

The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

The education continues...The program expands

In response to Larry Kinard's "Tell America" article (Jan-Feb, p. 54), I submit the following: after our Chapter 58 received a request for an 'email interview' from a middle school Korean-American girl in California, I shared the request with our other members.

I expressed my opinions on the interview sheet, and returned it to her, along with a copy of the book Larry sent out and a copy of that great little blue book written by Jack Walker, *A Brief Account of the Korean War*.

The project she was working on in school was an effort to provide more information to her classmates on what American

GIs' ideas were on the way the war had been handled by both Generals and politicians! The tone of her questions seemed to be very similar to the opinions expressed by Dr. Hubert Lee in his After Action Report, "Trip to Ji Pyung-Ni Battlefield," which appeared on Page 60 of the Jan-Feb issue of *The Graybeards*.

He is a remarkable man who works very hard raising funds to make life easier for the handicapped and homeless children in Korea.

Joe Vogel, CID 58, Monroe County, NY, 1432 State St. Route 36, Caledonia NY 14423

2 - NORTHWEST ALABAMA [AL]

We completed our Tell America program for the current school year. We visited 8 schools; 16 veterans participated at these schools and

spoke to 2,124 students, compared to 1,200 students the previous year.

Lee Makinson, makinson@comcast.net



Bob Norris of Ch 2 explains his service as part of a B-29 crew over Korea at Waterloo AL school



James Taylor explains his duties aboard a minesweeper off the coast of East North Korea at Russellville HS in Russellville, AL during Ch 2 Tell America presentation



James Taylor, Bill Gober, David Brown, Lee Makinson, and Juanita Makinson, a Gold Star Mother from Vietnam War (L-R). Ch 2 Tell America presenter Bill Gober of the "Chosin Few," relating experiences at Chosin Reservoir, points to Lee Makinson, holding an M-1 rifle like the one Bill carried during those days



David Brown of Ch 2 shows helmet and liner to students at Wilson Middle School in Sheffield, AL

19 - GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

Urban Rump arranged a Tell America program at the Acworth Elementary School in Acworth, Georgia. Four classes of 5th graders sat in rapt attention to hear about the Korean War and watch two short films. The question

and answer session was enjoyable.

We also presented material to students at Big Shanty School in Kennesaw, GA.

Jim Conway conatlanta@comcast.net



Urban Rump of Ch 19 speaks to Acworth Elementary School students



Ch 19 Tell America presenters speak to Big Shanty School students



Tell America presenters from Ch 19 at Acworth Elementary School: Bob Moore, Bob McCubbins, Urban Rump, Bob Hendershott and Jim Conway, with portrait of General Davis



Big Shanty School students sit enraptured by Ch 19 Tell America presenters

54 - THOMAS W. DALEY, JR [NJ]

On 23 February, chapter member Clarence Williams visited Orchard Friends School in Camden, New Jersey to talk about his experiences in the Korean War. He also gave the students glimpses into what life was like in Camden before and after the war.

The highly-decorated Williams wore his uniform and medals to "class" to emphasize his military duty. His grandson, Dwanye, is a ninth-grade student at the school, which made the presentation all the more meaningful for both men.

Veterans Day 2010

By Kali Staman

Before us you stand,
Your definition of duty shadowed in wizened eyes.
We search for it as you speak,
Try to understand it with our hearts.

A million stories of foreign lands,
Your hands shake.

Before us you stand,
Your bravery pinned to your chest.

We attempt to convey our gratitude,
Two words don't seem to be enough.

Tales of heroism we ask for,
But you tell us those who are heroes can't be here.

Before us you stand,
Your definition of duty shadowed in wizened eyes.

We search for it as you speak,
Trying to understand how to say thank you with all our hearts.

Kali Staman was a student at Williamstown [NJ] High School. Kali wrote this poem in response to a Tell America visit by members of Chapter 54, Thomas W. Daley, Jr.

We also received a great letter from a young lady named Sima Cordner. It is nearby.

Submitted by Chapter 54
Commander Andy Jackson
captjack71@comcast.net

Clarence Williams
of Ch 54



Letter from Sima Cordner

Dear Korean War Veterans,

Capt. Andy Jackson
Sgt. Fred Connolly
Sgt. Joseph Macmichael jr.
Sgt. William Keys
Mrs. Dotty Coffee-Trout
Sgt. Walter Trout
Sgt. Stan Levin

Thank you for coming in and speaking to our classes about your experiences in the Korean War. It must be very difficult to talk about what happened to you and the things you have seen. You taught us a lot about the circumstances of the war, and from the stories you told it amazes me how you all remained so strong. I will be honest, I had very mixed feelings about war in general, and I never understood why some soldiers joined the war to put their lives in danger. You all completely changed my mind, because you showed me that you are all strong men and women who stood up for what you believed in, to fight for freedom not only for us but for other nations around the world. I also enjoyed being a volunteer and putting on the gear you had to wear everyday through your training and battles. It was very heavy, and it showed me how strong you all had to be. Thank you again for speaking to our classes.

Sincerely,
Sima Cordner

Sima Cordner

More ➤



Sima Cordner displays Korean War gear displayed by Ch 54 Tell America presenters

169 - KWVA of Lake County [FL]

As a part of our Tell America effort at St. Paul Catholic School in Leesburg, FL, we asked the students to write essays. We thought the response was out-

standing.

To view the essays, go to the following website: http://cid169.kwva.org/tell_america/Images/St_Pauls/essay_2011_all.pdf



Students at St. Paul Catholic School Tell America presentation (L-R) Lindsey Pinder, Jessica Heroux, and Augusto Useche; KWVA Tell America team (L-R) Tom Thiel, Charlie White, Dick Pfahler

Ch 169 Presents John A. Yohn Grant To Leesburg High [FL] Air Force Junior ROTC Program

On March 17th Chapter 169 presented its \$500.00 "John A. Yohn Award" to the Air Force Jr. ROTC program at Leesburg High School. This is an extension of our Tell America program that we presented to them on February 3, 2011. Here are chapter President Tom Thiel's remarks.

