

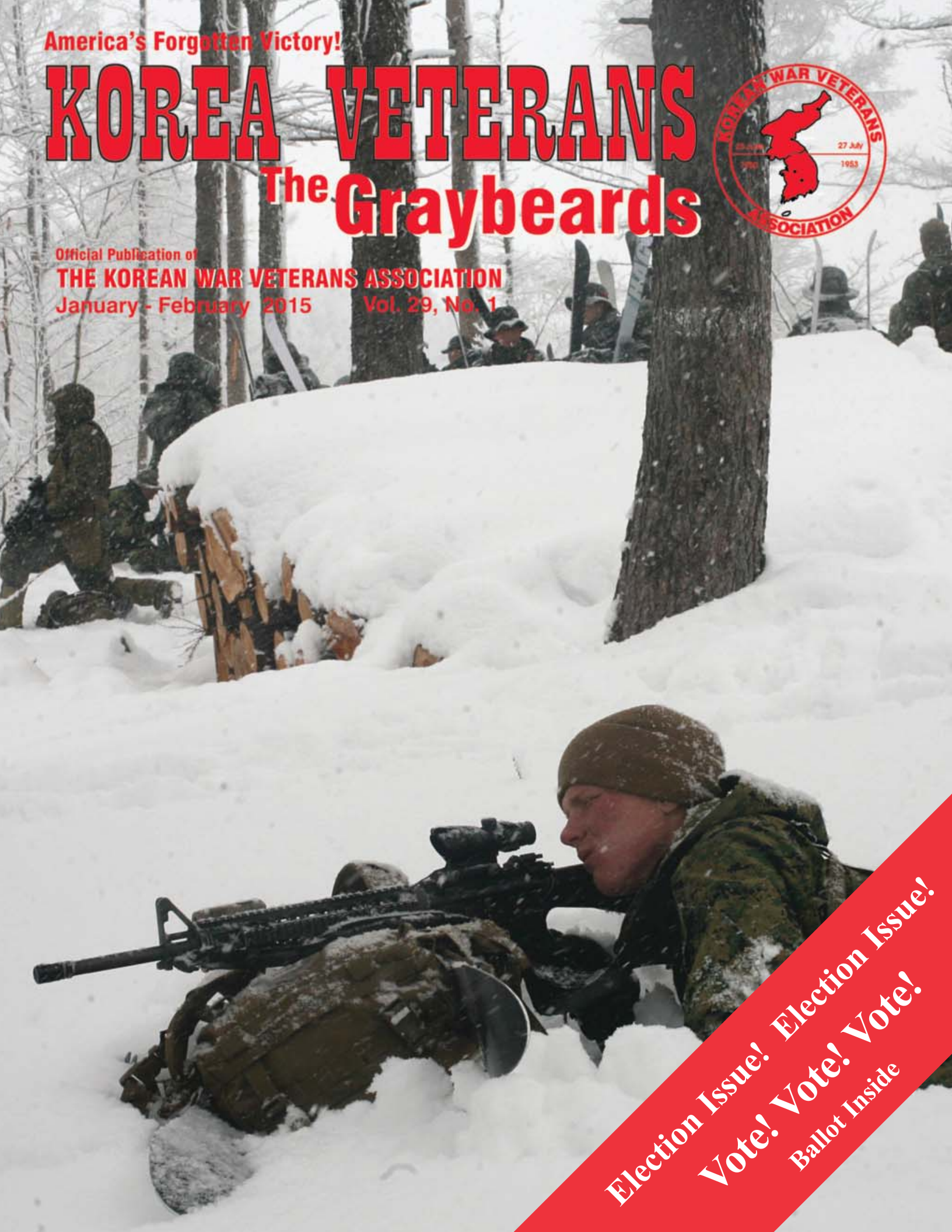
America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

The Graybeards



Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
January - February 2015 Vol. 29, No. 1



Election Issue! Election Issue!
Vote! Vote! Vote!
Ballot Inside

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



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We Honor Founder William T. Norris

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See detailed list of committees at
WWW.KWVA.ORG



From the President

Larry Kinard

Another year has gone and I am still wondering where it went. I have always heard that when you get to the end of the toilet paper roll it really spins fast. I think somehow that applies to all of us Korean veterans at this time of our lives.

