

America's Forgotten Victory!

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



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From the President

Louis T. Dechert

THIS WE'LL DEFEND!

Greetings friends and members
Welcome to my last thoughts to be written in *The Graybeards* as our leader.

Because of the publishing schedules of the magazine I am writing well before the results of the latest raucous spiteful election are known. If 6,000 to 10,000 of you have voted, then the future is bright. If fewer than that have voted, the Association has a less bright horizon.

Not knowing those results makes it all the more important for me to express my appreciation for many who have assisted in leadership.

This farewell task occurs while articles are required for the Memorial Day Website and for the International Federation of the KWVA, as well as farewell letters to more than 80 KWVA staffers, and numerous VA, Korean, US Forces Korea members and others with whom we have served these past four years. But I want to write something special for the honorable members of our Association (that is about 96% of you—I hope all of you voted!). So here goes.

Begin at the Beginning

I begin with a question: what is the initiating event—the cause—that we may attribute as the reason for there even being an organization called the KWVA? This not a trick question. But, answering it requires a clear pragmatic look at history. The answer is: the war which started in Korea, June 25, 1950, has been marking time since July 27, 1953, involving the combined tours of duty of over four million US servicemen and women over the years.

We have just concluded Memorial Day 2008 as I write. Hundreds of thousands gathered around granite, marble, and assembled bodies in places too numerous to mention. In Washington DC this organization, under the leadership of Director Tom McHugh, formally participated in all the Memorial Day events, including an Honor Guard and wreath at our Korean

War Veterans Memorial on the Mall, for the first time.

But, there is another, greater Memorial to our service then—and since.

The Republic of Korea today is itself a memorial to American and Korean sacrifices which is written not in stone but on living hearts in our flesh and blood, and as such is the Supreme Korean War Veterans Memorial. For this reason, if no other, we must take every measure, devise and carry out every plan, and work until we can work no longer to build up, then build up again, and then again, our Mutual Alliance.

Should our Alliance fail, grow gray, then feeble, then on life support, and finally disappear, then I suggest to you that something of our mutual National bodies will have died. Something which has energized us to accomplish the best there is through the past few years will have been excised. And, just as surely as our physical bodies will perish when the heart is ripped from them, the very essence of mutual accomplishment shall leave us, orphans as it were, to try to make our individual ways—rather than the Allied way—in a hostile world.

Korea is great not because the USA is great; the USA is better, or great, because Korea is great. That is the kind of relationships we have between ourselves and the ROK, my fellow veterans of Korea. We must preserve, defend, and ever build higher our relationship.

If we are to successfully do so, the KWVA must have a fresh vision and an invigoration of spirits in the task. But, more than this, we must have a future.

1,430 Days

I have been your President and the Chairman of the Executive Council/Board for 1,430 days. I can guarantee that you received my best (not perfect) leadership for every one of those 1,430 days. As you review what I have written and stated in that time you will see that my priority—after fulfilling the six campaign promises (accomplished all but one*) was the survival of the KWVA. That has monopolized my leadership time for much of the past three years—and is not yet assured.

Many of you—the great majority—agreed with me and assisted in this challenging task. Beyond that, I want to officially recognize some specific individuals who caught the vision and worked hard to accomplish the task of auguring that the KWVA would not disappear as I leave the leadership to those who follow.

“Old Soldiers Never Die”

A man who inspired and assisted me in more ways than any other, a man whom I deeply admired, left us far too early: Marty O'Brien, from Maine. More recently I had the chance of finding another Marty (in the rough), George Lawhon. Marty was my first Member of the Year selection. Others who earned that distinction, and my great appreciation, have been Jake Feaster, Jim Doppelhammer, Charley Price, and Jeff Brodeur.

I was able to serve with many honorable Directors during the past four years. Some gave outstanding service to the Association: Joe Pirrello, Jim Ferris, Bill Mac Swain, Warren Wiedhahn, Lee Dauster, Bob Banker, Jeff Brodeur, Marvin Dunn, Chris Yanacos, Tom Edwards and Tom McHugh.

The Association and I have been especially well-served by Treasurer Richard Hare, and Secretary Frank Cohee. Perhaps forgotten by many of you, but certainly not by me, are Clyde Durham, who had to resign for health reasons a few months after being appointed Treasurer, and three-year Assistant Treasurer Bill Doyle, my

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THE MISSION OF THE KWVA/USA

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

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COVER: A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from 2nd Aviation Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, flies over the Yellow Sea off the coast of South Korea, during deck-landing qualifications aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur, during Exercise Foal Eagle. This photo appeared on www.army.mil.



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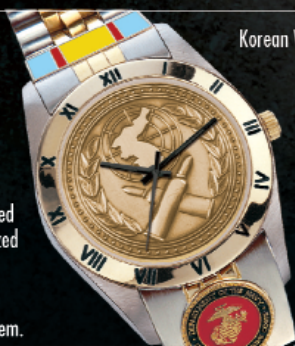
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Masking the Meaning of Memorial Day©

Can you truly wish people a “Happy Memorial Day?” What other words can you use? These questions haunt me every year when Memorial Day—or any other patriotic holiday, such as the Fourth of July, Flag Day, or Veterans Day—rolls around.

Words have always fascinated me. They are better than toys. There are so many ways you can play with them. I guess that is one of the reasons I became a writer: it gives me a chance to earn money just playing with my favorite toy. However, selecting words is not always easy—especially when it comes to wishing people a “Fill in the Blank” Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Veterans Day, etc. (Let’s concentrate on Memorial Day in this essay. Just keep the others in mind every time I specify Memorial Day.)

One of my jobs as a writer is to select the exact word I need to get my meaning across in terms that the reader will understand. You would think that is easy. After all, I have available to me about 800,000 words in the English language from which to choose. But, words are like snowflakes. No two are exactly alike, and they do not always mean the same thing to everybody.

(Just as an aside, I would love to meet the people who determined that no two snowflakes are alike. I have no desire to even be in a place where two snowflakes are falling simultaneously so I can conduct experiments trying to figure out if they share the same chromosomes. I head south every winter so I can avoid snowflakes, whether they are fraternal or identical twins or totally un-twin like.)

And, if I want to impress people, I can always use foreign words and italicize them—even if I don’t have a clue myself as to what the words mean. Foreign words sound and look impressive, but they are not always expressive. (One of the cardinal rules a writer must follow is “Write to express, not impress.”)

If a writer throws a Luxembourgian (is that even a word?) proverb into an essay because “English words cannot convey what the message really means,” that does not help me. If I can’t figure out a word’s meaning in

The majority of people I know say to me, “Have a Happy Memorial Day.” Well, maybe I will. But I cannot be truly happy knowing that millions of men and women from not only the U.S. and other countries have died in thousands of conflicts across the globe just to allow me to be free—and happy.

English, I am sure as heck not going to be able to get it from a Luxembourgian expression. (Just for the record, the good folks in Luxembourg share three official languages: French, German, and Luxembourgish.)

Then there are denotation (the exact definition of a word) and connotation (what a word might convey to different people) to consider. For example, here in New England we pack groceries in bags. In South Dakota they pack groceries in sacks. I learned that—and the value of connotation—the hard way.

I was checking out groceries in a Red Owl grocery store in Rapid City, South Dakota a few years ago. (Maybe the store’s name was actually the Titian Titmouse or Mauve Merganser or something similar. Whatever it was, it had something to do with colorful birds.) My wife and kids were there with me.

“Do you want sacks?” the woman at the register said.

Whoa, either the folks in Rapid City are pretty friendly or she is being pretty forward, I thought—and with my wife and kids standing right next to me no less. All I had heard was “sacks.” In my world that was not “bags.” My connotation was something entirely different. I heard someone with a Midwestern twang offering me something that did not involve bags. Then, my wife shook me out of my reverie when she said “Yes,” and the cashier started packing my groceries in bags...I mean sacks.

So much for denotation vs. connotation and their role in choosing the right word.

No, choosing a word is not simple. There are too many criteria a writer—indeed, anybody who is conversing in words—must satisfy to choose the right word. That is why I find myself agonizing at times over choosing the best word to convey my wishes for Memorial Day. Too many of the words people use mask the meaning of Memorial Day.

The majority of people I know say to me,

“Have a Happy Memorial Day.” Well, maybe I will. But I cannot be truly happy knowing that millions of men and women from not only the U.S. and other countries have died in thousands of conflicts across the globe just to allow me to be free—and happy. I am happy to be free, but not happy to know that I am free only because other people have sacrificed their lives so I could live mine in relative peace.

Some people have taken to wishing me a “Meaningful Memorial Day.” On the surface, that is more appropriate. But, I have discovered that most of the people wishing me a “Meaningful Memorial Day” are war veterans. They have more of an idea about the meaning of Memorial Day than their non-veteran counterparts, since they learned firsthand about the sacrifices so many Americans and their allies have made to make Memorial Day meaningful. (Maybe the true meaning of Memorial Day—or any patriotic holiday—is summed up in the nearby words on the California monument.)

Too many people who have not served their country in one way or another define Memorial Day in terms of picnics and parades. To be sure, that is part of a Memorial Day celebration, but picnics and parades can only be enjoyed by the people who are alive to attend them. Those who died to make picnics and parades possible are not around to enjoy them, which diminishes somewhat the meaning of Memorial Day—at least for me.

Other people have offered me Memorial Day wishes in terms of “Have a Super Memorial Day,” “Have a Great Memorial Day,” a simple “Enjoy Memorial Day”...the list goes on. Those words don’t fit, either. I cannot have a “Super” or “Great” Memorial Day knowing that too many people completely unknown to me in anything other than spirit have paid the ultimate price in the service of their countries to keep me free. Sure, I can enjoy it as long as I am breathing. Still...

Is it possible that there is no one word that can truly express people's wishes for Memorial Day? There must be among the 800,000 or so words in the English language a word that properly qualifies Memorial Day—or maybe we can borrow something from the Luxembourgiens. After all, two members of Luxembourg's contribution to the United Nations contingent in the Korean War paid the ultimate price. Maybe their countrymen can help us with a word or two.

As for me, I cannot give up on finding that one word that best expresses what kind of Memorial Day I would like people to have. Maybe it doesn't really matter as long as they take a few minutes out of their Memorial Day to contemplate its true meaning. While they are doing that, I will continue my search.

Until I find that elusive word (or words), in English or Luxembourgish or any other language, I wish for you on the next and following Memorial (or other patriotic) Day, "Have a [fill in the blank] Memorial Day."

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My Fellow Korean War Veterans:

On this day, I wish to share with you the below eulogy engraved on a granite vertical tablet at the California Korean War Remembrance Memorial located in the San Joaquin Valley VA Cemetery, Santa Nella, California (near Gustine).

Members of the Santa Clara County Chapter CA 6 participated in the planning, construction and dedication to honor and remember the 2,500 plus California Korean War casualties.

Declared as the state's official Korean War Memorial, the "Eulogy for a Veteran" reads:

DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND WEEP,
I AM NOT HERE, I DO NOT SLEEP.
I AM THE THOUSAND WINDS THAT BLOW,
I AM THE DIAMOND GLINTS ON SNOW.
I AM THE SUNLIGHT ON RIPENED GRAIN,
I AM GENTLE AUTUMN RAIN.
WHEN YOU WAKE IN THE MORNING'S HUSH,
I AM THE SWIFT UPLIFTING RUSH
OF QUIET BIRDS IN CIRCLED FLIGHT.
I AM THE SOFT STAR THAT SHINES AT NIGHT,
DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND CRY,
I AM NOT HERE, I DID NOT DIE.

Author Unknown!

Fraternally,
Mike Glazzy
Department of California

2008 KWVA Election Results

I am pleased to inform you of the election results as provided by D.J. Burrows, CPA

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT			
• William F Mac Swain - LR26546	1,726	Tine P Martin, Sr. - R030530	1,653
Elected President, 2008-2010		David A McDonald - LR28247	1,602
Byron W Dickerson - LR22282	1,499	C. Clyde Hooks - LR29987	1,500
Christ Yanacos - LR11094	679	Luther Dappen - LR27827	1,414
		Mellant Palo - LR37115	970
OFFICE OF 1st VICE PRESIDENT		Wilmer R " Bill " Olson - R038556	831
• James E Ferris - LC00436	2,094	Total Ballots Received:	4021
Elected 1st Vice Pres., 2008-2010		Less (-) ineligible ballots received:	
Michael J Doyle - LR33526	1,800	Ballots with no label & incomplete information:	-87
		Member ineligible to vote:	-9
OFFICE OF 2nd VICE PRESIDENT		Ballots with no votes or ineligible:	-1
• Robert S. Banker - R028382	2,237	Actual Valid Ballots Cast:	3924
Elected 2nd Vice Pres., 2008-2010		NOTE: If at any time prior to the next board meeting a vacancy occurs, the position is filled using the vote count and names from this election. At no time is any favoritism or other considerations involved in the filling of a vacant position on the board of directors.	
Glenn E Berry - R010780	1,621	Thomas M. McHugh Chairman	
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR		Nominating and Elections Committee	
• George E Lawhon - LR18750	1,949	Attested to by:	
Elected Director, 2008-2011		Frank Cohee KWVA Secretary	
• Leo D Agnew - LR36218	1,912		
Elected Director, 2008-2011			
• Jeffrey J Brodeur - LR35528	1,690		
Re-Elected Director, 2008-2011			
• Luther E Rice, Jr. - LR19674	1,680		
Elected Director, 2008-2011			

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26 SEPTEMBER - 2 OCTOBER

13 - 19 NOVEMBER



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News from the KWVA website

There is a great deal of helpful information posted on the KWVA website, www.kwva.org. We present a compilation of valuable entries here.

2008 Federal Benefits Booklet available

The latest version of Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents, 2008 Edition is now available. To get your copy via the net, go to www.kwva.org and follow the links or access the book directly at <http://www1.va.gov/OPA/vadocs/current>

[_benefits.asp](#) and follow the directions.

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CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION	CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION
Henry K. Ahlo	HI	Robert Pearson	FL
IMO Hvy Mortar Co., 9th Regt.		IMO Airmen Homer Millnier [GA] and Peter Greene [NC]	
Joseph N. Biglin, Jr.	MD	Leslie Peate	Ont., Canada
Raymond J. Bosch	OH	Patrick R. Sbarra	NJ
Charles F. Brewer	SC	IMO David Hallahan, Edmund Gleason, Leonard Bennett, Platoon Lt. Laurant Lasante, Fred Henry, all KIA and Patrick "King" Sbarra	
IMO Harold W. "Carly" Harmon		Gerald G. Silvester	NJ
Thomas Carberry	FL	Earl M. Stanton	NY
James Carvalho	MA	Henry J. Vannelli	PA
Dr. Mary Jane Celli	NJ	IMO John T. Stritch, KIA	
Patricia A. Connacher	OH	William E. Weber	MD
IMO Kenneth H. Connacher		Paul J. Wright	MI
Martin C. Cosat	WY	Donations (undesignated)	
James J. Edwards	IL	Lyndon Almon	TN
Jon Heich	CA	Deb Dennis	PA
Joyce G. Johndro	ME	IMO Domenic Angelucci	
KWVA Chapter 270	TX	Jeffery Kim	GA
Frank Kandula, Jr.	NY	Leo G. Ruffing	VA
Charles E. Keone	MA	Marion W. Morrow	OH
Jack Miskimens	OH	IMO Carl Milton Carpenter and Robert Lee	
Albert J. McAdoo (2)	FL	Mason	
John Marinchek	OH	Emery Vlach	CA
IMO Alphonso Piloni USMC, KIA Chosin Reservoir			
Joseph F. Mooney	MS		

Combat Action Badge Update



While the Combat Action Badge recognizes those who have served their country bravely in the 21st century, it overlooks the thousands of veterans who made similar sacrifices in previous wars.

In 2005, the Department of the Army authorized the creation of the Combat Action Badge to recognize U.S. soldiers who engage the enemy in battle. This badge applies to men and women in our armed forces who might not qualify for awards such as the Combat Infantry or Combat Medical Badge, which are limited to those individuals serving with infantry or medical units.

There is no doubt that the Combat Action Badge is a great idea; in Iraq and Afghanistan we are seeing soldiers from every military occupational specialty distinguish themselves in battle. However, the Army's current policy limits eligibility to only those individuals who meet its criteria after 18 SEP 01.

While the Combat Action Badge recognizes those who have served their country bravely in the 21st century, it overlooks the thousands of veterans who made similar sacrifices in previous wars. To rectify this injustice Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL-05) introduced H.R.2267 on 10 MAY 07 to retroactively award the Army Combat Action Badge to those members of the U.S. Army who were engaged by the enemy from 7 DEC 41 to the present day. The bill was then referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

This bill currently has only 27 cosponsors and will die in committee unless veterans take action to move it to the house floor. Those who would like to see the award of this badge to those who meet its criteria prior to 18 SEP 01 are encouraged to contact their legislators and request they support this bill.

[Source: *The American Legion Online Update* 29 May 08 ++]

PRESIDENT from page 3

long-time friend who passed away on February 24 this year.

Don Duquette, my first appointed Secretary served a year. But, he has continued serving the Association in the background even after leaving office. We were served by the great wisdom and great integrity of Judge Sim Goodall, the first JA (others were only acting), who set up the Ethics and Grievance Committee, as well as Steve Szekely, the E&G Chairman, and committeemen Marty O'Brien, Tine Martin, John Sonley, Doyle Dykes, and Richard Brown. And Frank Bertulis has worked almost three years to make our advertising a paying activity.

We held National Conventions at Knoxville, TN, Bossier City, LA, San Antonio, TX, and Reno, NV. We never failed to attain a quorum as required by our governing documents (a 100% reversal from the preceding four years), and every Convention was in order—again, unlike previous Conventions. We were served by a great corps of Sergeants-at-Arms, which accounted for much of those successes: John Sonley, Tine Martin, Chris Yanacos, Sonny Edwards, Tom McHugh, John Cooper, and Leonard Speizer.

Speaking of our Conventions, we have been addressed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Commandant of Marines, The Commander-in-Chief, Korea, The Commander of Eighth Army, and the Korean Ambassador. Quite an improvement from the “keg and tailgate reunions” which had been our practice—small wonder quorums of serious veterans declined to attend.

Both the Association and I were well served by many of the other appointees who made up the bulk of the “Administration”—Dechert’s men, as the hate-slate sneeringly termed them. These appointees honored me by agreeing to serve you, our membership, and they deserve better than such trash talk. Our membership owes those devoted volunteers more than they know, and certainly more than we can ever repay.

Someone thoughtfully asked me, “Whose men should they be if you appoint them? Osama bin Laden’s?!!”

The fact is that if an individual was a member in good standing and interested in performing (instead of just talking the talk) he had a good chance of being appointed—even when we seriously disagreed. In that vein, one requirement was added for appointment in my second term: the appointee had to subscribe to the KWVA *Voluntary Code of Conduct*.

If an appointee or an elected individual will not subscribe to acting decently towards other veterans, telling the truth, and conducting themselves with honor, then they have no business in leading the great members of our organization—or any other veterans organization.

Staff members extraordinaire

Great staff members have been: Chief of Staff Charley Price; Assistant Secretary Jake Feaster; Liaison Officers William Burns, Gene Yu; Aide Richard Pak; National Veterans Service Officers Price, and Art Hills; National VAVS Director JD Randolph (over a million hours!); and, those who served faithfully on our many committees.

In addition to the others already named, they include Art Griffith, Glen Thompson, Ed Buckman, Jim Doppelhammer, Bill Hutton, John Penman, Annelie Weber, Art Sharp, Jack Cloman, Leonard Speizer, Robert Schofield, Mike Glazzy, George Lawhon, Frank Williams, Larry Kinard, Jim Yaney, Tom Clawson, Martin Goge, Bob Miles, Ralph Nasatka, Don Edwards, Bill Hutton, Russ Cunningham, and Roy Burkhart.

Especially pleasing was the friendship and reliability of Billy J. Scott, now the organizer and Commander of our newest Chapter, 313 in Winchester, VA. He was always showing up to help in DC. Billy, Joe Genduso (Massachusetts), and I spent some cold hours at the Memorial barring the demonstrators. In addition, the members of two outstanding Chapters, 33 and 142, never failed to turn out when we needed them in the Capitol City for ceremonies.

And we were served for over half my term by one of the most outstanding men of the cloth to ever wear a uniform, Colonel (Father) Len Stegman. Len is an emeritus chaplain now, but continues to

serve and assists Chaplain Leo Ruffing.

Within the KWVA the longest standing tradition, personally begun by Bill Norris LC00001, is The Gathering, which has been ongoing for 22 years now. Chapter 33, and especially Jack Cloman (LC00006) and his wife Connie, members of Chapter 33, caught the vision and have kept it going for 22 years. We all owe them. (See the great article in *Graybeards* issue for May-June 2006, pp. 32-37).

We have been fortunate to have one of our members, a greatly decorated airborne leader, serving as the Executive Director of our Memorial on the Mall for many years. Bill Weber and his wife Annelie have done more for the KWVA and the accomplishment of our Mission than most of us will ever be able to fully realize.

From 8,000 miles away the Combined Forces Command, through its outstanding Commander, General BB Bell, LR37968, was always found supporting Korean War veterans. All during 2007 our members on Return Visits were personally and extensively briefed by the Eighth Army Commander, LTG David Valcourt, who also addressed our Reno Convention.

Dr. (MG, Ret) Park Seh-jik, Chairman of the Korean Veterans Association, Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, ROK, and his entire staff left not a single measure undone to support our KWVA members and to expand opportunities to participate in the Revisit Program.

Creating, fostering, and maintaining outside relationships

Ambassador Lee Tae-sik traveled the length and breadth of our country, in all weather, often day and night, to personally meet US veterans of the Korean War and to give them a personal gift from his countrymen. No embassy staff has ever been as active as has been that of Ambassador Lee these past two-and-a-half years.

Our KWVA mission was unstintingly supported by three great VA Secretaries—Secretary Anthony Principi, Secretary Jim Nicholson, and Secretary James Peake (all of them supported by Under Secretary and frequent Acting Secretary Gordon Mansfield, a decorated Vietnam veteran and former chief of the Paralyzed Veterans of America).

Our Association enjoyed steadily improved relations with the Veterans Administration and the Veterans Day National Committee—all outstanding servants of veterans. But one pair in the VA Central Office has done more for the KWVA and all the other Veterans Service Organizations than can be adequately described: VSO Liaison Kevin Secor and Ms. Virginia Copeland in his office. They have been irreplaceable for government-to-VSO relations.

Conducting Cordial Communications with Chapters and Departments

I have been honored and gratified to attend the Conventions/Annual Meetings of several Departments and Chapters. The Departments were Florida, Delaware, California, New York, Texas, South Carolina, Oregon, Virginia, and Missouri. I have met with some great Chapters at significant times in their affairs: Maryland 33, Shenandoah Valley 313, Korean War Veterans 142, Baton Rouge 230, Crossroads 205, Kansas 181, CPL Clair Goodblood (MOH) 32 (in the Governor's Office), KVA 299, Cape and Island Chapter 141, KWV of Mass Chapter 300, SGT Harold F. Adkison Chapter 255, and Sam Johnson Chapter 270. I thank the commanders, staffs, and members who provided warm hospitality and helpful advice when I visited.

Finding Professional Professionals

I was very fortunate to find and employ good professionals for our organization: Attorney Jimmy Faircloth and Mark Vilar and their firm; CPA Boyle Henderson and his firm; Annelie Weber in our DC Office; and Jim Doppelhammer, a man of unlimited talents and abilities. And, above all an incomparable magazine editor-publisher team, Art Sharp and Jerry Wadley.

The KWVA was materially assisted during my term by Jack Leonard, National VSO Director of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, who invited our National Service Officer Art Hills to each professional training session—and paid all his expenses of travel and training. We were also greatly aided by the services of the National Legislative Director of the MOPH, Hershel Gober, former Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs, when he could act without conflict for both organizations.

Significant support of our Association by the thousands of members of the

Korean Veterans Association residing in the USA grew through the past four years. The same is true of many Korean-American Associations and Groups.

There has been a small cadre of, for lack of a better term, encouragers, those with the vision for the future of the KWVA, and with a desire to be helpful. Some readily come to mind (and I apologize for undoubtedly missing a few): Judith Knight, Walt Laban, Al Silvano, Louie Spinelli, and Cy Kammeier (the five of them Purple Heart-related, all KWVA members, two of them Past National Commanders of the Purple Heart), Bill McCraney, Wendell Austin, Marty O'Brien, Bill Doyle, Martin Goge, Steve dePyssler, and always CENLA Chapter 180, whose members bore every burden always faithfully.

Thanks, my faithful friends, men and women. Special support, advice, and encouragement were always on-call day or night from Colonel James Stone, MOH, and Tibor Ruben, MOH. Also a great encourager was Miles Brown, and a newcomer from the younger Korean-Americans, Hannah Kim.

And, 24/7, 365/1430, were my dear wife, an honorary member of Chapter 180 and Department President of the MOPH Ladies Auxiliary, and son Louis, a member of MOPH Associates, and creator of the VIP golf program (Veterans in Play).

This day we must part

Fellow members, I feel a great deal like General Douglas MacArthur felt when he uttered the famous words, "just fade away." I wish you well. You have received the best that I had to give for 1,430 days out of the lives of myself and my family. I could not do more, nor could I do any less.

I wish you well, and if I have spoken too personally in this goodbye, so be it. I am told that a favorite verse around the desolate campfires of the "Indian-fighting Army" on the occasions of reassignments or deaths was one from the Irish poet Julia Crawford, who wrote in the song "Kathleen Mavourneen":

"Have you forgotten this day we must part? It may be for years and it may be forever. Oh! Why are thou silent, thou, voice of my heart?"

(There were a lot of Irishmen in the frontier army following the Civil War.)

As the poet suggests, I have spoken at all times from my heart.

Thank you, goodbye, and good luck.

Louis T Dechert, National President and Chairman, July 2004-June 2008

Program Scheduled at War Memorial

There was a meeting of the new organization, Global Coalition for Korean War Reconciliation, in Washington, DC on May 30, 2008. The Steering Committee developed plans to hold a Candlelight Vigil and Memorial Program at the Korean War Memorial in DC the evening of Sunday, July 27, as recognition of the 55th Anniversary of the signing of the Korean War Armistice, and to share a yearning for further reconciliation and a peace treaty after these many years.

A Candlelight Vigil and Memorial Program is planned at the Korean War Memorial on July 27, 2008

Global Coalition for Korean War Reconciliation was founded with support from the Peace Corps Korea Returned Volunteers and the Friends of Korea, and will be seeking incorporation and non-profit status with the assistance of Morrison Cain, Esq., former Peace Corps volunteer in Korea. The goals are to foster remembrance, recognition, and reconciliation of the war in Korea.

Their mission states, "We hope to foster transnational reconciliation of the Korean War and peacebuilding on the Korean Peninsula to bring about an eventual replacement of the Korean War Armistice with a peace treaty. Hannah Kim, a graduate student at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, serves as its President.

For more information, contact Hannah Kim at hannahkim115@yahoo.com or check out the web site now being developed at www.kw-reconciliation.org.

'The Gathering' Info

The 24th Annual Korean War Veterans Gathering is scheduled for 25-28 July 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Crystal City Reagan National Airport.

For information call Jack Cloman, Chairman, at 410-676-1388 or email at connienjack@msn.com.



Unfortunately, the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) does not have the resources to conduct detailed searches for people, to do the research to determine what medals are authorized, to determine what benefits are authorized, or to pursue answers to similar inquiries. Nevertheless, we get several messages and telephone calls every day asking for such information. Here are a few examples of some recent requests:

■ “I am in search for my father, Clifford A Audette. He was enlisted in the U S Army in approx. 1948. Possible date of birth is 12/26/1930. If you have any information that is public knowledge I would be grateful.”

■ “Hello, I am currently researching my grandfather’s participation in the Korean War. I know that he received a Purple Heart as well as many other awards and medals while serving. I am trying to find out where he might have been stationed and what army unit he was with. Do you have any advice as to where I might find this information? Thanks so much.”

■ “I have some items that I would like to donate to a museum.”

The last example was unique, to say the least. When asked what type of items he wanted to donate, the caller hesitated. Then he replied, “Human remains.”

With that response, I gulped.

“What kind of human remains?” I asked.

The story went something like this:

“My grandfather was in the Philippines (the caller thought that the Philippines was part of the Korean War), and a sniper shot him and his friend. My grandfather then shot the sniper.

My grandfather brought a skull home and gave it to my father. My father recently passed away and gave me the skull. I do not want it.”

I do not know, nor did I ask, if the skull was from the sniper. If so, how did the grandfather get it? How did he get it home? What is the real story: where did the skull come from?

More importantly, what should he do with it? I will leave the answers to these questions for you to draw your own conclusions.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we do our best to at least point the people in the right direction by telling them where they might be able to get the information they are looking for. Once in a while we are successful. That makes it all worthwhile.

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

Here is an example of a recent success.

Bill McCraney, President of Chapter 158 and a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), called me and said while he was working on a research paper he was looking over some WIA reports and came across the name Richard Cunningham from Peoria, IL. Bill said that name really brought back some memories, because Richard was his foxhole buddy in Korea. They had some great times together and kept each other laughing in the midst of misery.

Richard called Bill “Meatball” because Bill would trade just about anything for a spaghetti and meatball C-ration. Bill thought maybe that somewhere in this country Richard might be a member of the KWVA. So he gave me a call and asked me to check the national membership roster for him. There was no Richard Cunningham in our data base, but I checked the white pages for Peoria, and there was one listed.

Bill called that number, but it turned out to be the wrong Cunningham. According to his wife, that Cunningham was never in Korea and he was deceased at that. I had also given Bill the name of the Chapter President in Peoria. Bill called the President, but the Cunningham he knew was the one Bill had already called.

Anyhow, the Chapter President said he would look in the telephone directory and he found the number of another Cunningham. Bill called that number and hit the jackpot. Bill began to tell this Cunningham who he was, and before he could finish, Richard hollered, “Are you ‘Meatball Bill’?”

They talked for more than an hour. Bill says he does not know when he has enjoyed a conversation more. He had this to say: “If there is someone that you fondly remember from those long ago years, I highly recommend that you try to look them up. With today’s communication technology it is not all that difficult and it is well worth the effort. *Time’s a wastin’!* And Frank, thank you very much.”

Here is another one that might be of interest to a lot of people.

