Tell America programs and two Memorial Day parades recently.



CID 121 members (L-R) Joe Celenza, Bob McGeorge, and Don Seiwert participated in a Tell America program at Moeller High School in Cincinnati



(L-R) Bob McGeorge, "Helen" Hwal Ran, Pat DiLonardo, Sang Kim at 2007 Memorial Day parade in Cincinnati

*Bob McGeorge, 3296 Blueacres Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45239*



CID 121 members prepare for 2007 Blue Ash Memorial Day parade



Korean-American contingent mingles with CID 121 members at 2007 Blue Ash Memorial Day parade

126 TRI-STATE [OH]

We held our annual Christmas party on December 7th, 2006, "Pearl Harbor Day." We decided it would be fitting to honor one of our Marine Corps members, Colonel Richard Humphries, with a trophy for his leadership and guidance in our Chapter.



CID 126 President Don Wolf and VP George Piggott present Col Humphries with Eagle Trophy



Bob Estell (L), Col Humphries (C), and Don Wolf (R) at CID 126's Christmas party



Don Wolf (L), Col Humphries, and guest speaker Howard Camp at CID 126's Christmas party

Colonel Humphries served in World War Two, the Korean War, and Vietnam. Chapter 126 President Don Wolf presented the Eagle trophy to the Colonel.

Howard Camp, Secretary for the Ohio KWVA, and President of



Mrs. Ann Humphries (L), Col Humphries (C), and Trustee George Germusa chat at CID 126's Christmas get-together

Chapter 125, Greene County [OH], was our guest speaker. He spoke of The Four Freedoms, and was well received by the members of our Chapter.

Because of the bad weather, the East Liverpool High School Choral Group did not appear, but their director, Lisa Ensinger, sang, led the members in military songs, and finished with Christmas carols.

It was an evening everyone enjoyed. The dinner was good and, as usual, the wives did a great job of putting it all together.

*George W. Piggott, 3720 Root Ave., N.E
Canton, OH 44705-2665*

129 INDIANA #4 [IN]

Our Chapter recently completed a successful fundraising event at the local WalMart store. Funds collected are used to award scholarships each year to area high school graduates. During May 2007 the Chapter awarded five scholarships to area graduates.

In addition, funds collected are used to provide aid to veterans and/or their family members who are sick or in distress. The funds support programs for senior citizens, causes such as Warm the Children, programs for patients at the Veterans Administration Medical Center located in Cincinnati, and other worthwhile causes.



CID 129's a.m. Fundraising Group (Front, L-R) Bob Oelker, Bob Lowe, Hershey Kent, Clifford Hoffmeier (Second Row, L-R) Howard Cleeter, Al Garcia, Bob Weber, Leroy Webb, Hank Schmeltzer, Carl Zimmer, Clarence Vogelgesang, Bill Kyle, Mike Blevins, Clarence Batchelor



CID 129's p.m. Fundraising Group (L-R) Bob Riede, Hershel Kent, Chapter Commander Luther Rice, Joe Smith, Archie Abner

The Chapter provides a firing squad and color guard when requested for activities such as military funerals, Memorial Day and Veterans Day services, parades, festivals, and other occasions.

Chapter 129 was chartered by the national organization March 19, 1996.

*Luther Rice, 414 Water Street
Aurora, IN 47001, (812) 926-2790*

138 AKRON REGIONAL [OH]

Chapter members participated in the Memorial Day Parade in Cuyahoga Falls, OH in May. The 1st Bn., 145 Armored Regiment, Akron, OH, furnished the truck.

Carl L. Canon, 4512 Conestoga Trail, Copley, OH 44312



ABOVE: Members of CID 138 ride along the Cuyahoga Falls parade route.

BELOW: Members aboard truck: Sitting with backs to camera are Auxiliary members Chris Bean and Pat Booth. Standing (L-R) Ken White, Norm Swope, Don Booth, Sonny Cool, Dick Hudak, Dean Johnson. Chapter 1st VP Carol Camp stands in front of truck.



153 CENTRAL FLORIDA [FL]

There was a re-enactment on May 7, 2007 of the WWII V.E. surrender signing on May 5, 1945. The re-enactment, which was performed at the Veterans' Memorial Park in Deltona, Florida, included a number of Chapter members.

Charles Carafano, 1885 Van Allen Circle, Deltona, FL 32738



Re-enactment in Florida participants (L-R) Ken Cosgrove - American officer; Mario Grasso - German officer; Bill Bardell - German officer; Bernie Choinere - French soldier; Bill Hickey - Russian officer



Another part of the surrender signing (L-R) Mario Grasso - German officer; Mick Cotton - narrator (standing); Ken Cosgrove - American officer; Bill Hickey - Russian officer; John Likakis - American soldier (standing); Bill Bardell - German officer



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Randy Sweet LPN,
MM3 USN Ret. DAV

165 IMPERIAL VALLEY [CA]

On March 14, 2007 the Chapter presented the American Flag and the Navy Flag at the Naval Air Facility's Medical Department, El Centro, CA in memory of 27 Fleet Marine Corpsmen who were recipients of the Medal of Honor.

C. W. Housouer, P. O. Box 2492, El Centro, CA 92244



Imperial Valley Chapter 165 members (L-R) Jr Reclosado, Ed Townsend, Bill Housouer, Frank Pacheco, Ed Beam, Tony Milanes

169 LAKE COUNTY [FL]

Harold E. Sievers Receives Coveted Department of Florida Eddie Ko Veteran of the Year Award

Harold E. Sievers, of Lady Lake, Lake County, FL, was the honored recipient of "Eddie Ko Veteran of the Year Award" at the Department of Florida (DoF) State Convention held May 11-13, 2007, at the historic Kenilworth Lodge in Sebring, FL. Sievers, who was recommended by Chapter 169, of Lake County, FL, was chosen from among fourteen of his fellow nominees from throughout Florida.

He has served as President, Vice President, and as Chaplain of the Chapter, where he was instrumental in involving the Chapter's Color Guard in veteran ceremonies at The Villages Veterans Memorial Park; it has participated regularly ever since. He is the current Chaplain of Chapter 169, and for the last several years has served as Department of Florida Chaplain.

In addition to his outstanding Chapter 169 and DoF KWVA service, Sievers has a long record of service to numerous other veterans' groups, as well as to other fraternal and church groups. He has for many years driven the DAV van transporting local veterans to the VA medical facility in Gainesville, FL.

Sievers, who spent 1953 with the Air Force in Korea, served in the military until 1960. He has received the Good Conduct Medal; the National Defense Medal (with two battle Stars); the UN Korean Service, Korean Defense Service, ROK Presidential Unit Citation, the 50th Anniversary Korean Commemorative, Cold War Victory Commemorative, and Reserve Commemorative Medals; the AF Presidential Unit Citation with an Oak Leaf Cluster; and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

Mr. Ko, the award's namesake, was orphaned at age 14 when the North Korean Communists killed his Christian missionary father and school teacher mother. He soon became a spy for the American forces and aided in the 1950 sea invasion of Inchon, South Korea. He continued as a spy and translator for the remainder of the war. Then, in 1955, at age 18, he was befriended by three U. S. Marines who paid his way to the U.S., where he became a U.S. citizen and a successful businessman, husband, father and Korean War veteran.



CID 169 Chaplain Sievers (L) with the award's namesake, Mr. Eddie Ko, and the Department of Florida's Joan Arcand

Mr. Ko will be the principal speaker at The Villages Veterans Memorial Park at 10:00 a.m. on Korean War Armistice Day, July 27.

For more information call Tom Thiel at 352-357-3943, or email at tthiel5@comcast.net.

170 TAEJON [NJ]

Commander Thomas Falato and Past Commander George Bruzgis led 17 Taejon Chapter members and 2 members from CID 216, KWVA M*A*S*H* 4099, in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Pearl River, NY.

The Korean War veterans participated in the 45th St. Patrick's Day Parade sponsored by the Rockland County Ancient Order of Hibernians. The event is the second largest parade in New York State.

The nineteen Korean War veterans braved the cold weather and severe snow and ice storm that occurred two days prior to the parade.



Taejon Chapter (CID 170) members getting ready to march in Pearl River St. Patrick's Day Parade



CID 170 had a large turnout for the 45th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade; they are not all in this photo



A bit of refreshment for CID 170 St. Patrick's Day Parade marchers after the marching is done



CID 170 members marching proudly in St. Patrick's Day parade (L-R) Captain James Lomauro, John Di Lonardo, Henry Ferrarini

Pearl River worked hard to clear the streets of the snow for the parade. The courageous veterans marched three miles singing cadence, led by Captain James Lomauro and Jr. Vice Commander Henry Ferrarini. A very large crowd lined the sidewalks in dedication to the men and women of our armed forces. Some 100 entries marched in the parade that took three hours to complete.

One of the themes was a statement made by President John F. Kennedy: "The cost of freedom is always high, but Americans have always paid it, and one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender or submission."

The long day started at 11 a.m. in Saddle Brook, NJ, on a bus trip to Pearl River and ended back in Saddle Brook, NJ at 4 p.m.

Commander Falato and members proceeded to a diner for a late lunch.

Louis Quagliero, 142 Illinois Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07503

251 SAGINAW/FRANKENMUTH [MI]

We have had a great donation year to date for 2007. We have given over \$7,000.00 to organizations. We also gave five (5) graduating high school students \$500.00 scholarships, accounting for another \$2,500.00. They are all young adults entering college or universities. We also sent a \$10.00 support check to KWVA Treasurer Richard E. Hare.

We appreciate the publicity in *The Graybeards*; along with that furnished by two local newspapers, it helps citizens understand what we do with Rose of Sharon money. For example, the checks in the photos below total \$1,000.00. The money donated is used by the recipient organizations for their operations and upkeep.

Note that in the bottom photo we are standing in front of the Korean Monument. Our members were instrumental in selling a majority of the 26,000 bricks bearing names of past servicemen in the walkways leading to the WWI, WWII, Korean and Vietnam Monuments.



CID 251 members (L-R) Dick Rosa, Fred Bauer, Commander Bob Simon, Saginaw County Children's Zoo CEO Nancy Parker, Chapter 251 Treasurer Don Twietmeyer, and Tom Keller at check presentation



L to R: CID 251 Commander Bob Simon, Fred Bauer, Saginaw County Veteran's Memorial Plaza Vice President Buck Rutenbar and President Tom Webb, Chapter Treasurer Don Twietmeyer, and Tom Keller

Additionally, the Michigan KWVA also donated another \$3,000.00 for one flagpole and a bench in previous years.

Bob Simon, 7286 Spring Lake Trail, Saginaw, MI 48603-1684, (989) 792-3718, robsimoncondo@charter.net

259 CENTRAL INDIANA [IN]

Chapter members paid another visit to the veterans in the VA Hospital in Indianapolis to distribute gift bags containing some necessities and a colorful 'Ball Cap.' The contents brought smiles to patients' faces.

While one of the volunteer Hospital Staff guided them through the many hallways, the 259 team went room to room in some wards to greet each person and give them a 'Thank You' package.



CID 259 members wheel carts with the goodies at Indianapolis Veterans Hospital. The group includes Catherine Carr, Virginia Martin, Melvin Butler, Tine Martin, Jack Beaty

264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

The Chapter has new officers. Ron Silva, who has served in several theaters, is the new Vice President. Bob Hooker is the Secretary.

We offer special thanks to longtime Chapter member Robert Terry, who was an infantryman in the Korean War. His wife always has cake and cookies at our meetings. Robert has raised thousands of dollars for the Travis AFB Fisher House. He undergoes radiation therapy at the hospital and stays at Fisher House while being treated.

The city of Concord, California recently rebuilt a playground to accommodate children with special needs. The project was called

"Mateo's Dream," in honor of Concord resident Liz Lamach's son, Mateo, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair.

Citizen volunteer workers labored for two week-ends to complete the \$725,000 project. The members of Chapter 264 and Veteran's of Foreign Wars Concord-Clayton Post 1525 contributed to the sweat effort.



SP4 Ron Silva, CID 164 VP, in Germany in 1954, with Service Co., S-1 & S-4, 701st Ord. Bn., 10th Inf. Div



CID 264 Secretary Bob Hooker and his spouse

dating back to the Revolutionary War. The KVA Color guard marched the whole route and had the biggest contingent of all the veterans organizations. KVA Commander Albert McCarthy spoke on behalf of the KWVA.

LTC John Lightley and his wife Margaret visited us from our sister chapter in England, the British Korean Veterans Association Durham Light Infantry Branch. Our officers brought John and Margaret to our KVA Hqs at the State House and then went to meet Rep. Anthony Verga, Chairman of the Veterans and Federal Affairs Committee, where Rep. Verga presented to John a Massachusetts State Citation. In turn, John presented to the state a beautiful book on the Korean War written by two British soldiers who served in Korea.

Robert Terry, longtime CID 264 members, outside Travis AFB Fisher House facility



(L-R) KVA Treasurer Robert Wagner, KWVA National Director Jeff Brodeur, Margaret Lightley, LTC John Lightley, Rep. Anthony Verga, KVA Sr. Vice Commander Art Griffith, KVA Commander Al McCarthy, KVA Director John Durham



Don Sharp, former CID 264 President and Concord, CA activist



Rep. Verga (R) presents citation to John Lightley (L)

Also contributing were various service groups, with lots of Lions, Rotarians, church groups, business groups, and social groups in attendance. There was even a group of Prius automobile owners.

After his shift at the site, Don Sharp, Past President of our Chapter, and Current Trustee of Post 1525, met Stanley Grogan, Liaison Officer of Chapter 264, to discuss future civic contributions available for veterans' service groups.

Stanley Grogan, 2585 Moraga Drive, Pinole, CA 94564-1236

299 KOREA VETERANS OF AMERICA [MA]

Several hundred patriots attended the Middleboro Memorial Day ceremonies. Two Korean War veterans and 1 WWII veteran received their high school diplomas, and wreaths were laid at all monuments



CID 299 members and guests gather with Jeff Brodeur's son Vincent at Spaulding Hospital



CID 299 members (L-R) John Durham, Art Griffith, Jeff Brodeur, Pat Maxim, Albert McCarthy, Otis Mangrum, Bob Wagner, Norm Record at KVA Monument in Middleboro, MA, on Memorial Day 2007. Other members in attendance were Bob Joy, Donald Hall and Cliff DeCoff.

Chapter#299 presented LTC Lightley and his wife with a tie bar, a KVA mouse pad, pins, patches, decals, a KVA license plate, and a picture of the Chapter signed by the officers on Memorial Day 2007 at our Middleboro Monument.

Next, we all made our way to Spaulding Hospital to meet with my son Vincent and Boston Globe reporter Charles Sennott, who will be doing a major article on traumatic brain injury (TBI).

KVA Commander Al McCarthy presented to Vincent a KVA Citation on behalf of the Chapter. We concluded our day at the Massachusetts Korean War Monument at the Charlestown Navy Yard.

It was a great day for all our veterans.

Jeff Brodeur, 48 Square Rigger Lane, Hyannis, MA 02601-2100

DEPARTMENTS

MISSOURI

KWVA members from around the state gathered in O'Fallon in early May at the 11th Missouri KWVA reunion. The Department's new Commander is Frank Williams of CID 186, St. Charles County.

A contingent from the St. Louis and St. Charles Korean Community Group entertained at the reunion. Their leader, Mr. Lee, thanked all the Korean vets for what they did for South Korea. He suggested that their assistance explains why South Korea now boasts the 10th largest economy in the world.