As I look back over the year just passed I feel pretty good about it. We did not add as many members as I had hoped, but we pretty much held our own. At this stage of our existence that seems pretty good. I think we have taken a few steps forward and made the organization stronger and we are paving the way to maintain the legacy of what we accomplished during the Korean War.

I am excited about some of the by-law changes that have been made that will make us a more flexible and efficient organization. I am also pleased with the addition of the Executive Director and what he can do for us.

Our relationships with the South Koreans and the other service organizations are stronger than ever, and we have a very good Board of Directors who are enthusiastic and willing to make changes that will allow us to move ahead. We have a strong potential for increasing the membership through several initiatives that are being developed. I hope they will pay off for us this year. There is more to come from all this in upcoming issues of the magazine.

A couple of interesting things happened last December. Our local chapter, like many of the chapters around the country, had a very nice Christmas lunch at our regular meeting that month. I had the pleasure of sitting at the table next to one of our long time members, Dr. Bobby Brown, a noted cardiologist in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Many of you will remember him as one of the famed Yankee baseball players from the late 1940s and 1950s. He served in the Navy during WWII and also as a doctor in one of the MASH units during the Korean War. He has lots of stories to tell.

He told me that he and Yogi Berra are the only two living players from the 1947 World Champion Yankee Baseball team, and that Yogi's health is not too good these days. However, Dr. Brown still looks good, seems to be in reasonably good health, and still participates in the Yankees "Old Timers Reunion" every year. We feel fortunate to have him in our chapter.

In December I journeyed to Washington D.C. to attend a planning session with the Executive Planning group for this year's annual meeting this coming July. (Elsewhere in this issue you can find a notice of the event. Our website also has an announcement and information. Please note that we will be in the Double Tree Hotel on 300 Army Navy Drive in Arlington, VA this year, and there is a need to go ahead and make reservations.) Jim Fisher is coordinating the planning aspects of the event, along with 1st VP Col. (ret) Warren Wiedhahn, General Shin, ROK Defense Attaché, Generals (ret) Bill Maloney, Steve Olmsted and Col. (ret) Rich Dean, Memorial Wall Foundation.

Once again I stress the need for each of you to vote and encourage other members to vote as well. **WE NEED YOUR VOTE!!!!**

We have a strong slate of 7 candidates shown in this issue of the magazine who are running for the 4 vacant Director openings.

We expect to have a great program on Saturday, July 25th, along with the Board of Directors and Membership meeting on July 23 and 24th. We have invited and expect to have a large contingent of dignitaries from Korea and a sizeable representation of Korean veterans in attendance from several of the UN countries that participated during the Korean War.

This year will mark several significant milestones in the history of the KWVA, and we want to make it one we will remember. We will be putting out additional details as soon as they are finalized.

In this issue you will note a story written by Lt. General Richard Carey USMC (ret) concerning the Chosin Few Memorial that is to be erected at the National Museum of the Marine Corps at the Quantico Marine Base. It appears that they have acquired enough funds for a ground-breaking ceremony to be held during the time of our July meeting. We plan to be a part of that. No details are available at this time, but they will be forthcoming in future issues of *The Graybeards* and on our website. They are still soliciting contributions and would appreciate any help they can get. The "Chosin Few" is one of our sister organizations, and we hope to work very closely with them in the future. I encourage your support of this effort.

The spring Board Meeting is scheduled at the Pentagon Sheraton Hotel for March 26-28, 2015 in Washington D.C. At that meeting we hope to discuss some important issues to present to the membership in July. As you know, these topics will be covered in *The Graybeards* prior to the July meeting.

Once again I stress the need for each of you to vote and encourage other members to vote as well. **WE NEED YOUR VOTE!!!!** We have a strong slate of 7 candidates shown in this issue of the magazine who are running for the 4 vacant Director openings. Please make an effort to study the qualifications and select the 4 you think will do the best job of helping to lead this organization in the next 3 years.

I am very pleased and thankful to each of these members who have been willing to step up and place their names before you to be a part of the leadership of the KWVA.

I URGE ALL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS/COMMANDERS TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO GET YOUR MEMBERS TO VOTE THIS YEAR.