How do I make a donation in someone’s memory?

Hello Frank,

I and several other colleagues would like to make a donation to the KWVA in a deceased member’s memory. How is this best accomplished?

Kind regards and thanks for your assistance,

Deb

.....

Your check or money order should be sent to our Treasurer, whose name and address is included on our website, www.kwva.org, or on the inside cover of our magazine, *The Graybeards*. We will make note of your donation by including it *The Graybeards*.

Please let me know if you want the wording to read “in memory of” or “in honor of.” You will also receive a letter of thanks from our President.

Also, if you would like a letter of verification for income purposes, let us know and our Treasurer will send you one. Thanks for your consideration.

Frank Cohee

Finally:

It is amazing what you can find on the KWVA web-site

Secretary Cohee:

My name is Jon Zamber, and I am a medical student in Memphis TN caring for a Korean War vet who is eligible for this presidential citation. Can you please let me know how to get this ribbon? It would mean a lot to him and his wife.

Thank you.

Jon Zamber
UT School of Medicine, M3
.....

Mr. Zamber:

I assume you are referring to the Korean Presidential Unit Citation. If you have verified that the veteran is authorized to receive that citation, you can request it from www.usmedals.com, 1-800-308-0849.

You can also request it by going to our web site, www.kwva.org. On the right side of the home page, click on "How to request military service records or prove military service." That will bring up a link that will also allow you to request information on medals.

Best regards,

Frank Cohee
National Secretary, KWVA

Accordion War: Korea 1951

Life and Death
in a Marine Rifle Company

Charles Hughes

**Accordion War:
KOREA 1951**

"Wow! What a book you have written... Thanks for telling our story..."
**Bob Gates,
Marine rifleman,
Korean vet.**

"...extremely well written...it could be a best seller."
**Harry "Ace" Martucci,
Marine rifleman,
Korean vet.**

"Couldn't put it down...I savored this one... Thanks for writing this book."
**John Simpson,
Marine rifleman, Korean vet.**

"This is a gripping work and a must reading."
Korean War Project Newsletter

"This book is hard to put down. The writing is terrific...Well done Doc."
**GySgt John Boring, USMC (Ret)
Leatherneck Magazine of the Marines, Sept. 2007.**

Order: www.trafford.com/06-0192, amazon.com or send check or money order for \$25 to: Charles Hughes 2303 Elaine St. Arkadelphia, AR 71923 for an autographed copy.

From Our Chaplain...

Like many folks I know, I exchange a lot of things with my friends. I received the following from a Minister friend of mine in Montgomery, Alabama. "Pastor Susan" has the gift of "Common Sense." She sent the following to me on May 7, 2008. Her comments seemed appropriate for the membership of the Korean War Veterans Association to take into consideration during and following this year's election.

We could each make a concentrated effort to get rid ourselves of the "Stuff" that is interfering with open and honest communication of our different views of how our organization should conduct its business.

"Nothing spoils a confession like repentance." Anatole France (1844-1924)

Yesterday I spent several hours in my office cleaning out old files and straightening up the clutter. As I was going through "stuff," I realized that I had kept materials for years that had once been meaningful to me but long ago piled up underneath other papers and gotten lost. They no longer serve me or the church, so they got pitched. I've still got a long way to go to feel like real organization has taken place, but I can see the progress and something about that makes me feel great. I'd been looking at that stuff for years, meaning to get to it "someday"...and I finally did!

As I was thinking about the process, I realized that there have been things in my life that are like those old papers. Some things get buried in my heart and I just leave them there to collect with the other clutter that keeps me from experiencing God's best for me. It may be a hurt that I experience; it may be a hidden sin; it might even be an attitude that everyone can see but me. But the effect of it is all the same: my heart is full of stuff that keeps God's Spirit out and the result is spiritual frustration and emotional despair.

Confession is a wonderful thing. It helps us to acknowledge what is wrong in our lives and it targets what needs to change. It is the first step to God's healing. But confession does not finalize the deal. Repentance, turning in a new direction, is the key. It is like taking all of those old papers off my shelf and putting them in the trash. Repentance helps us to begin again, to clean out all of the old, nasty stuff that doesn't belong in a precious, beloved child of God. It gives us the ability to see ourselves with God's eyes and to become those whom we have been created to be.

Acknowledging what doesn't belong in our lives can only happen as we take the time to see ourselves as we really are. Quiet moments are necessary, because noise and activity have a way of distracting us. This is prayer, as we place ourselves in a posture to listen to the still, small voice within. And then, once we've been able to see and then acknowledge what needs to go, we must be bold enough to risk it. Letting go of anger, bitterness, sorrow, hurt, addiction, self-hatred or hatred of another is hard work. And yet, the result is freedom! Beauty! Joy! Purpose! Let's see...what would I rather have filling my life?

Let's move not only to confession...but repentance. It is the key to the life God promises for those filled with the Spirit.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Susan Ward Diamond

KWVA Management Information System



Jake Feaster, Supervisor
Management Info System

KWVA Department and Chapter Summaries and KWVA Member Rosters

To: Department and Chapter Presidents

Attn: Department and Chapter Staff

I have enjoyed and appreciate the relationship that I have had with many of you, current and past officers. It has been with your help over these past four years that we now have a KWVA database that we can be proud of and which contains information that heretofore has not been kept in a form that can be

passed on to succeeding administrations without “reinventing the wheel!”

Though much of the information is in electronic form, such as the KWVA membership information, there are certain records that are kept on file, relating to a department's or chapter's formation. Over the years, some of these documents were never created or forwarded to KWVA Secretary, were lost at unit or national level and, in many instances, were not passed on to the new officers who were responsible for these records.

- Do you know the status of your Department/Chapter?
- Do you know which KWVA members are assigned to your chapter, their address; etc and their status?
- Do you know where/how to find that information and what infor-

3. Name, member #, phone # and email address of the last reported President/Commander.

4. Date of the last election, which is every year or two years, depending on the unit's bylaws or other.

5. Notice of whether a copy of “petition to form” is on file with the KWVA Secretary.

6. Notice of whether a copy of the Charter that was issued is on file with the KWVA Secretary.

7. Notice of whether a copy of the Bylaws is on file with the KWVA Secretary.

8 Notice of whether a copy of Notice of Incorporation is on file with the KWVA Secretary.

9. Number of Active [paid-up] Regular Members [those eligible to vote].

10. Number of Active [paid-up] Regular Members [those eligible to vote] and Active [paid-up] Associate Members.

11. Website address.

12. Day of month, time, place and address of where department/chapter meets.

As the result of the recently concluded KWVA Election results, this may be my last appeal to those presidents who have not sent in the above described information that is kept “on file” for your Department or Chapter. If you do not have password access to this data or do not have a computer, give me a phone call or send me a written request and I will send you a copy.

So much for the Department/Chapter Summary Information below.

State CID	Department/Chapter	President/Commander	NoF = Not on File	NL = Not Located; Y= Yes, N = No				Active Regular Chapter Members	Total Active Regular Chapter Members
			Date of Last Election	Petition on File	Charter On File	Bylaws on File	Incorp on File		
[#1]	[#2]	[#3]	[#4]	[#5]	[#6]	[#7]	[#8]	[#9]	[#10]
	#11 #12								

mation is available and updated on a daily basis on our KWVA website for those who have computer password access to the internet. Others may have it sent by email or US mail by making an appropriate request.

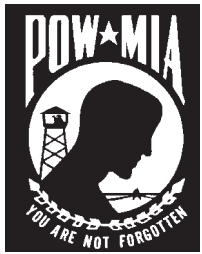
For all Departments and Chapters, the information indicated in the chart above is kept and available. Following is a description of the information depicted by the numbered cells:

1. State the Department/Chapter in which it is located and the CID [Chapter ID] number.
2. Name of the Department or Chapter and address of the last reported President/Commander.

An up-to-date roster of the KWVA members assigned to a chapter may also be viewed and printed by those presidents or appropriate staff with computer access to the internet and with a password. Those with an email address and no password may have a list sent by email by making an email request. Those without email may have it mailed to them by making a phone call or written request.

The format of this report is shown on the next page as follows:

1. KWVA member number and type of member [Regular, Life, Associate; etc].
2. Member name, address, phone number and email address.
3. Status of member [Active, Inactive, Deceased; etc], date of



POW/MIA Update

By Phil O'Brien

These are interesting times. We do not have, just yet, an invitation from North Korea to do recovery work during 2008. It might come a little later, or not. I can't speak to any specifics, but I haven't given up on the possibility of "going North" later this year. Meanwhile, preparations continue for work in South Korea.

Our friends at the Joint POW Accounting Command (JPAC) hope to visit several areas, including the POW march routes leading north into the present Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Work there looks really promising. In just a first "road recon" last year, our JPAC team was able to recover two sets of likely remains, and this year, they'll be able to get into some of the planting areas before new crops go in. That gives us a lot more room to work, and it gives local villagers a lot more time to talk. This is one of the things we'd hoped for, and it is proving true.

Very often, we are dealing with members of the same Korean families and they still remember events from during the war. At least some of the second and third generations are not far from the original villages. True, most of these areas evacuated as enemy forces moved forward. But there were people who could not get out, and their stories are pretty well known, family by family. So we'll have a lot to listen to and look for.

Picking up, now on a previous story, we're also looking much more closely at some of the Unknown burials at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP) in Hawaii, "the Punchbowl." There were a total of 867 burials from the Korean War. One went on to Arlington. Ten others have already been exhumed, and six of them have now been identified. The bad news is that we still cannot use DNA on bone cuts from the early Punchbowl burials to do identifications. The bone material was effectively scrubbed by the preservatives used prior to burial. But we are getting limited results with new methods, so we haven't given up there, either.

The good news is that we've gotten to

know these Unknowns a lot better than ever before. Some examples . . .

- Two of the burials are from the United Nations Military Cemetery (UNMC) at Inchon. We know the exact dates of original burial for both men, and we have locations and approximate dates of death. One man was likely a POW en route north, early war, from the group that followed Tiger Group in September 1950. We are trying to sort out names. The other man's remains were pretty badly destroyed in combat, but even that gives us a "window of possibility" to work with.

- Twenty-one others are from the UNMC at Masan, deep within South Korea. It was set up by the 25th Infantry Division, opened in July 1950, and had its last Unknown burials early in 1951. Now consider the numbers: early war, far south, and many of the missing men from nearby were either known or suspected POWs who worked northward before they died or disappeared.

Many names can be excluded very quickly. We're not ready to exhume anyone returned from UNMC Inchon or UNMC Masan just yet, but we are trying to "fine down" the names that are still possible. Can't promise, but I am expecting good progress from both sites. Once again, we have a real advantage in working with Unknowns from South Korea, originally recovered by our own people, for we know exactly where and when they were found.

Now consider the other side of the coin. For those returned from North Korea during Operation Glory, it's a lot less exact. The Chinese and North Koreans did provide location information for the human remains they passed back. We know from experience, meaning previous identifications, that sometimes they were quite truthful and accurate. And sometimes they were not. Remains coming from Camp 1, Camp 5, and the Chosin Reservoir battle zone, including the temporary cemeteries that we left behind, were typically "pretty close."

The Chinese and North Koreans often got individual names wrong, but they weren't too concerned with that. At least they got the locations right. But there's another case where the Chinese and North

Koreans just about "got it all wrong."

We opened a large, temporary cemetery at Pyongyang, North Korea. Then we had to leave the burials behind in December 1950 as allied forces fell back. UNMC Pyongyang contained around 650 U.S. and allied burials. When the Chinese and North Koreans returned human remains during Operation Glory in September and November 1954, they claimed that 439 of the caskets held remains from Pyongyang. Our people at Kokura, Japan, worked on these remains, and identified many of them. So far, so good.

But they were also able to positively identify dozens of others, reported from field burials around western North Korea, who were actually from the Pyongyang cemetery. We know, because we had buried them by name, and these remains "matched up." So, at a given point, it was very obvious that someone among the Chinese and North Koreans was playing an ugly little game.

Our best belief right now is that UNMC Pyongyang was exhumed completely, except perhaps for one isolated plot containing six graves. It had been part of the main cemetery, but was separated from the other rows by an open area reserved for those still falling in daily combat. Most of the open area was not used, and, quite plausibly, the Chinese and North Koreans never discovered the final six men. We can say this reasonably because there were identifications from every other plot and row within the cemetery.

Our task now is to reconstruct which Americans, originally buried at Pyongyang but later wrongly cited from elsewhere, are among the Unknowns at NMCP in Hawaii. We believe that 52 of 58 by-name burials from Pyongyang are now in the Punchbowl. The other six are from that isolated row, and were likely missed, but we're checking for them, as well. This is "needle in a haystack" work, because we have to go over the burial records for every one of the North Korean returns. But it's worth doing, and the process is very rewarding.

Here again, we're not yet ready to start exhuming, but as lists of possible names get

shorter and shorter, we will be.

I'll try to have more, "recent" news, next time.

A note from the author: Here's the story on the item above. I sometimes write a column for the newsletter of the Korean War Ex-POW Assn. This column was written originally on 11 Feb 2008. The only differences now: [1] we are a bit later into the possible work season, so the chance of going back into North Korea in 2008 is less, and [2] work has now begun within South Korea.

Soldiers Missing From The Korean War Are Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced that the remains of four U.S. servicemen, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

They are Cpl. Robert L. Mason of Parkersburg, W.Va., Pfc. Joseph K. Meyer, Jr., of Wahpeton, N.D., Sgt. 1st Class George W. Koon of Leesville, S.C., and Sgt. 1st Class Jack O. Tye of Loyall, Ky., all U.S. Army. Mason was buried in Belpre, Ohio, Meyer was buried in Wahpeton, Koon was buried in Leesville, and Tye was buried in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

Representatives from the Army met with the soldiers' next-of-kin to explain the recovery and identification process, and to coordinate interment with military honors on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

Mason was assigned to B Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, and Meyer was assigned to K Company, 31st Infantry Regiment. Both were attached to the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), 7th Infantry Division. The team was engaged against the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea from late November to early December, 1950. Both men died as result of intense enemy fire, and their bodies were not recovered at the time.

In late November 1950, Koon was assigned to the Medical Company, 9th Infantry Regiment, and Tye was assigned to Company L, 38th Infantry Regiment. Both were members of the 2nd Infantry Division advancing north of Kunu-ri, North Korea. On Nov. 25, the Chinese Army counterattacked the Americans in what would become known as the Battle of the Chong Chon (River).

This combat was some of the fiercest of the war, and the 2nd Division initiated a fighting withdrawal to the south. Koon and Tye were captured by Chinese forces during the intense enemy fire, and subsequently died while in captivity from malnutrition and medical neglect.

Between 2001 and 2005, joint U.S. and Democratic People's Republic of Korea teams, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), conducted excavations of several burial sites near the Chosin Reservoir. The sites correlate closely with defensive positions held by the 31st RCT at the time of the Chinese attacks. The teams recovered remains there believed to be those of U.S. servicemen. Analysis of the remains recovered from the sites led to the identification of several individuals, including Mason and Meyer.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory and JPAC also used mitochondrial DNA and dental

comparisons in both Meyer's and Mason's identification.

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.

NOTE: We reported the information about Pvt. Meyer in the March/April 2008 issue, p. 55.



There is a Wyoming Chapter

Chapter 307 - Northern Wyoming was omitted from the Chapters List included in the January/February 2008 issue. Here is the Chapter info:

State/CID	Wyoming 307 107 Rd 16 Powell, WY 82435
Department/Chapter	Northern Wyoming
President/Commander	Paul Rodriguez 307-272-3877 BeeRod54@hotmail.com

Meets: 1st Thu 7pm, VFW Post 2673, 808 12th St., Cody WY

Thanks to Chapter Treasurer Don Rudolph for being persistent enough to make sure we corrected the oversight.

Wrong picture, right caption...or vice versa

There appeared on page 33 of the Nov/Dec 2007 issue at the very bottom of the right-hand corner a picture that starts out with CID 156. That is not the picture that goes with that caption. The correct photo and caption are below.



Some CID 156 members at the Korean War memorial at Sophia, WV (L-R) Marguerite Bowers, Joe Kartman, Jack Guy, Walter Mankins, David Frame, Chuck Shumaker, Prince Clyburn (in wheelchair), George Weidensall, Bill Wiseman, Sam Birchfield, Jim Sibray

Val Simon is alive and well

We have learned that Val Simon, who was reported as deceased, is very much alive. The person who originally reported his death wrote, "Sorry I got the wrong information, but happy he's alive."

No doubt the reporter is not nearly as happy as Mr. Simon.



92nd ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

With this issue we begin another serialized story. This is the history of the 92nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion. We begin with a brief history of its formation and participation in WWII. Then, we will get to its service in Korea.

Note: The history has been edited slightly to improve clarity, consistency, etc., in some areas.

Begin Excerpt: World War II History

Historical Background:

The 92nd Armored Artillery Battalion was activated on 8 January 1942, the men coming from the 14th and 17th Armored Artillery Battalions. At noon on 4 July 1944, about 280 guns took part in the salute to Independence Day. The 92nd Armored Artillery Battalion took part in this celebration effort.

During three days on 5- 8 July 1944, the 92nd Armored Artillery fired in support of the Royal Horse Artillery and the 50th British Brigade. The 92nd, with other units, helped break up a counterattack west of Hottot, France, destroying four tanks and killing eight infantry.

Prior to the St. Lo breakthrough (referred to as Operation Cobra), the 92nd Armored Artillery Battalion was assigned to be in direct support of the 41st Armored Infantry Regiment (division reserve). Division reserve was commanded by Col. Sidney R. Hinds.

Operation Cobra started on 25 July 1944 at 0945. On 28 July 1944, about 3 p.m., the Germans made a frontal attack from the direction of Cerisy la Salle, directed toward Pont Brocard, & Notre Dame De Cenilly. The 92nd Armored Field Artillery was of material assistance in breaking up these attacks, some times by direct fire.

On the night of 29-30 July 1944, the 92nd Artillery, moving to a new position, had to fight its way into its area near Bois de Souilles, France. When Combat Command "B" called for fire support, the battalion complied, although they were also under attack at the time. The Germans were so close that one self-propelled how-

itzer was sent to engage a German self-propelled gun with direct fire, while "C" Battery faced in another direction to destroy another second gun.

Please remember that the Armored Field Artillery were very mobile, not by choice, but by necessity, in order to survive. Because of the rapid advance of the 2nd Armored Division, pockets of heavy resistance were sometimes bypassed, causing some concern and definite risk to units that normally were supposed to be secure in their operation.

Artillery units were moving rapidly to keep within range of the enemy. When the Germans finally fell back, the artillerymen found 150 dead, along with many damaged or abandoned vehicles. About 0100 on 30 July 1944, the 92nd was called upon to place artillery fire 200 yards in front of the division's main forces to prevent them from a frontal attack by the Germans.

On 3 October 1944, the unit again crossed the German border. This time it crossed the Wurm River at Marienberg, attacking the Siegfried Line frontally. Combat Command "B," consisting of the 41st Infantry Regiment, 76th Armored Regiment, 78th and 92nd Armored Field Artillery Battalions, assisted the 30th Infantry Division in securing Palenberg, pushing on to take Ubach and later Frelenberg, Waurichen, and Beggendorf.

On 11-30 October 1944, in the vicinity of Neerbeek, the 2nd Armored Division and the German forces maintained defensive positions. Employing 110 or more artillery pieces, Division artillery fired more than 45,000 rounds into enemy territory during the three-week period from 11-31 October 1944. Division artillery units included the 14th, 78th, 92, and attached 65th Armored Field Artillery.

Heavy fire was laid into the towns of Hongen, Friealdenhoven, Rottgen, Puffendorf, Floverich, Gereonsweiler, Setterich, Siersdorf, and Geilenkirchen, which were being used as communications and assembly centers.

Later, on 9 January 1945, while flushing out the Germans around Samree, Belgium, the 92nd Armored Artillery was shelling woods nearby and flushed out three German tanks. Two escaped; one was destroyed and burned on the spot. Late on the evening of 28 February 1945, the 92nd Armored Artillery Battalion overran and captured a four-gun 105mm battery near Grevenbroich, Germany. The advance was so fast that, in order to set up their guns, some artillery units had to clear their areas of lagging Germans who were left behind by the retreating forces.

On 30 March 1945, the 82nd Reconnaissance Battalion was advancing far to the front of the division main forces around the Haltern-Dulmen line when they caught up with a train. They reported this to division, who passed the information on to the 92nd Armored Artillery, which fired an artillery salvo and cut the train in half. The prisoners taken from the train thought that the American forces were still on the other side of the (Dortmund-Ems Canal). They had no idea we were on the east side.

Finally, the unit went to occupy Berlin for 45 days in July and August 1945. After that, the unit was based in 1948 at Ft. Hood, Texas. Lt. Col. C.E. Stuart was



Lt. Col. C.E. Stuart
Commanding Officer



commanding officer. A few years later, the 92nd AFA Bn was back in combat—in Korea.

End Excerpt: "World War II History"

Korean War 1950-1954: History Summary

On 12 August 1950, the 92nd AFA Bn left San Francisco for Korea on the USN's "Marine Adder." The battalion was under strength upon arrival in Japan, and 200 ROK soldiers joined the Red Devil Bn. By January 1954, only ten of the original 200 remained with the battalion.

The men of the battalion soon learned they would take part in the Inchon invasion. The Marines would go ashore first, to be followed by the 7th Infantry Division (the 92nd was attached to the 7th ID), along with numerous miscellaneous units. The Red Devil Bn landed at Inchon on September 20th 1950. Five days later, at Suwon Airfield, Baker Battery fired the battalion's first round in Korea. The 92nd, which was never in reserve in Korea, was to see over a thousand days of combat in the months ahead.

The combination of the Inchon "end run" by the Marines and the push north by the Eighth Army proved to be a success, with both forces conducting a successful link up. On October 10th, after the battalion's mission of aiding in the success of the Inchon landing was over, the Red Devils marched 310 miles to Pusan for necessary repairs. Then, on November 5, 1950, the battalion took part in a second invasion, this time at Iwon on the East coast of Korea, north of the Hungnam beachhead, to close the vice on the communist North Korean forces.

On October 25th, 1950 Chinese Communist Forces crossed the Yalu River into North Korea and made their entrance into the fighting with a major breakthrough on the right flank of the Eighth Army. They drove the Allies back on all fronts, presenting a wedge between the Eighth Army and the X Corps. This unexpected Chinese offensive was a psychological setback to the men of the battalion, for they had to change their attitude of "Home for Christmas" to that of facing a numerically superior enemy in the bitterly cold mountainous regions of North Korea.

Soon, the Red Devils were given an

important mission to perform. U.S. Marine and Army units were trapped by the enemy at Chosin Reservoir, and the 92nd AFA was to help hold the area open until the surrounded forces were withdrawn and had totally disengaged. The Red Devils' performance was a major factor in saving the encircled forces. The skill of projected fire support was credited by the Marines as instrumental in countless publications and historic representations of the battle.

In January 1951, the 92nd and other U.N. units had ceased to be a withdrawing force and began a new initiative in pushing northward. By March, the Red Devils were well seasoned in the realities of combat and the loss of fellow soldiers. The unit was confident and better prepared for the arduous tasks that awaited them.

Readiness and combat preparedness of the battalion was proven on the morning of April 24, 1951, when "A" and "C" Batteries were attacked by a company-size element of Chinese regulars. The enemy charged the battery positions in human waves, with each communist soldier having an extra full combat load of grenades to thrust into our ammo trucks, gas tanks, and key installations.

The attacking forces were provided with heavy support consisting of mortar and automatic weapons fire. A plan based upon faith in one another's capabilities and in their weapons had become a habit in the Red Devils. Enemy machine guns were destroyed by direct fire from the howitzers. Our own support weapons laid massive automatic weapons fire and mowed the communists down as they made human wave attacks. On that fateful day the Red Devil battalion lost only 4 men killed and 11 wounded, while the communist losses were set at 175-200 killed or wounded.

The Red Devils prevailed in the strength of each individual soldier and his personal integrity and commitment to the battle and to fellow soldiers. In all, the terror of the battle forged a unit of steel which bonded each together instilling the strength to "get the job done." This crucial event and its lessons learned would prove critical in the upcoming battles that awaited the Red Devils.

There was a dramatic reduction in activity once the truce talks began in mid-

1951. Occasional rounds were received in various batteries. Fortunately, casualties were low. Nevertheless, each Red Devil killed or wounded was greatly missed.

The 92nd spent most of 1952 in support of various ROK, United Nation Forces, and American divisions in the Kumwha Valley area on the central front facing hill 1062 (Papa San). The Red Devils were in direct support of the ROK 9th Div and the U.S. 7th Div in the battle for Triangle Hill during October.

In November of 1952, as the North Korean winter moved in with snow and below zero temperatures, the 92nd moved westward north of Chorwon to support the U.S. units on-line.

Major casualties occurred during June-July 1953, shortly before the truce was signed, while the 92nd was providing support for "Outpost Harry." This engagement had an especially heavy counter battery barrage directed at the 92nd, and incoming rounds were received in all the firing batteries. Able Battery was hardest hit with two killed and 17 wounded.

In mid-July 1953 the Communist Chinese Forces launched their last large-scale offensive of the Korean War. The attacking force consisted of ten enemy divisions. The operation was their largest offensive in two years. The firing batteries of the battalion, after having sustained horrific artillery, rocket, and mortar fire on the evening of July 13, again underwent a direct attack by communist regular forces.

When faced with mass attacking human waves in overwhelming numbers, the batteries were ordered to conduct a strategic withdrawal. Baker and Charlie Batteries found themselves totally enveloped in a sea of communist Chinese soldiers. Conducting a breakout, Baker and Charlie Batteries fought their way from the encirclement and were soon reestablished and immediately became operational.

Setting the Howitzers in record time, Baker and Charlie went from total disengagement to pouring shells back into the advancing communist forces. The tenacity and fortitude of these men served as an example of bravery under fire to every Red Devil in the battalion. By this time, the 92nd had gained a reputation of unexcelled excellence.

The advance was stopped 36 hours after it began. During this time, 2 92nd enlisted soldiers and its S-2 Officer were killed in action, 27 were wounded, and 8 were listed as missing in action. Most of the MIAs were repatriated in "Operation Big Switch," concluding the final peace accord. The 36 hours of solid combat stand as a tribute to the Red Devils considering the limited human loss. This fact clearly speaks to the professionalism and skill craft 92nd members learned in their earlier bitter battles.

On July 27 1953, a truce was signed with the Communist North Koreans, bringing a cessation of action to the Korean conflict. For all who survived the terror-filled days of combat, the truce was slow in coming. The loss of all those Red Devils killed, missing, and wounded in action will never be forgotten.

Following the signing of the truce, all United Nations units, including the 92nd, withdrew a few miles in order to create a buffer zone. Even though the conflict had been officially closed, the battalion remained combat ready in case the Korean and Chinese Communist forces should decide to break the truce.

End Excerpt: "92nd AFA BN Korea 1950-1954 History Summary"

Begin: Excerpts From "92nd AFA BN Book By Lt. Col. Leon F. Lavoie"

History Detail

Fort Hood Texas 1949-50

Unit History For August, 1950

The first day of August found the 92d Armored Field Artillery Battalion at Fort Hood, ready for overseas shipment following its alert on 22 July. Reorganized as a separate battalion under T/O&E 6-195N,

the battalion was reluctantly ready to leave its parent organization, the 2nd Armored Division.

Finally, on 2 August, the battalion departed Fort Hood on two trains leaving about three hours apart. Amid tears and farewells, the battalion left on the first leg of its trip to Korea. The Battalion Commander, last to board on the first train, received the last salute and well wishes from the Division Commander, Major General Albert C. Smith, and Brigadier General Charles K. Gailey.

Along the route from the post, wives and children, red eyed, waved a last farewell, leaving everyone with a lump in their throat. The following few hours were most difficult, as everyone retired to their seats and became absorbed in the realization of what was happening. There were many unanswerable questions as to when and who might or might not return. These questions, of necessity, had to be left to the fate of Providence and the will of God. Gradually the train gathered speed westerly through the barren plains of western Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and finally into California.

On 4 August, at about 2300 hours and 2400 hours respectively, the two trains carrying the battalion arrived in Camp Stoneman, California. After being assigned barracks, the battalion retired. The period from 5 through 10 August was devoted to processing procedures and some pleasant visits into San Francisco, where officers and men enjoyed last glimpses of a major U.S. city with its gaieties, good food and amusements. Liberal pass privileges were given everyone.

Begin: Personal Reflections From Al Ihan, C Battery, 1949-1951

"In September 1950 we made the Inchon Landing in Korea. This landing had to be precisely timed. Inchon had a 30-foot high tide, and the ships had to move in, unload, and get out before the tide left them stranded. The soldiers climbed over the sides of the troop ships on these nets (same type we trained on in Ota, Japan) and into the landing crafts waiting below.

"The manpower that stormed the beach was huge. There were probably 250 ships involved with this operation. We stood in awe, waiting for our turn to climb over and watching the operation before us. There were huge blasts from the Navy guns and the Air Force was bombing and strafing. We, the men of the 92nd, were glad that they were not on the receiving end.

"After fighting our way across the beach to cover, we regrouped, picked up our "C" rations, ammo, located our vehicles, and reported to "bombed-out factories" to meet and get further orders. The first morning, after a restless night, in the early morning hours, we were heating our "C" rations when we heard a plane flying over. With yells of "extinguish all fire and get down" we quickly followed orders. It was our own friendly plane patrolling the area, and we lost or messed up our early morning meal.

"Korean soldiers were assigned to all units. They were hungry and poor. Korea was a poor country that did not have much, and these Korean soldiers were not used to enough food or clothes like the Americans were being furnished with. The Korean soldiers took advantage of all that was offered to them. When they had to opportunity to eat in mess halls instead of eating "C" rations, they piled sugar on their food. It was something that they did not have and they enjoyed all they could get. They also took all of the clothes that they could get. Many of the American soldiers resented what we saw because we considered it as being 'greedy'.

"Korea did not have decent roads. Many of their roads were mainly 'cow trails,' so the American military engineers had to widen existing roads and build roads and bridges for the troops to use.

"When the 92nd arrived in Korea, we were detached from the 2nd Armored Division. Our unit became known as a



Fort Hood Texas



1st Place (Sgt Carl's section) and 2nd place howitzer sections, B Btry, 92nd AFA, Direct Fire Shoot, Fort Hood, TX. Fort Hood Yearbook)

bastard unit, since it did not belong to any specific division. Our unit was sent to areas needing assistance. Our unit earned over 100 Campaign Streamers on our unit flag for the three years in Korea alone.”