Korean entertainers at the Department of Missouri reunion



Most of the Missouri Chapter members and guests at the Department of Missouri reunion



Missouri Chapter members in O'Fallon: (Standing) Department of Missouri Commander Frank Williams (Sitting, L-R) Gene Stark, Darold Woodcock, Chris Christifulli

Salvadore "Chris" Christifulli, 923 Annabrook Park Drive, O'Fallon, MO 63366, (636) 294-1836, schristi@mail.win.org

NEW JERSEY

Installation of KWVA New Jersey state officers

KWVA 2nd VP James Ferris officiated in the installment of newly elected New Jersey state officers at the Menlo Park, New Jersey Veterans Home. Outgoing New Jersey State Commander Thomas McHugh called the meeting to order at 11a.m. McHugh thanked everyone for the support he received in the many projects throughout his years as KWVA N.J. State Commander. Then he relinquished his time to Mr. Ferris.



KWVA 2nd VP James Ferris (R) presents framed document to outgoing N. J. State Commander Thomas McHugh



James Ferris (L) congratulates Leonard Speizer (R,)incoming N. J. State Vice Commander, as new Commander George Bruzgis looks on



James Ferris congratulates Albert Gonzales, new N.J. State 2nd Vice Commander, as Thomas Falato (R) and Leonard Speizer (between Ferris and Gonzales) observes

Thomas Falato, Bronze Star recipient, new N. J. State 3rd Vice Commander



New N.J. State Commander George Bruzgis

Mr. Ferris explained the duties and then called up front the newly elected state officers. He administered the oath of office. Many Korean War veterans from various chapters throughout the state attended the ceremony. The outgoing State Commander then presented the gavel to the new State Commander, George Bruzgis, Past Commander of Taejon Chapter.

Also elected as officers were:

- Leonard Speizer (Chapter 213), 1st Vice Commander
- Albert Gonzales, Chapter Commander, (Chapter 216), 2nd Vice Commander
- Thomas Falato, (Chapter 170 Commander), 3rd Vice Commander
- Leon Kaczmarek (Chapter 148) State Treasurer
- Charles Koppelman (Chapter 170) Chaplain

Refreshments were served during the ceremony.

*Louis Quagliero, c/o VFW #3484
44 Market Street, Saddle Brook, NJ 07663*

NEW YORK

We had a good Department of New York State meeting. It was followed by a tour of the Purple Heart Museum. It really impressed us.

One of our veterans recognized one of his hometown friends holding a wounded man in his arms. The Museum Director was very excited to get more information on the pictures. The medic in the picture had just died within the last two weeks.

It was all we had time for. However, there is also a Revolutionary War Museum attached to the Purple Heart Museum. It is on the spot where George Washington fought his last battle.



Tony and Paulene Fallico always donate a beautiful cake for Dept. of New York activities. This one is no exception.



(L-R) James Ferris administers oath of office to new N.J. State officers George Bruzgis, Leonard Speizer, Albert Gonzales, Thomas Falato, Leon Kaczmarek, outgoing State Commander Thomas McHugh, Charles Koppelman

The guest speaker at our dinner was Colonel Curry from West Point. He was very nice and a terrific speaker. He was born in China and is married to a Korean woman. We really enjoyed talking to him.

Our new officers are:

- President – Jim Lewis
- 1st VP – Irving Breitbart
- 2nd VP – Ed Grala
- Secretary – Doris B. Porpiglia
- Treasurer – Dick Compo
- Judge Advocate – John Reidy

- Chaplain – Joe Vogel
- Director – Richard Faron
- Director - Tom Riley
- Director – Sal Scarlota
- Director – Seymour Lehman
- Director – Ken Miller

Incidentally, the Department of New York State's official address is P. O. Box 176, Waterloo, NY 13165.

*Doris B. Porpiglia, 3774 State Route 31 #308
Liverpool, NY 13090-1359*



Department of New York members before officer installation (L-R) Dick Compo (Treasurer), Doris B. Porpiglia (1st VP), Jim Lewis (President), Jim Ferris (National 2nd VP), John Reidy (Judge Advocate)



New York State group on trip to the Purple Heart Museum, where they presented a wreath and had their picture taken by Joe Vogel



Dick Compo, Doris B. Porpiglia, Jim Lewis, John Reidy (L-R) sit at table as John Barwinczak presents award to Jim Ferris at New York State spring convention



Dept. of New York officers immediately following installation (L-R) Jim Lewis, Irving Breitbart, Doris B. Porpiglia, Dick Compo, Richard Faron, John Reidy, Tom Reidy

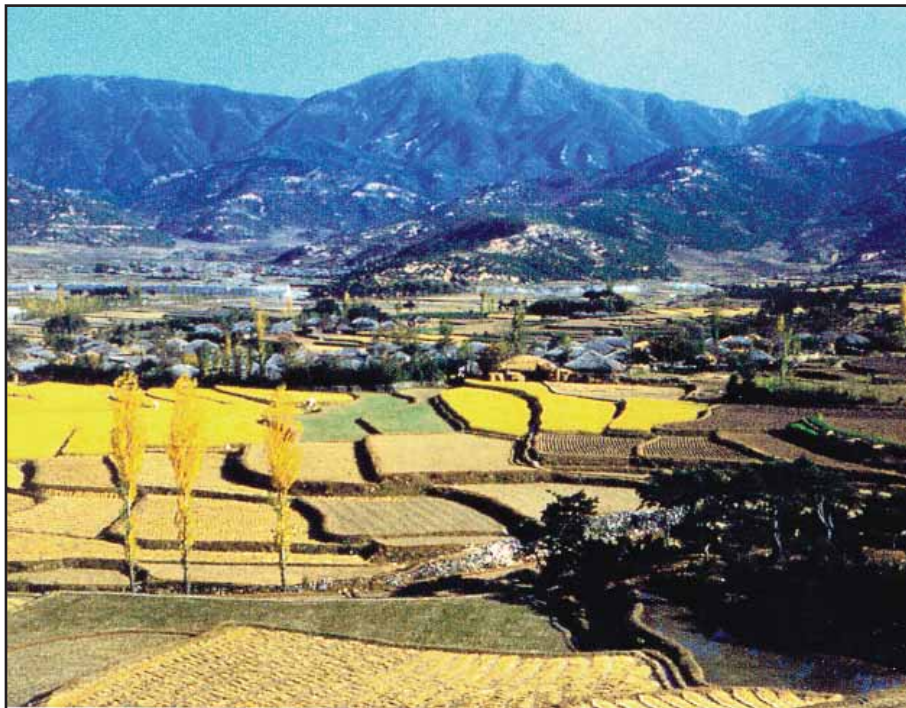


New York State convention attendees (L-R) Charley Malone, Jim Lewis, Bob Morga, Jim Ferris gather in front of table to wish Malone the best. After serving as Department of State Director for many years, he elected not to run again.



Irving Breitbart (R) presents Dept. of New York keynote speaker Col. Curry with a gift basket at spring 2007 convention

Memories From Masan



Rice field near Masan

Here are several pictures I took in Korea in 1952 and 1953.

I was a 2nd Lt with the 425th Transportation Traffic Regulation Group. I was stationed at the Masan Rail Depot in charge of Movement Control (ie; keeping a record of all rail cars that arrived and departed the Masan Sea Port).

The refuse of war (damaged vehicles, artillery, weapons, planes, even shell casing, sleeping bags and mess kits) was shipped by rail to the Masan Sea Port to be loaded onto ships, then taken to Japan to be repaired. After repair, the items were shipped to Pusan then sent by rail back into service.

My younger brother, John Randall, an A/2C, was stationed at K10 Airfield near Seoul. We got together twice, once in Seoul and once in Masan.

Gaither Randal
14106 Territorial Lane
Sun City West, AZ 85375-2263



War-torn Seoul



Destroyed bridge on the Pusan Perimeter near Masan



Rice harvest near Masan (1952-53)



GIs on a Sunday afternoon in the seaport town of Masan



Destroyed bridge on the Pusan Perimeter near Masan



Jeep destroyed by land mine



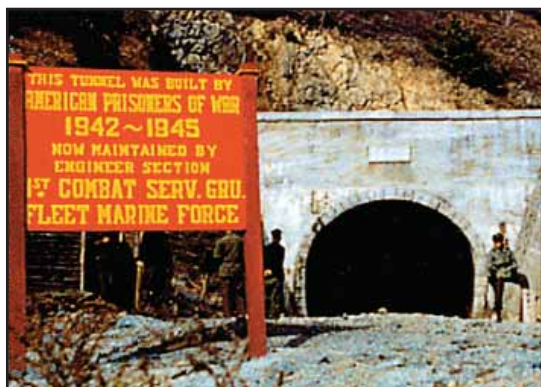
P-51 at airfield K-13



North Korean POW being loaded onto box cars in Masan



North Korean POW being loaded onto box cars in Masan



Rail tunnel between Masan and Chinhae, built by American POW during WWII



John Randall and Eugene Gasser in spring 1953



The Randalls chat near Masan



Merry Christmas from the Randall brothers



The Randalls in the streets of Seoul



Mister "O," interpreter for 425th Transp. Traffic Regulation Group,



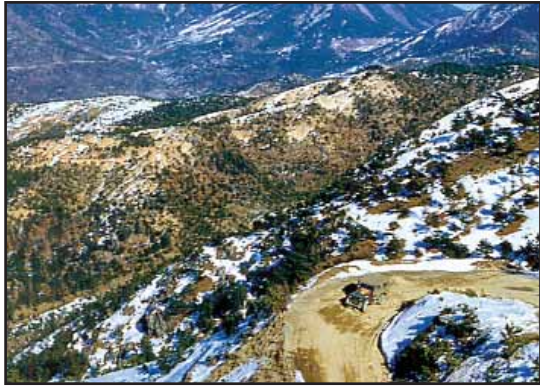
John Randall and Eugene Gasser in Seoul, spring 1953



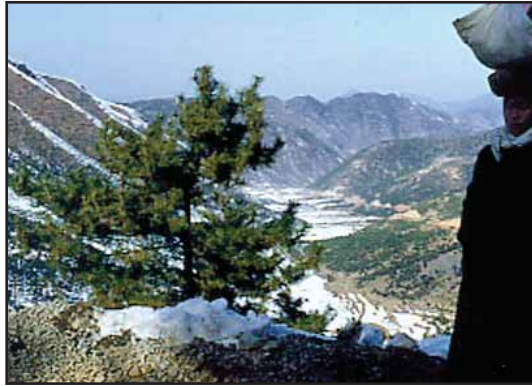
Korean mountain village near Masan



Country resident near Masan



Mountain road between Masan and Chinhae



Countryside near Masan, 1952-53



The good folks of Masan



Countryside near Masan, 1952-53



Countryside near Masan, 1952-53



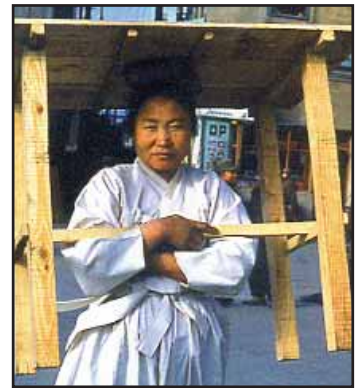
Korean children in Masan



Honey bucket manufacturer in Masan



Laundry day in Masan



Masan street scene



Korean nuns in Masan



Lt Gaither Randall and school girls during a Korean holiday



Korean lady in Masan



Korean funeral in Masan



The pall bearers carrying the casket during a Korean funeral pose for a photo



Korean school girls in Masan dressed up for a Korean holiday

PAUL

It began with a "thunk! thunk! thunk!"
from a distant hill.
One thousand and one,
Where can I find cover?
One thousand and two,
How long do I have?
One thousand and three,
Do they have the range?
One thousand and four,
No time to dig a hole.
One thousand and five,
No time to run.
One thousand and six,
They should be getting here soon.
One thousand and seven,
Why don't they come?
One thousand and eight,
Is that a whispering sound I hear?
One thousand and nine,
I hope I am in the right spot.
One thousand and ten,
Here they come!
One thousand and eleven,

Steel birds of death are shrieking.
One thousand and twelve,
Hammer blows pound my body.
again and again,
As dirt rains down.
The hot breath of hell blows over me.
Will it ever end?
My head is groggy,
but no pain is registering yet.
I must be O. K.
because I am up and running,
But where is Paul?
There he is so quiet and unmoving.
His body looks like a rag doll
tossed aside by a bored child.
He looks up at me
with eyes that do not see.
Black dirt on his face
mingles with his black skin.
If it weren't for the bright red blood
trickling from his ears,
I would have expected him to speak.

Is it a look of wonder or resignation
that lingers on his face?
Why didn't you run good buddy?
Why didn't you run?
His skin is black.
My skin is white.
His blood is red
and so is mine.
Inside we are the same.
His mother and father
will mourn him.
My mother and father
would mourn me.
We were lying side by side.
His side was death.
Maybe in his dying
he extended my life.
My mind questions,
why you and not me?
Why didn't you run
good buddy?
Why didn't you run.

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1950. The volunteers were airlifted from Yokota Air Base to Itazuke Air Base on the island of Kyushu on June 28th. Kyushu is the southern most island of Japan. They stopped there to gather supplies and equipment for Korea. Bout I was then airlifted to K-2, Taegu, South Korea on June 30, 1950. They continued as a fighting force for about a week. Then other Air Force units started to arrive and Bout I as an entity ceased to exist. As the other units arrived, Bout I was absorbed into them.

Around July 25th, Major Hess, who had originally commanded Bout I, asked certain select men to join him in forming the 6146th Air Base Unit. On July 31, 1950 Air Force Letter Orders A-85 was issued by Major General Partridge. This officially created the 6146th Air Base Unit. It was known unofficially as the Korean Air Advisory Group. It was not until May of 1951 that it was officially known as Korean Air Advisory Group.

One of the primary functions of the 6146th was to develop a Korean Air Force. They accomplished this by training the Koreans in activities related to operating an Air Force. These activities were flight training, communications, armament, engine mechanics, and supply. All this training was under wartime conditions.

Another function was to carry out combat missions against the enemy. Since the United States had gained air superiority over the North Koreans for the time being, no air to air missions were flown. Air to ground missions were flown against the enemy. These missions consisted mainly of attacking enemy supply lines, troop concentrations, communications, ammunition dumps, bridges, and transportation facilities.

The plane used by the 6146th was the F-51 Mustang, which was armed with six 50 caliber machine guns. It was also capable of carrying five-inch rockets and small bombs.

This next section will chronologically detail the movements of the 6146th. They moved from K-2, Taegu to K-4, Sachon. They flew in a Korean C-47 from Taegu to Sachon. They arrived at 11 a.m. They were forced to leave about four hours later because of reports received that either guerrillas or elements of the North Korean

Army were approaching the area.

The 6146th loaded up in old beat up Korean trucks and went to Chinju. They stayed there two days under the protection of the 19th Infantry Regiment. The next base was at K-10, Chinhai. Then shortly after the Inchon landing they left Chinhai and sailed to Inchon on a Korean LST and set up base at K-16, Seoul.

In early November of 1950 they headed north to the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. Around November 28th the 4th Red Chinese Field Army crossed into Korea and entered the conflict on the North Korean side. General MacArthur informed the United Nations that "we now face an entire new war." As a result of the Chinese entering the war the 6146th was forced to retreat to K-5, Taejon in early December.

About this time a second base was set up on Cheju Island as an escape base if the United States troops were run off the Korean Peninsula. In March of 1951 the 6146th moved back to K-16, Seoul. In July of 1951 they moved back to K-4, Sachon. The final base my father was at was K-18, Kangnung in October of 1951.

