



CODE OF CONDUCT

By Steve Szekely

The article "When is a war not a war?©" serves as the editor's comments in this issue. It is placed elsewhere due to its length.

This edition of *The Graybeards* may look fine to you. It is not. Therefore, I owe our readers an apology.

One of my brothers died on 16 January 2010. That necessitated a trip to Connecticut. I returned to South Carolina on 23 January 2010. The week away disrupted my preparation schedule.

To compound matters, once I returned to Connecticut, I discovered that the local

post office crew was not forwarding my mail to "Beautiful Beaufort." That, too, disrupted the editorial process. Thus, some material that might have been included in this issue has been delayed. Hopefully, that situation has been rectified.

In short, the issue may look normal to you, but it is a bit muddled to me. I apologize for the delays in getting some material into *The Graybeards*. Hopefully, we will be back on track in the March/April 2010 issue.

According to Webster's New World Dictionary, Code means a body of laws; any set of principles or rules of conduct; a moral code, a pledge or promise. About Conduct, Webster says it is the way one acts; their behavior, deportment.

A Code of Conduct, therefore, could be a statement and description, a pledge or promise of required behavior, responsibilities and actions expected of members of an organization. Or...a set of conventional principles and expectations that are considered binding on any person who is a member of a particular group.

In the military, there is the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). I do not believe it is necessary to remind a group of veterans what it states. In short, it says "You will do it this way."

The Army has the "Seven Army Values:" Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage.

The American Legion begins each meeting with the recitation of the preamble to their Constitution, "For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes....."

The VFW has a Code of Conduct for its representatives stating seven points of conduct.

The KWVA Department of Florida has had a Code of Ethics since May 2000 which states 6 elements of behavior: 1) integrity, competence, dignity; 2) professionalism and ethics; 3) refrain from criticism of fellow members; 4) improve our image; 5) loyalty to the organization; 6) use common sense judgment.

During the election period in 2006, there were a group of individuals in the KWVA, including some officials, who had no respect for the organization, many of the officials, and some of the candidates. Following the election, then KWVA president Louis T. Dechert noted, "Many of us were raised on a code of honor. I must admit that in these days, in the KWVA and other areas of society and politics, that

Continued on page 24

Membership Directory Update

By Frank Cohee, National Secretary

This is the final report on the Directory, which you should have received by the end of January. (At least that is what I was told.) I have confidence in that date because I received the CD on January 11, 2010.

The CD is amazing. It has a gallery of pictures through which you can scroll to look for buddies you may recognize. You can also search by last name, state, and several other categories. I checked my information and it was all correct.

If you have any questions about your data, please call customer service at 1-800-877-6554.

Following are the final results—I think...

I. Directory Sales

- Regular708
- Collector's Edition 4,967
- CD **112

** People who did not order the CD might regret it. I have downloaded it on my computer and can essentially access all the information with one click.

- Regular/CD42
- Collector's Edition/CD.....1,459
- Tribute Print1,885
- Tribute Print/Membership.....11
- Total Number Of Orders9,184

II. 18,358 members were updated during the phoning process.

III. 1,396 inactive members were reinstated—and \$13,960 was added to the Treasurer's books.

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

CODE from page 6

sometimes appears to be an alien concept. In our organization there are a warped handful of individuals who care nothing for truth and even less for the good of the Korean War Veterans Association. If you have missed their daily doses of lies and slander then consider yourself fortunate. Most of the members ARE honorable, proud veterans.”

Many months ago, after discussions with the Judge Advocate, Legal Counsel, and the Chairman of the Ethics and Grievance Committee, I requested that the E&G Committee develop a Code of Conduct for the KWVA. That Code of Conduct follows, with a brief explanation of each of the values involved:

§ I will uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. (There should be no explanation necessary of this statement: are you loyal to your country?)

§ I will adhere to the Bylaws of the KWVA, my Department, and my Chapter. (If you do not agree with the guidelines presented, submit a resolution to change. Every organization must have a set of “Rules of the Game.”)

§ I will not engage in any unlawful or unethical conduct, or attempt to deceive in any manner, my Chapter, my Department, or the National KWVA. (Integrity – RespectAre you a law abiding citizen?)

§ I will fulfill my obligations and will be responsible for my actions to the Chapter, Department, and the National Organization of the KWVA. (Are you someone who is a man/woman of his word? Are you an honorable individual?)

§ I will render service and comfort to bereaved families of fellow veterans, in time of need, to the best of my ability. (Duty to others....selfless service....help your fellowman in time of need.)

§ I will respect the rights of others in respect to politics, sex, race, religion, and ethnic background. (Everyone is entitled to their own opinion....live and let live...respect the rights of others.)

§ I will hold an open mind to the thoughts and opinions of others in any discussion or problem. (Freedom of speech...respect the right of someone to express their own thoughts.)

§ I will at all times conduct myself with proper decorum and dignity and, while a member of the KWVA, will commit no act or actions that would dishonor the KWVA, our flag, or our country. (Respect the right of assembly and behave in a gentlemanly manner.)

Following the initial publishing of the Code of Conduct in August of 2006, 151 members followed the lead of President Dechert, signed the Code of Conduct before the Annual Meeting, and became Charter Members. Thereafter, 222 additional members subscribed to the Code.

Today, more than ever, the Code of Conduct is appropriate. Will you join this group of 373 members?

If you subscribe to the principles contained in this code, please call, write, or e-mail: Stephen Szekely, Chairman, Ethics and Grievance Committee, KWVA, 1516 Laclede Rd., South Euclid, Ohio 44121-3012, (216) 381-9080, sxdszek@sbcglobal.net

Thanks, for the good of our Order – and for honorable conduct.

LTD/ss

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

CODE OF CONDUCT

I will uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States.

I will adhere to the Bylaws of the KWVA, my Department, and my Chapter.

I will not engage in any unlawful or unethical conduct, or attempt to deceive in any manner, my Chapter, my Department, or the National KWVA.

I will fulfill my obligations and will be responsible for my actions to the Chapter, Department, and National Organization of the KWVA.

I will render service and comfort to bereaved families of fellow Veterans, in time of need, to the best of my ability.

I will respect the rights of others in regard to politics, sex, race, religion and ethnic background.

I will hold an open mind to the thoughts and opinions of others in any discussion or problem.

I will at all times conduct myself with proper decorum and dignity, and, while a member of the KWVA, will commit no act or actions that would dishonor the KWVA, our Flag or our Country.

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

Signature

Membership Number

Date

IF YOU HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY SIGNED THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Upon acceptance, please sign your name, include your Membership number. Please forward to: Stephen Szekely, 1516 Laclede Rd., South Euclid, Ohio, 44121