End: Personal Reflections From Al Ihan, C Battery, 1949-1951

Finally, early on 11 August, the battalion departed Camp Stoneman by harbor boat to San Francisco Port of Embarkation. There, at Fort Mason's Pier 2, the battalion boarded the USNS *Marine Adder* with 30 officers, 3 Warrant Officers



USNS *Marine Adder*

and 460 enlisted men.

The *Marine Adder*, a rapidly reactivated Naval Transport from the “mothball” fleet, was far from ready for her departure on 12 August when the battalion witnessed the towers of San Francisco fade in the distance and the Golden Gate Bridge disappear over the horizon. Once aboard ship, the battalion was attached to the 5th Field Artillery Group, following its transfer from the Fourth Army to the Sixth Army. The ensuing two weeks at sea were relatively peaceful and pleasant, excepting for several failures in ship machinery and equipment affecting the fresh water supply. These failures finally immobilized the *Marine Adder* completely.

The *Marine Adder* was dead at sea for some 36 hours as short circuits in power mains rendered the ship's engines inoperative. Finally, the engines were repaired by an Air Force technician, and the *Marine Adder* resumed its course with a severe rationing of fresh water due to evaporator failure. Later, a fire in the galley destroyed a fine meal of turkey.

On another occasion, pump failures prevented troops from reaching the galley due to the depth of water in the galley. Cold cuts and crackers were served on deck. Through the grace of God—and in spite of the *Marine Adder*—the battalion jubilantly docked in Yokohama on the evening of 27 August. There, Major Drew, who had proceeded by air as Advance Party, met the battalion.

On 28 August the battalion disembarked and loaded on trains for shipment to Camp Bender in the interior of Japan. Many curious eyes took their first glimpse of the Orient and questioned the prevalent odor characterizing the region.

The battalion arrived at Camp Bender at 1900 hours on 28 August, where the troops were assigned space in permanent-type buildings. The end of August found the battalion safe and sound in Japan and anxiously awaiting mail from home after almost a complete month of travel.

On 20 September, the battalion, with elements of the 7th Division, off-loaded into LSTs and LSUs and landed in Inchon at 2344 hours. Proceeding to a designated assembly area south-east of Inchon, the battalion preoccupied itself with collecting its equipment and preparing itself for combat.

By 25 September, the battalion was again complete (minus turn-around shipping) and was assembled in the vicinity of

Anyang-ni, where it anticipated commitment either to the north in support of operations against Seoul or to the south in support of operations aimed at joining with the Eighth US Army.

By now, it was clearly evident that the Inchon invasion, once thought impossible, was highly successful. Attesting to the ingenuity of American military leaders, the 20- to 25-foot tides of Inchon Harbor had not deterred our Naval forces. All ships had to be off-loaded to LSTs and LSUs and then landed on various beaches. Due to the great tidal variations, unloading operations could be carried out only during 6 hours of a 24-hour day. Meanwhile, on 24 September, the 92d Armored Field Artillery Battalion was given the mission of reinforcing the fire missions of the 57th FA Bn, the direct support Battalion of the 31st RCT, attacking south toward Suwon and Osan.

Eager and confident, the Red Devils rolled into position at the Suwon airfield on 25 September and smartly occupied their first combat position in Korea. At 1650 hours, Battery “B” fired the battalion's first round in Korea.

Unit History for November, 1950

On 1 November, the battalion was scattered aboard nine vessels, either at sea or departing Pusan for an amphibious landing in North Korea. The period 1 through 3 November found the various ships of the Amphibious Task Force anchored in a bay at Iwon, North Korea.

On 4 November, Battery “C” and the battalion's M-41s arrived in Iwon and unloaded. Concurrently, Batteries A and B, aboard the transport E. D. Patrick, were unloaded and bivouacked on the beach. Battery “C” was dispatched to Pukchong, where it supported the 7th Division's attack north-west.

By 9 November 1950, the battalion occupied the Hongwon area, which was characterized by fertile flat land cultivated as rice paddies, with several abruptly rising hills elongating themselves to the north and south. Located approximately one mile from the Sea of Japan, the flat land to the east generally provided excellent fields of fire with the exception of three or four intervening hills. The school house occupied by the battalion was nested against a series of hills that



1st round fired by 92nd AFA Bn in Korea, Sept. 1950 from positions at Sowon airstrip (Mattingly)



Landing at Inchon Harbor 9/20/50 (Mattingly)

rose abruptly in rear of the building, making the immediate area extremely difficult to defend. Outposts were installed on all commanding hills.

11 November found the battalion performing much needed maintenance and establishing a secure perimeter. The Battalion Commander performed a detailed reconnaissance of the area, evaluating fields of fire, avenues of approach, and overall defense measures.

On 12 November, the battalion was burying their 155 ammunition within the perimeter in an attempt to frustrate any guerrilla attempts to set trucks on fire, as was done in the 96th Field Artillery. This proved to be a terrific task, since some 130 holes were necessary to adequately disperse the ammunition.

On 18 November Protestant services were held for all men at 1000 hours. Catholic services were held at 1600 hours. On this day most men not required on patrols and outpost duty were given time off to take care of their personal equipment. Patrols continued as scheduled, picking up some eighty prisoners in one town. One man with a rifle and no ammunition guarded them. Another community revealed some forty-two prisoners. Since no interrogation facilities were available, most of the prisoners had to be evacuated to X Corps.

23 November, Thanksgiving Day, began peacefully and cold, with a light to thickening mist. Patrols were dispatched in all sectors, while the installation of trip flares and fragmentation grenades in support of the barbed wire net continued. At 1045, the Battalion Commander addressed the battalion at two formations to thank them for their fine performance and remind them of the things which they had to be thankful for on this Thanksgiving Day.

At 1115, Chaplain Walsh celebrated a Catholic Mass of Thanksgiving in the Battalion Auditorium for all Catholic personnel. At 1400 hours, Chaplain Bragan held Protestant Thanksgiving services for all personnel. Thanksgiving dinner was served at about 1300 hours.

Mess halls, such as they were, were outfitted with children's school desks and covered with white paper. Some paper flowers were provided by local

school children. Evergreen boughs were used to add a festive appearance. The menu comprised roast turkey, meat dressing, fresh potatoes, candied yams, peas, cranberry sauce, fruit, fruit-cake, nuts and candy. The meal was exceptionally well prepared, reflecting great credit and professional skill on all mess stewards. Excepting for outposts, all men were given a few hours off to write home and relax.

Dawn broke in a sullen grey half-light on the 29th of November—revealing three inches of snow blanketing the surrounding area. Pine boughs slightly bowed under the pressure of their puffy white pillows contrasted with massive armored vehicles trimmed in white. Magpies flying about, chattering madly, were the only interruption to the peace of this winter day.

Having heard of the impending move to Hamhung, the Battalion Commander and S-3 proceeded to Corps Artillery Headquarters to be briefed on the latest developments. The route from Hongwon to Hamhung was covered with 3 to 4 inches of snow through the summit of the winding pass and on into Hamhung. Colonel Ennis, Corps Artillery Commander, advised that a move was imminent within the next 24 hours.

A briefing was held on the situation, in which the Chinese Communist Forces were driving the Allies back in a sudden breakout on all the Eighth Army and X Corps front, driving a serious wedge between the two. Returning to the battalion area at approximately 1830 hours after a very hazardous trip, the Battalion staff and Battery Commanders were called in for a briefing in which the battalion was placed on two-hour alert. With roads turned to ice by the warm sun of the day and low night temperatures, the battalion would find it difficult to travel over the mountain road.

25 November found Batteries "A", "B" and "C" leaving at 0645 for their initial positions for operation "Snowcap." Battery "B" positioned two howitzers in the vicinity of Yongdong-Ni in support of the operation should a sizeable force be encountered. The general area of operations was characterized by extremely high peaks and water in deep ravines with swift currents.

Approximately two inches of snow covered the area; more snow was falling at higher altitudes, making visibility extremely limited.

On 30 November, the battalion was concentrating on combat loading and checking radios and section equipment. At 1035 hours, Lt. Colonel Swain, Corps Artillery S-2, arrived with a message directing the battalion to move to Hamhung at once. Reconnaissance parties were ordered to leave at 1130 hours with a pioneer detail and one M-41 as a pilot. The battalion was ordered to serve lunch immediately and move out at 1330 hours.

Service Battery was designated as rear party to gather items in excess to the other batteries, load it on rail cars, and then move on the following morning, 1 December. The Reconnaissance Party made good progress over the mountain road despite the icy condition of the road. The pilot M 41 had considerable trouble, chiefly due to two stalled vehicles at bad turns.

The descent, on the southern slope, was most treacherous, since control was more difficult. Crews had to precede M-41 and shovel dirt and sand into its path. Nevertheless, the battalion closed in on the Hamhung area by 2030 hours in a most treacherous move on an extremely unfavorable road and weather conditions.

Snow began to fall heavily as the battalion climbed the pass. By the time the battalion closed, two inches of snow were on the vehicle tops. No mishaps or fallouts occurred, reflecting great credit upon the drivers and mechanics of this battalion.

While the battalion was on the road, the Battalion Commander and S-3 reconnoitered for battalion positions in the vicinity of Oro-ri, adjacent to the 96th Field Artillery Battalion. By 1130 hours the battalion was bedded down in scattered bombed out buildings and slit trenches. Minus bedding rolls, the men had a bad night as a bitter wind drove snow in every direction. This day's accomplishment further testified to the merit and potentialities of self-propelled artillery.

..to be continued

The *Chungmugong Yisunshin* (DDH 975) Visits California

By Mike Glazzy

Our excitement intensified as my wife (Lis) and I drove the 408 miles south to San Pedro to represent the KWVA at a reception aboard a visiting Korean Navy vessel. During a visit to the LA Maritime Museum in San Pedro, one is reminded of the thousands of Merchant Marines lost at sea during WWII.

Our group was “piped” aboard the *Chungmugong Yisunshin* DDH 975, a destroyer, for a mid-day tour and again for the early evening reception outdoor on the “fantail,” under an illuminated tarpaulin. Everyone was greeted to a friendly “mix and mingle” atmosphere with live music, conversation, excellent “finger food” and libations. The reception lasted for more than one hour. Then, a buffet was served, followed by several presentations and live professional entertainment. I, for one, hated to leave the ship with such a friendly atmosphere.

We made several presentations, which are included below. All the presentations and a list of KWVA attendees are to be included in the ship’s record/log.

Presentation To ROK Ship Senior Officer

Admiral Yim, Chul Soon, welcome to the “left coast” of the United States, the State of California, and the Port of Los Angeles. Korean War and DMZ Service veterans have traveled to greet the Admiral, the ship’s officers and the many cadets in training during your 2007 cruise to the USA. During your visit, enjoy our California sunshine, balmy temperatures and for the cadets, our pretty girls.

On behalf of National Korean War Veterans Association President Louis T. Dechert, the Department of California President Michael J. Glazzy, and the 300,000 plus California resident Korean veterans, it is my pleasure and honor to present this plaque to the Admiral symbolizing the past 54 years of Korea –US alliance.

The plaque reads:

“WELCOME AND APPRECIATION”
2007 Republic of Korea
Naval Training Cruise
US West Coast
November 27, 2007

Department Commander Michael J. Glazzy
Representing the National
Korean War Veterans Association, USA

Presentation To ROK Ship Commander

Captain Ha, Tae Min, Ship Commander, before satellites and computer-operated navigational systems, sailors used sextants to measure the distance of celestial objects from the horizon. This let them find their place on nautical charts and determined their latitude. Developed in the tenth century, the sextant was essential to early world explorers.

Captain Ha, Tae Min, Korean War and DMZ Service veterans of the Department of California wish to present you, a “world explorer,” with an antique-style bronze sextant in remembrance of the 2007 ROK Training Cruise to Los Angeles (33.73 N – 118.29W), Hawaii and back home to Korea.

This bronze replica of a Victorian sextant is a handsome piece as a nautical reminder of your visit to Los Angeles, California, USA, 2007.

In Friendship,

/S/ Michael J. Glazzy, President
Department of California – KWVA, Inc. and
California Korean War & DMZ Service Veterans

ROK Naval Ships Visit – Los Angeles

Admiral Yim, ship’s officers, ship’s crew, midshipmen and guests, welcome to California, home of more than 300,000 resident Korean War and DMZ Service veterans. We thank you for your cordial letter inviting California veterans to an onboard “Korean War Veterans’ Day” tour and reception.

My fellow veterans: (introductions in alphabetical order) Marshall Anderson & wife Carol, James Byrne & wife Darlene, Thomas Courbat & wife Debby, Margarito Delgadillo, Ylario Delgadillo, Russell Donovan & wife Debra, William Mynatt & wife Ann, Salvador Perez, Reynaldo Sanchez, John Suzuki, Louis Torres, David Williams & wife Eva and Michael Glazzy & wife Lis, are honored to be invited to this “once-in-a-lifetime” reception on board this Republic of Korea naval ship.

History revisionists often asked the question: “Was the Korean War worth fighting?” Without hesitation, Korean veterans will answer: “We cannot escape history! We, as young men, stepped forward with our invincibility of youth to defend an ancient nation against communist aggression. In defense of freedom, we won the first battle of the “cold war” and provided the opportunity for South Korea to become the world’s 11th largest economy and a contributing member of the world community. Let us, the United States, maintain this 54-year alliance with the Korean people until North and South Korea become united as one nation and experience the freedoms we have in the United States.”

Admiral Yim, take back to the people of South Korea our sincere appreciation for their troop support in Vietnam, the Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq, and Korea’s stand with the U.S. in the Global War on Terrorism.

Admiral Yim, California veterans are aware that South Korea gained its independence on August 15, 1948. Here in America, we are looking forward to celebrating “Republic of Korea’s 60th Anniversary of Independence” on August 15, 2008.

SEMPER FIDELIS

/S/ Michael J. Glazzy

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



More than 85,000 Serve Veterans as VA Volunteers

Secretary: Volunteer Week a Time to Salute Service to Vets

WASHINGTON – “Volunteers make important contributions to the operation of VA hospitals, nursing homes and national cemeteries,” said Dr. James B. Peake, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. “I encourage everyone to consider becoming a VA volunteer. These dedicated private citizens prove that one person can make a difference in the lives of our veterans.”

The 11.6 million hours of service donated last year by VA volunteers was equivalent to 5,500 full-time employees, the Department estimated. VA officials say the donated time was worth nearly \$220 million.

When VA’s volunteer program began in 1946, volunteers helped primarily in VA medical centers, escorting patients to appointments, helping with administrative duties and overseeing recreational programs for patients.

In recent years, however, the role of VA volunteers has expanded. In the health care arena, the volunteers are involved in helping VA medical staff in hospices, outpatient clinics and home-based programs. Volunteers are also active at many of the 125 national cemeteries managed by the Department, where they place flags on gravesites, provide military honors and help with landscaping.

Volunteers are also important in programs reaching out to homeless veterans, especially annual “stand downs” held in many communities to provide health check ups, clothing, and benefits assistance to the homeless.

To become a volunteer, contact the nearest VA facility, or complete a form on the Internet at www.va.gov/volunteer.

VA Voluntary Service

VA’s Voluntary Service is one of the largest volunteer programs in the federal government. Men and women from their teens to their nineties become volunteer partners on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care team. Some bring special skills and knowledge, while others have a desire to explore and learn. Many come with a gift for working directly with patients, while others bring dependability to assignments behind the scenes. Voluntary Service matches the volunteer to the assignment, provides orientation and training for volunteers and maintains an awards program to recognize volunteer service.

Over the past 60 years, VA volunteers have donated more than 689 million hours of service worth an estimated \$12.9 billion. In fiscal year 2007, 85,428 active volunteers contributed a total of more than 11.6 million hours of service — equal to 5,574 full-time employees worth \$218 million. Volunteers and their organizations generated another \$59 million last year in direct gifts and donations.

Volunteer Activities

VA volunteers perform a variety of duties at VA medical centers, national cemeteries, regional offices and regional counsel offices. At medical centers, their roles range from traditional ones, such as escorting patients and administrative duties, to creative activities, such as teaching arts and crafts and developing newsletters. As VA has expanded its care of patients into the community, volunteers now assist VA staff in hospice programs, outpatient clinics, home-based primary care and outreach centers.

At cemeteries, volunteers provide military honors at burial services, create memorials, plant trees and flowers, build historical trails and place flags on graves for Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Volunteers have been particularly active in supporting community programs aimed at reaching and serving the homeless in one- to three-day events offering a variety of services. Volunteers also have become an integral part of national and local “showcase events” aimed at introducing people with disabilities back to mainstream activities. These include the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (the largest wheelchair athletic meet in the world), the National Veterans Golden Age Games and the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Corporate volunteers play a strong role in these events, setting the pace for the future of VA Voluntary Service, along with a strong and growing youth volunteer program that is introducing teenagers and college students to careers and community service. In VA medical centers, young volunteers work in such areas as audiology, speech pathology, dietetics and physical therapy. Scout groups assist in landscaping and decorating at VA national cemeteries.

History

On April 8, 1946, General Omar Bradley, then head of the Veterans Administration, established a Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee to assist hospital administrators in organizing the spontaneous volunteer movements that developed in communities near military and VA hospitals. A national advisory committee was established, made up of representatives of the American Legion and its Auxiliary; American Red Cross; Disabled American Veterans and its Auxiliary; United Service Organizations Inc.; and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Auxiliary. The committee recommended a plan for community volunteer participation in activities for hospitalized veterans, including the establishment of advisory committees at local hospitals. The committee has grown from six to 65 major veterans, civic and service organizations and more than 350 local organizations. The committee gives direction for the recruitment, training and placement of volunteers in medical centers.

Let's have 'More Folk' in Norfolk

■ KWVA to hold 2008 Reunion in Norfolk, VA

One of the best ways to heal old wounds is with a "Reunion of Fellow Warriors, and their families" who share a common destiny! That is exactly what the KWVA will be doing in October when members get together at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel.

The Reunion Theme is "Red, White and Blue" to celebrate a patriotic gathering in the historical city of Norfolk, Virginia. You will be surrounded by the mighty U.S. Navy Fleet and members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

We will also bring Wounded Warriors in as our guests to thank them for their sacrifices to "Freedom!"

No doubt you want some details about dates, place, cost, etc. Here they are. (We will provide more in-depth coverage in the July-August issue.)

DATES

- 22 - 26 October 2008

PLACE

- Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel
777 Waterside Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

CONTACT

- Ph: 800-627-8042 (Central Reservations) or
Local 757-622-6664

RATES

- Guest room rates: (Single or double)
Deluxe City View \$99.00
Deluxe Harbor View \$119.00

Mention: KWVA Annual Reunion!

NOTE: Group rates will apply three days prior to, and three days after, the Reunion dates.

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

- We are working on arranging for a shuttle from the airport: No shuttle is set at this time, but we are working on it.



AREA HIGHLIGHTS

Norfolk is situated in a burgeoning area which offers a great deal of sightseeing opportunities—and it is easy to get to by plane, car, bus, or ship. (The airport is conveniently located between Norfolk and Virginia Beach.)

Colonial Williamsburg is a short ride north up I-64. Virginia Beach and its magnificent boardwalk, fine seafood restaurants, Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, unique Mount Trashmore Park, and expansive beaches is a short ride to the east.

Norfolk has its own attractions: the battleship USS Wisconsin, the science museum Nauticus, and the General Douglas MacArthur Memorial are a short distance away from our Reunion hotel. Of course, there is the Naval Base, which is always worth a visit.

If you have had enough of ships, you can always visit the U.S. Army Transportation Museum at Fort Eustis, or just pick a quiet spot near Virginia Beach and watch the pilots from Oceana Naval Air Station play with their state-of-the-art jet aircraft.

And, if you really want a thrill, ride across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. (It now accepts E-Z Pass for those of you driving.) It's about as long as the distance between the U.S. and Korea. (Well, not quite: it's only 17.6 miles, but it is a great ride on a sunny day.)

As I noted above, we will be providing more details in upcoming issues as we develop plans to make your stay a warm and memorable one. All you have to do is circle the dates—22-26 October, 2008—on your calendar. We will do the rest.

See you in Norfolk.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Warren Wiedhahn, National Reunion Chairman, KWVA

Parades as Recruiting Tools

Visibility is a great recruiting tool. One of the best ways to be visible is to march in parades. Here are a couple Chapters that have done that recently.

If anyone has stories of how participating in parades has helped them recruit, please let us know.

176 – REDWOOD [CA]

The Chapter participated in the annual Rhododendron Parade in Eureka, CA on 26 April 2008. Our participation included a 6x6 truck.

Hank Nicol, via email,

Past President Mac Gardner of CID 176 prepares a 6x6 truck for the annual Rhododendron Parade (Photo by Hank Nicol)



The American flag gets a ride in the Eureka Rhododendron Parade



donicol@northcoast.com

195 – QUEEN CITY [CO]

During the month of July, 2007, members of Chapter 195 participated in three patriotic parades. These parades were: the Greeley Stampede (Greeley CO), The Cheyenne Frontier Days (Cheyenne WY), and the Golden West Days (Golden, CO).

The Chapter's contingent consisted of a Banner unit with Marching unit, and a mechanized float to carry those who could not march.

Kenneth E. Camell, 3120 Baylor Drive, Boulder, CO 80305



Banner bearers and marching unit from CID 195 (L-R) Frank M., Leo Thielen, Eugene Mauldan, Ken Camell, Don Geist, Abe Villarreal.



CID 195 bagpipers John, Dave Monday and Ken Geise



A large contingent represents CID 195, including (L-R) Ingrid Camell, Virginia Brown, John, Eloise Montijo, Ken Camell, Joyce Keil, Bob Graham, Calvin Keil, Frank Montijo, Abe Villarreal, Leo Thielenk, James Meininger, Ken Geise (bagpiper), Nancy Millensifer, Ethel Meininger, and Josef, grandson of Ken Geise



CID 195's float fully decorated with members and bagpipers on board

Ken Camell, founder and past president of CID 195, with Bob Nelson, present President



Part of the many and enthusiastic spectators who all cheered and shouted "Thank You" to participants in the Greeley parade in which CID 195 participated

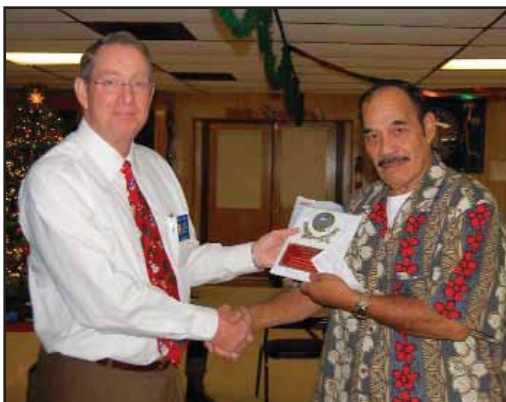
222 – DON C. FAITH (MOH) [TX]

On Saturday, 8 December 2007, Ed Maunakea, Chapter President, received a plaque and a check for \$300 on behalf of the Chapter for

winning the First Place in the Killeen Veterans Day parade for the veterans organization category.

The Chapter participated in the parade with a small train and five members riding on separate cars.

Guadalupe Lopez, Publicity Chairman, (254) 702-0465 (cell)



LTC (Ret) Dan Corbin (L), President of the Central Texas Area Veterans Advisory Committee, presents an award and a check for \$300 to Ed Maunakea (R) at the Killeen parade

CID 222 members riding the train at the Killeen, TX Veterans Day Parade



Tell America

17 – RICHARD E. CRONAN [FL]

Chapter members participated in a Tell America program at Palm Beach Community College on March 27, 2008. Our presentation was warmly received, and our Chapter was invited for the

fall semester to discuss the Korean War with a new class.

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



CID 17 members at Palm Beach Community College (L-R), Herb Dareff (seated), Seymour Friedman (at dais), Al Ratner (standing), Joe Green (seated)



Seymour Friedman explains the Korean War to PBCC students



Joe Green explains his service ribbons to the PBCC students



Al Ratner (C) and Herb Dareff (R) explain one of the numerous displays of the Korean War to the PBCC class instructor.



Joe Green discusses his experiences during his service days as Al Ratner (seated) and Seymour Friedman (standing) listen

138 - WESTERN OHIO [OH]

Our Chapter has been active in Tell America for several years. We are now organized with Harry (Dean) Johnson as the

Committee Chairman. Dean has several high schools committed to the program.



CID 138 members present their Tell America program at Woodridge High School (L-R) Frank Thomas (in his original uniform) Richard Hudak, Dean Johnson. History Teacher Jeremy Naxa (far right) looks on.

The two schools we visited most recently in 2008 were:

26 March: The Woodridge High School, (Cuyahoga Falls)

24 April 24: Springfield High School (Akron)

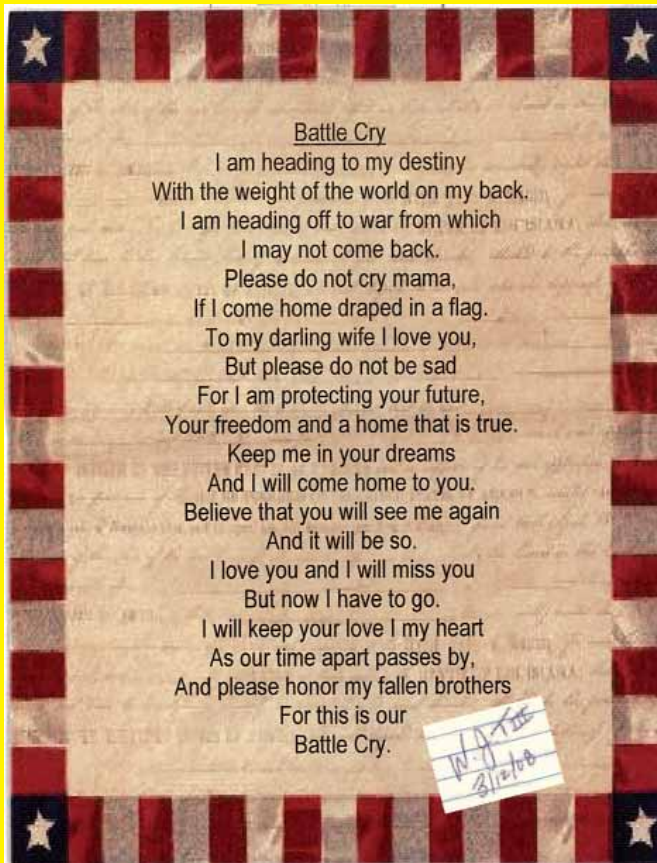
There were four classes with 150 pupils attending at Springfield High School

Both programs were well received.

Carl L. Canon
4512 Conestoga Trail
Copley, OH 44321



Members of CID 38 deliver Tell America presentation at Springfield High School, Akron, Ohio (L-R) Richard Hudak, Dean Johnson and Edward Rose, Chapter Commander



Thanks, Dad... William J. Tuck III wrote this poem to thank his father and Korean War veteran for what he did for our country. His mother, Betty Jean Tuck, submitted the poem.

Interesting story in Michigan newspaper re MIAs

There appeared in the 23 May 2008 *The Macomb [MI] Daily* online edition an interesting story regarding finding lost Korean War veterans. The writer, Linda May, pointed out that the problems locating and identifying MIA personnel are not always with the search itself. Sometimes, the problem is identifying relatives of the MIAs in order to get more information about them, to provide DNA samples, etc.

The article might be of interest to our readers.
As the writer points out:

More than 6,300 Army families need to be located from World War II and the wars in Korea and Vietnam. The goal of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs and the goal of the Army Past Conflict Repatriation Branch is to collect mitochondrial DNA samples from relatives in the missing service members' maternal family line to match up with remains that have been unearthed and repatriated.

The Army has only old records of missing soldiers' next of kin from personnel files, and the passage of decades has made it difficult to track down relatives.

There is the crux of the problem in the proverbial nutshell.

Unfortunately, the article appeared too late in our publication process for us to secure permission to reprint it. And, we cannot reprint articles without that permission lest we infringe on copyright laws. So, we will do the next best thing. We will give you the website address and let you access the story. Here it is: <http://www.macombdaily.com/stories/052308/local01.shtml>

We thank Art Lajeunesse for bringing the article to our attention.

KWVA Decals



Courtesy of KWVA
Recruiting Task Force
Committee.

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

Prices are: • One (1) each decal @\$3.00
• Two (2) each decals @\$5.00
• Twelve (12) each decals @ \$25.00

(Plus postage, NO handling fees)

To order, contact Jamie Reynolds, Membership Administrative Assistant, P. O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407, Tel: 217-345-4414, email: membership@kwva.org



Medal of Honor Day Celebrated in

On February 15, 2007 the U. S. Senate resolved to set aside a day to honor Medal of Honor Recipients on March 25 starting in 2007. The sponsors were Rep. Ike Skelton (MO) and Sen. Daniel K. Akaka (HI). On the first anniversary, March 25, 2008, Chapter 286 commemorated the day with a celebration honoring our local MOH recipient, Travis E. Watkins, Master Sergeant, U. S. Army. Watkins gave his life to save the men he was commanding on September 3, 1950. He was 30 years old.

Our Chapter held a ceremony in the Gladewater Memorial Cemetery in Gladewater, Texas at the gravesite of Travis Watkins. He was honored by a posting of the colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the opening prayer by the Honor Guard of CID 286. The United States National Anthem was rendered by the cadet choir of the



ALERT Academy Cadet Choir performs at East Texas MOH ceremony

“ALERT” Academy of Big Sandy, Texas. The Republic of South Korea National Anthem was sung by members of the Korean Baptist Church of Tyler, Texas.

A proclamation honoring Travis Watkins and the KWVA was read by Gladewater Mayor John Paul Tallent. A wreath of flowers depicting the Medal of Honor was placed on the grave by Mayor Tallent and Retired U. S. Army Lt Col Leo Glover. During the placing of the wreath, Amazing Grace was played on the bagpipes by Mr. Paul Watson. Our speaker was U. S. Congressman Louie Gohmert.