Larry Kinard, President

COVER: PYEONGCHANG TRAINING AREA, Pohang , South Korea - U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Grant E. Vanalstyne provides security while his teammates simulate calling for fire support as part of a squad competition course Feb. 18 during Korean Marine Exchange Program 14-2. The Republic of Korea Marines are with 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, and Vanalstyne is a rifleman with Company F. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Anthony J. Kirby/Released)



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From the Secretary

The Korean War Veterans Association Membership Directory 2014

I hope everyone has received their directory by now. As always, there are a few complaints, mostly because your picture was not included and there is usually a good explanation for that.

Unfortunately, Harris Connect has changed their policy and you only have 14 days to return the book and get a refund. It used to be thirty. I am not sure how they calculate the 14 days because everyone did not receive their copy at the same time, but you can always contact their customer service people at 800-877-6554.

On the other hand, there are always also some complimentary comments. Here is one of them. Mr. Melvin W Schrieffer Sr. let us know that he was very, very happy with the outcome of the project. He felt the book was good quality and that we did a wonderful job – in fact he had purchased more than one book and tribute prints.

The Association had ten pages for editorial material to be used in the book, so you can blame me if you are not happy with those. Otherwise, I thank those people who submitted their pictures and stories. For those of you who did not, you just lost a chance to leave a legacy of your life for your children and grandchildren.

Responses were received from 13,500 members. Of those, 5,800 placed orders, 3,200 submitted short stories, and 386 submitted photos. (See mine on page 64). My youngest daughter commented, "Dad, you look so young." Well, we were. I do not think she would have expected to see an old man in 1950.

Approximately 14,950 master records were updated in one way or another, e.g., for bad or no email addresses, bad location addresses, bad or no telephone numbers listed, etc. Also, we sold 414 memberships.

Most of you are aware that this project was done at no cost to the KWVA. While the final results are not available yet, the KWVA should net about \$58,000.00. One last thing: the directory is ordered on a prepaid basis, so there are no extra copies. However, there are always some cancellations/returns, so call Harris Connect customer service if you are interested in ordering one.

Change in Procedures

While the procedure documents (bylaws/SPM) have not yet been changed, please do not send your election reports or Department/Chapter documentation to me. I no longer have any Department or Chapter documents in my possession. Please send them to the Membership Office. All Department/Chapter information will be posted on the website.

Address, phone, e-mail changes

I continue to receive address, phone, and e-mail changes. So does the editor of *The Graybeards*, who also receives "Last Call" notices. Please send your changes and notices directly to the Membership Office. (See the address on p. 2.)

God bless America, God bless our active duty service members, and God bless our veterans.



Frank Cohee

772 MP BN Assn. Receives Honor

The 772 MP BN Assn. has met yearly for the past nineteen years. The reunions were held in Tucson, Tampa, Milwaukee, Branson, Chicago, St. Louis, Hartford, and places in between.

At the beginning, 65 veterans and their spouses were in attendance. At our most recent reunion, which was held in Washington, D.C., only 12 members were present. Our numbers are dwindling fast. But, we have made plans to have a 20th reunion in 2015 in the Boston area.

During the past reunion our battalion was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for our dedicated service in providing railway security during the Korean War. The certificate was signed by the Provost Marshal General of the United States Army, Major General David E. Quantock.

The certificate was presented to our group by representatives from the Pentagon, Col. Dan McElroy, and his colleagues, CWO Lynne McCann, Gene Smith, and Dawn Ripplemeyer.



Gene Michaels, Secretary
772 MP Bn. Assn.
28511 TR 1233, Warsaw, OH 43844

Memories of a Lone Soldier

I arrived in Korea in 1951 with the 101st Battalion. After making the Inchon landing, I was detached from my unit (TDY) and assigned to 24th Division supplying Antrack radio.

We moved through Seoul up to the north central part of Korea. My unit relieved the 561st Signal, which was attached to the 1st Calvary. During the winter months of 1951, I supported communications for the 1st Marine Division on the Han River.

Moving forward, I supported communications with the 19th Turkish Brigade for about two weeks. I was then assigned to the 6th ROK Division, along with the English, New Castle.

The Chinese broke through the front line and we retreated by foot, 60 miles south to Chuncheon, in 2 ½ days. We regrouped and went forward to the 38th Parallel, the dividing line between North and South Korea, with the 7th Division.

