

## The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

# Tell America

### 20 – HAWAII #1 [HI]

On 5 February 2010, forty senior high school students from the Mid-Pacific Institute, Honolulu, Hawaii, visited the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii, located on Fort DeRussy, Honolulu.

The students were escorted through the museum, which contains artifacts, memorabilia, and other historical exhibits dating from the Hawaiian monarchy through the Vietnam War. The U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii talks of the men, women and machines that shaped the heritage, the war-

riors who built a kingdom, the soldiers who defended the island, and the citizens who served their country and sacrificed to keep it free.

On completion of the museum tour, the students were briefed on the Korean War by four Korean War veterans participating in the "Tell America Program." The visit concluded with a Question and Answer period.

*Howard S. Okada, 446 Kawaihae St., #348, Honolulu, HI, 808-265 okadahs@hawaii.rr.com*



Forty high school students who visited Fort DeRussy Museum, with Ch 20 members in white shirts (L-R) Infantryman Moses Pakaki, Medic Edward Brown, Medic CW4 Howard S. Okada, USA (Ret), Infantryman Francis Yasutake

### 55 – NASSAU COUNTY [NY]

On 14 June (Flag Day), a group of Tell America veterans visited the Weber eighth grade students at Port Washington [NY] Public School. They gave a talk on the meaning of the flag and its care, plus a talk on the Korean War.

In return, each student sent each veteran a "Thank You" note.

Here is the write-up that appeared on the school's web site:

#### Korean War Veterans Visit Weber

Recently, the Weber eighth grade students in the Red House were privileged to have a visit from five Korean War Veterans. Arnie Barletta, Bill Boyce, Buddy Epstein, Bill Troise and Don Zoeller are members of the Korean War Veterans Association, Nassau County Chapter 1. These veterans visit

schools as part of a program called "Tell America."

"Students here at Weber Middle School are determined never to forget that there is a great cost to freedom," explains Principal Marilyn Rodahan. "We are forever indebted to our veterans for protecting our freedom." As an extension of the Cold War unit they are studying, the Weber students were able to hear first-hand accounts of their Korean War experiences from these veterans. The men included both general military information as well as the humanitarian side of the war. Stories were told of the people of South Korea: the children, the horrible living conditions, and the response the civilians had to the American soldiers. Traveling

table to table, students were able to hear the different experiences that each of the veterans had to share. The students gained a great deal from this visit as the gentlemen truly brought history alive. "I really enjoyed listening to those men," said one student in the class, who seemed to express the general response of the group. "They seemed so excited to tell us their stories. This was an awesome class."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The article included two photos, which we cannot reproduce here. They are available at <http://www.portnet.k12.ny.us/portnet/cwp/view.asp?A=3&Q=289425>

*Robert O'Brien, P.O. Box 1591, N. Massapequa, NY 11758*

### 173 – MID-FLORIDA [FL]

I held three "Tell America" programs at Freedom Elementary School in Deland, FL in June 2010. I purchased an American flag and a picture of the Lincoln Memorial for each individual.

Each student wrote a letter thank-

ing the WWII veterans for their service. The letters were distributed at "Mail Call" on the Volusia Honor Air Flight from Washington DC. As an escort on the flight, I can say that it was a very emotional experience for everybody on board.



Students at Freedom Elementary School in Deland, FL present their flags on "Tell America" Day

Bob Balzer, 811 Orangewood Ave., Deland FL 32724

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The three Rotary Clubs in DeLand, Florida joined forces to organize the first Volusia Honor Air flight. Our mission is to extend our deepest appreciation and gratefulness to our WWII heroes for their bravery and sacrifice by escorting as many ambulatory World War II veterans as possible to the new World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., at no costs to those veterans.

World War II veterans quite literally saved the world from domination by the forces of Hitler's Third Reich, Mussolini's Italy and the Empire of Japan. Risking their lives, they did so bravely and with honor. Their accounts are surely marked, "Paid in Full". We seek to honor them and give them this fleeting opportunity to visit the great city they saved and the memorial built in their honor. For a full description of the operations, access <http://www.volusiahonorair.org/>



Bob Balzer stands behind a class on "Tell America" Day at Freedom Elementary School



The third class at Freedom Elementary School in Deland FL for Bob Balzer's "Tell America" presentation

**209 – LAREDO KWVA 1950 [TX]**

U.S. Marine Corps veterans Pedro Trevino, Jr. and Dave Leydendecker recently visited the Laredo United South High School Marine JROTC. Leydendecker presented a PowerPoint account of the Korean War.

Trevino and Leydendecker covered the beginning of the war,

then followed it through to the end. The cadets asked several questions after the presentation, which Senior Instructor SgtMaj Ray Fullard scheduled for three different classes.