ALERT Academy Choir sings the National Anthem



CID 286 Honor Guard and ALERT Academy Cadet Choir during Pledge of Allegiance



Korean Baptist Church choir of Tyler, TX sings the Republic of Korea National Anthem

Gladewater, TX



Gladewater, TX Mayor John Tallent and LtCol Leo Glover, USA (Ret) place wreath



Paul Watson plays "Amazing Grace"

Following our speaker there was a rifle salute by the KWVA rifle team. Taps was played by bugler Richard Perkins, U. S. Navy, with bagpipe playing, concluding the ceremony. A "Fly-over" of a T-6 with a smoke stream, coordinated by Ret. U. S. Air Force Lt. Col. Richard Fuhrman, was performed by a member of the Collings Foundation's "Wings of Freedom" tour.

Our commemoration ceremony was a collaborative effort by East Texas Chapter 286. It was coordinated by our Chapter President, James T. Gill, SCPO, USN (Ret).

Nancy Martin, 1203 Camellia, Tyler, TX 75701



U.S. Congressman Louie Gohmert speaks



CID 286 President James Gill, USN (Ret) presides



Bugler Richard Perkins performs



CID 286 at Gladewater Cemetery ceremony (L-R) Virbel Trotter, Don Perkins, Jim Foy



Fly-over by vintage T-6 aircraft provided by LtCol Richard Fuhrman, USAF (Ret) at East Texas ceremony



Monuments and Medals

Korea: the Forgotten War, Remembered

Central Massachusetts

The Korean War Memorial of Central Massachusetts was completed—finally—after seven long years. To celebrate the fact, there was a dedication ceremony on October 20, 2007. It was a wonderful day for the Korean War veterans. But, we also honored service members killed in action in other wars. That was made possible by the fact that we were able to procure land close to the Korean War monument.



South Korean veterans in white and American veterans in blue at Worcester memorial ceremony



About two-thirds of the Central Massachusetts memorial is shown here

Korean War veterans can look at this memorial, pause and reflect on their service in it, and hope that this memorial will symbolize their service in the war and that they will never again hear, “the Korean War, the forgotten war.”

This is one of the most beautiful and largest Korean War memorials in the country. A crowd of over 2,000 people honored all the veterans and listened to the speakers, led by the 28th



Worcester high school ROTC group honors MIA from the five services at Central Massachusetts ceremony



Gold Star family members from Korean War join U.S. Senator John Kerry (D-MA) and CID 36 Commander James E. McDonald in placing wreath in front of Central Massachusetts memorial

Commandant of the Marine Corps, Paul X. Kelly.

The legislature of Massachusetts and the officials of the City of Worcester were very accommodating in assisting the memorial committee and in obtaining funding and land acquisition for the memorial. A great effort was put in to acquire a tract of land very close to the city of Worcester, MA—which is actually located in the center of town.

Francis Carroll chaired The Korean War Memorial Committee. He worked tremendously hard raising money totaling \$1.3 million.

The memorial was accomplished in two phases. The completion of Phase I includes the heroic-size bronze statues of the Korean War-era American GI and Korean boy. This statue stands

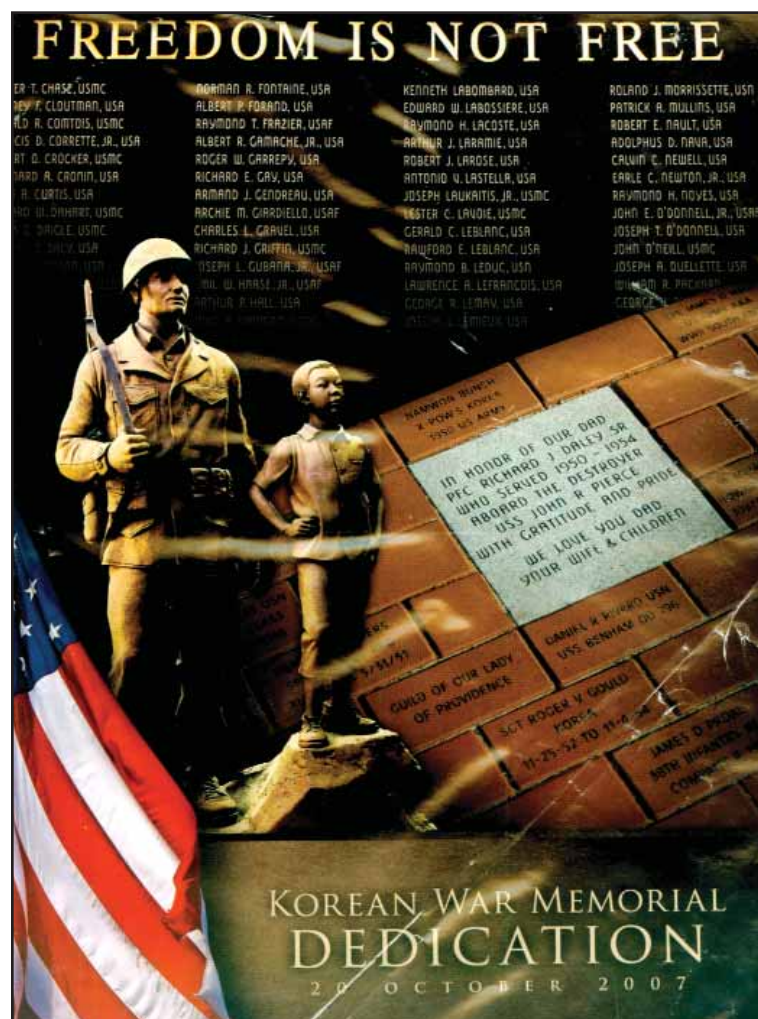


Dr. George Drake (L), coordinator of Korean War Children's Memorial, Robert Shure, sculptor (M), Liuk Suk White, author and Korean War orphan (M), and actress Terry Moore, partially hidden (R) at Central Massachusetts ceremony

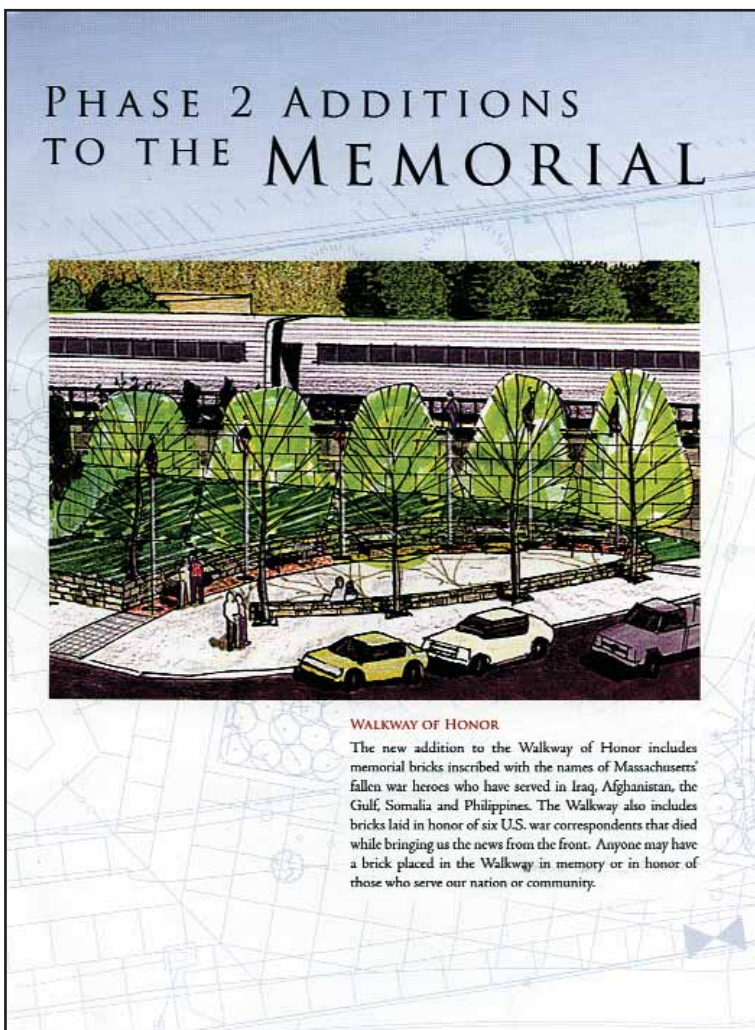


CID 36 Commander James E. McDonald with granddaughter unveiling a tablet at Central Massachusetts memorial: there were five tablets unveiled, each by a Korean War veteran and grandchild team

8' high and weighs 1,500 pounds; the boy statue is 4.5' tall. Included will be a new granite wall and an educational sign explaining that the statues symbolize the bond between the GIs and Korean orphans and the humanitarian side of war in which some 100,000 orphans were saved by GIs. The boy also represents both the young orphans of the 1950s and the Korean youth of today and tomorrow.

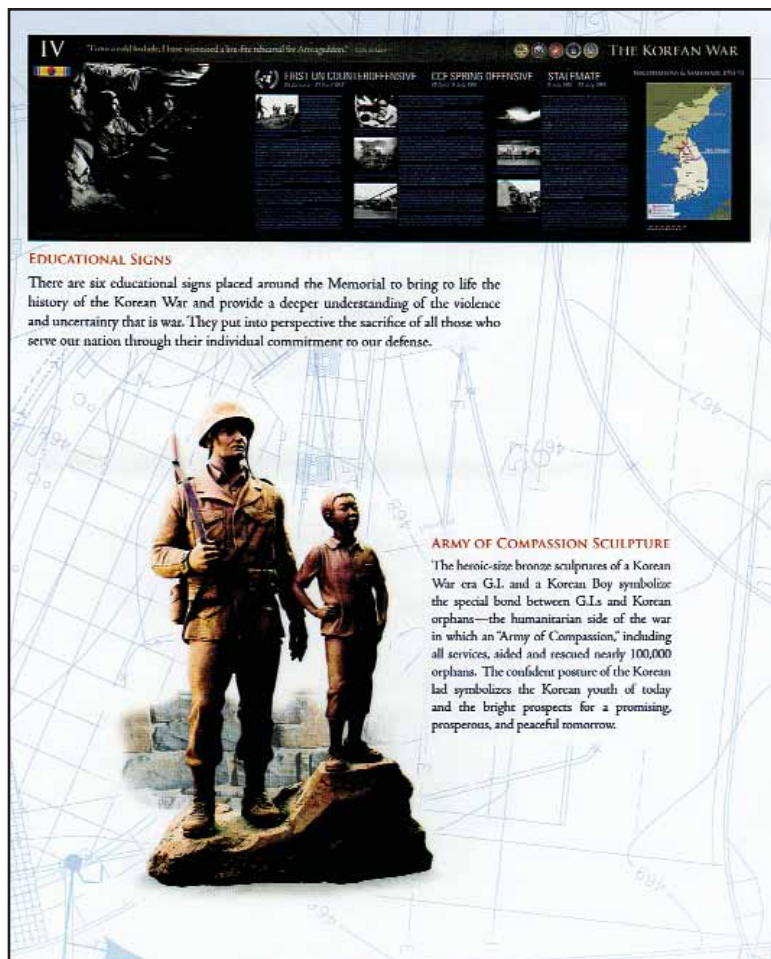


Cover of the Central Massachusetts Korean War Memorial Dedication program



Depiction of Phase 2 additions to Central Massachusetts memorial

The completion of Phase II will include five educational signs that tell the history of the Korean War, eight flagpoles with American flags, and a new Walkway of Honor, which is dedicated to Massachusetts' fallen war heroes from Desert Storm through Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom—including six U.S. war correspondents who died while reporting on the war in Iraq.



Description of educational signs and sculpture at Central Massachusetts memorial

The Walkway will include a granite seating wall and new plantings in a tree-shaded, park-like setting.

*James E. McDonald
10124 Arbor Drive
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
(508) 753-3789*

Our Nation Called And They All Came Forward

By Wallace V. DeCoursey, Sr.

A proud city of Medford, Massachusetts, true to its patriotic history, remembers its veterans in a big way by dedicating three large memorials to the veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. The names of 16,000 of the city's veterans are prominently displayed at Honor Roll Park for all to see. Mayor Michael McGlynn sent a public invitation for all to attend.

Veterans organizations were invited to take an active part in the dedication exercises. The results were gratifying; over 5,000 people attended. It was truly a great day for Medford and all veterans.

KWVA Chapter 300 was honored by being invited to unveil the Korean War memorial on behalf of all Korean veterans.

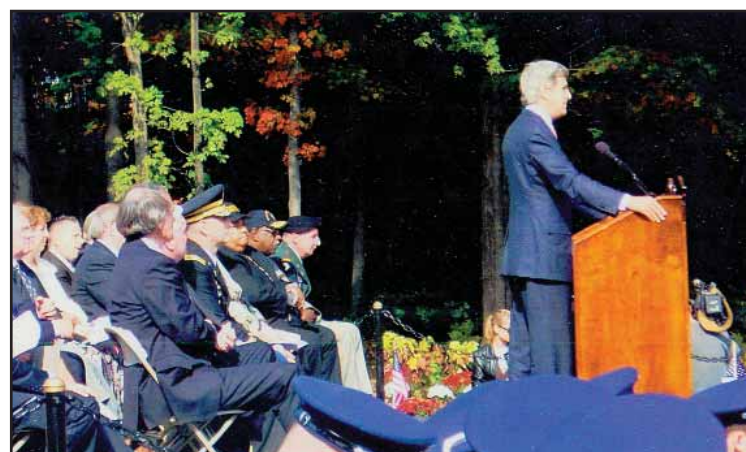
The Korean War memorial is rectangular and has a parallel bench marked with the 38th Parallel engraved in marble. The WWII memorial lists the names of the World

War II veterans on a column with a golden eagle on top. The Vietnam Memorial is a long wall similar to the memorial in

Washington. Plans are underway to add memorials to the Gulf War, Desert Storm, Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts.



CID 300 Color Guard at the new Korean Memorial Wall in Medford: (Front) Sam Cherone (Back, L-R) William Kingston, Lou Pelosi, Thomas Dennehy, Edward MacDonald, Lou Stifano, Nick Paganella, Wallace V. DeCoursey, Sr.



Senator John Kerry (D-MA) praises Medford for honoring its residents who have served in the military



Members of CID 300 enjoy the good times at Medford Memorial event (Seated, L-R) Larry DeBenedictis, John Woefel, William Kingston, Thomas Dennehy, Wallace V. DeCoursey, Sr. (Standing, L-R) Nick Paganella, Lou Stifano, Thomas Kettell, Lou Pelosi



CID 300's Color Guard and part of crowd at Medford Memorial ceremony await Call for Colors (Front) Lou Stafano (Back, L-R) William Kingston, Thomas Dennehy, Wallace V. DeCoursey, Sr., Lou Pelosi, Nick Paganella



CID 300 Color Guard at Korean War Memorial at Charlestown [MA] Navy Yard (Front, L-R) Thomas Dennehy, Sam Cherone, John Woefel (Back, L-R) Edward MacDonald, Joseph McCallion, Jack Dowd, Ron Taylor, William Kingston, Wallace V. DeCoursey, Thomas Kettell

Col. John Hammond of the Massachusetts National Guard introduced the program; State Police trooper Dan Clarke sang an armed forces medley. Senator John Kerry, Congressman Edward Markey, and Mayor Michael McGlynn were the keynote speakers.

At the start of the ceremony, a Blackhawk helicopter landed and was open for all to tour. A 45x90-foot American flag was raised by large crane and was held in place by the 101st Field Artillery and Massachusetts Iraqi veterans as a Howitzer saluted. The Massachusetts National Guard provided the music accompaniment for "God Bless America," "My country 'tis of thee," and the "Star Spangled Banner."

The invocation was given by Father Joseph Foster, who retired as a Major from the Air Force. Rabbi Braham David of Temple Shalom in Medford offered the closing prayer.

Senator Kerry said, "Everyone should make it a point to thank veterans for their service. A proud city did its best to remember their veterans."

A complimentary barbecue, thanks to Kelly's Roast Beef, was

then served as two hours of World War II, Korea and Vietnam-era music was played for the gathered crowd.

Truly, it was a great day that everyone in attendance enjoyed.

Wallace V. DeCoursey, Sr.

73 Kaposia St.

Auburndale, Ma.02466, (617) 969-6698

(Photos by Nick Paganella and Sam Cherone)

Fayetteville [AR] National Cemetery

I have the pleasure and privilege of volunteering a couple days each week at one of our national cemeteries at Fayetteville, Arkansas.

In October of 2007 we dedicated a memorial to the men who fought at the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea in the winter of 1950.

Incidentally, I noticed in the Jan-Feb 2008 issue an article about vandals of veterans' graves. In November 2005 we had extensive damage at the Fayetteville National Cemetery. Sixty-six headstones were spray painted with red enamel paint.

After several days of work by staff and volunteers, the stones were cleaned. Fortunately, none had to be replaced. Local law enforcement and security personnel at the local VA hospital were unable to find the culprits. We did much grumbling about what we would like to do to them.

Jim Delap

P.O. Box 273

Prairie Grove, AR 72753



The Chosin Few Memorial Stone at the Fayetteville National Cemetery



Sam Escue (L) and Gilbert Depner (R) salute at Fayetteville Memorial dedication.

Former President of South Korea visits Oregon



President Kim arriving at Korean War Memorial, Wilsonville, OR, greets ROK veteran Lee as Mr. Sam Kwak, president of the Federation of Korean-American Association of the Northwest States looks on

The worst place for a sentry to be caught is off guard. That is what happened to CID 72, Oregon Trail, [Portland, OR] in mid-April when the Korean Society notified members that South Korean ex-President Kim Dae-Jung was in town and wanted to visit the Oregon Korean War Memorial.

"We had to scramble," Loren Mitchell recalled. "They told us that he had set aside a few minutes for the visit the next morning."

Mitchell reported that, "We called our veterans to try and find some who could be there to greet President Kim on such a short notice." Unfortunately, he said, "Most of our veterans had projects to complete, medical appointments to keep, or still worked."

But, Mitchell noted, the Chapter was able to find seven veterans who could be there, and almost all had some kind of uniform they could wear for the occasion.

The Chapter was not caught off guard long. "When President Kim, his wife, and their escorts arrived," Mitchell said proudly, "we were there to greet them."

Reach Loren Mitchell at 11940 SW King James Place, King City, OR 97224, (503) 670-1382



Oregon State Senator John Lim greets President Kim; KWVA member Ray Sway is in background

President Kim pays respects at the Oregon Korean War Memorial; Ms. Ann Kim, President of the Korean Society of Portland stands in foreground. Others in photo (Front, L-R) Mr. Sam Kwak, President Kim and wife, Senator Lim, Mr. James Lee, Commander Charles Lusardi, Mr. Young Mok Yun



Dignitaries and guests at Wilsonville Korean War Memorial (L-R) Mr. James Lee, Senator Lim, unidentified, Ms. Paula Brown, Asst. Dir. Oregon Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Commander Lusardi, Mayor Charlotte Lehan, President Kim, Ms. Kim, Robert Pierce, Sam Kwak, Ann Kim



Chapter & Department News

NOTE 1: CID = Chapter Identification

NOTE 2: If you have submitted Chapter news, and it has not appeared recently, please check with Membership Management Supervisor Jake Feaster to determine if your Chapter is included on the Non-compliant list. He will tell you if it is, why it is, and how you can get it in compliance [See also Management Information report on page 14 of this issue.]

President Dechert Presents New Charter

313 SHENANDOAH VALLEY [VA]

On Sunday, April 13, 2008, National KWVA President Louis Dechert presented the Charter to the newly formed Shenandoah Valley Chapter #313- KWVA, in Winchester, VA.

ings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, beginning at 2 p.m. at the VFW Post 2123 in Winchester, VA.

We wish to thank Chapter 142, Frederick, MD, especially Bob Miles and Bob Eder, for their assistance in helping us get organized.

Our immediate goals are to receive our tax exempt status from the IRS and our Articles of Incorporation from the Virginia



LEFT: Welcome CID 313 members (Front, L-R) Lew Ebert, First Vice Commander, Louis Dechert, Bill Scott, Commander, Lew Ewing, Secretary/Treasurer (Second Row, L-R) members Donald Bane, Richard Smith, Jack Kronenberger, Ray Fish, and Buck Thompson (Standing, L-R) Advisors Bob Eader and Bob Miles, of CID 142, members Don Jones, Herbert Taylor, Leonard Laconia, Bud Lyons, Richard Clark, Charles Hoak, Billy Miller and Charles Quinnelly

BELOW: President Louis Dechert presents the Charter to CID 313: (L-R) Secretary/Treasurer Lew Ewing, Lou Dechert, Commander Bill Scott, First Vice Commander Lew Ebert

The members of the Chapter consider it a distinct honor and wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to President Dechert for taking the time from his extremely busy schedule to travel to Winchester to personally present our Charter. This is truly an honor and recognition only a few Chapters have the privilege of enjoying.

Planning for our new Chapter began in September, 2007 with a small group of Korean War veterans and has grown to the point where we had 29 registered members on the date of our Charter, plus another 13 veterans who have attended our meetings but have not yet joined the National KWVA. Of the 29 charter members, 24 became members after our first organizational meeting.

We continue to recruit and welcome additional members to our Chapter from the City of Winchester, Frederick County, and our surrounding counties in Virginia and West Virginia. Our meet-



State Corporation Commission, obtain our liability insurance coverage, continue recruiting new members, and begin a fund-raising campaign to support the Chapter's programs and obligations.

Lewis M. Ewing, 310 Clay Hill Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, (540) 678-1787, lewewing@comcast.net

1 GULF COAST [AL]

Our members assist the Bay Area Food Bank in Mobile, AL. The Food Bank collects food from manufacturers or producers who over-produce a certain product, e.g., it could be a carload of Cheerios. They donate it to the Food Bank and are able to take a tax deduction.



Members of CID 1 separating food for distribution



Cleaning cans, bathing bottles, examining expiration dates...CID 1 members investing in Food Bank activities

Grocery stores donate excess inventory. There are also food drives. The Food Bank sells the food to charitable organizations for 10¢ a pound. These charitable organizations could be in Mississippi, Alabama, or Florida.



CID 1 volunteers looking at an empty food table—which is a good thing in this case

At times the Food Bank needs extra hands in preparing the food for distribution. For example, we clean the cans or separate them into specific categories. Approximately twelve of us assist about once a month.

*Joseph M. Bolton, 4304 Aldebaran Way
Mobile, AL 36693*

5 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA #1 [CA]

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger presented veterans legislation to Chapter Commander Bill McKinney at an October 2006 ceremony.



Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) presents CID 5 Commander Bill McKinney with veterans legislation he signed, as CA State Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa (C) and Jack Tolbert, Distinguished Service Cross recipient and past Chapter Commander (seated), look on



Jack Tolbert (L) and Paul Chamberlain, CID 5 members, at Purple Heart Monument dedication in Redding, CA



Governor Schwarzenegger shakes hands with Jack Tolbert at the Purple Heart Monument dedication

Chapter members attended the dedication of a Purple Heart Monument at the State Veterans Cemetery in Igo, CA on May 30, 2007.

*William I. McKinney, 6907 Riata Drive
Redding, CA (530) 365-3656, BnJMcKin@charter.net*

10 CONNECTICUT #1 [CT]

When you can't get to Hawaii yourself to pay tribute to veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam, you do it through vicarious means. CID 10 did that a few years ago, when Harvey Redak, the primary bugler for the Chapter's Honor Guard, played "Taps" at the Punchbowl Cemetery in September 2004 in the veterans' honor.

Jim Shelmerdine distinguished the cemetery from the Punchbowl "near Inji that we fought so hard for." Regardless of which Punchbowl it is, the words on the monument at the Honolulu cemetery ring true: "The solemn pride that must be yours to have paid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

*Jim Shelmerdine, 745 Tolland Street
East Hartford, CT 06108-2748, (860) 528-0251*



Harvey Redak of CID 10 plays Taps at The Punchbowl (Photo by Justine Tobis Redak)

13 BILL CARR [DE]

The Chapter, sponsor of the Wounded Warrior Fund, in cooperation with Dover Downs Hotel & Casino Management, presented a Tommy Dorsey Orchestra Concert on April 25, 2008. Proceeds from the sale of tickets were donated to the Wounded Warrior Fund. The Chapter has also sponsored Bake Sales and 50/50 sales to raise money for the Fund.

Chapter President Walter Koopman and his Fund Committee visited Walter Reed and Bethesda Military Hospitals this spring. The Chapter continues to work on the list of items most requested by our Wounded Warriors, and add to the Chaplain's Funds, Helping Hands and the Wounded Warrior Grant program.

The Chapter has generated flyers, brochures, bulletin board posters and a website, woundedwarriorfund.org, to generate support. Delaware Chapters 2 and 3 have recently joined this worthy cause.

Committee Chairman John Weidenhof and Committed Member George Goss have a busy schedule visiting area VFW and American Legion Posts, Seniors and Cheer Centers over the next few months.

Chapter Speaker of the Month for February was Ms. Laurie White, Delaware State Veterans Service Officer. The speaker in March was Mr. Bob Eyer, computer specialist, who discussed the importance of backing up your files and short cuts to computer literacy.

*John W. Weidenhof
26 Whitehaven Way Lewes, DE 19958*

15 EDDIE LYON [FL]

Chapter members spent some time teaching the ROTC class at Ft. Lauderdale High School in Ft. Lauderdale, FL recently. The members included President Joe Firriolo, Assistant President Jerry Bey, Sgt.-of-Arms Ralph Johnson, and Ted Nicolas, Treasurer and Chaplain.

*Stella Firriolo
2510 NE 209 Terrace, Miami, FL 33180*



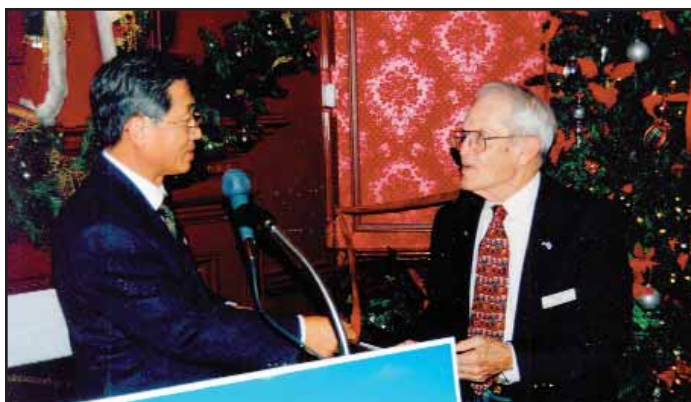
(L-R) ROTC Instructor Master Sgt. Mel Williams, CID 15 members Joe Firriolo, Jerry Bey, Ralph Johnson, and Ted Nicolas, and ROTC Instructor Major Jeffrey Classon at Ft. Lauderdale High School



Chapter member and two-war (WWII and Korea) veteran Alfred H. Pepin in uniform for Memorial Day ceremony in Hollywood, FL

19 GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

At our Christmas luncheon in 2007, Consul Heechul LEE presented a check of appreciation to Chapter president, Tom Harris, from the Republic of Korea Consulate General Office in Atlanta. At the same luncheon, a record number of gifts for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program were accepted by two young Marines, photographed with chapter member and program director, Tom Woods USMC Ret.



Consul Heechul LEE (L) presents a \$500 check of appreciation to CID 19 President Tom Harris (R) at Chapter's 2007 Christmas party



Two young Marines accept Marine Corps Toys for Tots program gifts from CID 19 member and program director Tom Woods USMC Ret.



(L-R) James S. Yang, CID 19 members Jim Conway, Tom Harris, Dae Yong Mun, CID 19 members John Kahle & Gen. Harold Dye (Ret.) at appreciation check presentation by the Community Presbyterian Church



Nick Snider (R) presents donation to CID 19 of \$1000.00 (L-R) Jim Conway, Jim Fletcher, Urban Rump

Another appreciation check was presented to the chapter at a Christmas service by the Community Presbyterian Church of Duluth, an Atlanta suburb.

And, staying in the Christmas spirit, a donation of \$1000.00 was presented by the Chapter to Mr. Nick Snider, Founder & President of the National Museum of Patriotism at their Christmas Party & Award Show.

The museum will be opening at a new location in the spring in downtown Atlanta.

James Conway, 1184 Fourteenth Place NE, Atlanta, GA 30309, (404) 875-6170, conatlanta@aol.com

60 ADIRONDACK [NY]

The Chapter was featured in the Ballston [NY] Journal recently in an article written by member Gene Corsale. He pointed to the fact that Chapter members participated in nine parades held in local communities—and one across the state border in Manchester, VT.



CID 60's Color Guard at rest



Members of CID 60 with their Mobile Monument

In addition, Chapter members were involved in eleven military ceremonies ranging from the flag pole dedication at the Church of St. Peter's WWII Memorial to the dedication of the War on Terror plaque in Saratoga Springs and Saratoga County Vets Job Night.

The 112 members of the Chapter are very busy—and they intend to keep it that way.

*Eugene Corsale, 59 Outlook Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866*

70 OHIO VALLEY [OH]

As Minister of Bend Fork Christian Church, Belmont, Ohio, Ed Fellabaum Jr., was invited to deliver the 'Statehouse Prayer' to open a session of the Ohio Senate, Columbus, Ohio, on March 11, 2008.

President of the Senate, Bill Harris, is a Marine veteran of Korea (USMC Major). The visit included the fortuitous meeting and photo op with Ohio State University football coach Jim Tressel.



Ed Fellabaum, Jr. (L) and Ohio State University football coach Jim Tressel



Ed Fellabaum, Jr., President of CID 70, speaks to Ohio State Senate

From the Archives

How time does pass: A reflection of the dedication of the new (now older) Martinsville, WV bridge - 1993

On Memorial Day 1993, a short time after chartering by National KWVA (23 May), members of the Ohio Valley Chapter were invited to attend the dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Bridge, New Martinsville, WV.

The inspiration for this event took place over fifty years prior. Cousins George Schoonover, Albert Marty and William Angus enlisted in the U. S. Army. Following Basic, Schoonover and Marty were assigned to duty in the Far East; Angus ended up on Occupation duty in Europe.

At the outbreak of the Korean War, Schoonover and Marty were sent to South Korea to stop the Communist aggression there. On July 16, 1950 Pfc. Marty was killed in action; Sgt. Schoonover wrote to his mother, "I was with Albert when he was killed. I'll tell you more when I get home. MSgt. Schoonover never made it. He died in captivity in North Korea in early 1951.

The story lay dormant for over fifty years. Then, William Angus, QM of VFW Post 4634 in New Martinsville, was inspired to promote re-naming the New Martinsville Bridge the "Korean War Veterans Memorial Bridge." The legislation was sponsored by House Delegate-Wetzel County Dave Pethtel, who sponsored and got the legislation passed in the West Virginia House.