On one occasion we were able to have a squad of infantrymen give us some support from being ambushed. Getting supplies was difficult. We were on the highest mountain ranges, where it was easier to transmit and receive radio signals. We were the only link between the soldiers in the field and at headquarters, so it was important to keep our communications open.

Each radio team had three men assigned to it, so we were basically alone. Being alone in a hostile environment could bring all sorts of fears to your mind. That was hard to deal with. Also, we had to carry all our belongings on our backs. That included a tent, sleeping bag, water, a weapon, and a generator for the communication radios, which weighed about 55 lbs. apiece.

It was very difficult getting drinking water. Five gallons of drinking water had to last one week among three soldiers. We washed with a washcloth because we could rarely get to a shower in a camp. If I took a hot shower five times within the course of one year it was a lot.

A change of fresh clean clothes was difficult. Seldom did we have the opportunity to get a warm meal, unless we were close to a unit that we were supporting. I relied mostly on field rations to survive.

July and August in Korea are the months when the monsoons came. They were torrential, continuous rains that flooded the land and even penetrated our canvas tents. It was like someone spitting at you.

We would dry out our socks by putting them between the waistbands of our pants, hoping our body heat would dry them out. The ground was so wet that we had to put our rain ponchos underneath our sleeping bags so we could keep somewhat dry.

As we moved through the villages going north, the Korean people abandoned their homes. We would notice the soil was packed down along the road next to their huts. Then we would see crevices in the soil. Digging up the soil, we would find huge crock-pots buried beneath the earth, in which the Korean people hid their rice. They thought that they would come back to their villages, so they were hiding their food. But, when the monsoon rains came, the rice fermented in the huge crock-pots, burst, and created the crevices in the ground.

Entering the huts, I noticed a fireplace on one end of the hut.



Anthony Rabasco and Sgt. Kyle share a tent in Korea

Tunnels covered with soil went from one side of the room to the fireplace. This acted as the chimney. The Korean people heated their huts with firewood, and the heat traveled under the floor to heat the hut.

Firewood was very scarce during the Korean War. The peasants stripped down trees all along the mountainside for firewood. I saw peasants comb the bark off trees with water until the bark turned into rough cheesecloth. They used this cloth for clothing.

The Korean people and their children suffered tremendously due to the lack of food, heat and clothing. One day I heard a dog screaming. I looked through my field glasses from the top of the mountain. I did not know it, but they were choking the dog by the throat. When I arrived at the foot of the mountain, they started burning the dog on the fire, scraping its fur off the skin with a stick. They boiled the dog in a huge can—with all his externals—and ate the animal.

On our retreat to Chuncheon, the American soldiers set fire to an ammunition dump with 1,000 gallons of gasoline. Vehicles that needed minor repairs were set on fire. Fifty gallons of gasoline were dumped into wells to contaminate the water. This prevented the Chinese from drinking the water.

I had a squad of six ROK infantry soldiers on top of the mountain for support. One morning the clouds rested on top of the mountain. You could imagine walking from one mountain to the other. That's how heavy the clouds were.

A ROK sentry was wiping off the dampness from his weapon, when he inadvertently touched its trigger. A few bursts of ammo let loose. His sergeant jumped out of his foxhole. The soldier told him it was an accident.

That morning the sergeant called his entire squad in front of the soldier who let loose the rounds. The sergeant told the private to bend down and touch his ankles. With a huge stick he beat the private for punishment. That day the private had to go down to the foot of the mountain several times to carry five gallons of drinking water back up as part of his punishment.

On our retreat to Chuncheon, the Sixth ROK Infantry had laborers to carry their ammo, tents and equipment. The laborers would fall out of ranks with the gear they were carrying. The Korean soldiers would butt the laborers to get them to stand on

Continued on page 10



Mark Your Calendars!!



Korean War Veterans Association Annual Meeting
Korean War Veterans Association Board & Membership Meeting
65th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration
20th Anniversary of the Korean War Veterans Memorial
30th Anniversary of the Korean War Veterans Association
Chosin Few Memorial Dedication
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U.S. Army Twilight Tattoo ~ Marine Corps Evening Parade

Stay tuned for registration, times of events and tour information

www.KWVA.org



The Things You Learn Through Research[®]

Recently I was watching a Neil Young concert on TV. Why, I am not sure, although I'm fairly certain it had something to do with the fact that Emmy Lou Harris was a guest performer. I have never been a Neil Young fan, but I have always liked Emmy Lou's music. (I admit I gained a new appreciation for Young's music as well.)