In order to understand the human interest of the Korean War here are several personal glimpses related by former Sgt. Herbert G. Potter. One instance was when Major Hess wanted to show his appreciation to the men of the 6146th. He requested one of the American pilots fly from K-10, Chinhai to Japan to bring back fresh meat. To bring the meat back it was necessary to remove the 50 caliber guns and ammunition from the wings and store the meat in this area. Had he been attacked he would have had no way to defend himself in the air.

Another instance was at Christmas time. The war was going badly at this time for the Americans and most of the men had not been away from home at Christmas. Some of the armament personnel went out to a Korean hillside and cut down an evergreen for a Christmas tree. They hung 50 caliber ammo, rocket rings and cotton on the tree for decorations.

It was communications job to hook up a lighting system for the tree. They used extra bulbs from the runway lights that were soldered to wire and then painted various colors.

The final instance took place at K-18, Kangnung. The base was under Marine jurisdiction and the 6146th was just a unit there. The Public Information Officer of the Marines found out there was a Korean pilot in the 6146th who had fought against a United States Marine pilot in World War II. The Public Information Officer wanted to show that just five years ago these two were enemies and now they were fighting together.

The Korean pilot was all for this, but the American was not. He said he had lost too many buddies during World War II and could not bring himself to be friends just five years after this.

The 6146th was a small unit if measured by the number of American officers and men in the unit and the number of Korean aircraft assigned to the unit. Its impact, however, was felt by both the number of missions flown (in excess of 400) and, most importantly, the long term contribution of helping to create the South Korean Air Force

Epilogue

The 6146th Air Base Unit was composed of two officers and forty-two enlisted men. It was created on July 31, 1950 by Major General Partridge, who was then commander of the Fifth Air Force. A little over 52 years later, on September 3, 2002, we held our first reunion in Dayton, Ohio.

Eight of the original members attended (including our C.O. Col. Dean Hess), along with four men who joined the unit in Aug/Sept. of 1950. There were also a number of wives and adult children in attendance.

Contact was made with six other members who for various reasons could not attend. It was also determined that at least 9 of the original members of the unit had died.

The three-day reunion ended with a banquet at which we were joined by 35 to 40 Korean/Americans who wished to pay tribute to our unit.

I believe that my son Mark's final paragraph is a perfect ending to this epilogue. You might want to go back and read it.

Nicholson to leave VA and Return to the Private Sector

■ Under his Leadership, VA Makes Strides in Health Care and IT Modernization

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jim Nicholson announced today he has tendered his resignation to President George W. Bush, effective no later than October 1, 2007.

Under Nicholson's leadership, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) continued its evolution as a leader in health care innovations, medical research, education services, home loan and other benefits to veterans. He transformed the VA health care system to meet the unique medical requirements of the returning combatants from Iraq and Afghanistan.

In his letter of resignation, Nicholson praised and thanked the President for the honor of serving him and our nation's veterans in this key post at such a "critical time in our nation's global war on terror."

"The VA is a dynamic organization dedicated to serving our nation's finest citizens – our veterans," Nicholson said. "It has been an honor and privilege to lead the VA during this historic time for our men and women who have worn the uniform. We have accomplished so much and the VA is always striving to improve our services to veterans."

Nicholson said he wants to return to the private sector. "This coming February, I turn 70 years old, and I feel it is time for me to get back into business, while I still can." He said he has no definite plans at this time.

He also addressed an assembled group of Washington VA employees and those watching around the country on VA's closed-circuit television. In his message to employees, Nicholson told them how privileged he felt to have worked with them in fulfilling our nation's promises and obligations to its veterans.

"VA has come a long way in meeting the growing needs and expectations of our veterans and you deserve the credit," Nicholson said.

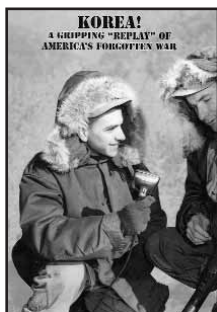
Nicholson, a Vietnam Veteran, was sworn in as Secretary of Veterans Affairs on February 1, 2005.

Book Review

Battle Talk: Memoirs of a Marine Radio Correspondent

By Dick Hill

275 pp. Beaver Pond Press, Inc., ISBN 1-59298-155-0 (BR-1, email)



By Kris Barnett

For many, the sights of the Korean War made an indelible impression. For others, such as author Dick Hill, the sounds of the war are perhaps the most memorable. Hill, a Marine Radio

Correspondent who served in Korea from 1952 to 1953, shares a unique perspective of the Korean War. This enlightening and educational book details the Marine Combat Correspondents, which Hill describes as "the finest public relations team in the military." He explains:

Combat Correspondents are the Marine Corps' news reporters. They are the bold, skilled professional writers, photographers, cameramen, broadcast reporters, artists, and others who keep the public informed about Marine Corps activities. They follow their fellow Marines all over the world. They train side-by-side with the warfighting units. As part of the Public Affairs section, they are the link between the Marines and the American public. To accomplish their mission, the CCs must have a sound understanding of the Marine Corps' organization and tactics used in war in other conflicts." (p. ix)

Hill's memoir packs an abundance of information, examples, and experiences to give the reader a broad understanding of how the correspondents functioned. Furthermore, Hill clearly relays the importance of the correspondents' dual role in communicating with both the American public and with the military personnel during the Korean War. Of particular interest, however, is the CD included with the book that contains Hill's actual broadcasts and recordings from Korea. One noteworthy recording, which is also described in detail and transcribed in the book, is Hill's exclusive interview with famed baseball player

and Marine fighter pilot, Captain Ted Williams.

Williams, apparently as skilled in a Panther jet as he was on the baseball field, was media shy during his time in Korea, especially after a crash landing after being hit by enemy fire. However, Hill's professional skills helped win him the interview, and encouraged Williams to share his unforgettable experiences.

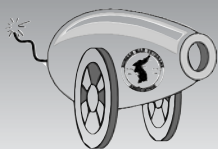
Each chapter of *Battle Talk* brings something new, whether it is a description of Hill's time on the MLR (Main Line of Resistance) interviewing men at the front, a transcription of his radio interview with a Navy chaplain, a short memoir about the meaning of the Christmas holiday in Korea, or the recounting of "Operation Echo," a now-declassified top-secret project.

In "Operation Echo," Hill used his technological savvy with recording equipment to capture the sound of moving U. S. tanks. Then, using strategically placed speakers, the recordings were amplified and played through enemy territory. This diversionary tactic caused the Chinese to believe that a U. S. tank battalion was on the move. As a result, the Chinese launched artillery, therefore revealing their positions.

Further bringing each chapter to life is the inclusion of photographs captured by other correspondents, as well as cartoons from *Leatherneck*. Also, Hill cleverly weaves general information and reflections about the Marine Corps with his own experiences, including Corps-themed movie trivia and an exploration of the Marines' successful "marketing" strategies.

Hill closes the book with a particularly poignant examination of the role of Esprit de Corps, and a list titled "30 Reasons to Love the Marine Corps." Hill balances the realities of the Korean War—C-rations, enemy fire, and tedious duties, with the less-than-ordinary, the importance of mail call, a visit from Marilyn Monroe, or the story behind an interview with Corporal Little, a sole surviving son who insisted on serving in the front lines and who earned two Purple Hearts.

Undoubtedly, Hill provides a look at events with which Korea buffs were likely unaware. This is surely a book for readers with an ear for history!



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.

Counter Mortar Radar (CMR)

Re James Phillips request for info about Counter Mortar Radar, Mar/Apr 2007, p. 74:

I was with the 7th Div, 49th Field Artillery Bn., Hdq. Bn. Radar section from July 1952 until September 1953. We were primarily in the Chorwon Valley area. We had a converted Air Force early warning radar that was retooled for CMR.

The procedure was to find a target on the way up and then find it again on the way down. By determining the distance and the direction of the two points it was possible to determine where the mortar was fired from.

RIGHT: Bell Radar

BELOW: 7th Div., 49th F.A. Bn., Hdq. Bn. Section members (Back, L-R) Ernie Kemp, Lt Tyler, J. Green, Kelley Tivis, ROK Lee (Front, L-R) Kipple, Joe ? (our repairman), A. Fennamore, George, and ?



Probably in April of 1953 we received new radar that was able to track the target during the time of flight. It was supposed to be accurate to within 25 yards.

I was operating the radar during the first attack on Pork Chop. In a one-hour period we tracked 72 different locations. We called in the locations to our headquarters battalion. They determined the amount and who returned fire. There was a heavy mortar company close by. They also wanted the locations so they could return fire.

There was a radar section with the 57th FA Bn., and some time in 1953 the 48th FA Bn. also got a radar section. We were known as Bell Radar.

Stanley E. Erickson
P.O. Box 838
Cherokee Village, AR 72525

That Was Pete Pittsenbarger in the Photo

I'm sending you a picture and a follow-up on an article in the March-April issue, p. 74, regarding the ID of a Marine, supposedly at Chosin Reservoir. He is not a Marine. He is Pete Pittsenbarger, U.S. Army, 2nd "Indianhead" Division.

The picture was taken during the Pusan perimeter battle, sometime between November 25 and 30, 1950, when temperature hovered between 25° to -30° during intense combat with five Chinese Divisions near Kuyong-dong. Pete was wounded in combat. The picture was scheduled to appear in a December Life magazine issue.

I was a high school buddy of Pete's. We enlisted in the Army in October 1949. We wound up at Ft. Lewis, Washington and shipped out to Korea, where we spent over 13 months during the early months of the war.

The last I heard, Pete was living in the Cleveland, Ohio area.

Myrl Fisher
2527 Driftwood Lane
Rockford, IL 61107
(815) 877-8243

Re K-13

With reference to the article by Kenneth L. Moll which appeared in the May - June 2007 issue of *The Graybeards* (p. 56), I was a member of the 16th Fighter Interceptor Squadron of the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing from August of 1952 to August of 1953.

In addition to the 16th, the other two squadrons were the 25th

and the 39th. We were located across the runway from the 8th Fighter Bomber Wing and an F-94 Squadron of all-weather Fighters.

As a ground crew member of the 16th, I was on the flight line every day. All personnel of the three squadrons were very close and well informed about our kills, losses, and other information.

I don't recall the incident written about in the article by Kenneth Moll. In his article he also stated that there were many accidents at K-13 in the last half of 1952. I feel that is in error, as the 8th Fighter Bomber Wing did not have F-86 aircraft until 1953 and non-combat related accidents were very minimal with both the 8th Fighter Bomber Wing and the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing.

I might also mention that the 51st will have its annual reunion this September 6, 7 & 8 in Middleton Wisconsin. The sponsor for this year's reunion is Curt Faust, (608) 849-8304 for anyone interested in attending.

Gene Zenk
1417 Broadway
Denison, IA, 51442

Positive Photo Developments

The Nov/Dec 2006 issue of *The Graybeards* included a picture of members of the Heavy Machinegun Platoon, Company H, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. The picture was taken early in 1953.

All seven soldiers in the picture have been identified. As the result of the interest generated by the picture, I now have the names of 43 platoon members (plus one from the 81mm Mortar Platoon), and I have been in contact with 7 of the 44 soldiers via telephone or email. I also have been given some great photographs to share.

For more information contact Harry Kageleiry, 65 Toftree Lane, Dover NH 03820-4657, 603.742.6750, or 1951hkagey@comcast.net

Re "The Fez"

I am responding to Jack Hayes' article, "The Fez," on p. 46 of the May/June issue. The man has a tremendous memory and true writing skills.

I was on the Landing Party for the *USS Lofberg*, DD759, and volunteered to fire spot from the Island of Yodo and to be the radioman and paddlers for the spies. I once paddled for a spy who was a 6' plus-tall Lt jg. He and his family had been missionaries at Wonsan pre war. His Radio Call was "English Boom, Boom, Junior."

No one from my ship remembers him, and I never did know his name. Along with UDT from a submarine, he made several trips to capture North Koreans. Maybe Mr. Hayes would recall his name, and confirm or deny my memory has not slipped. If you could forward my email to him, I would appreciate it.

Neil McCain
mccain@clearwire.net

EDITOR'S NOTE: We did contact Mr. Hayes. Here is his response, written primarily in "Sailorese."

As a 'squid', and color-blind at that, they didn't allow me near CIC. The only call name codes I remember are ours (Array) and the LSD offshore of YoDo with a classmate aboard (Belding 711). I'll send this with your request on to him (he was a 'rope choker' and may be able to remember.)

Thanks for the kudos.

Jack Hayes, (843) 838-2033
jackhayes@islc.net

Meanwhile, if anyone else can help Mr. McCain, please contact him—and *The Graybeards* staff as well. The idea of the "spies" sounds like the basis for a good story.

Someone is Reading in Korea

In your latest issue of *The Graybeards*, May-June 2007, there are some "Mystery Photos" on page 76. I know that the photo of the building is that of Seoul Train Station here in Seoul, Korea. I am sure you will get hundreds of replies.

I always look forward to your publication in my mailbox at work.

Thanks,

MSG David L. Davisson
Senior Enlisted Aide to
Commander UNC/CFC/USFK
DSN: 738-5300
CELL: 011-383-0165

EDITOR'S NOTE: MSG Davisson is correct. The number of responses may not be in the hundreds, but it is close. In fact, we devote an entire article to it. (See page 61.) The Seoul railroad station must be one of the most photographed structures in Korea.

The important thing here is that we are getting responses from personnel stationed in Korea. Our "International Staff Liaison" personnel construe that to be a sign that the KWVA's existence is proliferating, and that the men and women currently serving in Korea are gaining some well-earned recognition as well.

Buckle Up

As one who is drawn like an iron filing to a magnet when it comes to museums, I thought your editorial this month was pleasing.

I noticed in the *Houston Chronicle* in the events of the past column for June the 25th: "The 'conflict' in Korea started back in 1950 when North Korean forces attacked over the border between North & South Korea."

Now, I have a nice brass belt buckle that is an enlarged copy of the Korean Service Medal medallion. A few months back I was in a store at the check-out. The young man checking me out was probably 19. He asked, "Sir, what does Korean Service on your belt buckle mean?"

I gave him a capsule history lesson! His comment was that perhaps there was a paragraph in his history text in high school about that war.

SAD!

Dale L. Wood, via email

War Refugees in Korea

In early January 1951, I was Operations NCO, Hq 1st Bn, 32nd Infantry Regt, 7th Infantry Division. Our battalion was in the Pusan Area recovering from its Chosin Reservoir wounds. We had been evacuated by sea from North Korea, and the reconstituted battalion was being ordered north to stem the Communist move south.

The battalion moved north by rail to the town of Tanyang, the railhead on the east side of South Korea. Units to stop the enemy were in short supply, and our battalion became an "island of resistance" to block the MSA (Main Supply route) south. Another battalion, also an "island," was located a few miles west of us.

Our first contact with anything from the north was the refugees. We determined that they were being herded ahead of the main enemy force to determine our locations.

We were able to stop the refugees from going south on the MSR, and to identify enemy soldiers dressed as civilians in among the refugees.

Our troops searched some of the refugees for weapons, but did not let them move through us on the MSA. Our only course was to send them laterally to the west and our other battalion. Often, the refugees were directed back to us. None went south through our perimeter.

I am not sure what happened to the refugees. They could have filtered south between our islands-of-resistance. "Where there's a will there's a way."

