

The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

Bill Baldaccini

The "Oral History Day" event at Thornton High School, Thornton, CO is now in its 17th year. The purpose of the event is to have the students gain a better understanding of, "What it means to be an American and a Veteran in the United States." This event was originally created as a part of the "Making History Come Alive" series to bring the students out of the pages of a textbook and allow them the opportunity to learn of history first hand from the hearing of experiences from veterans.

On an average each student hears the actual story of three or four veterans throughout the morning. Hearing different stories has allowed the students to compare and contrast the stories of different veterans and different time periods. As a result, they gain a better understanding of what it means to be an American and to live up to the values that create the core to the American Belief System and to understand the reality that "Freedom is Not Free!!"

Korean War Veteran Bill Baldaccini has been an active participant in this pro-



Bill Baldaccini

gram for the last four years to "Tell America" about Korea. Bill Baldaccini has condensed his "Korea - Past, Present and Future" program that was presented at the Adult Education Program, Denver University, to fit. He found that the high school students were attentive and appreciative as expressed in the following student notes.

Baldaccini noted that "I liked particularly the letter from young Taylor, who aspires to be the Secretary of State. God Bless him! We need more young ones like him, who are willing to take on the problems of our evolving world."

William B. Baldaccini
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Letters to Bill Baldaccini

TO Mr. Baldaccini

Thank you!

Dear Mr. Baldaccini,

Thank you for taking your time to come to Thornton High School to share your experiences and teach us more of the Korean War! I really appreciate you for helping us understand much more of this time in history. But even more, thank you so much for your services in the war! I am very thankful for your efforts in protecting the country. I hope you know that I appreciate yours as well as other veterans' services and sacrifices for our country!

Please come visit
Thornton High School
again next time!

- Navy Bui

Thank You!

Dear Mr. Baldaccini,

Thank you for coming to Thornton High School to present the history of the Korean War. Since you took part in it, your lecture was very informative and interesting for me to understand! I am very impressed on how well you put together the presentation. Thank you again for not just being here but also becoming a veteran!

- Holly V

Thank You!

Dear Mr. Baldaccini,

Thank you very much for coming out to Thornton High School last week as a part of Oral History Day! I was thoroughly compelled by your presentation and story as you provided background on the Korean War to help see the conflict in the larger sphere of context and importance. I want to become the U.S. Secretary of State and work for the State Department and United Nations, so your presentation encompassing the UN Charter and Declaration was intriguing and eye opening to learn how the ideals we sought for an international organization played such a major role in our intervention in the Korean War. Thank you for teaching me about aspects of the war and that piece of history which I was previously ignorant to - knowing why we intervened is an important aspect to our history that is not always clear. I especially want to thank you for your service and all that you have endured to protect our freedoms and help us promote democratic ideals, abroad. Thank you for everything you have done for this country.

Sincerely,
Taylor M. Cain
Taylor M. Cain
10 April 2014

Have a Mini-Reunion? Dedicating a Memorial? Attending a Banquet

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

30 – INDIANA #1 [IN]

Our Tell America program has ended for the year, as have our school programs.

Some of our veterans went to Blackhawk Middle School in response to a request from Mrs. Elise Olson, one of the wonderful teachers there. Elise and Blackhawk students are so good to our group of veterans. We love doing programs there.

One of our members, Jim Winnie, a WWII and Korean

War veteran, was a pilot whose job was to snatch gliders and teach other service members. He spoke about his experiences to fellow church members.

Our veterans love going into our schools and other places to talk about their experiences. The students and teachers always enjoy our visits.

*Mary Anna Roemke,
260-485-7627*



Members of Ch 30, Walter Scare (seated), Bernard Wisniewski, Ed Hagadorn (one of the most highly decorated veterans in Allen County), Carl Fowler, Ron Barnhart (L-R)

43 - KANSAS CITY #2 [MO]

Paul Wolfgeher, Vern Scott and I had two firsts for the National Tell America Program. This was the first time we had been to Luff School in Independence, MO, which is an elementary school. And, it was the first elementary school at which we had ever presented the Tell America Program.

We had met Lindsay Rimel, the history teacher, on Veterans Day and she said that she would like to have us back to talk to her

history students. There were sixty students and the three of us really enjoyed them. I think they asked more questions than all of the junior and senior high school students we visited this year.

It was a great time for the three of us.