As I watched and listened, I realized that I knew a lot about Emmy Lou's music, but I didn't know anything about her life, nor did I need to. After all, it's not like I was going to ask her for a date anytime soon. Since I was sitting at my computer as she and Neil sang, I decided that now was the time to learn something about her. I entered her name into the search box and up popped a brief bio. One paragraph caught my attention:

"Harris is from a career military family. Her father, Walter Harris, was a military officer and her mother Eugenia was a wartime military wife. Her father, a member of the Marine Corps, was reported missing in action in Korea in 1952 and spent ten months as a prisoner of war."

I did not know that! But, the info was all I had about him. Naturally, I couldn't leave it at that. I had to find out more. So, I typed his name into the search box and learned more about him. I even forgot about Emmy Lou for the moment, which is tantamount to saying I forgot about breathing. My penchant for research kicked in.

Research has been one of my strengths for years—as well as a weakness. Psychiatrists would have a field day with my need to know about things that I really don't need to know about. But I have learned that it is not just me who wants to learn new things.

I have an innate curiosity that drives me to add to my personal knowledge database. Most if what I learn I file away as useless trivia and then discard or use it to bore people with. (Are you yawning as you read this?) So do many of my peers. You would think that the older people get the less interested they would be in learning new things. What's the point? You can't take informa-

Research has been one of my strengths for years—as well as a weakness. Psychiatrists would have a field day with my need to know about things that I really don't need to know about.

tion with you, even if you knew beforehand where you were going. In my case it would burn to ashes before I could read it.

Strangely enough, at least in my experience, people tend to get more curious as they age. Why is that? But that is another question for another time. For the nonce I was curious about Walter Harris. Off I went to "Internetland."

Walter Harris was a Marine Corps fighter pilot in WWII. He flew F4U Corsairs in the South Pacific. After the war he became a USMC reservist and eventually ended up in Korea, where he was shot down and taken prisoner.

There in a nutshell was Harris' combat history. But I needed more. That is the problem with research. You pick up one fact and you want another. And, with the abundance of knowledge available on the "net" today, you don't have to dig too deep to learn more about a subject. That is one of the skills I apply to editing *The Graybeards*. I generally want to find and develop the back-story to much of the information I receive from our members.

What else did I learn about Harris? There is a book titled "Tortured Into Fake Confession: The Dishonoring of Korean War Prisoner Col. Frank H. Schwable, USMC," written by Raymond B. Lech. It focuses on the torture that Col Schwable underwent as a POW. It also describes the treatment accorded to Major Harris, which

was similar to Schwable's.

Harris endured the treatment—and refused to sign any confession. He was so steadfast in his refusals his conduct as a POW was used as an example in the U.S. Fighting Man's Code.

What the heck is the U.S. Fighting Man's Code? And what is menticide? That word popped up in my research about Major Harris. Are there copies of Lech's book available? If so, where can I obtain one? Questions, questions, questions...and they have to be answered, at least in my own mind. There is more research in my future as I seek to answer those questions, which will lead to more questions, more answers, more questions. The cycle continues.

All I wanted to do was learn a little bit about Emmy Lou Harris' life. I did, but I learned more about connections to the Korean War in the process. Ah, the benefits of research—and the pitfalls as well. One fact leads to another and another and the relentless search to uncover and link them goes on.

I think I'll throw an Emmy Lou CD on the Victrola, wind it up, listen to her mellifluous tones, and sink myself in my research. I never know what I will learn. I do know that the process will never end. By the way, whatever happened to Victrolas?

Darn it, another question that needs to be answered.

THE GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

Articles to be published in the *The Graybeards* must be received by 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

Skills For Successful Recruiting

John T. ("Sonny") Edwards

- Present The Right Image
- Clarify Eligibility Questions
- Get The Right Mindset
- Motivate Prospects To Join
- Manage Your Time And Territory
- Plan The Campaign
- Build A List Of Prospects, e.g., VFW, American Legion
- Deliver A Professional Presentation
- Ask The Right Questions
- Overcome Objections
- Polish Your Recruiting Skills
- Maximize Recruiting Aids
- Keep Records Of Results

Remember, You Can Make A Difference!!!