Fremont "Monty" Piercefield
5692 Cedar Beach Lane
Belgium, WI 53004
(262) 285-3042

New Sentry

A soldier recently finished basic training and was assigned to sentry duty at the main gate. His orders were clear: no car was to enter unless it had a special sticker on the windshield. Soon, a large Army vehicle drove up with a two-star general sitting in the back seat. The sentry said, "Halt! Who goes there?"

The driver, a corporal, answered, "General Wheeler."

"I'm sorry; I can't let you pass because you do not have a sticker on your windshield."

The General said, "Drive on!"

"You really can't come through. I have orders to shoot if you try driving in without a sticker on the windshield."

The General repeated, in a loud voice, "I'm telling you, son, drive on!"

The sentry walked up to the rear window and said, "I'm new at this. Do I shoot you or the driver?"

So that his brethren shall know...

Please report the death of any member of the KWVA to: Membership, P.O. Box 22857, Alexandria, VA 22304-9285 for listing in "Last Call."

TELL AMERICA from page 33

256 – NORVILLE FINNEY [MI]

Thanks from a "Grateful" Teacher

Members of CID 256 visit the Hazel Park Junior High School as many as 4-5 times in a school year. School administrators invite veterans to an All Veterans Night. As many as 300-400 people have attended each event for the past 3-4 years.

Beverly Blair, whose letter of appreciation appears below, has helped our Chapter with their participation at many of the schools in the area. In fact, she is an honorary member of our organization.

Richard Charbonneau
532 W. Troy Street
Ferndale, MI 48220
(248) 543-3577

April 30, 2007

Mr. Richard Charbonneau
Korean War Veterans Chapter #256
Warren, Michigan

Dear Mr. Charbonneau:

I would like to thank you and your fellow Korean War Veterans for your willingness to be open about your experiences during the Korean War. My students, through your stories and pictures, have learned so much about this critical period in our country's history. I can think of no better way to communicate this information to my students than through your personal experiences. This is just another excellent example of how the community can work with the schools to further a child's education through real life experiences.

Your presentations allow the students to open up a dialogue with veterans in their own families and, in turn, personalize these experiences. These students, as they pass through high school, still remember, with fondness, the stories shared by you and your fellow veterans. They are very grateful for your honesty, openness and, most of all, your time.

Those of us in the Hazel Park Community Schools are extremely fortunate to have a group of Korean War Veterans available to provide our students with an educational experience of a lifetime. These are the stories of the past that define who we are as a nation. These stories, through your help, will continue to be passed down to the next generation. My students, with your assistance, will not allow the Korean War to be "the Forgotten War."

Gratefully yours,

Beverly Blair
8th grade Social Studies Teacher
Hazel Park Junior High School
Hazel Park, MI 48030

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

Mystery Photos

By Arthur G. Sharp©

In the May-June issue, p. 76, we printed two mystery photos. We have received a large number of responses and memories, some pleasant, some not, for which we thank you. In fact, we haven't received so much feedback since we threw up a trial balloon about changing the name of The Graybeards. That got shot down. Apparently, the C-124s did not. (Oh, yeah, the plane in the photo was a C-124.)

Along with the responses we received some updated photos, including those nearby.

Here is some of the feedback and particulars on the photos. Let's start with a letter by way of explanation:

Keeping the Seoul Train Station photo on track

Those "Mystery Photos," especially the building photo, brought back some memories.

When I was stationed in Korea during the 1946-1949 time period, I frequently passed this building. It's located on the left side of the road as you travel to Seoul from Yong Dung Po.

I'm sure that by this time you must be overloaded by information concerning the identification of this particular landmark. That building should be so well known to anyone who traveled in the Seoul area that I wonder if you printed the question just to see how many are paying attention.

I spent thirty months in Korea as a member of the 32nd Infantry Regiment stationed just outside Seoul in an old Japanese Army Camp during the Occupation. And in June 1950, while I was a member of the 1st Cavalry Division stationed in Camp Drake, the Korean War broke out. In July of that year I was once again in Korea for a one-year tour. I have almost enough time in country to become an honorary citizen.

I look forward to receiving *The Graybeards*, especially stories about pre-war occupation.

Joseph V. Newland, 675 Sandy Avenue
Angola, NY 14006

Editor's Note: Just for the record, I did not include these photos to see who is paying attention. Not all of our readers got to Seoul during the Korean War. Yet, photos of the train station appear frequently and some people have asked what that building is. I am one of those folks who have never been to Korea, and I did not have a clue as to what it is. Now I know—and so will a lot of other people after they read this.

Likewise, not everybody who was in Korea flew in a C-124—although the number who did is amazing, during and after the Korean War. Three of my high school classmates who looked at the photo at one of our Reunion Committee meetings a few weeks ago recognized the plane in the photo as well. All of them went into the service right after we graduated in 1958. One went into the Army; the others served in the Air Force. They all had connections to the plane in one way or another.

Finally, there is no such thing as "overload" when it comes



The Seoul train station in 1956 (Courtesy Rich Little)



C-124 Globemaster (Courtesy Rich Little)

to learning about anything associated with the Korean War. Each missive I receive has some nugget of information which I can store and use at some point. For example, in Mister Newland's letter I learned exactly where the train station is located. So, all I can say is, "Keep those cards and letters coming." That is, after all, how I know who is paying attention.

The Aircraft

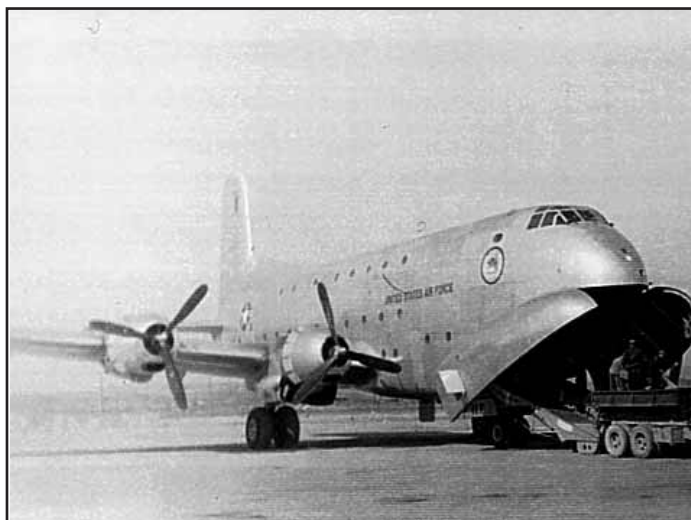
Now, let's take a look at some of the feedback regarding the plane, which is a four-engine, two-decker C-124 Globemaster. (For a more detailed look at the history of C-124s in Korea, access www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/aircraft/c-124.htm)

- According to one respondent, the 315th Air Division flew them frequently in Korea to deliver mail, supplies, and reinforcements. The planes also transported wounded warriors and troops on R&R. They were flown from Japan, the Philippines, and the recently renamed Iwo Jima. (It has been renamed by the Japanese to Iwo To.)

- One respondent identified the unit to which it belonged: The aircraft pictured is a Douglas C-124 "Globemaster" of the



Troops waiting to board C-124 (Courtesy James Wasson)



Unloading (or loading) the C-124 (Courtesy Sherman Pincus)

347th Troop Carrier Wing (H) based at Tachikawa, Japan. The three Troop Carrier Squadrons assigned, (6th/14th/22nd) were identifiable by different colored oval striping around the nose.

Since this aircraft does not have it, I would estimate that the photo was taken sometime in 1952, prior to the devised paint scheme.

Regards,

Paul A. Warman, Commander, CID 109,
KWVA of N.E. Pennsylvania

- Roger Hathaway, 119 River Road, Winthrop, MA 02152-1745, added another vital piece of information to narrow down the plane's vintage. He said it was an early version, because it does not have a radar nose.

- Al Maloney recalled that some of the planes, which could carry 200 troops, or 127 patient litters, and 3 6x6s or 9 jeeps, may have flown in and out of the Royal Thai Air Base at times—and that in one day the planes transported 1,881 wounded troops out Korea. (Actually, the C-124s could only fly in and out of four air bases in Korea.)

- Another reader, who was in Korea post-1953, recognized both the train [station] and the plane:

Having been stationed at Kimpo in 1966-67 and Osan 1968-69, I have been at the building shown on page 76. I believe that is the main rail station in Seoul, as I have a small photo of that same building that I took during a trip into Yong San.

The aircraft is (I believe) a C-124 Globemaster, aka “shakey.” Given the clamshell doors and loading ramps, it was about the only aircraft in general use from that era that fits the photo.

I was assigned to Det 5 1503 Air Transport Group at K11 (Kimpo) and returned during the Pueblo Incident to serve at Det 55 7th Aerial Port Squadron at Osan (K55) almost exactly 1 year to the day later.

Paul J. Chmielewski, 152 Lakeside Drive
Fairfield Glade, TN 38558

- A caller reinforced Chmielewski's suggestion that C-124s could be identified quite easily by the clamshell doors. He also noted the strange devices on the rear of the plane. Their purpose was to prevent the plane from moving backwards in a strong wind when the “clamshells” were open.

- “They weren't used very long,” said Bill Martin of CID 86 in

Nashville. “And they weren't as big as either the C-41 or the C-5.” But, he added, “Nobody had any difficulty seeing one.”

- Another respondent, Leland Sanders, asked how we knew the plane was delivering mail. The answer is simple—and the only clue we had about the plane. The words written on the back of the photo were “A plane delivering the mail.” We were left to fill in the blanks, which our respondents have done admirably.

- Arnold Vandeusen of CID 283 recalls going on R&R on a C-124. “It had two decks,” he said. “We climbed up to the upper deck, and there was equipment on the bottom one.” He, too, recalled it as a large aircraft.

- Rich Little, 51st Sig. Det., Korea 1956-57, noted that he was a “ground pounder,” so he wasn't sure of the plane. Nevertheless, he did provide a different photo of a C-124 (and the hotel, as well).

- Estel Ed. Ashworth also recognized the plane as a Douglas C-124 A Model. “I know, because I worked on both A and C models at Travis AFB, 85ATS as an R-4360 Engine Mechanic,” he advised.

Okay, what sparked our interest in the photos? Well, a Korean War veteran sent us a box a while back that contains over 100 photos. Most of them are not identified. So, we decided to ask the people who know best what they are. Readers of *The Graybeards* certainly qualify. As we have learned, they do know their Korean landmarks, personnel, equipment, etc.

One of the things we learned was that just because military personnel were in Korea that does not mean they got to see a lot of the country. Another is that a lot of them remember traveling on C-124s, and they can explain firsthand why the plane was known as “Old Shakey.” A couple letters proved that. Consider this one:

- I am quite sure that the airplane is a C-124 Globemaster. Of course, it has been at least fifty years since I saw one. In January 1953 I flew on R&R from Seoul to Tokyo and returned on a C-124, and the plane in the picture looks like the same type.

As for the picture of the building, I can't help you. I only got



The Seoul train station about two years ago (Courtesy John Fisher)



Another view of the Seoul train station (Courtesy James Wasson)

away from our Air Force base (K-47) in Chunchon a few times, so I didn't see much of Korea. Most of the buildings in Chunchon were destroyed in the war. Most of the people were living in temporary wooden barracks.

Chunchon is only about five miles south of the 38th Parallel, so it took quite a beating during the war.

Russell E. Woolf, 9721 Wallwood Drive SE,
Huntsville, AL 35803-1763

- Larry Chase shared an unpleasant memory in his letter:

One "soupy" day with a low ceiling at Tachikawa Air Base [Japan], I was standing in the baggage doorway of a C-54 waiting for one of our B-17s to take off. A C-124 was on take-off going south on the north/south runway ahead of our B-17.

I noticed the #2 engine (inboard, left side) was not turning and was feathered. The plane climbed into the "soup" and apparently lost another engine, as it crashed shortly thereafter.

The C-124 was returning troops who had been on R&R to Korea. All 128 lives aboard were lost, including one person from my Dad's home town of Galena, IL.

Larry Chase, 1118 Sylvan Way
West Bend, WI 53095-5051

- Sherman Pincus' memory of the C-124 was somewhere in between Woolf's and Chase's.

In answer to your mystery photos which appeared in the recent issue of *The Graybeards*, enclosed are pictures which I had taken both last year and back in 1953.

The picture of the building is the Seoul railroad station. This picture was taken last summer. Sorry for the poor quality as this shot was taken from a moving vehicle and you see a reflection of the flash.

The pictures of the aircraft, a Globemaster, were taken prior to my departure from Kimpo Airbase to Japan for R & R in 1953. It was a two-deck plane, and was capable of transporting vehicles as well troops. This plane was also called the Crashmaster—since several of them did. In fact on our trip to Japan one engine conked out over the Sea of Japan and another engine began to sputter over mainland Japan. We had to make an emergency landing at Nagoya and another plane came and took us to our final destination, which was Tachikawa Airbase.

Sherman Pincus, 247 Park Hill Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10705-1436

- Duane Datisman, 225 Princeton Place, Dubuque, IA 52001, (563) 690-0104, also remembered riding on the plane:

The right hand photo of the plane was of a Globemaster C-124 transport aircraft with its nose open to receive human or material cargo. I flew in one of those same planes to and from Japan on R and R. It had two levels that could transport 120 men or one level to carry vehicles, equipment, and large size supplies, etc.

It had four huge engines to power it through the air. From a distance it looked like a fat sausage with wings.

- There were drawbacks to the dual-purpose plane's dual purposes, as James Wasson explained in his narrative:

At this time, the C-124 was the largest transport plane in the Far East. There were 155 soldiers on one flight, plus the air crew and a gasoline tanker truck in the lower bay—which we did not know about until we unloaded at Tachikawa Air Force Base.

- Incidentally, anyone who never got to see a C-124 in person can still do so. Bill Moore, who, like so many other respondents, flew on one a few times during his stint in Korea in 1952-53, informed us that there is a beautiful C-124 Globemaster preserved at the USAF National Museum in Dayton, Ohio.

Continued on page 71



Shedding light on the Seoul train station (Courtesy Sherman Pincus)

Passing From Memory

An Analysis Of American Servicemen's Letters

Korea 1950-1953

LUKE MACAULEY

University Of Glasgow
American Studies

PART 2

CHAPTER 3 - KOREAN PEOPLE

Before the war broke out, American eyes in Asia had been firmly fixed on Japan. The overwhelming majority of American servicemen that went to Korea had never even left the United States, let alone heard of the country before the North Korean invasion of June 1950 - "I had never been further from home than Kentucky or Tennessee, so California was quite an experience for me"⁸⁰ recalls Paul Steffen of his training before Korea. To interact in the army with the disparate peoples that only melting-pot America could provide - Irish-Americans, Hispanics, Blacks, or Texans etc - could be a disconcerting experience. However, this pales in comparison with the immersion into Korea of these internationally naïve young men. They were understandably disorientated by their rapid conversion into the racial minority. The Korean people were a mystery, and analysis of their depiction in letters home reveals a distinct dichotomy; a compassionate depiction of the civilian population exists alongside a more common and damning appraisal of both the civilians and the ROKs. These raw young men were assured of their own (and America's) position at the pinnacle of the new world order, for "behind us were only the victories of World War Two and the heady feeling of virtual omnipotence."⁸¹ Certainly, an 'imperial' condescension is a continual theme in

passages concerning Koreans, indelibly flavoured by Kipling's *The White Man's Burden*. The cultural baggage of these young American soldiers ensured the Koreans as "half-devil and half child".