The re-dedication of the Martinsville, WV "Korean War Veterans Memorial Bridge": Ohio is shown to the west in the background. (L-R) Ed Fellabaum, William Angus, Dave Pethtel

Uncle Dave Pethtel, a charter member of Ohio Valley Chapter, KWVA, and former Tanker with the 32nd Rgt. 1952-1953, arranged for the Chapter to participate in the dedication.

Within in a year (1994), we would again muster at the very site to present a Korea Medal of Freedom to the mother, Stella Marty Fitzgerald, sent to us by the S. Korea Veterans Association. Mother Fitzgerald has since passed away. Note: Pfc. Marty's father died shortly after from cancer.



Bill Mac Swain (L) swears in CID 76's new officers (L-R) Carlos Ballard, Frank (Franko) Groeschke, Z. E. ("Stoney") Stone, Vito Susca

It is hard to believe fifteen years has transpired. I live just about ten miles north of the bridge. Pfc. Marty's hometown is about two miles south of the bridge.

*Ed Fellabaum, Jr
erf_usn@yahoo.com*

76 TEXAS LONE STAR [TX]

Two guests attended our April meeting: Bill Mac Swain, Secretary/Treasurer of Chapter 215 and a National Director, and Jack Cooper, Vice President-Dept. of Texas and Junior Vice President of Walton Walker Chapter. Bill was gracious enough to swear in our new officers, Carlos Ballard (President), Frank ("Franko") Grochoske (2nd Vice President), and Z.E. ("Stoney") Stone and Vito Susca (Directors). Thank you very much, Bill.

99 TALL CORN [IA]

We elected new officers at our 26 April, 2008 meeting:

- President – Sid Morris
- 1st VP – Leland Regal
- 2nd VP – Leland Staker
- Sec.-Treas. – Ed Wittig

We also learned from VA representative Carl Martin that the VA is opening clinics all over the state and that some companies, such as Wal-Mart and Walgreen's, are now selling prescriptions for \$4.00.

*Bill Hartsock, 2301 Agency Street, Apt. 29
Burlington, IA 52601*



CID 99's new officers (L-R) Leland Staker, Ed Wittig, Leland Regal, Sid Morris

108 WESTERN OHIO [OH]

At their monthly meetings, CID 108 members enjoy a tasty home-cooked buffet after planning their participation in community affairs. These activities include visiting patients at Dayton's VA Hospital, presenting a Tell America program about the Korean War to middle school students, and entering a float in area holiday parades.



Pictured are 25 of 66 members of CID 108 from Piqua, Ohio. President Richard Schwartz is in middle row, second from left. Vice President Ron Boram is in last row, second from left

Currently, they are planning their annual Rose of Sharon Fund raiser. Part of the proceeds goes for four \$1,000 scholarships to needy high school and college students.

*E. Ronald Boram, 260 Woodlawn Drive
Tipp City, OH 45371*

109 NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA [PA]

For the past few years our Chapter fund raisers have included military themed screen-printed Tee's, either branch of service or unit specific ones. These are some of the best quality available, and are priced to us wholesale. The company is Joe Blow T's, (Millersville, MD.), Tel: 800-783-9595, web: www.joeblow.com, catalog available.

P.A. Warman

133 QUIET WARRIORS [IN]

We elected a new president, Mel Aldridge, and 1st Vice President James Clark due to the recent death of President Marcos Botas.

*James R. Clark, 4211 Brooklawn Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46815*



New officers for CID 133 (L-R) Mel Aldridge and James Clark



National Director Christ Yanacos (R) shakes hands with CID 137 Commander Zeno Foley while visiting Chapter at Canfield Fair



One side of the table of CID 137 members enjoying their Friday morning breakfast (L-R) Stephen Firment, Justin Klamut, Charles Stepan, Henry Ponikvar, Ken Murphy, Bob Bakalik, George Beal

The other side of the table at CID 137 breakfast (L-R) Phillip Cardelein, John Klamut, Dr. Earl Harris, Zeno Foley, Dick Oakley



137 MAHONING VALLEY [OH]

Members John Pariza, Zeno Foley, Peter Pizzulo and Charles Stepan traveled to Washington DC to deliver phone cards to wounded soldiers from Iraq.

John Pariza, Charles Stepan, Zeno Foley, and Peter Pizzulo (L-R) of CID 137 at Walter Reed Hospital



The featured display from CID 137's entry in the Boardman St. Patrick's Day Parade

Members also visited the Canfield Fair, gathered for their usual Friday morning breakfasts, and participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Boardman, OH.

Zeno Foley, 337 S. Inglewood Ave., Youngstown, OH 44515,
(330) 792-2735, zjf1932kwv@sbcglobal.net

142 FREDERICK [MD]

The Shumaker Roofing Company was the corporate sponsor for the Chapter's seventh annual golf tournament. The tournament was held June 19, 2008 at the Glade Valley Golf Course.

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



Members and guests advertising CID 142's annual golf tournament (L-R) Reggie Kephart, Maynard Gaver, Dick Martin, Bob Schisler, Terree Long, Gary Harrison, Scott McClendon, Ray Lucas, Sue Smith, Dave Harley, Bob Eader, Glenn Wienhoff, Bob Miles

147 WEST BAY RHODE ISLAND #2 [RI]

Chapter members joined Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri at the 2007 4th of July parade in Bristol, RI.

Douglas C. Gamagel



CID 147 members marching with Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri (C) in 4th of July parade

174 NATURE COAST [FL]

The "Wounded Warrior Project" assists men and women of the United States Armed Forces who have been severely injured during the war on terror in Afghanistan and Iraq. This project is for the most severely injured who have traumatic brain injuries, amputations, and severe burns. Many have multiple amputations and have to learn how to use the artificial limbs to do the simplest tasks.

The project also provides programs and services to ease the burdens of these heroes and their families. Our goal is to aid



Members of CID 174 present award to Dr. Singh (L-R) Treasurer Joseph Seyfried, Sgt.-at-Arms Melbourne Eakley, Dr. P. Singh, Commander Richard Mellinger, Secretary Louis Schneider



CID 174 members (L-R) Lou Schneider, Roger West, and Joe Seyfried light candles at Night of Recognition ceremony

them in their recovery processes and smooth transitions back to civilian life.

Dr. Pariksinh Singh M.D. of Access Healthcare, LLC in Spring Hill, Florida, has been instrumental in helping our Chapter acquire donations from the community for this project. In fact, Dr. Singh and his staff made a large donation to our Chapter. Bob Balzer, President of the Department of Florida, has recognized Dr. Singh's effort, and our Chapter presented a "Wounded Warrior Project" Award to him for his dedication and contributions to this project.

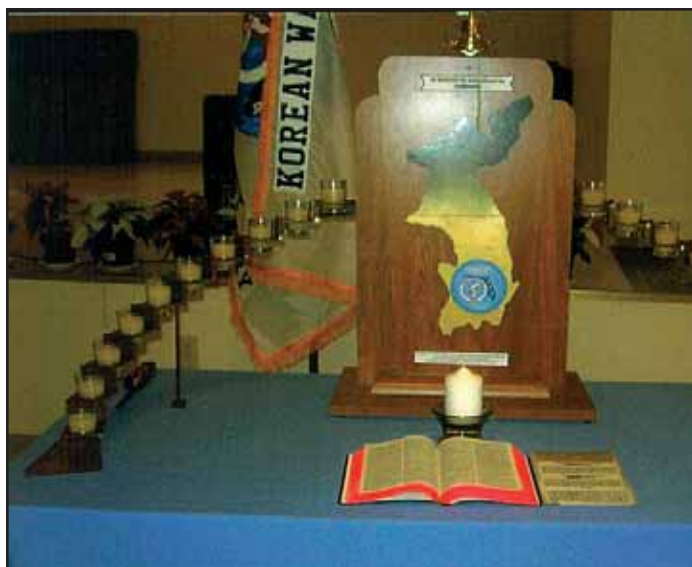
Richard Mellinger, 10458 Upton Street, Spring Hill, FL 34608,
(352) 688-7196, rmellinger@tampabay.rr.com

Night of appreciation ceremony held

To honor our fallen comrades, we held a night of recognition of them for their widows. The presentations were a collaborative effort.

Chaplain Steve Ackermann opened the ceremony with a brief prayer. Chapter Commander Rich Mellinger gave a short statement about each member. Vice Commander Roger West designed and made a candle arrangement. Treasurer Joe Seyfried provided a ship's bell.

Secretary Lou Schneider and Vice Commander West lit the candles. As each name of the departed was read, a candle was lit and the bell was rung in his honor.



Candle display at CID 174's Night of Recognition ceremony



A cake to remember CID 174's deceased members

Each of the widows was given a long-stem rose and an American flag. A brief prayer closed the ceremony.

The Ladies Auxiliary provided refreshments, consisting of a beautiful cake and coffee.

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

191 TIDEWATER [VA]

Cadet Brian A Aubin, U.S. Air Force, Junior ROTC Squadron at Hampton High School, received the Chapter's third Korean War Veterans Assn. Annual Scholarship award at a recent graduation ceremony. Brian will attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, in Prescott, AZ in the fall.

We get good local recognition from the scholarship presentation. It is a worthwhile function.

*Dick Hartung
richardjhartung
@juno.com*

Richard J. Hartung, Commander of CID 191, presents scholarship award to Cadet Brian A Aubin



209 LAREDO 1950 [TX]

We elected new officers recently for 2008-2009. They are:

- President – Ernesto Sanchez
- 1st VP - Roberto Ramirez
- 2nd VP - Eduardo Sanchez
- Treasurer - Hector Castaneda
- Secretary - Pete Trevino
- Chaplain - Reynalda Reyna



CID 209's new officers (L-R) Pete Trevino, Secretary; Reynalda Reyna; Chaplain; Hector Castaneda, Treasurer; Eduardo Sanchez, 2nd VP; Roberto Ramirez, 1st VP; Ernesto Sanchez, President; John McKeown, Installing Officer.



Laredo Mayor Raul Salinas is surrounded by armed members of the 436th Chemical Company during a visit at Fort Bragg, NC



CID 209 members Reynalda Reyna (L), and Ernesto Sanchez, Jr. (R), with Mayor Raul Salinas (C) at Fort Bragg



Ernesto Sanchez, Jr., CID 209 President, Brig General Joyce (Joy) Stevens, and Reynaldo Reyna, CID 209 Chaplain



Unidentified soldiers, Reynaldo Reyna, unidentified, soldier, Mayor Raul Salinas and Ernesto Sanchez.



Richard Chamberlain, Commander, Order of the Purple Heart, Ernesto Sanchez, and Reynaldo Reyna bid farewell to the soldiers.

Several Chapter members accompanied the Mayor of Laredo, Raul Salinas, and city officials and employers on a trip to Fort Bragg, NC. The visit was organized by the Texas Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. More than 100 "Laredoans"

are members of the 436th Chemical Company, which the entourage visited.

The visitors observed a training exercise involving the 436th, which is deploying to Afghanistan soon.

*Pete Trevino, Jr., 3219 E. Lyon St.
Laredo, TX 78043*

259 CENTRAL INDIANA [IN]

U.S. Army Sgt. Virgil L. Phillips was killed in a battle with Chinese in North Korea during November 1950. After 58 years his remains were returned to his native Indiana for burial in Loogootee on April 19th.



CID 259 members (L-R) David Bills, John Ashby, Everett McFarland (back to camera) and Jack Beaty mull Agent Deetz' advice

CID 259 members in attendance at U.S. Army Sgt. Virgil L. Phillips' homecoming include Commander Tine Martin, Vice-Comdr Jack Beaty, Keith Roberts, Tom Shepherd, Terry McDaniel (Ex-POW), Everett McFarland, Mel Butler (Ex-POW), David Bills, Earnest Condra, John Quinn, Marilyn Roberts, Ralph Burris



U.S. Army Sgt. Virgil L. Phillips comes home under sad circumstances after 58 years

When his casket, which was flown from Hawaii, was transferred to a hearse at the Indianapolis Airport, members of our Chapter were on hand to pay honor. The Indiana National Guard Honor Guard, State Police, Indiana National Guard Chaplain Wright, and members of the "Rolling Thunder" motorcycle team all took part in the brief, but touching, airport ceremony.

During the Monthly Meeting, in April, Special Agent David O. Deetz, Jr. of Secret Service, gave an important briefing to forty Chapter members on criminal activities and invited all to spread the warnings among family and friends. He described methods used by thieves to steal Social Security numbers and other personal information in order to use other people's identity for illegal purchases and other uses.

Special Agent Deetz told of the problem we would have if someone destroyed our credit ratings and burdened us with debts we did not seek. He explained the importance of protecting our personal information to reduce the chance of some criminal doing damage to our credit and reputations.

Thieves have even used the identities of the deceased by getting their birth certificate copies from county clerks and using those to get licenses.

He also covered the need for everyone to be on the lookout for counterfeit money, especially \$100 bills. "Once we take a fake bill in change away from a vendor, it is ours," he cautioned. Such bills should immediately be turned over to the police. Many drug dealers are using phony bills, he said. Deetz gave booklets on ID protection to members.

Vice Commander Jack Beaty arranged for Agent Deetz's second visit to the Chapter meeting.

Our Chapter presented an Honorary Membership to a member of Florida Chapter 188, Don Struhar. We wanted to show their appreciation for the good works Don has done for members of the KWVA nationwide.

He designed and donated the organization's emblem (Korean War and Service Veterans Organization), and has also designed monuments and other identification patches free of charge.

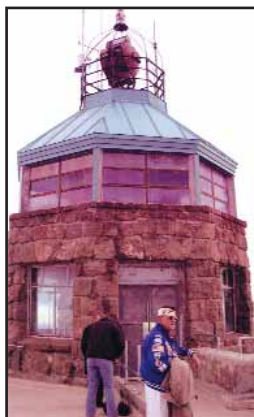
Keith Roberts, our Chapter's Second Vice Commander, presented the award while he was in Florida. He does Honor Guard

Duty at veterans' funerals while vacationing there. He has done over a hundred in a five-month period.

Keith was a Section Chief of a 4.5 Rocket Launcher crew while in Korea from February 1952 until May 1953.

*John M. Quinn, via email
Saggi32@aol.com*

264 MT. DIABLO [CA]



ABOVE The Mount Diablo beacon

RIGHT: CID 264 members at Mount Diablo beacon event: David McDonald, Ron Silva, and Bob Witbeck

Before the Second World War, a network of mountain top beacons was established to aid airplanes in navigating at night. It is reported that the beacon atop Mount Diablo, in the San Francisco Bay area, could be seen over 100 miles at sea. The network of beacons was shut down on December 7, 1941.



BELOW: Stan and Bob Hooker passing out cupcakes



Keith Roberts of CID 259 presents the Honorary Membership Certificate to Don Struhar of CID 188



In 1963 the beacon atop Mount Diablo was rebuilt by members of Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Mt. Diablo Chapter 13. Each year since then it has been lighted on the anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack in remembrance of those who gave their

lives there and those who survived. Each year, Chapter 264 joins our veteran brothers in recognizing the heroes of December 7, 1941.

Each year, our members visit the California Veteran's Home at Yountville. We take treats for the residents and spend time talking with and listening to them. On our last visit, we took cupcakes to the patients in the hospital.

*Stanley J. Grogan, 2585 Moraga Dr.
Pinole, CA 94564*

312 ANTIETAM [MD]

New Chapter in Maryland

Our first piece of news is a sad one: Chapter Commander Ed Stahl, Jr. died from medical complications arising from his February 5th surgery. Commander Stahl was buried at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery on March 10, 2008. His loss was a stunning blow to Antietam Chapter #312, which is officially off and running.



ABOVE: National Director Bob Banker presents Chapter 312's Charter to Vice Commander Ned Renner, as Secretary Les Bishop and Treasurer Don Smith watch (all L-R)

On February 5, 2008, National Director Bob Banker presented the new Chapter its KWVA charter and installed its officers and committee chairs at a regular Chapter meeting. There were over fifty KWVA members and friends in attendance, including a large contingent from Frederick Chapter #142, who sponsored the new Chapter, and an equally large group from Maryland Chapter #33.

Among the special guests were Col. Bill Weber and his wife Annelie Weber from National KWVA. The event was covered by the local newspaper, the *Hagerstown Herald-Mail*.

In conducting the installation ceremony, National Director Banker introduced all KWVA members in attendance. Then, the visiting members greeted the new members with a hand salute. The new members returned the salute in recognition of their gesture. Director Banker then installed the new Chapter's officers and committee chairs (to date).

The installed officers were:

- Vice-Commander - Ned Brenner
- Secretary - Les Bishop
- Treasurer - Don Smith
- Chaplain - AI Lane
- Sgt-at-Arms - "Pat" Patterson.



LEFT: Bill and Annelie Weber observe CID 312's Charter presentation ceremony



BELOW: Mrs. Weber, Tony Marra (Asst. Sec. of CID 142) and Jim Miller (CID 142) at CID 312 event



New CID 312 officers (L-R) Bob Banker (National Director) Ned Renner, Les Bishop, Don Smith

The committee chairs installed were

- Pete Callas (Joint Veterans Council)
- Lou Surrat (By-laws)
- Bob Eader (Ways & Means)

As reported above, Commander Ed Stahl, Jr. was undergoing surgery in a local hospital at the very time the installation was taking place. Second-Vice Commander Wayne Winebrenner and Adjutant John Breen were vacationing in Florida.

Following the installation of officers, Director Banker presented the KWVA's charter to Vice-Commander Ned Brenner. A congratulatory letter from KWVA President Lou Dechert was read to the gathering and presented to the Secretary. Several short speeches acknowledging the importance of this occasion followed President Dechert's letter.

A very short business meeting was conducted before the



Swearing-in ceremony for CID 312 (L-R) Pete Callas, Ned Renner, Les Bishop, Jim Ensmingas, Don Smith, Al Lane, Lou Surratt, Bob Eader, "Pat" Patterson

assembled group was adjourned.

Prior to the ceremony, a social hour was held and everyone had the opportunity to exchange stories and experiences. All in all, it was an important day for Chapter members and a pleasant event for all who were involved.

The history of Antietam Chapter #312 actually began several years ago. A number of members from Frederick Chapter #142 who live in Hagerstown, Maryland, had suggested starting a chapter in Hagerstown to avoid the 25+-mile drive to Frederick. Well, talk didn't get the job done.

It was not until the summer of 2007 when Frederick Chapter conducted a fundraiser at a Hagerstown mall. The fundraisers put out a sign-up sheet for Korean War veterans to sign if they would be interested in a chapter in Hagerstown. There was sufficient response to warrant moving forward. Therefore, an organizational meeting was held in September 2007. As Paul Harvey would say, "The rest is history."

The Frederick Chapter took an active role in helping the Hagerstown newcomers along. Things went slowly because of the holidays, but after the By-laws were written, it was all downhill until the February 5th installation meeting.

The current members of Antietam Chapter #312 are now planning their own fundraisers, participating in a county-wide Joint Veterans Council, and looking forward to sponsoring their own events. Members of the new Chapter are proud to say they are an integral part of the KWVA.

Antietam Chapter #312 is conveniently located in western Maryland, and will be able to draw members from nearby West Virginia and Pennsylvania. This regional factor and the proximity to the historic Civil War battlefield at Antietam are the reasons the name "Antietam" was chosen for its name.

*Lee Bishop, 11822 Oriole Drive
Hagerstown, MD 21742
(240) 420-3755
lbishop@myactv.net*

DEPARTMENTS

FLORIDA

The 14th Annual Convention for the Department of Florida, KWVA was held on the weekend of May 9-10-11 in Tampa, Florida. Freedom High School ROTC members posted colors. Honored guests for the Annual Banquet included three veterans of the Iraqi War from the nearby Haley VA hospital, where they are recuperating.

The Convention also featured the attendance of National President Lou Dechert at both the Council Meeting and the General Membership Meeting. The Saturday night banquet featured his presence in his cooperation with honored Korean ROK guests.

Charley Price, Legislative Liaison for the Department of Florida delivered a pleasant surprise at the General Meeting in the person of Admiral Leroy Collins USN (Ret), Director of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs who brought the group up to date on new initiatives in the works for Florida.

Freedom High School ROTC members posted colors. Charley Price introduced Admiral Leroy Collins of the Florida Veterans Foundation. Charley also gave us an interesting Legislative Report.



Lou Dechert with members of BGen Jeong Yong-hyun's staff at table



Admiral Leroy Collins
USN (Ret.) Director
FDVA speaking to
General Membership
Meeting



[L-R] Installing Officer Lou
Dechert, Convention
Chairman Murdoch Ford.
Dept. of FL Officers:
Secretary Joan Arcand, Past
Pres. Bill McCraney, Pres.
Bob Balzer, 2nd VP Charles
First, 1st VP James Bradford,
Treasurer Richard Arcand,
Chaplain Harold Sievers.

Richard Mellinger (L)
displays award for
Wounded Warrior
efforts as Bob Balzer
(R) looks on



President Dechert (L)
and Bob Balzer at
Department of Florida
Convention

Jake Feaster, KWVA National Liaison, delivered a National Report.

Bob Balzer gave a Wounded Warrior report and awarded Richard Mellinger a framed picture-logo for his efforts toward that cause.

Ken Cosgrove, Chapter #153, was awarded "The Eddie Ko Veteran of the Year" Honor.

The new, or shall I say returning, officers for next year were sworn in by Lou Dechert.

A contingent of ROK officers attended the convention including BG Jeong, Yong Hong, Colonel Kim, Kyong Ok, LTC Jung, Jim Kwan, LTC Park, Dong Suk, and LTC Lee, Chil Sung. All are assigned to the Republic of Korea Delegations, US Central Command Coalition Forces, MacDill AFB, Florida.

Everyone had a good time.

Information provided by Joan M. Arcand, 5674 Bay Pines Lake Blvd., St. Petersburg, FL 33708, (727) 392-5648 and Carol Becker, CID 188



FEATURED TOUR: BATTLE OF THE BULGE WWII "STOPPING HITLER'S LAST GASP" 28 SEP - 7 OCT 2008

MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS (MHT) is proud to offer another in our series of historic tours to the world's battlefields. 64 years have passed since that snowy winter of 1944, when the Allied Armies stood on the doorstep of Germany and final victory over the Third Reich. Hitler however, had one last gasp. At 0530 on 16 December, he launched the final German offensive of the war as the Fifth and Sixth Panzer Armies, along with the Seventh Army stormed across the Schnee Eifel into the Ardennes Forest of Belgium and Luxembourg. The tour itinerary will follow this epic battle from the perspectives of the American and German Armies and will include Bastogne, the Hurtgen Forest, Malmedy, St. Vith, Monschau, Foy, Bois Jacques, the Siegfried Line and stops at the three major American Cemeteries relating to the battle. Join MHT as we walk the ground of these battlefields and often desperate encounters.



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- 3 - 14 Sep WWII POWs Germany & Poland
"Americans in Enemy Hands"
- 12 - 19 Sep WWII 64th Anniversary Battle of Pelelin
- 7 - 20 Sep 1 Corps VN CAPs & Combat Engineers
- 18 - 26 Sep WWII England "Airfields of the Eighth"
- 28 Sep - 7 Oct WWII "Battle of the Bulge"
- 29 Sep - 11 Oct VN "The Cav Black Stetsons Return"
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- 18 - 29 Oct WWII Italy "No Soft Underbelly"
- 12 - 25 Oct VN USMC Snipers & Recon in I Corps
- 10 - 21 Nov WWII Tarawa & Guadalcanal

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Korean War Veterans' Mini-Reunions

430th Const. Eng. Bn.

Members of the 430th Construction Engineer Bn. got together in Springfield, IL, 17-20 September, 2007.

The unit was attached to the 32nd Construction Engineer Group under Col Tandy.

*Eugene G. Hills,
3719 Highbank Place,
West Lafayette, IN 47906*



430th Const. Eng. Bn. members in Springfield, IL (Front, L-R) Roy Witt, John Peters, Jim Towersey, Ken Paul, Tony Dudek, Wayne Link (Middle, L-R) Bob Gibson, Charlie Wise, Jim Sluiter, Noel Pope, Clayton Bradshaw, Tom Muehlman, Hugh Loyer, Gene Hills (Back, L-R) Dick Hamp, Jack Lynch, Dale Webb, John Heneman, Jim Utgard, Herb Beutel, Don Kendig, Val Bednekoff

507th Sig. Svc. Co. (Opns.)

Members of the 507th Sig. Svc. Co. (Opns.) gathered in Laughlin, NV, 1-4 Oct., 2007.

*Dennis C. Ambrose,
P. O. Box 111,
Black River, NY 13612*

507th Sig. Svc. (Opns.) members at mini-reunion (Sitting, L-R) Neil Lockley, Dennis C. Ambrose, Dick Barak (Standing, L-R) Will Roush's son, Will Roush, Al Roberts



538th Ordnance M.A.M. Co. (Korea, 1950-55)



Members of the 538th Ordnance M.A.M. Co. (Korea, 1950-55) held their 20th reunion in Deptford Township, NJ, 1-13 September 2007. They took side trips to Philadelphia, PA to visit the historical sights and Atlantic City, NJ to the Korean War Memorial on the Boardwalk—and to the casinos.

The unit's next reunion will be in Minneapolis, MN in September 2008.

*Dom Carrero, 525 Westminster Road
Wenonah, NJ 08090*

538th Ordnance M.A.M. members at the Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City, NJ

KMAG

Four-star General Paik, Sun Yup has been recognized as Korea's finest combat leader. During the Korean War he distinguished himself as a courageous and competent leader. He received such rapid recognition that by 1952 he was appointed as the ROK Chief of Staff.

By 1953 he received his promotion to full General. After the war he served as Chairman for the ROK Chief of Staff, retiring from the military in 1960. He then began a career as a diplomat, serving as ambassador to Taiwan, France, Canada, and in a number of other postings. He then served as Minister of Transportation until 1971.

This fine combat leader, now in his eighties, found time and made the effort to travel to Omaha, Nebraska last May to bestow his profound recognition on the Korean Military Advisory Group (KMAG) at their first full reunion. The General made this trip to present medals to the KMAG members present for their efforts with the Korean army during the Korean War.

The reunion was held at the Crowne Plaza in Omaha, Nebraska on May 25th through the 27th. Dale Griffith of Omaha was the workhorse putting this reunion together. General Thomas Edwards, a Korean veteran, was instrumental in helping Dale put this reunion together.

The KMAG vets were so pleased with the reunion that KMAG veteran Joe Domagala of Plymouth, MN is putting together another reunion at the Minneapolis Airport Inn, a close neighbor to the Mall of America.

This reunion is scheduled for June 27, 28 and 29. Interested KMAG personnel can contact Joe at 17705 County Road 24, Plymouth, MN 55447.

*Charles A. Stepan, 175 Erskine Avenue
Boardman, OH 44512*



KMAG Reunion organizer Dale Griffith in the Omaha Air Museum with his group



General Paik, Sun Yup

General Paik, Sun Yup presents medals to KMAG personnel of the Korean War



General Paik and the KMAG sergeant

**Mini-reunions
continued ➤**

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

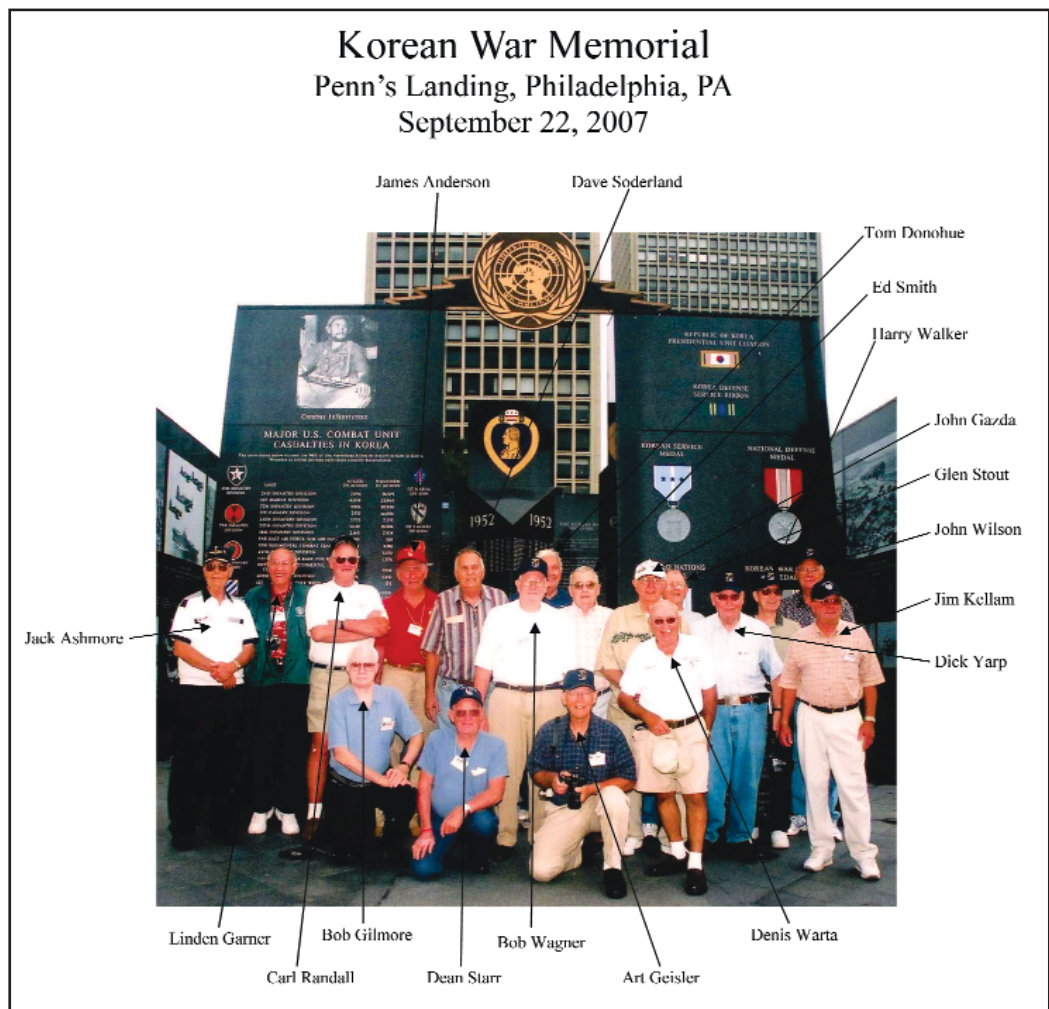
Mini-Reunions (continued)

USS Sicily

Members of the USS Sicily CVE-118 and VS-931/ VS-20 Antisubmarine Squadron that served aboard the carrier during the Korean War visited the Korean War Memorial at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia on September 22, 2007 during their annual joint reunion.