For Recruiters Use

KOREAN VETERANS

U.S. Veterans....Have you seen duty in the Republic of Korea ?

Would you care to meet fellow Veterans that have been there also?

Do you have questions about your service?

Are you interested in joining a Chapter of the KWVA?

Would you be willing to help form a new Chapter in your area?

Call 800 xxx xxxx Enter your name, address and phone number....Your call will be answered by a Korean Veteran.

Reunion Calendar: 2015

Mail your info to Reunion Editor, The Graybeards, 152 Sky View Dr., Rocky Hill, CT 06067, or email it to sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net. Include Unit, Date(s), Place, and Contact's name, address, phone #, email address. Entries are posted "first come, first served." The Graybeards is not responsible for the accuracy of the information published. NOTE: Submissions may be edited for space considerations..

2015

The Fire Brigade, 1st Provisional Marine Brigade (Korea-1950). 65th Anniversary reunion in planning. Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret), 4.2 Mortars, 5th Marines, Military Historical Tours, 13198 Centerpointe Way, #202, Woodbridge VA 22193, 703-590-1295, JWiedhahn@aol.com

APRIL

73rd Tank Bn., U.S. Army, 21-25 April, Quality Inn, 4200 S. Noland Rd., Independence, MO. Bob Jones, 816-836-0969, bobjones73rdtbn@yahoo.com

L Co., 21st Inf. Regt., 24th Inf. Div., 22-26 Apr. Kissimmee, FL, Holiday Inn. George Vlasic, 910-287-5618, geonanvlasic@atmc.net

76th Engineer Construction Bn., (U.S. Army), 23-25 Apr., Lebanon, TN. E.P. ("Zeke") Gandara, 402-477-7230 (H), 402-440-9609 (C), zek-mil@ymail.com

JUNE

1st, 2nd, & 3rd AmTracs, USMC. 24-26 June, Biloxi, MS, Rivage Resort & Casino. For more info, call 941-496-8119.

JULY

91st Military Police Bn., Pusan, Korea 1952-1954. 58th, 289th, 560th, 563rd MP Cos, 54th Trans Co. 28-30 July, Midland, MI. Manuel Sanchez, 989-793-4277

SEPTEMBER

25th Infantry Division Assn., 28 Sept.-3 Oct., Springfield, IL. Sarah S. Krause, 215-248-2572, TropicLtn@aol.com or 25th ida.org. (This will be a historic reunion, as it is being held jointly with the 4th Infantry Division Assn.)

OCTOBER

USS Ingersoll (DD-652/990), 8-11 Oct., Tucson, AZ. Neal Overman, 575-574-7921, sw.nm.horseman@gmail.com

MEMORIES from page 7

their feet and march on. The poor laborers were falling out of formation with exhaustion.

One morning a Deacon came to the top of our mountain. He called all the soldiers, who were supporting my radio station. He asked them if they would like to receive mass. The Deacon said he didn't care what religion we were. He said, "You pray the way you want to in your own faith." Of course, we all received mass.

Being alone you do foolish things, like talking to yourself just to hear a human voice. I prayed to God that if I ever got back to the United States, I wanted to be among people. The good Lord gave me the opportunity to share my thoughts with you once again.

I arrived back in the United States on April 3, 1952—and I haven't been alone since.

Anthony P. Rabasco, 80 Gaylor Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583

It's Time For A Name Change!

By George E. Lawhon

For quite some time, it has been apparent to me that the collective group we call the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. (KWVA) has outlived its current name. The term WAR has turned off the potential membership of thousands of veterans who have served in Korea since the 1953 cease fire and are eligible to join our ranks.

However, because of the word WAR, many now serving in a defensive category understandably don't feel that they fit under the current name. I know, and you know, that it's a technicality that a condition of war exists, because of a cease fire that was signed in 1953. But, like beauty being in the eye of the beholder, so is "war veteran," a term that conjures up visions of people shooting and being shot at in a combat environment.

In my recent letter as a candidate for election to the Board of Directors, I quoted KWVA Vice President Warren Weidhahn, "... We have a vast wealth of experience with those who have served in peace time." I contacted Warren to get his permission to use the quote. He gave it and pointed out his recent experience in Korea during one of the many trips he has taken to the "Land of the Morning Calm," as coordinator of our Revisit Korea program.