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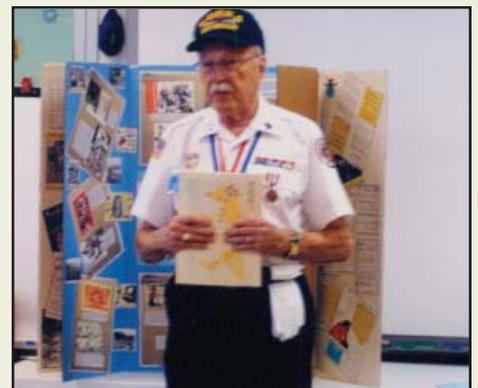


Paul Wolfgeher of Ch 43 speaks to students



Bob Jones of Ch 43 explains the "Tiger Tank Look"

Vern Scott of Ch 43 shows Korean War map



LEFT: Presenters from Ch 30, faculty, and students at Blackhawk Middle School

BELOW: Jim Winnie of Ch 30 speaks to a group at his church about his military experiences



48 – CHORWON [NJ]

We dispatched some of our members to tell grammar school students about their experiences in Korea. The presenters were John Valerio, Rudy

Parciaseppe, and Larry Morgan.

*Winifred Brimley
476 4th Ave.
Westwood, NJ 07675
201-666-128*



The Franklin School 6th grade class in Saddle Brook, NJ visited by Ch 48



John Valerio of Ch 48 speaks to students



Rudy Parciaseppe of Ch 48 with students

Larry Morgan of Ch 48 explains a WWII Bill Mauldin cartoon to students



55 – NASSAU COUNTY #1 [NY]

On May 22nd, Buddy Epstein and Commander Don Zoeller visited Weber Middle School in Port Washington, NY. While there, they distributed American history booklets containing the U.S.

Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and biographies of all the U.S. presidents.

*Robert P. O'Brien
408 5th Avenue,
Cedarhurst, NY 11516*



Students of a class at Weber Middle School with Ch 55 members



Buddy Epstein and Don Zoeller of Ch 55 at Weber Middle School



Buddy Epstein and Don Zoeller show slides to Weber Middle School students

60 - ADIRONDACK [NY]

On May 19, 2014, members went to the Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls, New York for a 6:30 p.m. presentation to the general public. This was initiated by librarian Ms. Karen Kinney, who had requested that we bring a panel of veterans, including a Color Guard.

Although attendance was disappointing, the panel made the presentation in the same manner as done at schools, which was well received.

Included was a question and answer period and handouts were provided.

In attendance were Commander William Shaw, Marge Shaw, Eugene Slavin, Louis Alonzo, Mert Eggleston, Paul Nolan, and Tell America Chairman Bob Garland.

Commander Shaw presented a copy of the book "Korea Reborn" to the library.

*Robert S. ("Bob") Garland,
35A Cass Ct.
Ballston Lake, NY 12019*

105 - CENTRAL NEW YORK [NY]

The Gillette Road School in North Syracuse, NY celebrated its 13th annual USA Day on May 28, 2014. The gymnasium and parking lots were used to display the equipment the military and

law enforcement units use to safeguard us. The Red Cross and fire departments were on hand to display methods used to rescue and tend to the injured.



The Ch 105 crew at Gillette Road School for USA Day (L-R) Ed Grala, Norm Champagne, Fran Izzo, Dave Allen, and Jim Low

The local military and police units, along with the KWVA, were on hand to answer any questions the 1,300 students, teachers, and guests had. Chapter 105 is the only veterans group that attends every year.

We received a unique and

innovative gift for our participation: a package of Morning Glory seeds in honor of our "planting the seeds of patriotism."

*Jim Low
114 Wembridge Dr.,
E. Syracuse, NY 13057
315-437-0833*

175 - LT. BALDOMERO LOPEZ (MOH) [FL]

We experienced a great and joyful event at George M. Steinbrenner High School in Tampa, FL. We told the students in an American History class about events of the Korean War. These students were very inquisitive and asked very challenging and delightful question, e.g., why did the government at that time allow this war to happen?

The students learned that

America won on two fronts in WWII, against Germany and Japan. After WWII the world divided in two camps, the countries behind the "Iron Curtain" and the capitalist nations. Korea was the first war against communism.

Salvatore Zichi answered the primary questions—and many more.

*T. Devilin Parrish
t.parrish05@hotmail.com*



Public Relations rep Ms. Holly Clemmons, to right of T. Devilin Parrish, Hank Binder, Marvin Nelson, Salvatore Zichi, and Sam Hayes of Ch 175 (L-R)

Hank Binder of Ch 175 shares his story about being in Korea



Chaplain Sam Hayes of Ch 175 points out some facts about Korean War