*J. Robert Wagner,
bobwagner@msn.com*

Members of the USS Sicily visit the Korean War Memorial at Penn's Landing



1st F.A. Observation Bn.



Members of the 1st Field Artillery Observation Battalion gathered in Springfield, IL in October 2006. The 1st F.A. OB was an active Observation Battalion in WWII and Korea. Its missions were to locate enemy artillery by flash, sound and radar, register allied artillery fire, and report battlefield information.

*Donald B. Dust
14460 Middle Fairway Drive,
Spring Hill, FL 34609,
352) 799-2426*

Members of 1st F.A. Observation Bn. at October 2006 reunion

48th KMAG



We were members of a small military government unit, 48th KMAG, that was stationed in Chonju, Korea. Our duty ended in the fall of 1948 after Syngman Rhee was elected President. We were all reassigned in Japan after shipping out from the port in Pusan.

I was discharged in 1949, drafted, and served in the Army in 1952-54.

Some of our members got together in Branson, MO recently. We would like to meet with more of them. Anyone with any information about former members of the unit can contact me.

Allan H. Brasseal, 2575 County Hwy. 68, Brilliant, AL 35548, (205) 465-2307

48th KMAG veterans Albert ("Dude") Buttell (L), of Hanover, KS, Gilbert Candelaria (C), of Albuquerque, NM, and Allan Brasseal (R), of Brilliant, AL, at Branson, MO gathering

91st MP Battalion



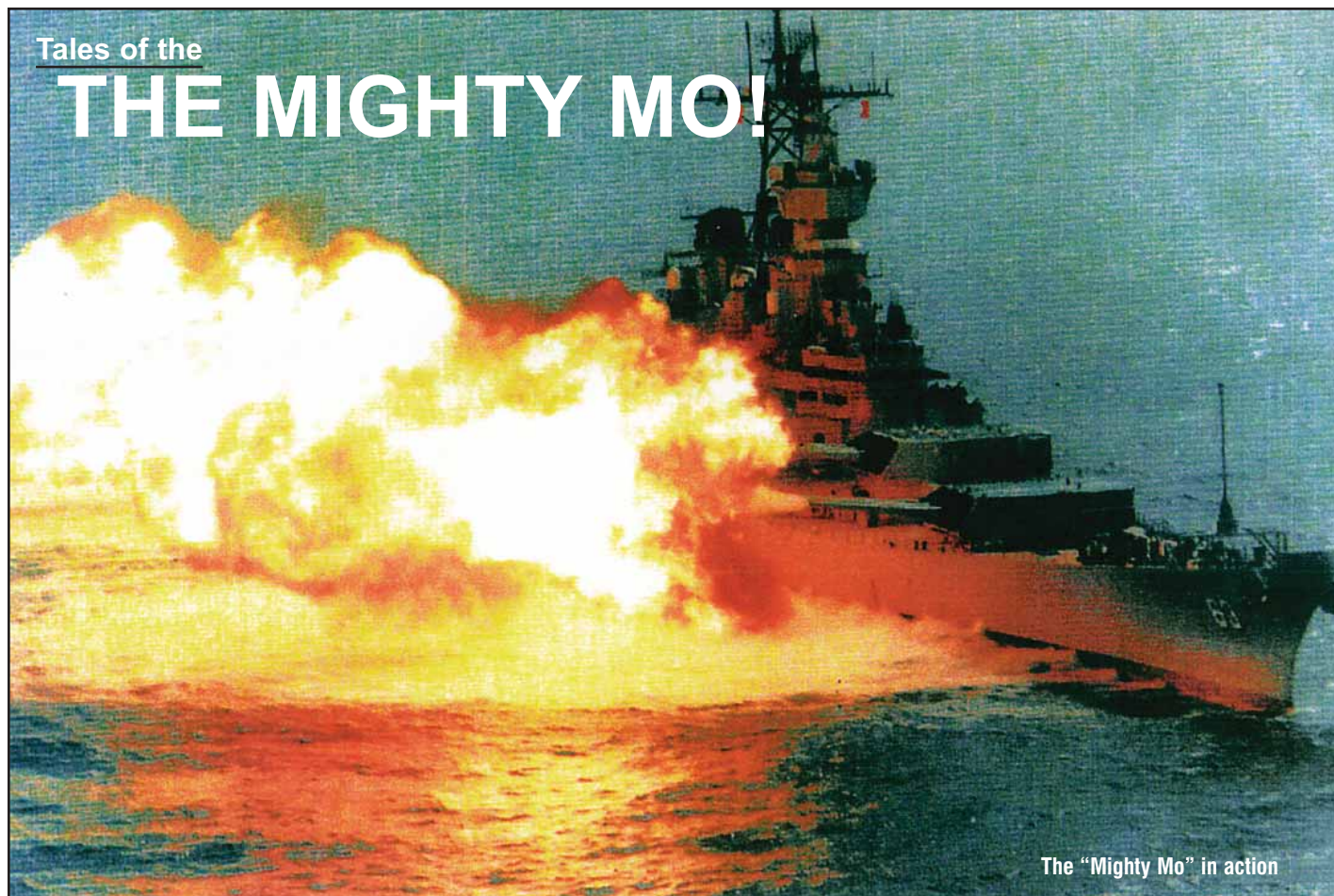
Attendees at the 91st MP Bn. mini-reunion (Front, L-R) Merton and Margaret Wenner, Manual Sanchez and Fran Gay, Henry ("Sonny") and Carol Dabruzzo (Back, L-R) Joe and Carol Vetere, Jack and Nancy Walker, Don and Jennie Martin, Jim and Nancy Bouldin, Ed and Myrtle Aldus, Dan and Sal Gennaro

Folks came from Colorado, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania to attend the 91st M.P. Battalion's Sept. 11-14, 2007 gathering in Branson, MO.

Bob Simon, 7286 Spring Lake Trail, Saginaw, MI 48603

Tales of the

THE MIGHTY MO!



The "Mighty Mo" in action

By Maynard E. Loy, Sr.

Devastating Firepower

Ahoy, Graybeards

This is in regard to the article in the Nov-/Dec article submitted by Mark Honetschlager, 2032 N. 4th Street, Mankato, MN, about his experience aboard the *USS Kidd* (00-661) while in Korea.

Our U.S. Navy was well represented in the Korean War for the deployment of their ships to the cause. Their firepower in support of our troops had a devastating result on the enemy during their severe combat experiences.

I served in Korea from 1952-53 aboard the battleship *USS Missouri* (BB-63). She was the flagship of the 7th Fleet Task Force 77. We gave the North Koreans pure hell by blasting on their supply lines, railroads, and coastal cities with our mammoth 16-inch guns.

Here are a few of the beaches we bombarded: Songjin, Samchok, Pohang, Hungham and the main sea port of

Wonsan. It was said by our fighting brigades on the beach that the "Mighty Mo" was a welcome sight when our 16" projectiles buzzed over their heads in support in combat. So, with the support of our Navy, in conjunction with the Army and Marines fighting forces on the beaches in the Korean War, the "Mighty Mo" played a significant role.

God Bless our POW/MIAs who have not yet been accounted for.

Memories of the *USS Missouri* and Korea Duty

I reported aboard the *Missouri* on November 22, 1951, where I was assigned to the 4th division gun gang. Life aboard her was a most exciting and memorable part of my life. I feel so fortunate to have served my country aboard this mighty dreadnought.

After almost fifty years there isn't a day that goes by that she does not cross my mind. She was my world at sea, my home in port, and a fighting lady with a heavy punch.

We departed from Norfolk, Virginia in September 1952 for the "Mo's" second deployment in Korea. Because of North Korean aggression, the ship was ordered for a speed run from Norfolk to the Panama Canal in excess of 30 knots. This was quite an experience, as the screws churned the water so high that the stern of the ship would lift out of the water.

We were at sea for many days. Upon our arrival at Colon, Panama we started our entrance through the locks. This took most of one day to pass through. And, since we had only inches to spare on both port and starboard sides, smoke rose from the houser bumpers that were placed to protect the sides.

The ship would slowly rise and fall on our passage heading for the Pacific side at Balboa, Panama. On our exit we were in a beautiful fresh water lake. I remember the "Mo" getting a clean washdown fore and aft before heading for Long Beach, California.

On our arrival at Long Beach, the crew

Continued on page 75

Book Review

High Forties Low Fifties: Humor, Human Interest and Heroics Before and During the Korean War.

Ralph Aniol

AuthorHouse, 2008. 435 pp., ISBN: 978-1434337658, \$22.95

By Dr. Kris Barnett

1947 through 1953 marked an unusual time in United States history. Life in the U. S. for many was characterized by a sense of hope and contentment – daily stress and anxiety were low, illegal drug use and abuse were not rampant, and exposure to violence wasn't as pervasive as today. Before the decades of 24-hour television and video games, young people entertained themselves with relatively wholesome pastimes, such as dancing and singing together.

At the hub of the social life at many colleges, including the University of Texas, was the fraternal system, before the days of "Animal House," when the high in hi-jinx took on a new meaning. But for Ralph Aniol, his experiences at UT, through rushing and pledging and then as a new member, were the springboard for his service in Korea. In *High Forties Low Fifties*, Aniol reflects on his experiences in the context of a time period that seems so far removed from today's hectic and fast-paced lifestyle. Aniol juxtaposes his recounting of his college hi-jinx and ROTC experiences with the growing conflict in Korea, where he would soon find himself.

Of the time period before and during the Korean War, Aniol explains: "These were carefree days, the time between wars, and seemingly free of any threat of war in the early part of 1950 just like the late '40's. 'Carefree' would give way to concerns, however, at least on the national radio news fronts, as suddenly the Korean conflict erupted not long after we began our [ROTC] training" (p. 13).

Through this book, the Korean War is depicted in a different context than the usual Korean War story, where trauma, violence, and gore often take center stage. Aniol took an alternate route to Korea, and describes his ROTC cadet training, a robust college life, and then his service in Korea as an officer. While his Korean experiences were certainly not mundane, and while he experienced the trauma and violence witnessed by so many other servicemen, Aniol shares his story through anecdotes tinged with humor rather than horror.

For example, after a transfer from his first unit, Aniol joined a second unit (motorized transport) and learned that as platoon leader, he would not be able to lead his men from the passenger seat of a jeep at the front of the convoy. Rather, he had to drive a large truck loaded with artillery through the narrow and treacherous mountain passes of the Korean hills. Unsure of his skills, but sure that his new crew was scrutinizing him, Aniol headed up the rear of his convoy only to find his inability to shift caused him to roll backwards down the steep mountainside. Fortunately, he regained his wits and his traction.

Despite this adventure, and many others – some mundane and some dangerous – Ralph Aniol completed his service in Korea and safely returned home to Texas. His amusing tales and positive perspective are evident in the culminating thoughts of the book:

"When one reflects on the forties and fifties, and even slightly earlier organized and disciplined eras, it is easy to lament the advent of drugs, disease, gangs, terrorism, violence, moral decline and educational problems that followed such easy times...[E]ven the forties and fifties were not perfect, for no era is...we need to look at the positives in our lives today, as well as assuming the best of the past is not necessarily unattainable. Our future as a strong nation, and the attaining of an overly pleasant existence sometimes associated with a bygone era, one very livable and lighthearted, will depend on the character of millions of Americans willing to defend the nations from threats, persons dedicated to employing the values and lifestyle in a day to day civilian existence that often are frequently associated with yesterday" (p. 431).

National KWVA Fund Raiser Flower Rose of Sharon

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

- ☐ Sample order is 4 dozen @ \$12 plus \$3.00 S/H.
- ☐ Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$60 plus \$5.00 S/H.

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



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

CD Fundraiser and how to obtain back issues of *The Graybeards*

Back issues are \$5.00 each, including postage... subject to availability. I know we still have the Mar/Apr '08 issue.

Also, as a FYI, we have all back issues of *The Graybeards* going back to 1998 online on the www.kwva.org website! We also are running a *Graybeards* CD Fundraiser... a CD containing all the issues in PDF (same ones on the website, but it saves the downloading of the 5meg files!) The CD is \$25 + \$5 Ship/Handling (\$30 total).

For back issues, or the CD... send your check made out to "KWVA" to:

KWVA Membership Office
PO Box 407
Charleston, IL 61920-0407

Jim Doppelhammer
Webmaster KWVA.org/
Membership Office Technical Advisor

A VETERAN'S LOST MEMORY

By Jeannine Dahlberg

My brother Fred is a veteran of the Korean War. When he was mustered out of the Army in the summer of 1953, he found it was not easy to adjust to the normalcy of suburban society. Tortured thoughts and sleepless nights spiked with nightmares contributed to years of frustrating flashbacks. The ending

the pieces of memory that bring him to a large river when the troops were ordered to retreat. With tears in his eyes, he reveals, "The Chinese were pouring over our lines by the thousands. We came to a large river and ..." Then he will pause with more tears welling in his eyes and in a quavering voice continue, "I can't remember how we got across."

And with a submissive thought and in a more subdued voice, he reiterates, "I can't, remember how we got across." The chaotic convergence of the troops at the river is too painful for him to recall, and he hangs his head in great remorse and total frustration.

The first scene of the first chapter in my novel, "Candle in the Window," depicts a horrific battle during the time of the Korean War. It is not a war story, but I wanted to document that period of time to make it historically accurate. Who better to interview than my brother? I was an editor for many years, and I interviewed many, many people. My brother, without a doubt, was the hardest person from whom to siphon information.

Once again, he did not want to conjure up old memories that he has been trying to forget for the past 55 years. The interview was not very long, and it ended abruptly when he remembered the fierce battle

where all bedlam broke out and our troops were ordered to retreat to the river. Once again, with tears in his eyes, he whispered, "I don't know how we got across."

The only incident from this battle that he has ever mentioned is this: "My responsibility was to supply machine-gun barrels to our soldiers as the barrels kept melting from the rapid fire of bullets. I ran from one machine-gun nest to another trying to find barrels."

Currently, I am in the process of marketing my books, which includes book signings. The most lucrative venue is to sell my books at craft fairs. My table is attractively decorated with books, newspaper articles, posters and pictures to entice the shoppers to stop and inquire about my books. The poster that really grabs their attention is a collage of pictures of Fred in Korea.

People are fascinated with these pictures. Most impressive are the two pictures of Fred, which elicit emotions of sorrow: one was taken when he first arrived at base camp, in which he looks young and exudes a youthful spirit; a second picture, which was taken fourteen months later, depicts a seasoned soldier who has experienced war at its painful worst. He is standing with a haggard expression in front of tents pitched in the snow.

Most craft fairs are attended by women and children. Once in awhile, a husband will tag along behind his wife looking bored, but will always stop to look at the



Fred Dahlberg, 1952

hours of one particular battle fought above the 38th parallel in the early stages of the war have been completely obliterated.

After these many years, Fred becomes greatly distressed when he tries to connect

"The Chinese were pouring over our lines by the thousands. We came to a large river and ..." Then he will pause with more tears welling in his eyes and in a quavering voice continue, "I can't remember how we got across."



Headquarters in the snow

“I’m 76 years old. My youth and naivety were stolen from me in Korea. When I returned home, my life was a living hell. I was not as lucky as your brother to black out my memory of that bloody retreat.”

Korean War poster. Very seldom will a single man stroll by to see the items for sale at a craft show. During one of the shows, an elderly man who was by himself approached my table to look at the pictures. He studied them for a long time, turned to me and said, “I was there in 1952 ... and that’s how it was ... tents and deep snow.”

He stood silently for quite a while, as if reliving his experiences in Korea. He looked at Fred’s boots and emotionally murmured in a low, soulful voice, “Yeah, those were the boots we had. So many of us got frostbite the brass finally ordered insulated boots.”

I told him the story of Fred’s dilemma of not being able to remember the retreat across the river. Once again, he stood with a contemplative expression, agonizing over how to tell his story. Then he began:

“I was in Korea at the same time as your brother ... only I remember that grisly battle very well. I was a medic, but the sergeant threw a machine gun at me and told me to use it. We were firing the guns

so fast the barrels were melting from rapid fire ... and we were running out of bullets.

The Chinese came pouring over the lines by the thousands. Bodies were piling up in front of us, maybe two-three-feet deep ... and then the North Koreans started sending women and children before their troops. We were given the order to retreat. .. and we all scrambled to the Yalu River.

When we got to the river, we were in horror to see all the dead bodies floating in the murky water. I can’t get that picture out of my mind.”

He stopped, looked thoughtfully at me, and compassionately continued, “Tell your brother we did not cross the Yalu River. They sent boats from Inchon to pick us up.”

He paused for a few moments, looked at me, and continued.

“I’m 76 years old. My youth and naivety were stolen from me in Korea. When I returned home, my life was a living hell. I was not as lucky as your brother to black out my memory of that bloody retreat.”

He turned to walk away from my table display as if not wanting to remember any thing more. Then he returned to say, “I married late; I had to work out things in my mind.” He nonchalantly added, “I’ve only been married for about thirty years and have a couple of children ... things are getting better.” And he walked away.

I sat behind my table thinking to myself: he appeared like in a cloud and quickly disappeared in a cloud. Was it meant to be that he was to come to my book signing to divulge the mystery of the troop crossing at the river?



Fred Dahlberg a year later (1953)

The story he told took only a few moments, but Fred has agonized over his loss of memory for 55 years. Chills ran up my spine as I realized the mystery had been solved. I was thrilled for my brother. Now he could give closure to this tormenting episode in his life, which has consumed his thoughts for so many years. The troops never crossed the river!

I quickly called Fred with this revealing information. This stranger described the battle and used the exact terminology as Fred did by saying, “The Chinese came pouring over the lines by the thousands.”

Fred listened quietly. As if in a daze of disbelief, not fully realizing what had been told him, he said, “I’ll have to think about this.”

Could it possibly be that this stranger who passed by my table at a craft show was sent by God to end my brother’s dilemma? As I mentioned before, I have never seen a single, elderly man shop at a craft show. Was he a shopper or was he a messenger from God?

*Jeannine Dahlberg,
325 Park Ave., Glendale, MO 63122
(314) 821-8228, neenjd@att.net*





Where can we get flags and logos?

On behalf of my Commander Doug Handley, of the Korean War Veterans Association of Indiana, SGT. William Windrich, MOH, Chapter 3, we would like to know if there is a site provided by the National KWVA where we can download a nice quality American flag, Korean flag, and official KWVA logo.

We have been requested to purchase ads and we would like to improve our letterhead. When we try to blow up the logo of the KWVA it becomes very fuzzy. Does the national provide a site where we might be able to download such things? If not, could you consider providing this for the Chapters?

Lions Club International provides approved logos where Clubs can have access to such things. That is www.lionsnet.com. We are in much need to improve our Chapter letterhead and would like to have it done nicely.

Any assistance will be appreciated.

David Padilla, 7127 Schneider Ave., Hammond, IN 46323, (219) 845-7158, DPadilla@comhs.org

Korean War-related books for sale

The Second Infantry Division, Korean War Veterans Alliance (2ID-KWVA), carries in its "Supply Room" a large collection of books about the Korean War. Some are histories; some relate to specific battles or are personal accounts of such battles.

Included are books about all units engaged in Korea. They include those of the 1st Marine Division and other Marine Corps units, not only Army.

To request a price list of our book inventory, please contact Jerry Miller, Supply Room Mgr, 2ID-KWVA, 5575 Flatwoods Rd., Simpson, IL 62985-2310, (618) 695-2473, Skomill@hotmail.com

Melvin Earl Elmore

I am looking for anyone who may have known my late father, Melvin Earl Elmore, of Ferndale, Michigan. He served in the U.S. Army as a radio signalman overseeing telephone operations on some remote hill top at a repeater station for a two-year period. I believe it was around 1951, 52, or 53. (See his photos at <http://telmore.com/melinkorea.html>.)

Anyway, the reason I am writing is that I collect and restore old radios. One that I recently worked on was my father's Zenith H-500 Transoceanic, which is similar to the one in the nearby picture. My dad used to tell me how he bought this particular radio



The Zenith H-500 Transoceanic radio

from a guy who was mustering out and didn't want to haul it home. I can only assume that this other fellow might have been a radio signalman also. Perhaps he was in the same company as my father.

I am interested in seeing if this other person is still alive today, and might even be a member of your organization –and maybe knew my father.

Tom Elmore

Anchorage, Alaska, (907) 334-9749

Robert R. ("The Kid") Jenkins

If you know Cpl. Robert R. ("The Kid") Jenkins, who served with the 571st Engineering Dump Truck Company in the Army and was in Korea from 1950 to 1952, please contact Karen Braun at 212-373-3129, kbrown@paulweiss.com or c/o Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, 1285 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019-6064.

This is regarding a claim for service-connected compensation.

Harold Reed

I am trying to find Harold Reed, who served in A Btry, 99th FA Bn., 1948-49, and then in Heavy Mortar Co., 31st Inf., 1949-1951.

Lloyd Pitman

P. O. Box 71, Preble, NY 13141

Author Seeking Polish-American Veterans

Since the time of the Revolutionary War, thousands of Polish-Americans have fought in the US military for freedom and democracy in their adopted land. Help honor the Polish Americans who served in the military.

A Polish-American author with the goal of publishing a book honoring their service and achievements is searching for biographical information about Polish-American veterans. The objective is to include as many Polish-American men and women veterans as possible from all branches of service doing a wide variety of jobs.

According to the 2000 Census, there are over 9 million Polish-Americans in the U.S. If you are currently serving, or your Polish-born ancestor served in the U.S. military, you or your ancestor are interested in being included, and you meet the criteria below, please contact Alicja Deck-Partyka at deck.partyka@lycos.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

The criteria for inclusion are:

- The individual must be of Polish ancestry (surname need not be Polish)
- The individual must have served or is currently serving in the military.

The biographical information needed is:

1. Name, rank and branch of service
2. Year of birth/death (?)

3. Education
4. Some information that makes you unique (personality, hobbies, interests, goals, etc.)
5. Military service (include information of their assignments, especially anything unique or interesting. (Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, National Guard, or Merchant Marine)
6. Awards and decorations
7. Employment after discharge from military and community involvement.
8. Picture, preferably in uniform - please send me a photograph (which I will scan and return to you) or a scanned copy for inclusion in this publication.
9. Community Activities (Do you belong to any professional, veteran or Polish-American organizations?)

Thank you for your assistance. All contact information will be kept confidential.

Alicja Deck-Partyka, deck.partyka@lycos.com

Author, POLAND, A Unique Country & Its People

Korean War veterans living in Florida

The St. Johns County Veterans Council, in association with the Digital Film and Video Department of The Art Institute of Jacksonville, is planning to produce a Korean War Documentary tentatively entitled: "America's Forgotten Heroes".

The Korean War veterans sometimes go unnoticed in the annals, as little is known or said about them. They too, paid the supreme sacrifice that all veterans have paid and continue to pay. They gave of themselves to insure that countries which desire to stay free may stay free. We owe them a debt of gratitude for that sacrifice. This will hopefully be a beginning to shed light on that terrible time.

The Digital Film and Video Department of The Art Institute of Jacksonville is headed by Nadia Ramoutar, Ph.D. Dr. Ramoutar stated, "This is wonderful news! Film is a great way to document oral history and to recreate interest in younger people at the same time."

The Art Institute of Jacksonville is a learning-centered, career-oriented institution serving the educational needs of its students and industry through undergraduate programs with growth potential. Their mission is to prepare undergraduate students for entry-level positions in their chosen fields. The school achieves its mission through the offering of quality higher education and is dedicated to fostering a culture of learning by providing an academic environment that encourages creative and analytical expression.

LtCol Greg Moore (Ret.), NGFL, Command Historian, has agreed to work on this project as Military Historian. Joining him is Professor Steve Voguit, Instructor of History and Geography in the Liberal Studies Department of Flagler College. Liberal Studies include History, Latin American Studies/Spanish, Philosophy/Religion and Political Science. BG George Gaspard, SCSG (Ret) will be serving as a technical advisor.

If you are a Korean War veteran, or know a Korean War veteran who lives in the State of Florida, contact Michael Rothfeld at (904) 829-0381 or carocats@bellsouth.net to obtain a Korean War Veterans Questionnaire.

These questionnaires will be used to select participants in the documentary which will start filming in October 2008.

WANTED: Korean War Veteran Stories

"Something your children and grandchildren would like to see in a book."

I am currently writing a book honoring PFC Luther R. Leguire, USMC (Ret) and other Korean War veterans. PFC Leguire is the 19-year-old Marine who, amid sniper fire, climbed atop the U.S. Ambassador's residence in Seoul, South Korea, on September 26th, 1950 to take down the North Korean banner and replace it with the Stars & Stripes. Forty two days later he was wounded and left for dead. In fact he was the only man in his unit to survive.

Three of my four brothers enlisted in this war while I was deferred by a childhood injury to my right hand. Two of these brothers have passed away within the last year. As you can see, time will soon take its toll on all those veterans who fought in that war.

I am trying to get the word out to all the veterans who would like to contribute their stories in their own words. What I need are 3 or 4 war-related recollections from each veteran. They can be serious, humorous, inspirational, or any combination and may include war photos.

I'd also like to have their current hometown, their career path after leaving the military and a brief opinion as to why they consider this 'forgotten war' a victory for South Korea. I plan to publish it in the United States before September of this year. Later on we may translate it into the Korean language and release it into South Korea as well.

The book text will reflect the forgotten flag, military actions, and the success of this war. I believe the veterans will be pleased with the way their stories are presented, and I will be honored to have them be part of the work. If the book is well received, there will be future volumes in order that I may continue to honor those who fought.

Thank you for any assistance that you can provide. Stories and pictures can be slow mailed or emailed directly to wacummins@bellsouth.net and you can call me at: 386-761-5675. Very respectfully,

William A. Cummins, 807 Black Duck Drive
Port Orange, Florida, 32127

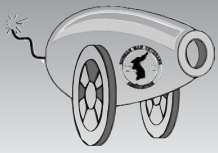
Another book in the offing

I am doing research for a book on the Korean War. The concept of my book is to use personal stories from those who were there. I just recently finished one on World War II, using personal stories.

My father was there in 1951 with the 7th Cavalry Regt., CO. D. His cousin was there with the 23rd Inf. Regt., CO I, and was KIA on May 18, 1951.

If anyone is interested in contributing to this project, they can contact me.

Doug Rice, 630 Great Country Estates Rd., Hawesville, KY 42348, (270) 927-6085, doug0555@yahoo.com



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.

Re the Prisoner Exchange

I read the article in the Nov/Dec 2007 issue about the "Prisoner Exchange" at Panmunjom. I can almost be positive that Frank Praytor's pictures are of "Operation Big Switch."

I was very much involved in "Operation Big Switch," which involved the sick and wounded, as they were the first to be released.

I was a sergeant in A.G. Casualty Div., 8th Army. We were in charge of this exchange. I was in charge of the processing lines.

Let me make an important point here. When a returning POW stepped out of a vehicle, no one—I mean no one—talked to them before our people in A.G. Casualty Div. did! They had to be identified collectively according to our records and before proceeding down the processing line.

A few of the POW were listed as KIA. They were re-tagged. So, no one could notify next of kin before Army officials did.

Cameras were not allowed. But I had a 35mm under my field jacket. I got a clear color photograph of the first POW to come down from the Chinese. The pictures I took inside the tent are very dark, as I could not use the flash. However, I do have numerous pictures in color slides of the exchange compound and personnel involved in "Little Switch."

I kept and brought home some original lists of POW to be released. They were written in English and Chinese. These lists were given to us the night before each release. I donated my RAMP (Recovered Allied Military Personnel) arm band along with my lists of POW to the Korean Museum Association. My camera was banned after the first day, but I saved the film and all the color slides.

On our left arms we had a cloth band printed with the acronym "RAMP," which stood for. Anyone who was not wearing such a band did not get near a POW.

I was awarded a Commendation Ribbon with Medal for manning a vital point during the operation. However, this is not important compared to the events at "Operation Big Switch."

Just a few thoughts on those historic days long ago.

Donald J. Kostelic, 10213 Esk Street
Hennepin, IL 61327

We don't need a Charter, but we want one

My fellow Korean veterans: for the several past years I have thought about the need for a Congressional Charter for the KWVA. We all need things: "I need new tires for my car...We need money for the kid to go to school...My wife thinks she needs a new husband...."

Needs are all well and good, but we act on what we want. If we decide that we want a better TV—and it does not even matter whether or not we need one—we are going out and getting one!

Well, I have decided that a Congressional Charter is a lot like that. We can debate why the KWVA needs to have one...and there are good reasons and bad that can we brought up. But the important question is this: do we want one?

I, for one, feel that for decades those who served in Korea allowed other veterans and our fellow citizens to categorize our service as second class. We all have heartburn about the war being called a "police action": we weren't in Korea to give out tickets!

For those of us who served after the armistice, it was a hardship tour. Not as bad as the war itself, but not like being stationed "overseas" in Hawaii or Japan or Germany. A lot of you were not admitted to the ranks of the American Legion or VFW after the war because "the greatest generation" chose not to recognize our service (Remember, that designation was a TV commentator's decision; I do not remember taking a vote on they being it).

When the Spanish-American war vets were refused membership in the Grand Army of the Republic (northern Civil War veterans) they formed their own organization. When the doughboys felt that their experience was different than the VFW's 90-day Spanish-American War, they formed the American Legion in Paris. When we felt that Korean service was something to be proud of, we formed the KWVA.

It took decades to shake off the fact that we got no parade when we came home from the war, as if we had not deserved one! We formed an organization with a focus on Korean service. That was reasonable, since our numbers meant that leadership of the VFW and American Legion would pass from WWII vets to Vietnam vets. Where does this leave us?

We are proud to be Korean vets, proud to be called "Greybeards," proud to be members of the KWVA. We have honored our country and honored our fellow veterans when they have passed on. Now it is time that the Congress of the United States honors us!