Warren explained that on a recent trip, where he again tried to recruit new members, "many" of those serving in Korea today explained to him that, "...I know what you say about being administratively eligible for membership, but I don't consider myself a 'war' veteran, and would be reluctant to submit an application for membership in the KWVA."

Warren pointed out that he had the same experience trying to get defense veterans to sign up for KWVA membership in his local chapter. That conversation and recent correspondence with Warren solidified my position that we must change our name.

War or defense? How about both? We all have the experience of taking appropriate action. I suggest that the collective group we call the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. extend arms of comradeship to all of its de facto members, in country (Korea) or otherwise.

Of the names I have considered, the one that seems the most appropriate and inclusive is:

Korea Veterans of America Association (KVAA).

KVAA keeps the same number of initials, four (4), and is an umbrella association that anyone who has ever served in, over, or around Korea, can stand under proudly!

Some may say that "George Lawhon is losing his mind. What's wrong with KWVA?" I will respond that nothing is wrong with the KWVA, but if we are to perpetuate our legacy, which has been the protection of the Korean people, we MUST become more inclusive, or in a few years the association will no longer exist.

All of the above will be written up as an agenda item to be submitted for the first available meeting of the KWVA Board of Directors.

Respectfully to all,

George E. Lawhon LR18750

Gas Mask Training In Korea

By George Bjotvedt

It started innocently enough that hot and humid day in August 1952. The 65th Puerto Rican Regiment was off the line for replacements and training at Camp Casey. The Commanding Officer, Colonel Juan Cesar Cordero Davila, was concerned that the Chinese communists would employ poisonous gas on the regiment's front line trenches.

The regiment's front, which was behind a portion of the Imjin River, included outposts Kelly, Little Nori and Big Nori. This front was part of the 3rd Infantry Division's sector, along with other American divisions which blocked the east-west access to the open and flat Chorwon Valley. A Chinese breakthrough here would give them a direct route to the city of Seoul.

On that sweltering summer day, the regiment received a shipment of gas masks and a box of tear gas canisters. An empty squad tent was erected some distance from the regimental headquarters, but in the open and under watchful eyes of Colonel Davila.

I was ordered to conduct gas mask training for the regiment because of my regular Army commission in the Chemical Corps. Clearly I was very qualified for the training, since I possessed a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. What could possibly go wrong?

(NOTE: After the Battle of the Bulge in WWII, all new regular Army officers who were commissioned in a service branch were required to spend two years in one of the Army's combat branches.)

The procedure was simple and straightforward. The men would enter the tear-gas filled tent with their gas masks on. The mission was to assure them that the masks protected them from the obnoxious gas. On the command to remove masks, the men would experience for themselves the protective quality of their masks. Unfortunately, the men improvised their own reaction to the mission.

After the command, there was a sudden and violent evacuation from the tent through the tied down sides and laced ends. The open flaps of the tent created a drop in the tent's gas concentration. Therefore, additional canisters were used to refill the loss. Once the loss was replaced, the procedure was repeated until all personnel received the training.



In time, and shortly after the last group finished, I lost consciousness and had to be evacuated to the nearby Norwegian M.A.S.H. Unit. When I

Continued on page 67

George Bjotvedt dressed and ready for his date at the Norwegian M.A.S.H. Unit in Korea in August 1952

DO YOUR DUTY...
WOTE!

DO YOUR DUTY...
WOTE!

DO YOUR DUTY...
WOTE!

ALL MEMBERS

Please complete and return the ballot in the January/February issue of *The Graybeards* as soon as you receive it. It is one of the few things that KWVA members are asked to do.

You deserve to have some say in the election. That can only happen if you submit a ballot. Your vote will help the Executive Board function with good members.

If you have any questions at all, contact me by phone or email. I will return your calls ASAP.

Read the ballot carefully--and vote. The completed ballot must arrive in Tucson, AZ by **10 May, 2015**.

Albert H. McCarthy, Chairman
Elections Committee

15 Farnum St

Worcester, MA 01602-2101

Ph: 508-277-7300 McCarthy.Albert@live.com

BALLOT ENCLOSED IN THIS ISSUE

VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE

CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTORS

- Richard E. Brown, Sr.
- Narce Caliva
- John T. "Sonny" Edwards
- Robert F. Fitts

- George E. Lawhon
- J. Fred Ragusa
- Lewis R. Vaughn

You will vote for no more than four Directors

EDITOR'S NOTE: The candidates' resumes have not been edited. They appear exactly as they were when submitted to the Elections Committee Chairman.