However, concomitant with this is a humility and compassion in letters home concerning the Korean people that ensures analysis of this theme is more complex than perhaps initially expected. To be sure, some soldiers wrote "NOTHING on Korean People"⁸² yet many were compelled to write "about the people [Koreans] that I came to know and how they lived"⁸³ and it is these soldiers whose letters form the nucleus of this section.

3.1 - COMPASSION

The American serviceman in Korea must not be myopically defined as simply a cold, aloof automaton, whose only emotional response to the Korean people, if indeed he is capable of one, is disdain, racism and contempt. Reginald Thompson's accounts of rape, murder, and pillage appear incompatible with the following passages, which can be used to provide a more balanced viewpoint⁸⁴. In letters home, a stream of compassion flows, however shallow, and expresses a humility and concern for the Korean people that has been forgotten in the popular American memory. Simple observations, without any

critical analysis, show at the least an interest that can be interpreted as concern.

In a letter to his wife, Chaplain Frank Griep evocatively displays a concern for the Korean people and an appreciation of their troubles - "My heart bleeds for these people. I guess they have been turned out of their homes so often they know what to take in a hurry...Where they go for shelter at nite I don't know."⁸⁵ Griep goes on to accept the faults of the American attitudes toward "these people", but that perhaps such attitudes should be not be condemned too harshly, given the alternative - "We have to treat them shabbily enuf, the Commies use them even a bit worse."⁸⁶

When the cultural differences were overcome, an empathy and affinity can be observed in letters home that is often ignored. Molton Shuler's description of a scene at the improvised church he has helped create shows a communion that has defied cultural differences. It is now their similarities that are celebrated. After noting the American presence of a "blond and baby faced young man" and "a tough looking hombre", Shuler recounts the Korean presence - "And down in the front row are three Korean boys...self-conscious to be sure, but, even so, attesting to God's presence in the hearts of a people torn by war."⁸⁷

It was undoubtedly the Korean children who elicited the most magnanimity in letters home, especially those written by older servicemen. The war had robbed these "poor tikes"⁸⁸ of their innocence, and servicemen could readily equate the Korean children with their own sons or daughters back home. The range of emotions exhibited concerning the Korean children is considerable. Sympathy, amazement and a trace of guilt are all detectable in the following passage - "Soon small children wandered out from the town...Many were barefoot. How could their feet withstand this below-freezing weather, I wondered". The Americans in contrast "...wore a couple of pairs of socks, lace up boots and leggings for protection

It was undoubtedly the Korean children who elicited the most magnanimity in letters home, especially those written by older servicemen.

from the elements.”⁸⁹

The compassion that the Americans could feel for these Korean children is projected in the reactions to local orphans of Joe Sammarco and Norman Duquette. Their touching accounts are not merely observations, but develop into a proactive desire to ameliorate the situation. The men are amazed by the orphans’ stoicism and moved by the terrible plight that has befallen them – “They all seem so very brave and unconcerned with their pathetic selves”⁹⁰ compares favourably with “...there is absolutely no future for all these sick and weary people...no place for anybody to go. No homes, no food and for thousands of kids there are no parents.”⁹¹ These accounts are made so much more vital by their authors’ next revelation. Both Duquette and Sammarco feel they could adopt these children, and bring them back to America where *they* could care for them in a way that was not possible at that time in Korea –

“There were a couple that I thought I’d like to adopt...I was thinking all the while they were singing, about how much I could do for them if I had them in America.”⁹²

“I wish I could bring one of them home with me. If there was a way would you want me to bring one with me?”⁹³

Today this would seem irresponsible, but Sammarco’s compassionate integrity is sealed with his declaration that “...any little thing that I might do to alleviate the situation is completely worth the time, trouble, and money it might take to do so.”⁹⁴ The letters in this section are a portal to the hearts of these men and qualify the cold image of an American army that was simply there to perform the job of containing communism.

3.2 – RACIST OR ALOOF

However, enlightened and emotionally rich narrations concerning the Korean people in letters home are dwarfed by more sinister observations. Investigation of letters reveals a majority leaning toward condescension, racism or lassitude. Racial differences are at times stressed in an uncomfort-

ably superior manner. Analysis of this must be tempered with a concluding explanation rather than justification.

The most obvious difference between American and Korean is physical appearance, and it is understandable that this is a theme that appears with regularity in letters home. This is not to say that the physical appearance of the indigenous Korean was always portrayed with sneering superiority. Indeed, mostly it was simply observed in didactic, matter-of-fact fashion – “I did write about the people and their customs. I told about the white clothing and stove pipe hats and the long shining pipes the old men smoked.”⁹⁵ A physical description of the Korean people was a frequent epistolary feature – “Most of the people wear pants except for some of the old Mama-sans”⁹⁶ – and was a common connection and reference point for both author and recipient. Furthermore, physical appearance could provoke a child-like wonderment; naïve and innocent, and devoid of any racist connotations. Regarding Koreans Marvin Myers notes their “...funny hats and goatees.”⁹⁷ The cultural chasm between Japanese and American is commented upon by Myers also, and one can assume that the following reaction is in all probability based upon both appearance and behaviour – “I just watched a Japanese working party go off ship. They really tickle me. No kidding, they’re really funny. They all bow to the officer in charge; we have to salute”⁹⁸.

A fascinating nuance of the role played by physical appearance in the Korean War was the inability of the American to distinguish his ally from his enemy – the South Koreans from the North Koreans and Chinese. ‘Friendly Fire’, that most ridiculous of euphemisms, was a very real threat to American and Korean alike. Many American soldiers did not simply “...come *close* to shooting one of the Korean guards for a Chink.”⁹⁹ In his recollections of the conflict, Philip Grass highlights this – “the North Koreans were just disappearing into the hills...magically turning into South Korean farmers. Some of them would join the masses so you couldn’t tell who

they were.”¹⁰⁰ Such difficulties in enemy identification were to haunt the American sojourn in Vietnam, yet perhaps Grass’ comments resonate loudest in the context of the contemporary ‘war on terror’.

Comment upon physical appearance could however descend into vituperative diatribes about Korean intelligence and civilisation – “The [South Koreans] don’t seem to be as smart as the Japs and they smell like hell. They are a lot more odd looking than the Japs, I don’t trust them too much.”¹⁰¹ A possible explanation for this racial stratification with America at the top, then Japan, then Korea is what the average GI would associate with these nations. America was home, successful and safe. Korea was essentially a cruel third world nation where young American men were still being killed so soon after World War Two. Japan meanwhile was an R&R destination, a peaceful, humble and modern industrial nation successfully rehabilitating itself after its shame in World War Two – “downtown Kobe...could pass for the downtown of any American city of that era.”¹⁰² “The Japanese are immaculately clean...If it weren’t for the world situation I would like to go to school over here for a year.”¹⁰³

The theme of Korea as a barren, retrograde land is reiterated in the following reminiscence – “My first impression of Korea was the smell. They used raw animal waste for fertilizer and it STUNK.”¹⁰⁴

The unthinking condescension and superiority to Orientals that underpin certain comments has been labelled the ‘gook syndrome’¹⁰⁵ (an arrogant misjudgement of Asians), and *appears* to be most stridently manifested in the following extract from a letter written by Gordon L. Madson – “Life to the oriental is so very cheap they care not if you live or die...I have a deep hatred for the chinese and koreans for they are outright murderers...”¹⁰⁶ However, investigation of the provenance of these comments uncovers an explanation for them. Madson wrote this letter to the father of a friend he had made while a P.O.W. This friend, John Wheeler, had died due to Chinese negligence, yet before this, both had endured horrendous

dous treatment from their captives – disease, filth and heavy labour. Madson's comments certainly seem more understandable in this context.

The above passage provides us with a very specific reason why letters home may have been tainted with racist and disparaging comments. There are certainly other reasons. To be sure, some soldiers serving in Korea *were* racist but this alone cannot be regarded as the sole determinant for such comments. Almost all these soldiers were young men in their late teens or early twenties – “I was a nieve country boy, who was very religious...I did not smoke, drink or cuss.”¹⁰⁷ In conjunction with youthful innocence was a common inability to comprehend the nature of the war, or indeed their role in it – “I don't think I totally understood what the war was all about”¹⁰⁸... “it was an adventure and I simply went along with it.”¹⁰⁹ With such naiveté, racist remarks can be expected. Fear of the unknown is a natural reaction, and one cannot be surprised that this fear could foster racist attitudes. Furthermore, the American Armed Forces had entered the Korean War basically segregated by race¹¹⁰. Many units had simply chosen to ignore Truman's desegregation order of 1948, and blacks were still castigated as cowardly and undisciplined. Enemy propaganda attempted to exploit these racial tensions through radio and leaflets – “It was an embarrassment for us to have someone in a foreign country know how we were being treated”, recalls Samuel King¹¹¹. This ideal opportunity for communist propaganda triggered the abolition of official military segregation in 1954, more than a full decade before it occurred in American society as a whole. Sanctioned racism could not fail to transpose itself to letters home from Korea.

Another explanation for racial condescension toward Koreans in letters home is granted by the nature of the war itself. The American soldier felt abandoned and unappreciated for the job he was performing – “people were more interested in finishing their education with the G.I. Bill, building homes, having children and buying automobiles than they were in a dirty little war in

The average GI was bitter about the lack of ROK support and felt that the South Koreans should be doing more in their own defence.

Korea.”¹¹² Seminally, this lack of appreciation appeared to emit from the Koreans also. Lucid evidence of this can be found in the frequent remarks regarding the ROKs in letters home.

3.3 – ROKs (Army of the Republic of Korea)

The average GI was bitter about the lack of ROK support and felt that the South Koreans should be doing more in their own defence. The attempts by the South Koreans to save themselves and aid the UN coalition were not completely ignored in letters home. However, instances of praise for their efforts are rare. David Hughes, writing on 7 February 1952, congratulated the “...5th Platoon (South Koreans) which did good work that night...”¹¹³ and the best Dick Chappell can write of the KSC (Korea Service Corps) is that “...some of them are really characters.”¹¹⁴ Philip Grass remembers the respected Capital Division of the ROK that were “rolling real good along the coast highway.”¹¹⁵ Aside from this somewhat tepid praise, the deafening verdict of letters concerning South Korean military activity was angry condemnation. They provide a personal vilification that is substantiated by an official attitude illuminated most succinctly by General Lowe, President Truman's military aide – “as a dependable military force” the ROKs were almost non-existent – “cowardly and in no wise to be depended upon.”¹¹⁶ The Americans on the ground cared not *why* the South Koreans were poor military allies i.e. press ganged, poor training, bewildered etc. Rather, they assessed the Koreans solely by their actions in the field. Here, they were revealed to be inept soldiers – “We made a drop today to an outfit that got themselves surrounded. The ROK's have a habit of doing it.”¹¹⁷ Worse still, on many occasions letters home reveal an American disgust for perceived Korean cowardice –

“Several of the Koreans got so tired they wanted to quit. I kept them moving.”¹¹⁸

“The Korean stretcher bearers supposed to follow up and evacuate such cases jumped into holes shivering and refused to function. They were routed out into action at bayonet point.”¹¹⁹

“...a South Korean stretcher team was *coaxed* out to pick him up and carry him back.”¹²⁰ (italics added)

The choleric reaction to perceived Korean levels of performance was exacerbated when it appeared that the Koreans were deliberately rubbing salt in American wounds. Rather than offer gratitude for American sacrifices, or help gamely in their shared struggle, the Americans construed certain Korean actions as heinous betrayals. Syngman Rhee's sabotage of the peace negotiations by threatening a new offensive needlessly risked further American lives – “I know the South Koreans don't want it over and we're letting them make suckers out of us.”¹²¹ The author of this passage, Jack Train, was killed on 8 July 1953 as a direct consequence of Rhee's vainglorious blustering. Another GI remembers South Korean actions during the 1953 peace negotiations with similar distaste. When the South Koreans freed North Korean prisoners because they too were opposed to negotiations – “We were really upset, because our guys were up there fighting on the main line, getting killed, taking prisoners, and here this guy lets a bunch of them go.”¹²²

Upon initial reading one is instantly shocked by the xenophobic language and attitudes on display in Korean War letters. The South Koreans, North Koreans and Chinese are embroiled in a confusing racial stramash. Their nomenclature is interchangeable; all are invariably castigated as ‘gooks’, ‘chinks’, ‘orientals’, ‘Luke the Gook’, ‘chinamen’ etc. However, scratch the veneer of this extrinsic display and one encounters nuances of compassion, empathy and a reasoning behind this prevailing attitude. The young, naïve GI could not fail to write home in a xeno-

phobic manner when his superiors were often moulding such attitudes. A divisional commander's nefarious declaration that one American life was worth any number of Koreans was a heinous abuse of authority.¹²³ These beliefs were transplanted easily from the Koreans to the Chinese who were, in the foolhardy words of Lt. Gen. Edward Almond nothing more than a "bunch of laundrymen."¹²⁴ Indeed, China itself was contemptuously labelled as a mere 'Manchukuo' of the Soviet Union by Assistant Secretary of State Dean Rusk¹²⁵, an insulting and dangerous under-estimation made just a few days before the outbreak of the war.

CHAPTER 4 – WEATHER

"When we landed in Korea it was raining every day, nothing but mud and rain...I never saw such a dam place."¹²⁶

"I was going to write last nite, but my ink was frozen in the pen."¹²⁷

The American forces in Korea struggled against not only North Korean and Chinese Communist troops, but also against an arguably even more formidable foe – the brutal Korean climate. This was to bulk large in the experiences of letter writers home. Contrary to mythic acceptance, the climate was an enemy shared by the Communist and American forces - "Fortunately the Gooks don't like the rain and mud any more than we do."¹²⁸ Indeed, Chinese equipment afforded much less protection from the elements than American equipment.

Norman Duquette's letter of 21 January 1952 encapsulates the climate of Korea and the American attitude to it - "The weather has been stinkin again. Cold as heck one day then warm & wet the next. Two hours ago it was like spring outside. Since then it has rained, hailed and is now snowing flakes as big as half a dollar."¹²⁹ Korea has four distinct seasons, and a wide temperature range. Its winters, roughly November to March, are bitterly cold, at the whim of icy Siberian winds. Indeed, South Korea has the dubious distinction of having the coldest temperatures at its latitude, similar to those found in New York some 300 miles north.¹³⁰ Summer however, is hot, close and extremely humid.

It was the problems caused by the cold that entered lastingly into the shared American memory of Korea. The frequency with which it is alluded to in letters home is testament to the significance it held in the lives of these servicemen. The analysis of weather in letters home can be divided into two distinct themes. The first reveals letters whose tone and cadence regarding the weather is distinctly optimistic, or brief. The antitheses of these letters are more numerous and instead portray more bleakly and realistically the Korean climate and the hardships it posed. Before analysing these polarised interpretations it is helpful to provide a brief account of the difficulties it presented.

4.1 - FROSTBITE AND COLD WEATHER PROBLEMS

As stated, it was Korea's unrelenting winters that blighted the American soldier's service life and caused the most difficulties.