It is right and fitting for us to want a Congressional Charter for the KWVA! Let us join together once more as we did in the "Land of the Morning Calm" and act as one mind, one heart, one body, and petition our representatives, Congressmen and Senators, to pass into law a bill granting the KWVA a Charter as recognition from a grateful nation!

John Gavel

A great loss

I noted in the November-December 2007 issue that you mentioned A. F. Griffith Bates, Jr. as a donor to the KWVA.

Bates was one of the greatest veterans of the Korean War, "Dog" Company, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Inf Div. He spent hundreds of hours at the National Archives for us, paying for all expenses out of his own pocket.

He passed away on 1 January 2008 of pulmonary fibrosis. A great loss.

Ralph Hockley
10027 Pine Forest, Houston TX 77042-1531
(713) 334-0271, RMH-2id-kwva@earthlink.net

Three great teenagers and several great photos

As a member of the KWVA and a collector of military history, I am sending photos in my collection of "Korea Time Frame 1951-52" photos that belonged to Arthur W. Bleau, Sergeant First Class, ERC, 7th Inf. Div. Recon. I am also including some Air Force photos.



ABOVE: Korea 1951:
Mile-high outpost,
Marriner (SC)



RIGHT: Young-dong ni,
1951: Fight line, Korea
1951 (L-R) Paige,
Cassidy, Joe Dorn, Art
Bleu

teenagers who came to my home and interviewed me for 1-½ hours about my Korean War experiences after another Korean War veteran, Alex Lago, gave them my name. (I guess I must have had something to say.) The others were Jinna Ayus and Jung-Kyun, Kim.



LEFT: Sgt. Art Bleu, 7th Inf. Div.
Recon, Korea 1951



BELOW LEFT: ROK buddy
BELOW: After Nightmare
Night in Hoengsong, Feb. 14,
1951



This bridge destroyed by the communists



Hot chow for the troops, Korea 1951



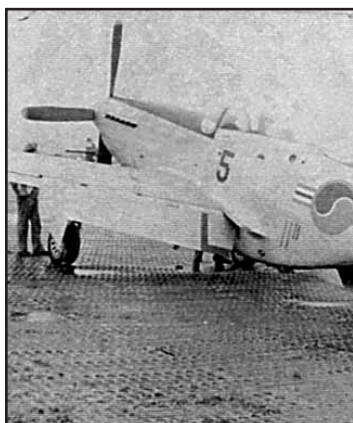
Yong Tong Lee, Aug. 1952, at K-2 AFB



Tomb of BGen Oh Duk Song, commander of 6th Div., ROK Army



F-86 Saber jet, "Mr. Magoo," in Korea

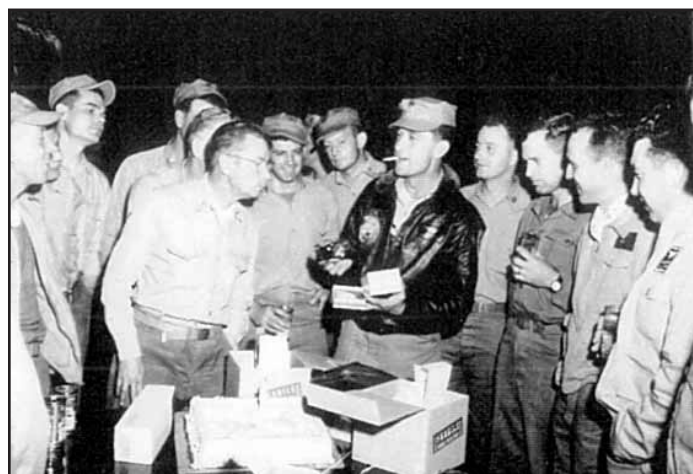


LEFT: P-51 Mustang

BELOW: Marine pilot and men at his birthday party (?)



Burned jet at K-2 AFB, May 1952



THANK YOU

Dear Mr. Dombrowski,

Thank you so much for giving me your time. I learned more about the Korean War than I knew, through my interview with you.

In Appreciation,
 Maria Machi
 Anna M. Ayus
 Jung-Kyun, Kim (Alex)

Alex Lago was on the Korean War Committee for the memorial we built here in Erie, PA. He is a very fine man and a friend. We need more people like him to get the word out about the Korean War.

Richard Dombrowski
3222 Marvin Ave., Erie, PA 16504

Exchanging salutes

My granddaughter wrote this poem about me after the Fourth of July Parade in 2007. This parade is held every Fourth of July in Wyomissing, PA.

At one point during the parade, I exchanged salutes with the last remaining survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was a very emotional moment for me.



John Buser and Pearl Harbor survivors exchange salutes

I Love a Parade

*It is a hot day – the very beginning of summer
I see young children laughing and playing across the street
Each yard is lined with American Flags and everyone is wearing*

Red,

White,

And Blue

*I sit in the lawn chair and finish my fruit salad
Listening for the drums – flashing lights go by
Antique cars from my day pass by –
Carrying men who fought and survived
The attacks in World War II
I stand and salute them – and I feel
The moist tears in my eyes
As I remember the men I fought with in Korea.*

Written by my Granddaughter – Emily Foigo

I served in Korea in 1952 and 1953. My wife and I returned to Korea in 2003 for the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Korean War under the Revisit Program.

John D Buser, 2903 Penn Ave.
Boswell, PA 15531 (814) 629-7115

Seoul Survivors

I was in the 453rd Engineer Construction Battalion, C Co. in Korea. Elmer Rund, who was from my hometown, found me somehow and invited me to his air base.

Rund was a remarkable person. He survived Pearl Harbor and then was with the first group that went from Japan to Korea. In Korea, he was a crew chief in charge of ten F-51 Mustangs. It was a thrill for us to sit in these planes when we visited him.

One of the planes in which my squad mates sat had a bullet hole in it. The bullet went right through the pilot's parachute the day before we visited. He was involved in a raid over Pyinyang, North Korea. He managed to land the plane at the air base, but he went into shock right after he got on the ground.



Liszbinski, from Philadelphia, and Sgt. Boyle, from Michigan, in a cockpit on visit to see Elmer Rund



Ed Sparkman, from Kentucky, Liszbinski, and Boyle examine F-51



Ed Sparkman sits in cockpit of plane



Sgt Boyle at Seoul City Air Base

I joined the 453rd on June 9, 1951 in Yongdong-po, just as they finished building the railroad bridge over the Han River into Seoul. We headed north, building bridges right up to the Iron Triangle. On November 11 they pulled us out and sent us to Koje-do.

Incidentally, Elmer Rund spent 28 years in the Air Force and became an ordained minister. Ironically, he shared a stage in November 1952 with Mitsuo Fuchida, the Japanese captain who gave the Tora. Tora. Tora signal that began the attack on Pearl Harbor. Fuchida, too, became a Christian missionary after WWII.

By the way, I am not in any of the nearby photos, because I was doing the picture taking.

Elroy P. Fitzgerald, Sr.,
7305 Hickory Nut Grove Rd., Cary, IL 60013

Could it have been an L-17?

I am a retired Army pilot. One of my most interesting assignments was the 8076 M*A*S*H in Korea. As one of my many talents, I was a qualified Aircraft Accident Investigator.

I have just finished reading the Jan/Feb 2007 issue of The Graybeards. I may have information regarding the photos on pages 58 and 59.

The picture on the top of page 58 might be an airplane that we flew in Korea. It was the L-17 Navion, which was issued to give the pilots more seats for larger numbers. It was a four-place plane with a retractable landing gear.

From the picture it appears that the back part of the fuselage has been cut off. The left gear is down, the prop is intact, and the canopy is open.

The picture on page 59 appears to be the same airplane from the rear. Note the US Army on the wing. The left gear is down and the right wing (guess) is to the right front.

I don't recall that any of my friends wrecked one of them. Nor can I explain the one in the picture. It is most unusual for a plane to look like that and not bend the prop. Yet the back end looks like it had been run over by a tank. The truck in the rear appears to be a fire truck.

H. E. Ziegler, 1914 Hercules Drive,
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

North American L-17 Navion

At the end of WW-II North American Aviation resumed manufacturing civilian aircraft, and the NA-145 Navion, nicknamed "the poor man's Mustang," was its first post-war product. It first flew in April 1946. The Army Air Forces ordered 83 military versions under the designation L-17A. It was procured 'off-the-shelf' from among all U.S. four-place aircraft with no special expenditure for a new design.

In the summer of 1947, the Ryan Aeronautical Co. acquired the design and manufacturing rights from North American. Shortly thereafter, the Air Force ordered 158 improved Navions from Ryan as L-17Bs, the first of which was delivered in November 1948. Five more were purchased in 1949 and by February of that year regular production ended. Later, 35 L-17As were converted to L-17Cs with improved brakes and more fuel capacity.

The L-17 ('L' for Liaison) was used by the military services for a variety of missions, including reconnaissance, light transport, courier duties, medical evacuation, rescue, and artillery spotting. Six even became target drones. A special L-17, the Model 72, was tested for the primary trainer role by the Air Force and Navy. All L-17s were redesignated U-18s in 1962.

L-17s were used as a Forward Air Control (FAC) aircraft for a time during the Korean War. Rumors have L-17s, like the L-4 in WW-II, mounting bazookas or even 5-inch rockets on hardpoints. Eventually the L-17 was replaced by other aircraft in the FAC role, for example the T-6 Texan.

The L-17 then moved into a support role, hauling light cargo and personnel. Both General Douglas MacArthur and General Mathew Ridgeway had personal L-17s. At least one take-off from the 550-foot flight deck of an escort carrier is documented. One L-17 was supplied to the ROK Air Force, which used it for similar duties.

After the Korean War, most L-17s became squadron "hacks". They were then transferred to the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) or Air Force/Army Flying Clubs before entering civilian hands.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There are no records of any L-17s being lost during the Korean War. The mystery deepens.

Revisit trips are worthwhile

In the Nov/Dec 2007 issue of The Graybeards an article appeared on the UN Cemetery near Pusan. I served in this area from the end of November, 1953 until August, 1954 and remember the cemetery well, having pulled duty at some ceremonial functions.

On a cruise in 2005, we docked in Pusan for a brief visit. My wife and I took a shuttle bus to a small hotel located near the fish market area and tried to find a cab to take us to the cemetery. That was no easy task, because the first five cabbies had no idea of the cemetery or where it was located. I finally found one who said she knew how to get there.

I remembered the drive, 50+ years ago, as being quite open once past the dock area, with rice paddies and rolling terrain approaching the cemetery. On this drive, however, I recognized nothing. This area is totally built-up—building after building! When we arrived at the cemetery, a policeman was posted at the entrance to a narrow street, about 1/8th mile long, that the cabbie said led to the cemetery entrance.



The cemetery at Pusan

The police officer would not allow her to drive us to the entrance, and she could not park and await our return. We were reluctant to exit the taxi and try to find another to return us to the shuttle area after we had so much trouble initially finding a driver who understood English. We returned with our same driver and failed to visit the cemetery.

Obviously, we were disappointed, and I'm still not sure she actually found the entrance. However, the answer is yes, it is still there, and apparently surrounded by buildings.

To my memory, the star and crescent grave markers did note Turkish burial sites. I do not remember any distinction made between enlisted or officer's graves. I have attached copies of some personal cemetery photos and information that I garnered from the internet that you may find interesting and will answer the question regarding remains.

In October, 2007, my wife and I took advantage of the KVA Revisit Korea program. Although my wife and I travel extensively, I had never had any desire to return to Korea. I was "pressed" into the KVA Revisit by my son who also organized a separate "revisit" for us. This revisit, to the Kangnung (now Gangneung) city area of eastern Korea, preceded the "official" revisit to Seoul.

Part of my unit was TDY'd to the K18 ROK air base, nearby Kangnung, in August, 1953 to provide security and escort for the Neutral Nations Inspections Teams being stationed there to com-

mence operations. K18 was located on the east coast of Korea on the Sea of Japan and was a ROK F51 fighter base with a small contingent of U.S. Air Force advisors and Navy machinists who repaired carrier-based aircraft that were too damaged from action to return to their carriers. The airbase still exists today, but appears on no maps.

I was cordially invited to lunch with the present base commander, General Lee. Before lunch I was given an escorted tour of the base, which bears no resemblance to the 1953 K18 version. There are many trees and much grass where none existed during my time. There are now two runways that have been reoriented, with jet aircraft taking off two at a time over the sea. Very impressive!

Many other Korean dignitaries attended the lunch, which was not in my honor, by the way. There was a memorial service planned later that afternoon honoring the area residents who gave so much during the war. Gen. Lee introduced me and asked me to address the attendees.

Also attending the luncheon was the base commander when I was there in '53, who was 28 years old at that time. His name is Chang Chi-Ryang (now 82) and he had risen to the rank of general before serving as an ambassador to Denmark, Ethiopia, and the Philippines, as well as many other impressive distinctions.

Another General who Ambassador Chang introduced me to was one of his wing commanders at that time. We three had an enjoyable visit reminiscing about the "old" days.

I was most impressed as I traveled this area by how much it had changed in the 50+ years I was away. There are now two National Parks. There are also ski resorts, and many very impressive hotels.

In 1953, I landed by LST near the small town of Chumunjin. Now called Jumunjin, it is a very important fishing center. The fish market is the most impressive imaginable! We had never seen so many varieties or quantities of fish and shellfish, most in recirculating water tanks. We dined in one of the fish stall "restaurants" and chose our very fresh dinner from the tanks. Needless to say, we ate "items," thanks to our escorts, which we didn't recognize and would never have chosen our own. Quite an experience!

Shortly after arriving at K18 in 1953, I was able to enjoy an Air Force R&R because of the gracious sharing of the Air Force advisors. My 4-day R&R (shortened by weather) was spent in the city of Fukuoka, Japan. I remember that each day at noon chimes played a melody like: "Going Home, Going Home . . ." an American tune. Can your readers supply any information regarding where the chimes were located and how the tune became a daily occurrence?

If your readers share my earlier reluctance to revisit Korea for fear of reopening unpleasant memories, please be assured that nothing appears as it did 50 years ago. Like Incheon; warehouses and docks fill the area. And Wolmi-do is now covered by tall trees and vegetation. A USMC vet standing nearby who had landed on Red Beach couldn't recognize anything!

The KVA Revisit Program is an incredible gesture on the part of the Korean government acknowledging their gratitude to those of us who made a contribution to the freedom and prosperity they

enjoy today. Our accommodations were beautiful and the food was very good. Excellent transportation was also provided. We were treated with respect everywhere we went. Even the small children greeted us with “high fives,” applause, and handshakes. Some vets were asked for their autographs! Wheelchairs were also provided for those needing them.

Seeing what they have done in the 50+ years with what we left them was amazing, impressive, and especially heartwarming.

To your readers I must convey my encouragement that you overcome any trepidation you may harbor and avail yourself and a loved one with an experience you will enjoy and remember, before it is no longer offered.

James C. Madsen, 11875 Caminito Corriente,
San Diego, CA 92128, (858) 673-1279 (Phone/FAX),
(858) 663-8266 (cell), Jmadsen999@yahoo.com

Traveling the “Long Way” to and from

With regards to “Long Way” to and from home, I add my experience. Our replacement unit left Camp Kilmer, NJ on 8/31/53, boarded the General Stewart, and sailed from New York Harbor, destination Japan. On 9/4/53, we picked up troops in San Juan, Puerto Rico. As part of a UN force, we arrived in Cartagena, Colombia on 9/6/53 and picked up more troops.

On 9/8/53, we went through the Panama Canal, stopping in Balboa, Canal Zone. We left the following day and arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii on 9/21/53. We got to Yokohama, Japan on 10/2/53. I went from there to Camp Sasebo and to Eta Jima, Japan.

At the end of November, I went over to Inchon. Korea and was eventually assigned to 3rd Engr Bn, 24th Inf. Div. My trip home in January 1955 was more conventional and direct.

Dale Silver, 6962 Touchstone Circle,
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418 (561) 694-7557,
rundalerun@aol.com

SCARWAF patches are available

SCARWAF (Special Category ARMY Attached With Air Force) patches are now available. My Chapter alone has three SCARWAF veterans, and I have heard often of others, but I did not record their addresses. (SCARWAF Engineer Aviation BNs were utilized in WW II. When the Korean War broke out there were a few Reserve EAB units still active.)

Recently I found a company that has made an excellent repro-



On left is the original, a used and washed patch, with the newly made reproduction on right

duction. I can have additional patches made quite reasonably. At shows recently I have seen original SCARWAF Patches in FAIR condition that were going for \$45. Very Average SCARWAF reproductions were \$25 and hard to find.

I was sent to Ft Leonard MO in May of 1951 upon activation and enlargement of the 332nd Engineer Aviation Battalion. In early 1952 there was a competition to have a Special SCARWAF Patch authorized. The final two patches in the competition were the approved red shield with sword and wings. The other finalist was a blue shield with the Washington Monument and wings.

I look forward to hearing from some of the former SCARWAF members. Please contact me.

Thomas M McHugh, 217 Seymour Road,
Hackettstown, NJ 07840, (908) 852-1964,
TMMcHugh@msn.com

USS Boxer fire

I was greatly surprised when I flipped the pages of my Jan-Feb issue of *The Graybeards*. I was there!

Our ship, the USS Jenkins (DDE-447), was acting as plane guard for the Boxer that morning. Later that day, after the fire was extinguished, the Jenkins came alongside the port side of the Boxer for refueling. The stern port side of the Boxer was blackened for about 50 ft. forward of the stern.

Marvin Siebke, Boiler Tender 1st class. USN

Comments about the U.S. flag

I read the article on page 24 in the March-April *The Graybeards*. Thanks for taking the space and time to address this subject.

Perhaps the total issue has not been addressed as yet. One item that has been omitted is that the flag, unless flying freely, MUST have the union, or “star portion,” displayed on the flag on the right. I noticed with some concern that President Bush, when pictured on an aircraft carrier while wearing a military type jacket, had a left shoulder flag patch on his right shoulder—and the patch had the union on the flag’s left.

I have also seen generals, as well as other military personnel, wearing the flag on the wrong shoulder. Please notice on page 41 of this same issue where Vice-Commander Talocka has the flag on his right shoulder—and it is backwards. I have noticed the same type of displays in the DAV’s magazine as well.

Why get concerned about how the flag is displayed unless we address the whole issue?

Charles Holybee, Chaplain,
Northeastern Okla. KWVA Chapter 177

The train off the tracks

The “Mystery Photo” from Thurman Ramey in the Jan/Feb 2008 issue, p. 68, was most likely taken along the rail line between Yonchon and Chorwon.

The 45th Inf. Div. was stationed and fighting in the Chorwon area in June/July 1952. Given the poor condition of the Korean rail system, I’d guess the train just derailed or had a boiler explosion at the Imjin River.

The following photos, taken in June 1952, are most likely of the same wreck.

Chester M. Harvey, Jr., 10701 N La Reserve Dr., Apt.
352, Tucson, AZ 85737, 45th QM Co., 45th Inf. Div.



Derailed cars along the track at Imjin River



Engine off the track at Imjin River

Kentucky veteran honored

My friend Dale Hawkins, a former member and comrade of mine in 7th Div., 31st Inf. Regt., 2nd Bn., Co. F, was featured in two articles in the Paducah [KY] Sun following a Veterans Day ceremony in November 2008.

I still have a photo of our outfit taken in the Wanghon Reserve Area in December 1952 that includes then PFC Hawkins.

Fredrick R. Shively, 415 Walnut Street, Covington, OH 45318



Members of 7th Div., 31st Inf. Regt., 2nd Bn., Co. F in Wanghon Reserve Area (Front L-R) PFC Fred Shively, PFC Frank Fujimoto, Cpl Charles Quiantana, PFC Dale Hawkins (Back L-R) PFC Charles Meadows, ?, PFC Edward Yeschak, Cpl Bill Weaver, PFC Ralph Johnson, PFC Richard Parks, Sgt Boyd Shroyer, Sgt Carson Bunch

How many versions of "Arirang" are there?

Pertaining to the Korean Folk Song "The Song Of Arirang" mentioned on page 66 of the March-April 2008 issue of "The Graybeards," I am enclosing a copy of the song, both in Korean and English that I found in Pusan, Korea in 1951-52.

The wording is different than that found in the article by Dave Conboy. It seems there are at least two versions of the song, maybe more. Thanks for a great magazine.

Tom Largent, 10478 U.S. 50
Aurora, Indiana 47001

THE SONG OF ARIRANG
아리랑 (아리랑의 노래)
Music: Korean Folk Song

(1) Arirang, arirang, arariyo.
Over the arirang pass I go.
I know not how long my journey will be.
Yet I'll be still carry, my sorrow.

(2) Arirang, arirang, arariyo.
Alone over the hill I go.
Flowers have withered and birds are gone,
Only the vain dream does ease my sorrow.

(3) Arirang, arirang, arariyo.
The day's bright yet my heart dark & does grow.
Wretched I am and my ox-cart fills in.
Alas, my sorrowful mind he would not know.

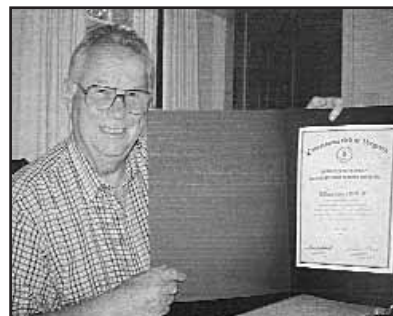
(4) Arirang, arirang, arariyo.
Today east and tomorrow west as I go.
I sing arirang in a mournful tone.
My journey will carry my sorrow.

Another honorary high school diploma awarded

There was an article in the Jan/Feb 2008 issue regarding the issuance of high school diplomas to Korean War veterans whose education was interrupted by military service. I would like to add my name to the list.

I was awarded my honorary high school diploma in 2006, which the Virginia Board of Education complemented with a letter of gratitude. Hopefully, my experience will prompt other veterans to pursue getting theirs.

William James Tuck, Jr., 2403 Vandover Rd.,
Richmond, VA 23229, (804) 270-0098



William J. Tuck, Jr. displays his high school diploma

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2120
RICHMOND, VA 23216-2120
May 5, 2006

Mr. William James Tuck, Jr.
c/o Ms. Kendall Tyree
2309 Haviland Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23229

Dear Mr. Tuck:

On behalf of the members of the Board of Education, I am pleased to award you the Korean War Veteran Honorary High School Diploma. This diploma is awarded to recognize the extraordinary service you rendered to Virginia and to this nation through your service in the Korean War. This diploma also recognizes the many contributions you have made to your community and to your family through a lifetime of learning and achievement.

Please accept this Honorary Diploma as a gesture of our gratitude for your service in the name of freedom.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Thomas M. Jackson, Jr.
Thomas M. Jackson, Jr.
President, Virginia Board of Education

TMJ/mfm

The letter of gratitude William J. Tuck, Jr. received

Reunion Calendar 2008

To post your Reunion Dates, send your information to Reunion Editor, The Graybeards, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT, or by email to sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net. The preferred format is: Unit, Date, Place, Point of Contact (POC). Provide as much POC info as possible, e.g., name, address, phone #, email address. Many of our readers do not use email, so contact information is important. Entries are posted on a "first come, first served basis" as space allows. The KWVA is not responsible for the accuracy of the entries, nor is inclusion guaranteed. Just a suggestion: do not use *The Graybeards* as the only means of publicizing your reunion. Occasionally, reunion notices cross in the mail or get misdirected, technical glitches interfere with publication, etc. Therefore, it is a wise idea to have an alternative method of publicizing your reunion.

AUGUST

453rd Engineer Construction Bn., 1-2 Aug., Springfield, IL, Travelodge, (217) 529-5511 (Confirmation #s 98703-98716). POC: Norman and Dorothy Flentje, (217) 965-3952.

USS Cavalier [APA-37], 10-14 Aug., Tacoma, WA, King Oscar Motel & Conv. Ctr. [1-888-254-KING —Advise Cavalier Reunion]. POC: Ed Kimble, (775 751-0213), Tom Wolder (417) 345-0082, or Ralph Hall, (630) 879-5909. Website: http://www.microburmbi.net/index_0.html

25th Infantry Division Assn. (Tropic Lightning), 10-16 August, Orlando, FL. POC: Glenda Ellis, PO Box 7, Flourtown, PA 19031-0007, (215) 248-5250 (fax), tropiclttn@aol.com

USS Forrest B. Royal [DD-872], 19-22 June, Lombard, IL. POC: Ron Larsen, 1240 Franklin Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494-2807, (715) 423-8905, mosbyusn@wcrc.net

Chosin Few International Reunion, 20-24 Aug., Crystal City, VA. POC: Ed King, (410) 766-2797, ELKChosin@aol.com

936th Field Artillery, 23-24 Aug., Fayetteville, AR, Clarion Inn. POC: Wayne Bohannon, 10617 East First Street, Tulsa, OK 74128-1403, (918) 437-5324

17th Infantry Regiment (Open to any veteran of the 17th Infantry Regt., peace time or war), 27-30 Aug., Tacoma, Washington, La Quinta Inn and Suites/Tacoma. POC: Donald Shook, (724) 367-1096, deshook@7thininfantry.com, Website: <http://www.17thininfantry.com>

5th Marine Division Association, 27-31 Aug., Washington DC, Marriott Crystal City at Reagan National Airport. POC: P. O. Box 550185, Dallas, TX 75355, (972) 744-0191 or (972) 524-7026

SEPTEMBER

5th Air Force Track Team, Tokyo (1952)/"C" Co., 809th Engr. Avn. Bn., SCARWAF, Sept. POC: Bob Lucas, P. O. Box 27, Arcadia, MI 49613, (231) 889-49613.

88th Inf. Div. Assn. ("Blue Devils"), 2-5 Sept., Williamsburg, VA. POC: Bill Konze, 7318 Riverhill Road, Oxon Hill, MD 20745-1031, (301) 839-4427, www.88infdiv.org

USS Hyades (AF-28), 3-7 Sept. Nashville, TN, Guest House Inn & Suites. POC: Robert J. Stearns, 1801 Carriage House Way, Williamsburg, VA 23188-2754, (757) 345-3635, navybaker@att.net

Tenth Corps, attached units, and others wishing to attend, 4-7 Sept, Rogue Regency Inn, Medford, OR. POC: John G. J. Pimental, P. O. Box 533, Wilderville, OR 97453, (541) 476-7898

14th Inf, 25th Div. (Korean War, 1951-53), 4-7 Sept., Columbia, SC. POC: Judge C.E. Eisenhower, (803) 788-6804

6th—150th Helicopter Co., 4-7 Sept., Westmont IL (suburb of Chicago). POC: Dolores Ryan, (708) 499-4599, gramstoy32@msn.com

300TH AFA Bn. 4-7 Sept., Cody, WY. POC: Don Crawford, 13813 IL Hwy 9, Good Hope, IL, 61438, (309) 456-3992

8th Cavalry Regiment/10th Infantry Division, Basic Trainees, 5-7 Sept., Branson, MO, September 5-7, 2008. (Specifically Fort Riley Basic Training Companies HHC 1 Bn., 85th Inf. and Item Company, 87th Inf. Rgt. Dec '53-Jan '54. Also George Company, 86th Inf Rgmt., Feb-April '54 and 8th Cav Rgmt., May '54-Nov '56, of Camp Crawford, Hokkaido and Camp Whittington, Honshu, Japan. POC: Steve Bosma, 7109 Via Portada, San Jose, CA 95135, (408) 270-1319

1st Radio Squadron, Mobile, 7-11 Sept., San Antonio, TX. POC: Phil/Helen Perry, 1904 Colonial Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717) 545-0974, perryperry101@aol.com

40th Inf. Div., 160th Regt., Co. A (Korea), 8-10 Sept., Reno NV. El Dorado Hotel/Casino. POC: Roger Lueckenhoff, 208 Steeplechase Rd., Rolla, MO 65401-3784, (573) 364-4145, lueck@fidnet.com

630th Engineers Light Equipment Company — Korea, 8-10 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Oscar Viehland, 9587 Woodland Rd., Robertsville, MO 63072, (636) 285-4402, ogvccv@att.net

USS Sphinx (ARL-24), 8-11 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Frank Ironi, 954 Lilac Drive, Sauk Centre, MN 56378, (320) 352-3271

90th FA Bn. Assn., 25th Inf. Div., 8-12 Sept., San Antonio, TX, Holiday Inn Market Place, (210) 225-3211. POC: Andy Lucas, (479) 442-4612, AJSJ90@aol.com

USS Essex CV, CVA, CVS-9, LHD-2, 8-13 Sept., Seattle-Renton, WA, Holiday Inn. POC: Scharla Estep, 25109 Angela Ct., Damascus, MD 20872, (301) 435-3746, sr72v@nih.gov

USS Colonial (LSD 18), 10-13 Sept., Kansas City, MO. POC: Loren Kerby, 3013 Emerald Ct., Platte City, MO, (816) 858-3158, kerbyplatte@aol.com

E-2-7 1stMarDiv (Korea 1950-53); 9-13 Sept., Oceanside, CA, Guest House Inn, (760-722-1904). POC: Troy Watson, (469) - 831-7744, e37gunner@gmail.com or Chuck Tidwell, (843) 650-7082, Chubar84@aol.com

E-2-5 (Korean War, 1950-53), 10-13 Sept., Oklahoma City, OK. POC: Jack Nolan, (903) 595-0556, jackusmc46@sbcglobal.net

C-1-7, 1st Marine Division (Korea), 11-14 Sept., Colorado Springs, CO. POC: John Kane, 6108 S. Lakeview Street, Littleton, CO 80120, (303) 795-9357, marjoh58@comcast.net, or Bill Farrell, 19 Centre Village Drive, Madison, CT 06443, (203) 318-1889, willydoro@sbcglobal.net

Heavy Mortar Co., 224th Inf Reg, 40th Inf. Div., 14-18 Sept., Las Vegas, NV, Gold Coast Hotel & Casino. POC Bob Humble, 305 S. Cedar Dr., Covina, CA (626) 966-6897, RIH1930@Verizon.net

72nd Engineer Combat Co., 14-19 Sept., Pigeon Forge, TN, Holiday Inn Express (\$53.99 per night), (888) 774-4366. POC: Robert C. Mount, 6518 Fish Hatchery Road, Thurmont, MD 21788, (301) 898-7952 (Ph), (301) 898-5549 (fax), rmount252@comcast.net

A-1-1, 1st Marine Division, (Korean War, 1950-53), 14-17 Sept., Cedar Falls, IA, Holiday Inn University Plaza. POC: John or Garnet Mehlert, (319) 476-3551

160th Infantry, 16-18 Sept., San Francisco, CA, Marine Memorial Club. POC: David A. Mays, 114 Kathy St., Florence, AL. 35633, docmays@comcast.net

U.S.S. Valley Forge (CV45-LPH8-CG50), 17-21 Sept., Renton, WA. POC: George Wakefield, 952 Division, Aberdeen, WA 98520, (360) 532-3047

24th InfantryDiv. Association, 17-21 Sept., Springfield, MO, Hawthorn Park Hotel (Doubletree at time of reunion), 2431 North Glenstone Ave., Springfield, MO 65803-4735. POC: Gene E Spicer, P.O. Box 207, Dupont, IN 47231, (812) 273-6996 (Day), (812) 873-6548 (Evening), gspicer@seidata.com

Anti/Tank Co. 5th Marines (Korea), 18-20 Sept., Memphis, TN, Holiday Inn Select, (888) 444-7789. POC: CJ & George Barrette 715-852-3835, gbarrette@new.rr.com or Chuck Batherson, (734) 721-0764, chuckandbarb51@sbcglobal.net

Society of the Third Inf. Div. and attached units in wars and peacetime, 18-21 Sept., Columbus, GA, Sheraton Hotel 4 Points. POC: Linda Irvine, (360) 663-2521, info@theReunionBrat.com

50th AAA AW BN (SP), 21-25 Sept., Charleston, SC. POC: Charles Baumgarter, (803) 266-4366, baumalou@tds.net, Nelson Ruiz, (321) 267-1106, Jack Stikles, (660) 438-9781, Gmappa@usawide.net

712th TROB, 21-25 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Bob Shannon, (910) 949-3920, rgs1@embarqmail.com

44th Engineer Battalion Association (Korea, Viet Nam, Iraq), 23-27 Sept., San Antonio, TX. POC: LTC Kenneth D. Jobe (Ret), (747) 428-0328, kejo425@aol.com; Bernie Resnick, (603) 434-6406, BigBMR@aol.com; Joe Sopher, (740) 465-5015, jelesopher@aol.com

40th Inf Div. (all units), 24-28 Sept., Carlisle, PA. POC: Paul T. Swartz, 661 Greenville Rd., Mercer, PA 16137, (724) 662-2269, Phswartz@infonline.net

25th Div. Signal Corps "Photo Section," (1951-1954). 24-28 Sept. (Tropic Lightning people welcome). POC: Rollie Berens, 18400 Brookfield Lake Drive, Unit 42, Brookfield, WI 53045, (262) 797-8897.