*Dave Leydendecker, 23 Quadrangle, Laredo, TX 78041*



Dave Leydendecker of Ch 209 explains his ribbons and badges to student



Students at Laredo United South High School Marine JROTC listen attentively to Dave Leydendecker during his PowerPoint presentation

**282 – MAUI NO KA OI [HI]**

We told our story to the Kula Community Seniors; Pukalani Community Seniors, Kahului Union Community seniors, Kalama Middle School 8th grade classes, and King Kekaulike High School junior classes. We received many thank you notes.

A number of the teachers included an essay assignment for their classes, and we were the beneficiary of getting feedback on what was learned.

One of our presenters, Dr. Roger

Clow, is a Korean War orphan who was adopted as a six-year old by a member of the US Army. He came to the United States, applied himself, and eventually became a physician. He practiced on the island of Maui until his retirement.

Dr. Clow is a great asset to our Tell America program, because he provides proof positive of the good that has been done.

*Doug Halbert, kwva282@gmail.com*



The Tell America team of Ch 282 (L-R) Doug Halbert, Harold Kametani, Warren Nishida (President), Roger Clow, MD, Gilbert Correa, Jo Davidson, Toshio Seki, Hiroshi Mizoguchi

## An idea for Tell America presentations

Larry Kinard, Chairman of the Tell America Committee, suggested that Louis Holmes has a good idea for Tell America presentations. He said, "Some of our chapters may be interested in using this table presentation in the schools. It works very nicely as a part of the Tell America program." Here is his idea.

### Table of Remembrance

By Louis Holmes  
Korean War Veteran 1950-1951  
As pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Grapevine, and since my retirement, I have had the privilege of presenting "The Table Of Remembrance," commonly called the POW/MIA Table, at different venues. There are several ways this table can be set up, but I have always used the four-man table representing the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Marines.

I have set up the Table of Remembrance in churches, schools, libraries and bookstores as part of Show and Tell America. I have set it up at the Veterans Administration in Dallas in July to mark the end of hostilities in Korea and at the Sam Rayburn Medical Center in Bonham, TX in September for POW/MIA Day.

We must ask ourselves, "What kind of men are these we remember for their services, successes and their sacrifices, these citizen Soldiers, Sailors, Airman, Marines and Coast Guardsmen?" These are young men and women from our cities, farms, and classrooms of our schools and college campuses who are not dedicated to the profession of arms or skilled in the art of war, but ordinary people just like our sons and daughters.

We must also ask, "What kind of men are these who lay down their life on the altar of our country's needs, these common men with uncommon valor?" Many service men and women who have given their life have burned out in minutes all that life owed them in tranquil years. We who survived have grown old; we remember our buddies in their youth.

As we die, a white cross or government marker will mark the place of our memory but, since those who are yet Prisoners Of War or still regarded as Missing In Action are known only to God, we must remember and demand a full accounting of those still missing.

Mr. Holmes, who served with 7 INFD 31 INF 2 BN E, is a member of Ch 215, GEN Walton H. Walker [TX]. Contact him at 1302 E 9th St., Bonham, TX 75418-4023, LHolmes@cableone.net.

## CID 289 participates in service for Korean War POW

Our local Kingsport, TN newspaper reported the news that a POW/MIA had been identified after 59 years and was being transported from Hawaii to be buried in the family cemetery next to his parents. Master Sgt. Roy E. Head was captured by the CCF in February 1951 and marched to a POW camp, where he died in April 1951 of malnutrition.



**ABOVE:** Bill Porter, Al Ford, James Holton, Harold Webb, Jim Simerly, Bill McCoy, Bob Shelton, Fred Himelwright, Arles Pease (L-R) of Ch 289 at service for Sgt. Head. In attendance, but not pictured, were Bill Lewis, Earl Christian, William Reed, Ralph Yelton, Gale Carpenter



Sign outside the church where the Sgt. Head service was held

Sgt Head's remains were returned by the North Koreans as part of 34 coffins and 148 sets of remains in 1993.

Mountain Empire Chapter 289's Service Officer Arles Pease contacted the family and expressed our desire to be part of the funeral service planned for the day before his burial.

On June 4, fourteen chapter members attended in uniform and we were included in the program. Founder and Past Commander Robert E. Shelton told "The Story of the Forgotten War."

At the end of the service all fourteen members rendered a final salute.

*Carol Shelton, cshelton37663@yahoo.com*

### Soldier Missing From Korean War Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced on 4 June 2010 that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Korean War have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Army Master Sgt. Roy E. Head of Clinchport, Va., will be buried Saturday, 5 June 2010, in Duffield, Va. Head was assigned to Headquarters Company, 49th Field Artillery Battalion.

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