These difficulties manifested themselves not only in the incapacitation of equipment and machinery, but also of the most vital weapon in the American army – the soldier himself. Guns failed to function in the plummeting temperatures, C-rations froze solid, and simple tasks adopted a Sisyphean nature - starting an engine became an onerous task of thawing moving parts and coaxing frozen oil back to life. Blood plasma froze and even morphia syrettes had to be carried in the mouth to prevent a similar outcome. However, it was a much less agonising ordeal to revive frozen equipment than it was to resurrect the frozen soldiers - "They were frostbitten, and you couldn't put a needle in their arms or legs because they were frozen. We were panicking, and we were trying to get some blood or plasma into them to warm them up and thaw them out."¹³¹

Innocuous though it may sound, frostbite was a terrible affliction that accounted for more American casualties in the first year of combat than the enemy. The formation of ice crystals inside body tissue led to swelling and blistering before the flesh finally died and scarred. Feet and hands were the most vulnerable and frequently attacked

extremities. James Heersma, a Naval surgeon writing home in that hellish first winter of the war witnessed first hand, and on a daily basis, the agony the cold could cause - "Every day I have at least ten men come in with their feet frozen. Some of them are so bad, that they'll lose their toes or a foot."¹³²

4.2 - UPBEAT LETTERS

Although mention of climate is almost *de rigueur* in the letter home to America, the interpretation of it is various. Despite the obvious hardships caused by the cold (the heat must not be ignored also) many soldiers adopted an optimistic tone regarding such hardships in their letters home. In denying the reality of the situation such letters are pugnacious and upbeat, and frequently grounded in humour. Written to his family in mid-November 1951, the following soldier's description of the weather has a somewhat feisty, understated tone - "Weather has been turning out okay lately, except for some snow and sleet a few nights ago. Didn't have any shelter over my hole, so was quite damp."¹³³ This sentiment is echoed in the letters of Gerald Chappell, written in December 1952 and January 1953. Crucially, a swaggering bravado and grim acceptance are tools used to defuse the reality of the cold - "When I got up this morning there were two inches of snow on the ground. It's about time, December and all."¹³⁴ The following month, Chappell's outlook is more humorous, yet loses none of its pugnacious bluster - "That's one good thing about the Marines, the colder it gets the more ice cream they give us."¹³⁵ The struggle against the elements was not the sole preserve of the soldier on the ground. American airmen were also at their whim. Carl Dorsey, writing just three days into 1951 epitomises the bravado and humour that his comrades on the ground also possess - "We have good heaters on the crate which is one good thing. Flying with the back doors off is mighty cold...We flew one day zipped up in sleeping bags...I was afraid to move in fear of my jewels, they'd have dropped off."¹³⁶

The hot and humid Korean summer was also an endurance for many

Weather was to play a role, however minor, in every serviceman's life, and could be easily related to those back home.

American servicemen, and it could often elicit a similar bullish reaction in letters home – “The weather here is still just as hot as it always been. I’m sitting out side my bunker again & it sure is hot. I’m about to cook. Ha ha. I should have a cool case of beer huh.”¹³⁷

Such optimism regarding the weather came to the fore in letters written when the weather was agreeable. John Harper’s letter to his father illuminates a contentedness with the climate and its crucial similarity to home, while a residual bullishness remains – “The weather was good, clear and bright and cool – football weather at its best – also fine for our air strike which began about noon.”¹³⁸ This escape that the weather could provide for the soldier is evident in a letter written by Joe Sammarco to his wife in April 1951. Whereas Harper can relate the weather to a football game at home, Sammarco is amazed to have found in the climate an escape to what could have been anywhere else in the world. In Korea (Chosun), the Land of The Morning Calm¹³⁹, Sammarco has found a release from the travails he had endured during the previous winter – “It was so peaceful & quiet down there and its just like spring anywhere in the world.”¹⁴⁰

The reasoning behind the embracing of this viewpoint is a simple and altruistic one. The overwhelming majority of letters that display such equanimity concerning the weather were intended to be read by wives, girlfriends or parents, and not brothers or friends. Their authors made a conscious decision to sanitise what they were writing. Indeed, “In all the letters dealing with the war, we had to keep our letters to the folks on the light side so that our reports wouldn’t scare the daylights out of them.”¹⁴¹ One soldier did write about the “cold in winter and all the cases of frostbite”¹⁴², but crucially purged the graphic details from letters to his recipients (his father and girlfriend) – “I didn’t talk about the guys who lost fingers

and toes and feet to the cold.”¹⁴³ The letters of Stanley Jones exemplify this style of expurgating any harrowing details concerning the weather – “While I wrote of some floods etc, and the cold that first winter, I never wrote about anything that could create worry”. The suppression becomes remarkable when one learns of their provenance: Jones was a ballistic meteorologist.

4.3 - REALISTIC LETTERS

The preceding letters must not be taken as the only interpretations of the weather in Korea. To accept that stoicism and phlegmatic acceptance were the only reactions concerning the weather is to deny a much darker, though no less common alternative. For every sanitised letter home to an anxious girlfriend or parent, there exists a more realistic, sombre, and often more detailed depiction of the Korean climate. Patrick Sheahan’s poignant letter (he was to be KIA on 8 June 1951) is an ominous and baleful introduction to the darker emotions that the climate could evoke in letter writers home – “The weather is pretty good now but the nights are cold already; they will surely be bad a couple of months from now.”¹⁴⁴ The more prevalent of these grim emotional responses, namely reactions to the monotony of the climate, and the despair and near delirium it could cause will be analysed.

Within this bleak set of letters concerning the weather, it is the sheer monotony of it that is most notable. There was barely respite in the changing of the seasons, as the monotony shifted with ease from the soporific cold of the winter, to the relentless rain of the summer. To be sure, on frequent occasions, the summer rains were to elicit a more irritable response in letters home than the icy winters – “As usual it is still raining. I sometimes wonder if it is ever going to quit.”¹⁴⁵ Indeed, Charles Morrow required only a week before his diurnal boredom and frustration at the

weather was to manifest itself – “..already I am sick of these dam C-rations and the weather...When we landed in Korea it was raining every day, nothing but mud and rain every day...I never saw such a dam place.”¹⁴⁶ A possible explanation for the obvious irritation and truth in the accounts of the summer rains, in comparison to the winter cold, could be that the letter home was a channel for the author to vent his frustrations and energies. In the cold, such mental energies were not only diminished, but were also completely fixed upon the prime purpose of survival.

For certain soldiers, the combination of the weather’s monotony and harshness drew forth letters dripping with latent despair. The following is a passage from Don Byres’ letter to his parents, written from Japan during recuperation from a leg wound. It epitomises the desperate drudgery and misery that the climate, in collusion with other factors, inflicted upon daily life – “We were cold and hungry and so tired we just flopped on the ground when we stopped to rest.”¹⁴⁷ Such desperation and desolation reaches its zenith in Bob Spiroff’s letter to his wife Cassie, dated 11 December 1950 – “The past two weeks have been nightmares – simply hell...It’s so cold now I can’t hardly write”¹⁴⁸. The simple act of contacting a loved one at home, usually a joyous emotional experience surpassed only by receiving such letters, has become a physically, and one must speculate, emotionally arduous experience. In one case, desperation stemming from the climate very nearly passes into delirium. This soldier’s misery has led to his dreams acting as an escape ‘home’ from Korea. This is not unusual, but the fact that ‘home’ is essentially now ‘warmth’ bears witness to the impact that the cold has had upon him – “Had a dream last night [regarding hot rolls from the oven at home]...When I woke up, I had a hunk of snow and I was chewing on it.”¹⁴⁹ Another soldier, upon hearing news of his imminent return to America reflects jovially upon just how despondent he had become, principally because of the cold – “Don’t get me wrong. I still want a hot car, a hot girl

and a cold beer, but there were times I would have traded them all for a warm blanket...There were times when I would have traded my soul for a hot cup of coffee.”¹⁵⁰

The determining factors behind the inclusion of these more graphic and realistic details are more complex than those behind their exclusion. In all likelihood, Don Byres or Al Puntasecca for example, knew that their parents regarded the lethal currency of war – bullets, artillery and mortar rounds – with more perturbation than the weather, however harsh. The letters’ intended recipients (their parents) could relate to such harrowing information with less worry than to military perils – “they would feel that the son could stand the weather and still come home alive.”¹⁵¹ Inclusion of this information can therefore be counter-intuitively construed as the soldier’s attempt to ease any worry. Furthermore, although a minority of men were engaged in front line hostilities, all could write about the impact the weather exerted on their lives. That such information was worrying matters less than the reality that its inclusion could act not only as a conduit “to communicate some facts of ...[his] world in a letter”¹⁵², but also as a method for the serviceman to find empathy and share the agonies that he may be in.

As has been stressed, the frequency with which weather appears in correspondence is testimony to the significance with which it was regarded. Weather was to play a role, however minor, in every serviceman’s life, and could be easily related to those back home. Admittedly, many soldiers mentioned it only briefly, if at all, and it could even determine if they were to write home – “I wrote so seldom [because] I did-

n’t think they wanted to hear about...miserable weather.”¹⁵³ Furthermore, the climatic extremes of a “devilish frozen hell on earth”¹⁵⁴, or the stifling summer heat were not realities for all. Indeed, in a style somewhat alien from the usual correspondence of regular GIs, *Colonel* Roswell Rosengren, safe from the weather, is reminded of Shakespeare, so moved is he by the “...beauty of weather with unlimited visibility that made one think of Shakespeare

“And what is so rare as a day in June

Then, if ever, come perfect days.”¹⁵⁵

Nonetheless, there were many whose lives were exacerbated by the weather and who felt compelled to mention it in their correspondence. In such letters, the physical and emotional relationship the author has with the elements certainly comes to the fore. The role weather *could* play in the Korean War is indicated by letters from another battle at the cruel mercy of the elements – Stalingrad 1942-1943. These letters are almost indistinguishable from those written during Korea’s winters of discontent, and could easily be mistaken for such –

“My hands are gone, since the beginning of December...on the right hand the three middle fingers have been frozen...I am rather helpless...”¹⁵⁶

“In place of the bright carpet is an endless white field. It is no longer summer, but winter; and there is no longer a future, at least not for me, and of necessity not for you.”¹⁵⁷

To be continued...

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Reunion Calendar 2007 – 2008

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SEPTEMBER

USS Repose (AH-16), Korea and Vietnam, 5-9 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Dave Lara, (415) 648-3576, davegun2@gmail.com

51st Fighter Interceptor Wing, 6-8 Sept., Middleton, WI. POC: Curt Faust, (608) 849-8304.

USS Lewis Hancock (DD675), 6-9 Sept., Dayton, OH. POC: Patsy Iapalucci, 323 W. Third Street, Greensburg, PA 15601, (724) 834-0370, iapal@verizon.net

75th Air Depot Wing, Korea, Japan and Europe (1952-1955), 6-9 Sept., Portland, OR. POC: Walt Walko, 13616 Paradise Villas Grove, Colorado Springs, CO 80921, (719) 488-1196, wawlaw2@juno.com

USS Camp (DER-251/FFR-251), 6-9 Sept., Cherry Hill, NJ. POC: Larry Fitzgerald, 117 Bierskill Road, Montague, NJ 07827, (201) 216-2366. lfitzgerald@panynj.gov

630th Engineers Light Equipment Co., 9-12 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Oscar Viehland, 9587 Woodland Rd., Robertsville, MO 63072-2300, (636) 285-4402, ogvccv@ruralnet.com

40th Inf. Div., 160th Regt., Co. A (Korea), 10-12 Sept., Rapid City, SD., Quality Inn. POC: Roger Lueckenhoff, 208 Steeplechase Rd., Rolla, MO. 65401-3784, (573) 364-4145, lueck@fidnet.com

USS Sphinx (ARL-24), 10-13 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Frank Ironi, 954 Lilac Drive, Sauk Centre, MN 56378, (612) 352-3271.

538th Ordnance M.A.M. Co., (Korea 1950-55), 10-13 Sept., Philadelphia, PA/South Jersey area. POC: Dom Carrero, 525 Westminster Rd., Wenonah, NJ 08090-1444, (856) 468-1097 or Bob Bruns, (609) 607-9681.

91st MP Battalion (289, 560, 563 MP COs, Pusan, Korea, 1951-1955, plus all other Pusan area MPs), 11-14 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Bob Simon, (989) 792-3718, robsimoncondo@charter.net; Don Hart, (989) 732-8102, donchart@yahoo.com

D-2-7 (Korea), 12-15 Sept., Valley Forge, PA. POC: Ric Barron, P. O. Box 96, Hamburg, NJ 07419, RicBD27@cs.com

40th Inf. Div. (All Units, Korean War) 12-16 Sept., Lancaster, PA, Eden Resort. POC: Charles Egresitz, 6 Rosewood Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17109-5536, (717) 652-4088, apebble@aol.com

38th Ordnance Co Association, 14-16 Sept., Dayton, OH, Holiday Inn North. POC: Bill Smith, (260) 485-6369, hurst468@aol.com, or Joe Hanel, (402) 986-1511 **USS Essex** (CV/CVA/CVS-9/LHD-2), 17-22 Sept., San Diego, CA, Crowne Plaza of San Diego, POC: Bruce Sims, 581 Conkle Rd., Hampton, GA 30288, (770) 707-1812, Hangerbay@aol.com

44th Engineer Battalion Association ("Broken Heart Battalion"), 18-21 Sept., Springfield, IL. POC: LT COL [Ret] Ken Jobe, (757) 428 0328, kejo425@AOL.com, or Bernie Resnick, (603) 434 6406, BigBMR@AOL.com. (Open to all Korean War, post Korean War, Vietnam and Iraqi War members of the Broken Heart Battalion Association as well as supporting and associated units.)

11th Engineer Battalion Association (all years), 20-25 Sept., Ft. Mitchell, KY (across the Ohio at Cincinnati), Drawbridge Inn. POC: Fred Boelsche, (201)641-5828, FredB11thEng@hotmail.com

Hdqtrs 10th Corps and Attached Services (1950-53), 20-23 Sept., College Station, TX. POC: Gordon R. Kennedy, (979) 778-2563.

USS Henderson (DD-785), 20-23 Sept., San Francisco, CA 94080. POC: Richard Sierra, 505 Park Way So., San Francisco, CA 94080, (650) 952-7440, Dixera@yahoo.com

VS-931 & VS-20 Antisubmarine Squadrons, 20-23 Sept., Philadelphia, PA.

POC: J. Robert Wagner, 2996 Runnymede Drive, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-7179, (610) 277-4374 (Phone/Fax), bobwagner@msn.com

USS Fletcher (DD/DDE 445, DD 992), 23-26 Sept., Oklahoma City, OK. POC: Earl Faubion, (405) 686-0686, 6908 S Villa Ave., Oklahoma, City, OK 73159-2751, efaubion@ussfletcher.org

1st & 86th Ordnance Company, 26-28 Sept., Dayton, OH. POC: George Kvet, 812 Beverly Ave., Canal Fulton, OH 44614, (330) 854-9754, or Elaine Laketa, (630) 739-5008

32nd Inf. Regt. Assn ("The Queen's Own"), 26-30 Sept., Syracuse, NY. POC: Helen Dyckson, P. O. Box 5930, Spring Hill, FL 34611-5930, (727) 697-2135, heland@verizon.net

Johnson Air Base (Japan Reunion Group), 27-30 Sept., Wright Patterson AFB, Fairborn, Ohio. POC: Keith Swinehart, (303) 814-0800, hrnet@comcast.net (NOTE) Johnson Air base was flying missions and providing supplies during the Korean War.

Marine Corps Tankers Assn., 30 Sept.-5 Oct., York, PA. POC: G. D. Rose, (619) 579-7848, gdroseusmcr@yahoo.com

OCTOBER

L Co., 279th Inf., 45th Div., 1-4 Oct., Laughlin, NV. POC: Paul Elkins, PO Box 348, Kasilof, AK 99610, (907)260-6612, pselks@gmail.com

194th Combat Engineer Bn., All Companies, Korea '51-'54, 1-4 Oct., Laughlin, NV. POC: Bob(Sandy) Sanford, 432 Walnut Hill Rd, Woonsocket, RI 02895-2727 (401)766-8262, boblorsan2@aol.com.