45th Inf. Div ("Thunderbirds"), 25-27 Sept. POC: Raul Trevino, 2145 NE Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111, (210) 681-9134.

Panama Marines (If you served in Panama at any time you are welcome), 25-27 Sept., San Diego, CA, Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, (800) 772-8527. POC: Jim Anderson, (800) 454-6270

75th Air Depot Wing, USAF (Korea, Japan, Europe, Kelly AFB, 1952-55) 25-28 Sept., Charleston, SC. POC: Walter A. Walko, 13616 Paradise Villas Grove, Colorado Springs, CO 80921, (719) 488-1106, wawlaw2@juno.com

11th Engineer Battalion Association (all years), 25-29 Sept., Hummelstown, PA, Comfort Inn Hershey. POC: Fred Boelsche, (201) 641-5828, fredb11theng@hotmail.com

VS-931, VS-20, & USS Sicily (CVE-118) Joint Reunion (U.S. Navy), 28 Sept.-1 Oct., Reno, NV. POC: J. Robert Wagner, 2996 Runnymede Drive, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-7179 (Ph), (610) 277-4374 (Fax), bobwagner@msn.com

USS Kearsarge (CVA-33), All Crews, 28 Sept.-2 Oct., Bremerton WA. POC: Ed McKee, 2005 S. 2nd Ave., Cheyenne WY 82007, (307) 632-0743, LoMck3@aol.com

USS Wasp (CV/CVA/CVS-18), 28 Sept-3 Oct., Branson, MO. POC: PH1 Richard G. VanOver, USNR (Ret), 6584 Bunting Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127-3635, (716) 649-9053. (Any members of Ship's Company, Air Groups and Marines who served aboard Wasp between 1943 and 1972 are invited to attend or join the Wasp Association)

G-3-1 Korea Association (open to any who served with George Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st MarDiv., 15 September 1950 – 15 March 1955), 28 Sept. – 3 Oct., Dana Point Marina Inn, Dana Point, CA. POC: J. R. "Bob" Camarillo, (805) 647-9319, retired2x@sbcglobal.net

194th Eng. Comb. Bn., 29 Sept.-2 Oct., Laughlin, NV. POC: Bob Sanford, 432 Walnut Hill Road, Woonsocket, RI 02895-2727, (401)766-8262, BobLorSan2@aol.com, or Chuck Havey, 715 W. Saint Moritz Drive, Payson, AZ 85541-3693, (928) 472-6956, cshavey@msn.com

USS Meredith [DD890, 726, 434], 30 Sept.- 5 Oct., Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky. POC: Harry Wrede, 377 Conklingtown Road, Ringwood, NJ 07456, (973) 839-0332, hlwcaw@aol.com

6147th Tac Con Grp (Mosquito Assn.) and all supporting units, 30 Sept.-5 Oct., San Antonio, TX, El Tropicano RiverWalk Hotel. POC: Dick Souza, 79 Bradstreet Ave., Lowell, MA 01851, (978) 453-3887, Skeeterloc@aol.com or Jack/Dee Fisher, (610) 926-3588, deeandjack@comcast.net

OCTOBER

13th Engineer Combat Bn., 2-4 Oct., Colorado Springs, CO. POC: William F. Gavito, (303) 697-9530, PattyGavito@aol.com

ASA Korea (Army Security Agency), 2-5 Oct., (All ASA soldiers who served during Korean War and after), Charlotte, NC. POC: Don Adair, 9800 Sao Paulo Drive, Huntersville, NC 28078, (704) 399-2200, donadair@bellsouth.net

USS Rochester (CA-124), 2-6 Oct., Washington, D.C. POC: Edmund Willis, 505 E. Braddock Rd., Apt.#408, Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 683-8885, willis885@verizon.net

USS Waldron (DD-669) Alumni Association, 2-6 Oct., San Antonio, TX, Holiday Inn Riverwalk Hotel. POC: Ron Wells, 4102 Aldama Drive, Austin, TX 78739, (512) 282-4507, hughronwells@yahoo.com, www.usswaldron.org

4th Fighter Interceptor Wing (Korea), 8-11 Oct., Tucson, AZ. POC: Andrew Whipple, 610 Andrews Blvd., Lady Lake, FL 32519, (352) 259-7792, andrewlwhipple@aol.com

28th General Hospital (Croix Chapeau), 15-18 Oct., Lafayette, LA. POC: Eddie Gautreau, 309 Coussan Rd., Lafayette, LA 70507, (337) 896-9596

Co. G, 179th Inf. Regt., 45th Inf. Div, 16-18 Oct., Branson, MO. POC: Penn Rabb, Jr., 728 NW 46th Street, Lawton, OK 73501, (580) 357-1796, rabbpa@prodigy.net

Yemassee Train Depot Marines, 17-18 Oct., Meet & Greet at Harold's Country Club, Yemassee, SC, Oct. 17, 4-6 p.m. Luncheon, USMC Air Station Officer's Club, Beaufort, SC, Oct. 18, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. POC: Roy Hughes, P.O. Box 265, Yemassee, SC 29945-0188, (843) 589-3385

92nd AFA Bn., 26-29 Oct., Killeen TX. POC: Guy McMenemy, (281) 469 2819, bravecannons@sbcglobal.net

A-1-7 (Korea, 1950-53), 26-29 Oct., Galveston, TX, Moody Gardens Hotel. POC: Guy Taylor, 501 21st Street, Galveston, TX 77440-2017, (409) 770-9882, taylor_nomads@hotmail.com

Engineer OCS, 29 Oct. - 2 Nov. , Nashville, TN. POC: TEOCSA, Attn: E. T. Mealing, P.O. Box 14847, Atlanta, GA, 30324-4847, (404) 231-3402, TEOCSA@comcast.net

APRIL/MAY 2009

307th Bomb Group/Wing (1946-54), 29 Apr.-3 May, Tampa, FL. POC: Tom Stevens, (913) 696-0447, stevenst@swbell.net

Happy Birthday, 5th Infantry Regiment, U.S. Army

The Fifth Infantry Regiment, United States Army, was established on 12 April, 1808! The regiment, the third oldest in the Army, celebrated its 200th anniversary on 12 April, 2008!

At last count the Regiment wore 78 campaign streamers on its colors, 10 of which were Korean War Streamers. Campaign participation in Korea included:

- UN defensive
- UN offensive
- CCF intervention
- First UN counteroffensive
- CCF spring offensive
- UN summer-fall offensive
- Second Korean winter
- Korea, summer-fall 1952
- Third Korean winter
- Korea, summer 1953

The 5th Infantry Regiment also has had more Medal of Honor recipients than any other Army unit, including two from the Korean War, Melvin O. Handrich (1950) and Carl H. Dodd (1951).

Thanks to Don Strobel for the update.

Official Membership Application Form

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407 (Telephone: 217-345-4414)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Assigned Membership Number: _____

KWVA Regular Annual Dues = \$25.00 ♦ Associate Membership = \$16.00

MOH, 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

☐ Regular Member

☐ Life Member

☐ Associate Member

☐ Medal of Honor

☐ Ex-POW

☐ Gold Star Parent

☐ Gold Star Spouse

☐ United Nations Command and Korean Armed Forces

☐ Honorary

(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

Division _____

Regiment _____

Battalion _____

Company _____

Other _____

Branch of Service

☐ Army

☐ Air Force

☐ Navy

☐ Marines

☐ Coast Guard

Dates of service:

Within Korea were: *(See criteria below)*

From _____ To _____

Without Korea were: *(See criteria below)*

From _____ To _____

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

[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 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407

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 OR who served outside of Korea from June 25, 1950 to Jan 31, 1955 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.

WEBSITE: www.kwva.org

Adopted 10/25/2007



Last Call

All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

Alabama

- ★ THOMAS J. BROWNING
- ★ CHARLES L. COLLINS
- ★ WALTER E. JOHNSON

Arizona

- ★ RONALD C. FELDKAMP
- ★ ARTHUR G. SCHREIBER
- ★ MARVIN M. WINOWIECKI

California

- ★ WENCIL L. 'BILL' BISEK
- ★ CHARLES W. DAVIS

Colorado

- ★ MERVYN C. PADEN

Connecticut

- ★ RAYMOND E. GREEN

Delaware

- ★ RUFUS JERRY MATHENA

Florida

- ★ ALLAN G. BOHMER
- ★ DONALD F. GOOLD
- ★ LORAN A. MCCLAIN
- ★ ROBERT MELLEN
- ★ CHARLES D. OHNING
- ★ CLYDE RAFFERTY
- ★ VINCENT L. SALPIETRO SR.
- ★ ROBERT L. WITZIG

Georgia

- ★ LONNIE E. CROSS

Iowa

- ★ LELAND D. HUISMAN

Illinois

- ★ JAMES A. FROWEIN
- ★ DONALD C. GORSKI
- ★ GEORGE E. SANGMEISTER
- ★ ROBERT J. TYRRELL

Indiana

- ★ FRED H. AMM
- ★ RICHARD J. LADD
- ★ EDWARD L. OHIME
- ★ RICHARD HOWARD SNYDER
- ★ MAURICE STROBEL

Kentucky

- ★ WILLIAM H. SALYERS
- ★ WILLIAM N. SINKS
- ★ BEN 'BUSTER' TAYLOR

Massachusetts

- ★ FREDERICK J. DUNBURY
- ★ HARVEY J. LEGERE
- ★ THOMAS F. RICE
- ★ ALBERT ROBBAT

- ★ ROBERT L. SAUVAGEAU

Maryland

- ★ RONALD B. CONAWAY
- ★ JAMES W. KERR
- ★ RUSSELL O'BRIEN

Maine

- ★ WILLIAM J. HAUCK

Michigan

- ★ PETER P. BROWN
- ★ CHARLES R. FARWELL
- ★ DOMINIC FORTUNA
- ★ ROGER L. HORN
- ★ THOMAS E. LASKE
- ★ J. C. LONDON

Minnesota

- ★ MARVIN J. HOLLAND
- ★ DOYLE LARSON
- ★ JAMES LOUIS LUGER
- ★ AUDREY J. REID
- ★ JOHN C. WADLUND

Missouri

- ★ DAVID A. ROWLAND

Mississippi

- ★ IDORA L. WESTPHAL

North Carolina

- ★ JAMES L. THOMPSON

New Hampshire

- ★ THOMAS J. KELLY

New Jersey

- ★ JOSEPH A. CONNERTON
- ★ WILLIAM F. HUNT JR.

- ★★ ROBERT C. MCEVOY

Nevada

- ★ FRANK M. BIFULK
- ★ ARTHUR H. NELSON

New York

- ★ RUDOLPH M. BERTINO
- ★ PETER J. BINGHEIMER
- ★ RICHARD H. CALEY
- ★ JOSEPH CARBONE
- ★ ALFRED J. CAVALLARO
- ★ FRANK J. DEHLER
- ★ DONALD E. DOVARDO
- ★ JAMES E. GEOGHEGAN
- ★ GODFREY GUERRETTE
- ★ JOHN LOERCHER
- ★ JAMES MCHALE
- ★ PHILLIP J. MCNANEY
- ★ JOSEPH A. MON SR.
- ★ THOMAS R. POWERS

- ★ THOMAS M. SPACKMAN

- ★ DANIEL WAIT

- ★ JERRY WOLTERS

Ohio

- ★ KENNY ANDERSON
- ★ PRENTICE D. CARROLL
- ★ NORMAN J. COWELL
- ★ RICHARD L. EICK
- ★ STANLEY W. KUCYNSKI
- ★ IVON J. LOOS
- ★ THOMAS A. MOEHLMAN
- ★ JACK L. PATTON
- ★ FRANKLIN D. RICHISSON
- ★ ROY H. SEE
- ★ CHARLES W. STITELER
- ★ NAT J. TRIDICO
- ★ JOHN M. WHITLING

Oklahoma

- ★ MELVIN GOODMAN

Oregon

- ★ BILLY BAILEY
- ★ ALFRED F. CHIVERS
- ★ RONALD D. DONEY
- ★ PAUL E. JOHNSON
- ★ BILLY J. MEDART
- ★ EARSHEL MORLEY
- ★ WANDA W. SCHWARTZENGRABER
- ★ ALBERT L. SMITH
- ★ WILLIAM J. SPRAGUE

Pennsylvania

- ★ JAMES E.P. BARNES JR.
- ★ WILLIAM FLYNN
- ★ ROY W. JACKSON
- ★ JOSEPH F. MCKINLEY

Puerto Rico

- ★ JULIO MARTÍNEZ

Rhode Island

- ★ GILBERT C. COCHRAN JR.

Tennessee

- ★ FRANK CHUMLEY
- ★ RICHARD E. GREEN
- ★ DELMER H. WALLEN SR.

Texas

- ★ WILLIAM H. HUNTER
- ★ ARTHUR R. WILLIAMS
- ★ JAMES G. WILLS

Virginia

- ★ JAMES F. BARTO
- ★ FLOYD BRANHAM JR.
- ★ DONALD J. BRUCE
- ★ RICHARD L. CLEM
- ★ DONALD J. NACHMAN

Vermont

- ★ CLIFFORD F. PIERCE

Washington

- ★ FRANKLIN D. CARLSON

Wisconsin

- ★ DAVID L. PAULSON

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 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407

MIGHTY MO from page 56

was granted liberty. Then, we sailed on to Pearl Harbor, where the devastation of December 7th, 1941 was still evident. But, "Old Glory" was flying high over the remains of the USS Arizona.

We loaded ammunition and supplies at Pearl Harbor. Our next stops were Yokosuka and Sasebo, Japan. Finally, we moved on to Korea, where we joined task force 77 and became flag ship for the 7th fleet.

We were at sea sometimes for 30 days or more, operating between the task force and the Korean War zone. The "Mo" sailed up and down the coast with her main battery 16" guns and secondary battery 5" 38 shelling vital spots in support of our troops. It was said that we were always a welcome sight, and that we always appeared at the right time.

We were either at general quarters or standing condition watches most of our stay. Mail call was once—or maybe sometimes twice—a month, whenever we would refuel or take on supplies from another vessel that would come alongside. When our ammunition was low we would go into Sasebo to replenish our supply and then get underway once again for the war zone.

There were some good times and there were some bad times while we were there. One morning while we were in Wonson Harbor on routine shore bombardment, the "Mo" received counter battery. All nine of our 16" guns (turret 1, turret 2 and turret 3) trained to our port side and fired a nine-gun salvo on broadside. This operation was very rare for a battleship, as it put so much strain on the ship's superstructure. However, we got the job done by pushing the enemy back so our ground forces could advance.

On December 22, 1952 a most saddening experience occurred when we lost our helicopter pilot, Ensign Robert Mayhew, and two spotters, 1st Lt. Robert Dern and 1st Lt. Rex Ellison (USMC), while they were on a spotting mission for the "Mo." And on the way home to the states in Sasebo Harbor on the morning of March 26th, 1953 we lost our captain, Warner E. Edsall, due to a heart attack he sustained while on the bridge making preparations to anchor.

History was bestowed upon the Missouri time and time again for her exploits. She was the last battleship to be commissioned—on June 11th, 1944—and the last to be decommissioned, on March 31st, 1992. On her decks on September 2nd, 1945 the formal instrument of surrender was signed. And "Mo" was the last battleship to fire her main battery 16" guns in Korea before the truce was signed.

The USS *Missouri* is now a living memorial in Pearl Harbor on Battleship Row, standing watch over the USS *Arizona*, which is most fitting for this mighty battleship.

It has been reborn—once again—for eternity, to carry on her duties as the most historical battleship ever.

Maynard E. Loy, Sr., Gunners Mate 3rd Class, 4th Division, 1827 Pimmit Drive, Falls Church, VA, (703) 356-7574

NOTE: GM3 Loy also served aboard the USS Des Moines (CA-134) and the USS Mississippi (EAG-128). He received the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation Korea, the China Service Medal, and the Navy Good Conduct Medal in his four years in the U.S. Navy.



Maynard Loy takes a coffee break aboard the "Mighty Mo"

VA to Train More Psychologists

■ Peake: Expansion Meets Current and Future Needs

WASHINGTON — To meet increased needs for mental health services for veterans, especially those returning from the Global War on Terror, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is expanding its training programs for psychologists.

VA, which has more than 11,000 mental health professionals to care for veterans, has hired more than 800 psychologists in the last three years.

"Not all the wounds of war are visible," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "VA is committed to ensuring veterans receive world-class care for mental health services. This initiative meets our short-term needs, but it will also guarantee we have a pool of well-trained psychologists in the future."

VA, which has more than 11,000 mental health professionals to care for veterans, has hired more than 800 psychologists in the last three years. Because psychology is a key part of comprehensive health care, the Department anticipates an ongoing need to employ additional psychologists.

The best resource for VA recruitment of psychologists has been the Department's own training programs. Seventy-three percent of psychologists hired in the past two years have had VA training.

As a result, VA has worked with its partners among professional schools and universities to increase the number of psychologists who receive training through VA programs each year, beginning with the 2008-2009 training year.

The new positions will include 61 internship and 98 post-doctoral fellowship positions, bringing the national number of training positions in psychology to 620 per year.

The recently awarded positions include four new internship training programs and 26 new post-doctoral fellowship programs. In addition, 31 existing internship programs and 17 existing postdoctoral fellowship programs have been expanded.

Members in the



CID 10 members honored for service to deceased veterans



Korean War veteran being put to rest in Connecticut

Members of CID 10, Connecticut #1, were honored in the February 11, 2004 edition of the Manchester, CT Journal Inquirer. The article, written by Chapter member William J. Carrington, Jr., focused on CID 10's volunteer honor guard firing party, which is made up entirely of Korean War veterans. The group provides graveside services for deceased veterans at no cost to them or their families.

Carrington noted that the members provide their own uniforms, equipment, accessories and transportation at their individual expense. They purchased their military rifles and blank ammunition as well. (The rifles have been adapted to fire only blanks.)

Honor Guard members adopted this motto: "Our fallen comrades-in-arms of all wars will not be forgotten at the time of their final roll call."



SgtMaj Gary Salmon instructs Dick Bedard of CID 10 before burial ceremony drill



CID 10 members Jim Shelmerdine and Dick Bedard present rifle salute during the playing of "Taps" at graveside service

Gene W. Cowart

Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and the Marine Corps Base Military Retiree Council honored eighteen "Hardcore Warriors" recently. Hardcore Warriors are veterans who served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. One of the veterans honored was Staff Sgt. Gene W. Cowart USMC (Ret), a Chosin Reservoir veteran.

Cowart told Camp Lejeune Globe reporter Heather Owens that his receipt of the title Hardcore Warrior "...just brings me back to those days. I remember the good times, not the bad times, and I remember the good friends."

Gene W. Cowart, 1314 Davis Street, Jacksonville, NC 28540

Charles Stepan

On Friday, April 6th, Charles A. Stepan, of Boardman, OH was inducted into the Taekwondo Hall of Fame in a ceremony at the Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center in Meadowlands, New Jersey. This was the inaugural group of inductees into this Hall of Fame, which is spread worldwide on the internet.

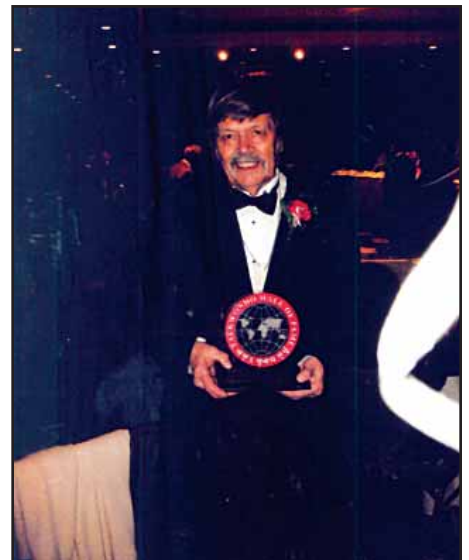
Many of the Korean Grandmasters who were instrumental in the birth of this international and Olympic martial art were in attendance, as were the standout fighters of the past 40 years.

Stepan's introduction, under The Greats of Taekwondo, read as follows:

With over 35 years of experience Grandmaster Charles A. Stepan, a 7th degree black belt earned under Grand Master Kae Bae Chun, is no doubt one of the most recognizable personalities in Taekwondo. Most of the photos you have seen in the major martial arts magazines, as well as numerous exclusive interviews of masters and champions, were taken by or conducted by Charles

Stepan. Stepan's authoritative articles, well over a hundred, have been published in magazines such as *Karate Illustrated*, *Black Belt*, *Traditional Tae Kwon Do*, and *Taekwondo Times*, where he is presently a Contributing Editor.

Over the years he has also been active as a judge, referee and tournament director throughout the Eastern United States.



Charles Stepan displays his Hall of Fame award

As a competitor, Charles Stepan has won numerous events, including the North American Martial Arts Championship, the North American Taekwondo Championship, and the All-American Open Championship held in Madison Square Garden, where he twice claimed the title in his black belt division.

Charles is currently a Technical Advisor to the Taekwondo Hall of Fame. He is also the author of "Taekwondo, The Essential Guide to Mastering the Art," published by New Holland Publishing and printed in several languages. The Taekwondo Hall of Fame can be accessed on your computer by entering: taekwondohalloffame.

Stepan's tribute can be accessed also by entering: Charles A. Stepan.

Charles has been in the KWVA since 1995. He is presently a member of Mahoning Valley Chapter 137, Youngstown, Ohio. He entered service from Minnesota, and in 1951 was inserted into the Republic Of Korea armed forces as a Tactical Advisor with the Korean Military Advisory Group.

Peter Buscaino

Peter Buscaino was featured in *Stars & Stripes*—54 years ago. The newspaper wrote a feature on him and two buddies, Sgt Angelo Arcini (San Francisco, CA), PFC Mark Molica (Delano, CA), and Buscaino (Modesto, CA). The sign was a gift to Molica from one of his classmates.

All three soldiers were members of Hq Co., 7th Inf. Regt., 2nd Bn., 3rd Div. As the sign in the photo taken on April 9, 1954 suggests, they were a long way from home—about 7,000 miles.

Peter Buscaino, 2260 Alta Vista Pl., Prescott, AZ 86301



Angelo Arcini, Mark Molica, Peter J. Buscaino (L-R) next to their city limits sign

Anthony Yaquinto

Mr. Yaquinto was featured in an article in the March 19, 2008 San Jose [CA] Mercury News, p. 12A. The first line of the article tells it all: "Tony Yaquinto is a grandpa 17 times over, a Korean War hero now devoting every breathing moment to aiding younger vets."

The rest of the article describes his experiences in Korea with the 7th Marines, an injury he incurred at Outpost Vegas, and a subsequent injury which sent him home, his diagnosis for PTSD, and his volunteer work at the VA.

Today, he tries to stay focused on his volunteer efforts, but he admits that it is often difficult. But, he does not plan to stop volunteering anytime soon. Like so many Korean War veterans, he came home over fifty years ago—but he has never stopped serving.

To read the entire story, access www.mercurynews.com and enter Yaquinto in the Search box.

Reach Anthony Yaquinto at 2201 Trenton Drive, San Bruno, CA 94066-2818, (650) 583-2704

Russell Uboldi

Mr. Uboldi, a member of CID 297, Plateau Chapter, TN, was the focus of a September 12, 2006 article in the Bradenton [FL] Herald, Section E, pp. 3-4. The article was titled "Belated Thanks."

The writer, Vin Mannix, described Uboldi's experiences in Korea after his arrival there in April 1956 with the 24th Inf. Div.'s 11th Field Artillery Bn. and return to the U.S. "There was a lot of stress along the DMZ all the time," Uboldi told Mannix. "You were constantly waiting for something to happen." Coming home was worse.

"Our welcome home were seven disinterested bus drivers," he recalled. "We came home to absolute indifference."

Uboldi did not get a lot of cooperation from the VA once he got home, either. But, Mannix pointed out, that was not entirely the VA's fault. He quoted Manatee County's [FL] Veterans Service Officer (VSO) as saying, "I find a lot of World War II and Korean War vets who had benefits they were not aware of. These guys didn't realize they were entitled to the GI Bill, some health benefits, some home loan guarantees."

He added that, "One of the sad things is, those who worked for the VA between World War II and Vietnam were notorious for telling veterans who called up, 'Sorry, but you're not eligible,' and the veteran didn't know any better."

Uboldi did not sit around and wait for the government to get in touch with him regarding benefits, awards, etc. He started writing letters to government and VA officials seeking recognition for his service in Korea. He got some! Uboldi received a letter of appreciation and the Korean Defense Service Medal—fifty years after his stint in Korea. Now if New York State would recognize his service appropriately.

As Uboldi wrote in his cover letter with the article, "The one thing not mentioned is I had to pay New York State income tax on the pay received while serving in Korea. (He was born in Yonkers, NY.) They considered my address in Yonkers as my official address and then added fines and penalties for being late."

Welcome back, Russell.

Copies of the article may be obtained (although you may have to pay for them) through the paper's website, www.bradenton.com and clicking on Archives.

Reach Uboldi at 10 Newcom Court, Fairfield Glade, TN 38558.

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

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12345 MAIN ST	
SMILEY NY 01234-5678	
DELIVERY POINT BARCODE	

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

Important: If barcode does not extend across 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.

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.

2008 Update

REVISIT KOREA

The 2008 Revisit Korea quotas have been increased again due to the direct intervention of KWVA President Lou Dechert. Since they will go fast, it is recommended that you call and get your name on the registration list just as soon as possible. **The dates for the remainder of the year are: 26 Sept – 2 Oct & 13 Nov – 19 Nov**

You are reminded that in order to be eligible for these ROK government subsidized tours, that you must meet the following general criteria:

- Served "in, over or around" Korea from 25 June 1950 to 15 October 1954.
- A spouse or family member of one who was killed in the war.
- Never accepted a ROK subsidized tour in the past.
- Be an active member of KWVA

Expanded eligibility criteria

- Widows and family members of veterans who have died since the war.
- Spouse or family member of a veteran who cannot travel.
- Veterans may choose a "non family" travel companion if no spouse or family member is available and the veteran needs assistance to travel. (The "companion" can be a veteran who has gone before.)

For more details, contact Warren Wiedhahn, KWVA Revisit Coordinator, 703-212-0695 or 800-722-9501.

VA BENEFIT ROLLS NUMBERS

Following are the numbers of veterans, children, parents, and surviving spouses on the U.S. Veterans and Dependents Benefits Rolls as of SEP 07:

(Note that the Korean War is still referred to as a conflict on this list.)

CONFLICT.	VETS	KIDS	PARENTS	SPOUSES
Civil War ..	0	3	0	0
Indian Wars.....	0	0	0	0
Spanish-American War.	0	108	0	108
Mexican Border ...	0	15	0	62
World War I	0	3,500	0	6,059
World War II (Note 1	396,944	15,006	167	225,908
Korean Conflict	223,499	3,278	335	60,885
Vietnam Era .	1,141,946	9,227	3,252	158,127
Gulf War (Note 2)	802,381	13,189	859	14,471
Nonservice-connected	322,875	19,176	0	180,664
Service-connected	2,844,354	28,176	6,133	317,385

VA Burial Benefit Update

The VA has changed the regulation concerning the provision of a VA headstone or marker for a grave already marked in a private cemetery. As a result of passage of the Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act of 2007, the VA can now provide a headstone or marker for those graves already marked in a private cemetery for those Veterans who died after 1 NOV 90.

The claimant must pay the cost of the installation of the Government headstone or marker in a private cemetery. Details of the new regulation can be read at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-10635.htm> . [Source: VFW VSO Richard Springer 13 May 08 ++]



BUSAN, Republic of Korea (Feb. 28, 2008) Sailors from the Republic of Korea (ROK) welcome the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) as the ship arrives to take part in Exercise Key Resolve/Foal Eagle 2008, an annual joint exercise involving forces from both the United States and Republic of Korea. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st. Class Todd MacDonald

**Korean War Veterans Association
Membership Administrative Assistant
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