Welcome. I am Tom J. Thiel, President of the Korean War and

Service Veterans Association of Lake County, Chapter 169, Inc.

Ted Jansen, our Chapter's Scholarship Committee Chair is also here with me.

Our Chapter is very pleased to present its 2011 John A. Yohn Grant to the Leesburg High Air Force Junior ROTC Program in recognition of your very high achievements and in support of your many programs.



Chief Master Sergeant Dan Dixon, who leads the Leesburg JROTC, welcomes Alta Yohn at the John A. Yohn Award Ceremony. Photo by Keri Rasmussen-Bekier, Leesburg FL Daily-Commercial



Cadets saluting at the end of the presentation of the John A. Yohn Award. Photo by Keri Rasmussen-Bekier, Leesburg FL Daily-Commercial

The Award honors John A. Yohn, past Chapter President, Director, and member of the Color Guard, who passed away last August 24.

We are especially pleased that John's widow, Alta, is able to join with us today for the award.

John was born Nov. 18, 1928, in Canton, OH, where he graduated from Lincoln High School in 1946. Shortly thereafter, John joined Company A of the 987th Armored FA BN, Ohio National Guard.

With the start of the Korean War in June 1950, the 987th found its status changed to active duty and it very soon left for Korea, where John served as a gunnery Sgt. from 1950-52.

John saw heavy hand-to-hand combat, especially after the Chinese Peoples Volunteers' inter-

vention in North Korea in November 1950.

He heard the sounds of the attacking CPV—their bugles and whistles in the pitch black of the night. He saw their red and green tracers soon followed by wave after wave of human attackers. And he saw their bodies often piled several deep where they fell. John lost many friends, too!

When his term was over, John came home. And, like his fellow Korean vets, without fanfare, he blended back into the "normal" life of being a productive American citizen. At first, he did not talk much about his service. However, little by little, he began to realize that what he and his fellow Korean Vets had done now 60 years ago was one of the most significant such efforts in our nation's history for it drove one of the first nails in



Tim Parrish, Jr. (L) accepts the John A. Yohn Award on behalf of the Leesburg High AF Jr. ROTC from Chapter 169 President Tom Thiel (R) and Ted Jansen (C). Chief Master Sgt. Dan Dixon is in background. Photo by Keri Rasmussen-Bekier, Leesburg FL Daily-Commercial

the coffin containing communism—whose goal was to capture minds, bodies and souls of freedom-loving people everywhere!

Unfortunately, North Korea remains as one of the two surviving communist nations on earth, and our country is ever vigilant by keeping some 30,000 troops on alert along the DMZ separating a very depressed North Korea from its freedom loving and quite prosperous brothers and sisters in the south.

John became active in the Chapter's efforts to tell America

about the Korean War, and spent a great amount of time with students.

He was buried with honors at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell on Thursday, September 2. We miss John.

The Korean War and Service Veterans Association of Lake County, #169, is most happy to present this \$500 check to the Leesburg High Air Force Junior ROTC Program in recognition of our brother, John Yohn!

Congratulations!

*Tom Thiel, President,
kwva169@gmail.com*

175 - LT BALDOMERO LOPEZ (MOH) [FL]

We worked with school officials at Twin Lakes Elementary School to put together a Veterans Day ceremony in November 2010. The guest speaker was South Korean Army LtCol Hyungsuk Kim, who is stationed at MacDill Air Force Base. He described for the students his country's government, climate, and economy. He also provided details for them about the Korean War.

Students wrote essays on what Veterans Day means to

them. Here are three (unedited) samples:

By Nhi Huynh

Veterans Day is important for many reasons. It's a day to honor and remember all who have served in our armed forces, especially those who have given their lives for our country. It's our duty to remember and thank them. After all, you're alive it could be because of them.

Veterans' Day to me it's about honoring all service members of



Sam Hayes (L) of Ch 175 presents plaque to LtCol Kim at Twin Lakes Elementary School

Ralph Hawkins and Sam Hayes of Ch 175 (Back, L-R) stand behind essay winners at Twin Lakes Elementary School as LtCol Kim (R) looks on



the present and past. Also I want to thank for those who served and died or were wounded mentally or physically in wars. I remember the heroes, those who have offered and those who gave their lives to America's freedom. Many fought through blood, sweat, tears, and lost their lives so that I may have the freedoms you have today. So next time you see a veteran, your dad or your grandpa, express your appreciation to them whether they're from World War I or II or freshly back from Iraq or Afghanistan.

But, overall freedom means a lot to me. Looking back at people from Haiti, they don't have the same privileges as us so appreciate what you have. So thank you veterans!! Because you make me feel proud and make me feel safe to live in the U.S.A.

Thank You!

By Gavin

"What Veteran's Day means to me" is when the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and the Coast Guard are fighting for our country.

When I think of Veteran's Day I think of when you have to stand up or sit down to have a moment of silence anywhere we are. And I bet everyone, even your mom or your dad honors them. And this is how we love the military.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under god indivisible with liberty and justice for all".

By Paolo

What Veteran's Day means to me is about celebrating all the types of people who fought

in the war for other people that they don't even know. Some people that fought in the war made it but some people that weren't prepared died. Those people are special because they saved our community and that's a nice thing to do for other people. I have a friend named Nicole and she told me story about her grandpa. Her grandpa worked in the U.S. navy, it was a year since he had been

Continued on page 56