67th TRW V 1 1, 3-6 Oct., Norfolk/Williamsburg, VA area. POC: Ronnie Krakovsky, 115 Texas Street, Elkin, NC 28621, lady_planter@yahoo.com, or Joe Krakovsky, joerene2@earthlink.net, (336) 835 5553

1st Bn., 7th Marine Association (Korea), 3-6 Oct., Oklahoma City, OK, Clarion Meridian Hotel & Convention Center. If you were a Corpsman, chaplain or doctor, in or attached, to 1st Bn., 7th Marines, in Korea between 1950 and 1953, you are welcome! POC: H. L. Mulhausen, 6405 S. Douglas Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73139, (405) 632-7351, hmuleym@aol.com

1st Scout Reunion Co., (WWII), 3-6 Oct., Wichita, KS. POC: Houston Baker, (407) 322-5414

Korean War Recon Marines, 3-6 Oct., Houston, TX. POC: James Sauser, (281) 332-5725, jimsauser@verizon.net

USS Meredith Association (DDs 165, 434, 726, 890), 3-8 Oct., Washington DC. POC: Harry Wrede, 377 Conkintown Rd., Ringwood, NJ 07456, (973) 839-0332, hlwcaw@aol.com

96th Field Artillery Bn., Korea, 1950-58. 4-6 Oct., Shreveport, LA. POC: Bill Rutledge, (318) 247-8163, rutledgw181@bellsouth.net

765th TRSB, 4-7 Oct., Cincinnati, OH. POC: Richard A. Blastick, 386 West 100 north, Valparaiso, IN 46385, (219) 464-3199, papasfarm@aol.com

1st Field Artillery Observation Bn., 4-7 Oct., Lawton, OK 73501, Fairfield Marriott. POC: Ralph Mueller, (724) 348-5359 or Darrel Wheling, (620) 672-2978.

Army Security Agency (Korea Veterans), 4-7 Oct., Lincolnshire, IL, Marriott Resort (Suburban Chicago). POC: Ed Collins, PO Box 7182, Deerfield, IL 60015,

B Company, 15th Regiment, 3rd US. Army Division, 7-13 October, Lafayette, LA. POC: Verlin Abbott, (337-896-3663), verlin&marie@aol.com

712th TROB - Korean War, annual national reunion, 10-13 Oct., Newport News, VA. POC: Robert G Shannon, (910) 949-3920, rgshannon@earthlink.net.

U.S. Army 28th Gen. Hosp. Association, 10-13 Oct., Branson, MO, Grand Plaza Hotel. POC: Joe Lott, 2210 Chidester Rd., Camden, AR 71701-3012, (870) 836-3725, wayx@seark.net

841st Engineer Aviation Battalion, WW II and KOREA, 10-14 Oct., Surfside Beach Holiday Inn, SC. POC: Ed McManus, 8703 Curtis Ave., Alexandria VA 22309, (202) 557-9407, Colsapper@aol.com

15th Radio Sq. Mobile/6922 (USAF) 1950-58 USAF Security Service, 14-17 Oct., Charleston, SC. POC: Jim Bramwell, 108 President Ave., Rutledge, PA 19070-2111, (610) 544-5143, M.JBRAMPRES3@verizon.net

5th Communications Group (all squadrons, 1950-1954), 15-20 October 2007, Elegante Hotel, Albuquerque, New Mexico. POC: Dave Felice, 7237 River Bend Road, Colorado Springs, CO. 80911-9613, (719) 392-6150, DMLFelice@peoplepc.com

G-3-1 KOREA Association (open to any who served with George Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st MarDiv in Korea 1950-1955), 16-18 Oct., Quantico, VA. POC: J. R. "Bob" Camarillo, (805) 647-9319, retiredx2@sbcglobal.net

Veterans of the Korean War, 17-20 Oct., Virginia Beach, VA, Surfside Inn. POC: Floyd D. Newkirk, (757) 340-9801, fnewkirk@cox.net, Gerald Brown, (757) 237-4541, PGKpfn12117@aol.com, or Richard Stacy, P2vradio@verizon.net

USS RENDOVA (CVE-114), 17-20 Oct., Omaha, NE. POC: Bill Evans, 6618 Heath Glen Dr. Mint Hill, NC 28227, (704) 573-4472, rendova114@aol.com

USS McNair (DD679), 18-21 Oct., Norfolk, VA. POC: Arthur Underwood, 215 E 8th St., Vinton, IA 52349-1829, (319) 472-2724, und121230@msn.com

Photo Section, Signal Corps, 25th Inf. Div. ("Tropic Lightning"), Oct.?, Tampa, FL. POC: Rollie Berens, 18400 Brookfield Lake Drive, Brookfield, WI 53045, (262) 797-8897.

Mistakes Were Made

(Nee Errata)

Right Reunion, Wrong Email Address

Thank you so much for placing our information in *The Graybeards* about our 40th Inf. Div. Korean Veterans Reunion information for this year in Lancaster, PA and for the information and picture for last year's reunion.

One thing I need to let you know: in the group picture for our reunion for last year my e-mail address was incorrect. The correct address is apebble@aol.com.

I have received a few calls and was gave anyone who called our correct listing. We have picked up a few new people, thanks to you.

Judy and Charlie Egresitz,
6 Rosewood Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5536
(717) 652-4088

Other Reunion Notices Missing

At least four reunion notices that were supposed to be included in the May/June issue were omitted inadvertently. Our "Reunion Editor" apologizes for the problem, and thanks the people who reported their omissions to him for their understanding. Not that it makes up for the omissions, but the problem occurred because of a technical glitch.

Our "Reunion Editor" assures the editorial staff that he will make every effort to make sure that the glitch does not repeat itself.

NOVEMBER

Fox-2-7 (Korea), 1-5 Nov., Orlando, FL, Hawthorne Suites. POC: Dick Bonelli, 10 Stone Mtn. Blvd., Englewood, FL 34223, (941) 460-1755, B027Fox@verizon.net

92nd AFA Bn., 4-7 Nov., Savannah, GA., POC: Guy McMenemy, bravecannons@sbcglobal.net

398th AAA AW Bn. (Korea), 4-7 Nov., Branson, MO. POC: Arlie Schemmer, 4195 Cappeln-Osage Rd., Marthasville, MO 63357-2039, (636) 228-4474

MARCH 2008

USS Cowell (DD-547), all crews, 26-30 March, Greenville, SC. POC: L. D. Salley, 19 Auburn Street, Greenville, SC 29609-4043, (864) 268-3365, lsalley2@bellsouth.net

APRIL 2008

I/3/7 (All wars & Peacetime), 23-26 Apr., Myrtle Beach, SC. POC: Denny Deibert, 6007 Catherine Street, Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717) 652-1695.

MYSTERY from page 63

The Building

The consensus is that the building is the railway station in Seoul. We have a progression of photos that shows it as time evolved. Rich Little submitted one taken of the station in 1956, and John Fisher, 10th Field Artillery, supplied two that he took on a trip to Korea two years ago.

- Rich Staley, 5310 Dennis Drive, McFarland, WI 53558, identified the building as the train station. He suggested that it was built by the Japanese when they were in Korea. Also, he noted, "It was so long ago and I can only assume it was restored, as back in 1953 it was fairly well shot up."

- It has been restored, as USMC MSgt (Ret.) Jack "Blackie" Jackson reported. He noted that "the main train station in Seoul has been renovated so completely that the old (historic) station is hardly recognizable."

- Gary J. Gnidziejko, U.S. Army IMCOM, Picatinny Arsenal [NJ] Directorate of Information Management, also identified the building as the Seoul Train Station. He referred us to an excellent collection of photos taken in June 1968 by Neil Mishalov, which can be accessed on the net at <http://www.mishalov.com/korea668/korea668.html>. (Unfortunately, they are copyrighted, so we cannot reproduce them here.)

- Duane Datisman presented a "picture in words" as he described the building: "The stone and brick building is the main train station (1953) in Seoul, Korea. The stone was grey colored and the brick was dark maroon in color. It was located near the downtown area of the city."

He also complimented the staff of *The Graybeards*, which we pass on to explain the value of *The Graybeards* to readers. We have highlighted the relevant passage:

I have found *The Graybeards* to be most interesting with its variety of content, photographs, including unit and individual articles and experiences printed in a balanced manner. ***The Graybeards sharpens the memory and expands the overall knowledge of the Korean War.*** Please keep up the fine job you and your staff are doing.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We intend to "keep up the fine job" to sharpen readers' memories and expand the overall knowledge of the Korean War—with your help.

My Trip on the “Revisit Korea Program”

By James M. Martino

When I returned from the “Revisit Korea Program” trip, I received an e-mail from a good friend, Rich May, of Hyde Park, New York, asking about it. Rich was a Navy man during the Korean War, and I got to know him through an appeal he put in The Graybeards.

Rich was asking for information from anyone on how and where his best friend, Marshall, had been killed in Korea, just nine days before the ‘Cease Fire’ was signed on 27 July 1953. He mentioned that Marshall was with my division, the 45th Infantry, and I had done a lot of research on the battle positions of the 45th. I knew from his unit and the date that Marshall was on Christmas Hill when he was KIA.

Just over a month before Marshall died, I had been in that general area of Bloody Ridge, Sandbag Castle, Heartbreak Ridge, and the Punch Bowl. I had taken a number of photos and even some 8mm movies. I made copies of the Combat Reports, still photos and the movies; and sent it all to Rich so he would know the type of fighting that was going on and the type of mountainous terrain in which Marshall was fighting. We have become good friends over the seven years since then.

I began a response to his e-mail; and then decided to expand it into a complete report on the trip my son Scott and I took for my Korean War buddies, family, friends and others who might be interested.

We both really enjoyed the trip to South Korea. The tour was extremely well planned by Historical Military Tours. Their guides, two retired officers and a Sgt. Major, were outstanding. Since we were there during the 57th anniversary of North Korea’s invasion of the South, we were included in a number of memorial services in which we honored the Korean war dead; and the Korean people and their government honored and thanked us for helping them to preserve their freedom. And what they’ve done with that freedom since 1953!

They have become the 11th largest economy in the world, and the United States’ 7th largest trading partner. There was nothing I recognized after we left Incheon Harbor. Seoul, which didn’t have a building over four stories high when I was there, is now a vast, major city with hundreds of 15- to 30- storied apartment, hotel and office buildings.

Department stores, shops, factories and restaurants abound, and the Han River through Seoul to the new International Airport at Incheon’s Harbor has 8-lane expressways on both sides, with many other expressways going off north and south along the way. These expressways were filled with cars and trucks, mostly made in Korea: Kias, Hyundais and Daewoos. There were some American cars, BMWs and Mercedes. Unlike socialist/communist Cuba, there were no junkers. They all looked new and well cared for.

With all this building and production, it is easy to understand why South Korea has become a leading power and a staunch ally

of America on the world stage. In contrast, the North Korean communist economy, by measure of their Gross Domestic Product, is somewhere well below 183rd, where the listing on the Internet stopped measuring it. Millions of their people have starved to death. Free, capitalist South Korea is thriving, while the socialist/communist North Korean economy can’t even feed its oppressed population.

Our group included 50 from America, 15 from Colombia, 12 from Greece and 9 from The Netherlands. All of us only had to pay our air fare to Korea. Everything else (Five-Star Lotte-World Hotel, daily tour buses and guides and all meals) was paid for by the 7.5-million member Korean War Veterans Association and the Korean government.

Each veteran who fought in Korea is entitled to one hosted revisit trip with his wife or one sibling. Since they started this program in 1975, the 25th anniversary of the North Korean invasion, they have hosted about 23,750 UN veterans from the 21 countries which sent troops to help them.

The first day we visited the DMZ, Outpost Dora that overlooks North Korea southwest of Panmunjom, laid a wreath at the new U.S. Monument, received a medal during a large “thank you” celebration at Kyungmin Christian College, and had dinner at the 2nd Infantry Division Compound.

On day two, we toured the Incheon Landing Operations Hall. They revere General MacArthur for successfully planning and leading that extremely difficult and dangerous amphibious invasion just three months after the North Koreans attacked, visited Freedom’s Park, and laid a wreath at the Colombian Monument. The Greek and Netherlands groups went separately to their countries’ monuments for wreath-laying ceremonies.

The third day we toured the Korean War Memorial, where many photographers gathered around us. The next day some of their photos made the front pages of the Seoul newspapers and the international edition of the English-language Herald Examiner, which is published by the New York Times. We then went on a tour of the newly restored Kyungbok Palace, originally built in the 1300s. The Sae Eden Presbyterian Church was our next stop, where we were honored in a huge auditorium packed with parishioners.

The fourth day we went to the National Cemetery, where 150,000 Korean soldiers are buried. We gathered at the shrine for a wreath-laying ceremony to honor those Korean heroes. We then traveled to the Jangehung Gymnasium for the 57th Commemoration Ceremony of the Korean War hosted by the Korean Armed Services and the Korean government. The main speaker was their Prime Minister, The Honorable Han, Duck Soo.

We returned to the hotel for lunch and a reception hosted by His Excellency, Roh, Moo Hyun, President of the Republic of Korea. At this reception, each veteran was awarded a special medal, the Proclamation for which read:



Revisit group at Colombian monument (left) and at DMZ (above)

It is our great honor and pleasure to express the everlasting gratitude of the Republic of Korea and our people for the service you and your countrymen have performed in restoring and preserving our freedom and democracy.

We cherish in our hearts the memory of your boundless sacrifices in helping us reestablish our Free Nation.

In grateful recognition of your dedicated contributions, it is our privilege to proclaim you an "AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE" with every good wish of people of the Republic of Korea. Let each of us reaffirm our mutual respect and friendship that they may endure for generations to come.

1,800,000 of us went to Korea during those three years of war. 36,574 didn't come home alive: 23,615 Killed in Action; 2,460 Died of Wounds; 4,817 Missing in Action-Declared Dead; 2,849 Captured-Declared Dead, 8 Missing-Presumed Dead; 2,825 Other Non-Hostile Deaths (Accidents, Illness). Of these 36,574 men, no remains were found of 8,126 of them to send home to their families. In addition, 103,284 men were wounded, some more than once.

The next morning, we boarded the Korean Air 747 for the 12-hour return flight to LAX.

As I said above, Scott and I both thought it was a great trip. I especially appreciated visiting with the wonderful Koreans. They are an extremely polite, highly intelligent, hard working and friendly people.

As an SFC with Regimental Headquarters back in 1952-53, I had some time available to travel around the Seoul area and meet the people. I admired them then for their hard work, and their polite and pleasant attitude, despite the hardship they had suffered with the war that, in the previous two years, had overrun their area four times.

Hundreds of thousands of their soldiers and families had been killed, tortured, wounded or taken prisoner and their homes destroyed; yet, they shook it off and kept on going. At that time, I attributed their amazing strength to the hard life they had led.

I knew that about 50% of their children either died at childbirth

or before they were six years old. Interestingly, the young Korean lady tour guide on our bus told us that it is their tradition to have their largest birthday celebration on their first birthday, because so many of them in the past had not made it through their first year of life.

As I have light skin and a lot of damage from the sun, I've worn a flat-topped, wide-brimmed cowboy hat for years. When I sent for and received my medals from the Army about two years ago, I put the ribbons on that hat. When our American tour guides saw 'The Hat' the first night in Los Angeles, they said they'd use me at 6'1" and 'The Hat' as a rallying point for the group. Because of 'The Hat,' I was approached at a number of the monuments and museums by Koreans who wanted their picture taken with me:

At the Colombian Monument, a Korean gentlemen approached for a picture and told me he served during the War as a KATUSA (Korean Attached To United States Army). My son took our picture, and the gentleman gave me his address in Inchon to send a print to him.

At the National War Monument, a group of little girls (9 or 10 years old) came up to me and my son, waving and saying "Thank you, Thank You" repeatedly, and wanting a picture with me. A group of boys wanted the same thing. They were with their teacher, so I got an e-mail address to send them copies.

At the National War Museum, a young man, his wife and two boys approached me for the same reason. He told me that he had served in the Korean Army from 1991 to 1993, and that he also was a KATUSA personnel. He wanted to take a picture of his two sons with me. He had his own camera, so I didn't get his address, but I have the picture, as Scott took one also.

No, we didn't see any of the old battle sites, as we were too busy with all the memorial ceremonies. The food was good, a mixture of Korean, Chinese and western. Usually, it was served buffet style so we could pick and choose. I skipped the octopus, and some similar delicacies.

*James M. Martino, 3088 Boeing Road
Cameron Park, CA 95682
(530) 677-0970, Mooney@sbcglobal.net*



Recon Missions

Significance Of This Flag

I am not sure if you need anything like this, but it is the only remembrance I have of my late father from the Korean War.

I have no idea of the significance of this flag, so I don't know if they were common to every soldier or not, but I am very proud of it—and my dad.



Does this flag have any significance?

Kelly W Van Arsdel Jr., Virginia Beach, VA, (757) 943-0852, mc_club_rider@verizon.net

PFC William T. Lewis Jr, USMC

I have been searching for answers to what happened to my uncle, Bill Lewis, for over twenty years now. My grandmother showed me a box that contained the Purple Heart she was given after my Uncle Bill was "lost" in Korea. That moment has stuck with me for over 40 years.

Here is the story:

Private First Class Lewis was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. On March 26, 1953, he was defending "Outpost Reno." He was listed as Missing in Action when his position was overrun by two Chinese battalions. His remains were not recovered. His name is inscribed on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. Private First Class Lewis was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

I never knew Uncle Bill. He was listed as MIA five years before I was ever born. Now that I am a grown woman with grown children of my own, I can in a sense relate to how she must have felt back then, not knowing the truth and living with the questions as to where her child was.

She never spoke about it. I know that through the years she never gave up hope that someday he would return to her. What I don't know is when it changed from hope to resolve that he was gone, and if he ever did return, he would be to be laid to rest next to her. At some point, she purchased a headstone for him and it sits on an empty grave next to hers.

A few weeks ago I stumbled upon a website that led me to an article written by Mr. Vincent Krepps accounting his own experiences in Korea and telling about his brother. Inside the article he mentioned The Graybeards Magazine, which led me to the KWVA website.

I have spent the last several days poring over past editions of your magazine, searching for any references to my Uncle Bill's unit. Unfortunately I didn't find any. I am also sad to see that Mr. Krepps is no longer affiliated with the magazine. I would have liked to tell him how much his article touched my heart.

I realized that his article, along with other articles from men accounting what happened in Korea, could very easily have been a written account from my uncle. It is as if they were giving *his* account of what happened.

Reading your magazine has also helped me realize something else. My uncle did not die alone. That has weighed on my mind all of these years. I realize he died with family around him. It may not have been his family back here in the States, but it was most certainly a family. For that I will be eternally grateful.

I know you have probably received thousands of requests trying to connect family members of lost soldiers with anyone they may have served with while in Korea. I won't ask that of you. I know if it was at all possible, you would do that for every family member whose plea crossed your desk. What I will ask is if you know of a place I can put in a request like this that may get the most exposure. I would love to do this for my aunt, Uncle Bill's sister. She is in her mid 80's now, and I know if there were one desire in her life that has been unfulfilled it is connecting with someone who may have known him in Korea.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I just needed to thank someone on behalf of my family for keeping the memory of these men alive.

It would be wonderful to communicate with anyone who knew my uncle, but it would be just as fulfilling communicating with someone who can share with us what Uncle Bill would have shared had he been able. It is hard to explain, but I have no doubt you understand what I mean.

Tammy Lewis, 319 Lincoln Parkway, Buffalo, New York 14216, (716) 874-3142, tammy@bluemoon.net

John H. Johnson

I am trying to locate John H. Johnson or information about him. Johnson was my father's platoon leader during the Korean War. They served in the 72nd Tank Battalion, Company C.

My father served from mid-1951 to mid-1952. Johnson may have been from the Carolinas or vicinity, but we're not certain. We would be delighted to find him.

A photo, name of a friend or relative, or general information about him would also be very helpful.

John Stuekerjuergen, 10636 Greenbelt Dr., Clive, IA 50325, (515) 245-8304 (Work phone), John.Stuekerjuergen@wellsfargo.com

Marcelo Torres-Rivera

My father was Captain Marcelo Torres-Rivera. He served in the 3rd Div., 65th Inf. Regt., Company H. He fought in WWII and

Korea. He was in a motor transport unit in WWII, and possibly in an artillery unit in Korea.

National Archives has evidence that he fought in WWII, but no evidence that he fought in Korea. We would like to reconstruct his Korea service record to obtain any medals, commendations, etc., to which he is entitled. I am sure he earned a Purple Heart, possibly as the result of a grenade explosion. But, he never received it.

Unfortunately, as is the case with so many veterans, the Korean War part of his records burned in the fire of July 1973. A National Archives staff member told us that they have to reconstruct his record regarding service in Korea.

I need to gather information from or about anyone who met or knew my father in Korea. Can you help me?

Thanks.

Brunilda Torres, P. O. Box 470, Whittier, NC 28789

Leon J. Turcott

Bob Turcott is looking for information about his uncle, SgtMaj Leon J. Turcott, who served in WWII and Korea. The last piece of information he has about his uncle is that he was in Wertheim, Germany in 1965 with the S-1 section, 1st Missile Battalion, 67th Artillery, in Battalion Headquarters.

Bob Turcott, 44 Taylor Street, Nashua New Hampshire
03060, (603)-521-8382 (Home), (603) 557-4396 (cell),
bobturcott@msn.com

Graybeards for Postage

I have several copies of *The Graybeards* free for the taking—except for postage. The copies available comprise:

Volume 13	#3, 5, 6
Volume 14	#1-6 inclusive
Volume 15	#1-6 inclusive
Volume 16	#1-6 inclusive
Volume 17	#1-6 inclusive
Volume 18	#1-6 inclusive
Volume 19	#1-6 inclusive
Volume 20	#1, 2, 3, 5

If anyone would like the copies, all they have to do is pay the postage and I will send them

Lawrence Hochfeld, 9537 Weldon Circle #408, Tamarac,
FL 33321, hochfeld2@aol.com

Gas Generators

I am trying to locate any data concerning the Engineer Gas Generating Units (EGGU) that served during the Korean War, either in Korea or stateside! They are among the many necessary units that supported the combat units during the Korean War, but they have received no recognition! They deserve to be recognized, at least!

I have learned that the 518th EGGU was located in the vicinity of Pusan for the duration, and that both the 519th and the 524th EGGUs were stationed at Fort Leonard Wood in 1954! But, I have no data on the units' TO & E's, personnel, equipment, or capabilities!

It is known that such EGGUs could generate Oxygen,

Acetylene, and other gasses, and supposedly, one generated the hydrogen gas that was used to inflate the barrage balloons used to defend the Peace Talk village of Panmunjom.

If *The Graybeards* learns anything extra, or hears from former members of such units, please have them contact me.

Charles L. Collins, 3931 Shamrock Drive, Huntsville,
AL 35810, (256) 859-3913

Korea Between The Wars, Fred Ottoboni

In the article "Pre-War Korea," in your May/June 2007 edition of *The Graybeards*, p. 58, there was a mention of a book by Fred Ottoboni, *Korea Between the Wars*. Can you tell me where I can purchase the book?

I served with the 7th Sig. Co., 7th Inf. Div., in 1947-48 before leaving for Sapporo, Hokaido Japan. 1947-48 was no picnic on the 38th Parallel.

Donald A. Roberts, 18 Pleasant Street, P. O. Box 219,
Howland, ME 04448-0219

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our "Less Than New Books" Research Staff did a bit of research on the Internet to locate copies of the book. The Department Head infers from the results that it is out of print. But, copies are available through several sites, one of which is www.amazon.com. As of July 13, when the search was completed, there were "11 used and new available from \$3.99." There are other used books sellers listed who have copies as well.

Just for the record, here is the info staff members uncovered about the book: ISBN 0915241021, Release 1997-06, Vincente Books, Paperback, 310 pages, List Price \$19.95.

Information about the publisher turned up very little. Here is what was listed:

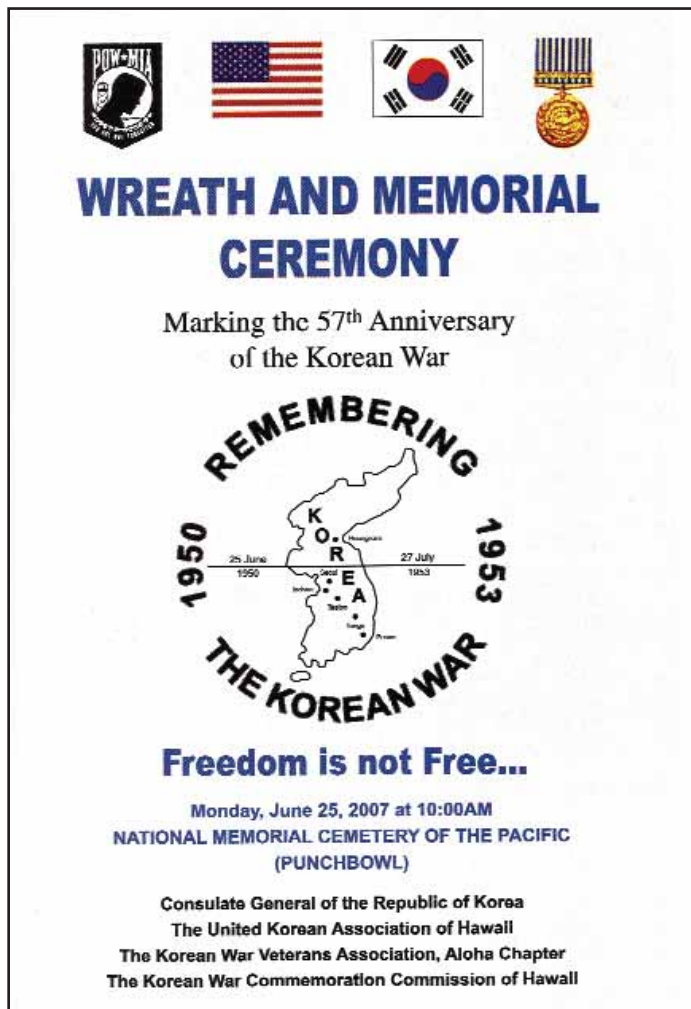
*Vincente Books, Inc., P. O. Box 50704, Sparks, NV
89435. Contact Alice Ottoboni, (775) 626-0519.*

Of course, there might be some KWVA members who have more information about where the book can be obtained. If so, we would like to hear it.

EDITOR'S NOTE: One of the most common requests I receive is to include information in *The Graybeards* about units that served in the Korean War—in and out of the country—but have not received any acknowledgement. I would be one happy camper if I could acknowledge every branch of the armed forces that served, let alone individual units within them. There is a way to acknowledge some of them, however. If you served in a unit that has not received any acknowledgement of PR, please let me know. Send me stories about your personal exploits, the unit's functions, when it (and you) were in Korea (or elsewhere)...anything you can. Or, send me the names of units of which you are aware but of which the rest of us aren't. And, of course, complement your submissions with photos.

Let's start with the request for information about EGGU. If you have any information for Mr. Collins, by all means send it to him. But please furnish a copy to us at Graybeards Central as well. That will give us a head start on building a file of "unacknowledged" units.

CID 144 (Aloha) Hosts 57th Anniversary Ceremony



WREATH AND MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Marking the 57th Anniversary of the Korean War

REMEMBERING 1950 THE KOREAN WAR 1953

Freedom is not Free...

Monday, June 25, 2007 at 10:00AM
NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC (PUNCHBOWL)

Consulate General of the Republic of Korea
 The United Korean Association of Hawaii
 The Korean War Veterans Association, Aloha Chapter
 The Korean War Commemoration Commission of Hawaii



ABOVE: Captain Cho addresses crowd at the Punchbowl



RIGHT: LtGen Daniel P. Leaf (USAF) speaks to audience at Hawaii ceremony

The Aloha Chapter hosted a 57th Anniversary of the Korean War Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl on Monday, June 25, 2007 at 10 a.m. Guests listened to remarks from several dignitaries, including Honorable Dae Hyun Chung, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, Lt. Gov. Duke J. Alona, Jr., of the State of Hawaii, Lee Donohue, President of the Federation of Hawaii Korea Organizations, and Colonel Gene Castagnetti, USMC (Ret).

The ceremony included a wreath presentation and a moment of silence for POW/MIA personnel. The Marine Forces Pacific Band played Taps; U.S. Army Capt. and Master of Ceremonies Jasmin S. Cho presented closing remarks and read messages from several people, including U.S. President George W. Bush, President of Korea Park Se Jik, and U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii.

Aloha Chapter President Jimmy Shin wrote a welcoming message for the Wreath and Memorial Ceremony program, which included a solemn tribute: "On behalf of the Chapter, I wish all the happiness and good health to the living Korean War heroes and their families, and I salute the men and women who ensured our liberty through their sacrifice."



CID 144 President Jimmy Shin salutes at Hawaii ceremony

ony in Hawaii

The Korean War 1950 – 1953



Freedom
is Not Free



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 Biography

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' 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.

Korean War MIAs Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of three U.S. servicemen, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

They are Sgt. Donald C. Trent, of Crab Orchard, W. Va.; Cpl. Robert K. Imrie, of Randolph, Mass.; and Cpl. Samuel Wirrick of Lancaster, Pa.; all U.S. Army. Imrie [was] buried Monday, July 23, 2007 at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.; and Trent and Wirrick will be buried at Arlington in October.

Representatives from the Army met with the next-of-kin of these men in their hometowns to explain the recovery and identification process and to coordinate interment with military honors on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

In late November 1950, these soldiers were members of the 2nd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, then operating south of the Chongchon River in North Korea. Their regiment's positions came under

heavy attack by Chinese forces and the 2nd Battalion was forced to withdraw to positions near the town of Kujang. On Nov. 27, Imrie was killed in action, and Trent and Wirrick were reported missing.

In 2000, a joint U.S.-Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Korean People's Army team, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), excavated a mass burial believed to contain the remains of U.S. soldiers who died near Kujang. The team found human remains, Wirrick's identification tag and other material evidence associated with U.S. Army infantry equipment.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA and dental comparisons in the identification of the remains. For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call (703) 699-1420.

Now Hear This:

All comments concerning, or contributions for publication in The Graybeards should be sent to Art Sharp, Editor, 152 Sky View Dr., Rocky Hill, 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 22857, Alexandria, VA 22304-9285



General MacArthur statue at Inchon landing site

Photo courtesy of
James M. Martino, 3088 Boeing Road
Cameron Park, CA 95682
(530) 677-0970, Mooney@sbcglobal.net

Korean War Veterans Association
Membership Recording Secretary
PO Box 22857
Alexandria, VA 22304-9285
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