RICHARD E. BROWN, SR.



My name is Richard E. Brown, Sr. I am a Life Member of the KWVA. I am currently serving you as a Director. Since this an Election Period, I am running for Director for the 2015 period. I am a life member my dues are covered for the period 2015 - 2017. During the periods I have been a Director I have always voted all items in support of the general membership. If reelected, I will continue to ensure that each time I vote will be in

your favor. I also understand that if I miss 2 unexcused meetings, I will be removed from Office. Since I have been a member, I have never missed any meetings as a general member and as a member of the E&G Committee and a Director. I have a 100% attendance record. I will attend all called meetings of the board of directors and as stated above I fully understand that 2 unexcused meetings will result in being removed from office.

I am a Life Member of the following Veterans Associations, KWVA, AFA (Air Force Association), Vietnam Veterans Association and the VFW. I am a member of the Air Force Security Police Association, and the American Legion, I also belong to the USMC Heritage Foundation. I am a Founding Member of the Korean Museum soon to be located in New York City. And I have contributed donations to all military groups including the Army and Navy. As a member of

the American Legion, I was the Post Senior Vise Commander and the Department of Hawaii Vise Commander for Okinawa.

I was ASSIGNED TO k 47, Chun Chon Air Force Base from July 1952 - July 1953. I was a Staff Sgt E-5 as Flight Chief for the Air Force Police with the 6147th Tactical Control Group. I was also assigned to brief the combat Pilots and USA observers on the provisions of the Geneva Convention. I served for 21 years total active duty with the USAF and I retired as MSgt E7.

One of the best if not the best assignment of my time in the USAF was that I was picked to stand the Death Watch for Gen MacArthur in New York City. The second best was when I was assigned to the Armed Forces Police in NYC. I was in charge of the Special Ceremonial Section. I wrote the Parade Orders for Ticker Tape Parades. When I left that assignment, I was presented with a miniature Key to the City.

Enclosed please find the last DD 214. Also is a copy of a completed membership application for approval and verification by the Election Committee. My current residence is 2307 Gring Drive, West Lawn, PA 19609-1107. My home phone number is 610-670-2886. Please feel free to telephone me at any time. My membership number is LR36975. Also feel free to contact me at my Email address at rebpiil@comcast.net

I ask you once again for your vote to return me to the Board as a Director. Thanks for your continued support.

RICHARD E. BROWN, SR.

NARCE CALIVA



I'm honored to present myself as a candidate for the office of Director of the Korean War Veterans Association for the years 2015-2018.

I was born in California, enlisted in the Army in 1948, and was assigned to the MP Det. at Fort Eustis, VA. In 1950, on my way to OCS at Fort Riley, KS, the Korean War broke out. In August 1951, at age 21, I arrived in Korea as a Second Lieutenant, Transportation Corps.

Over the course of 20 months, I was assigned to the 60th Truck and 54th Heavy Truck Companies in Wonju and, when the 54th was transferred, to the 54th and 48th Truck Companies in Pusan. I was promoted to First Lieutenant in December 1951.

In September 1953 I was released from active duty to the Reserves. With the help of the GI Bill, I returned to finish college and graduated with business degrees from Sacramento State College and what is now Thunderbird School of Global Management.

In 1959, I joined the staff of the American Red Cross, Service to the Armed Forces, and served on Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps bases in the US, Spain and West Germany. Stateside, I was also able to gain in depth experience working with local units, offering guidance and assistance to dozens of large and small Red Cross chapters.

During my 30-year career, 12 years were spent on 4 overseas tours. In Vietnam in 1967- 1968, I supervised all Red Cross field directors embedded with the military from the Central Highlands north. Similarly, while at Far East HQ in Japan from 1969-1971, it was my responsibility to supervise all of our operations in Korea.

In the 1970's, I became Western Director of Training, then moved up to spend 4 years in management supporting our 1,200 Red Cross chapters to meet their charter obligations and administrative requirements. My next appointment was as Manager, Service to the Armed Forces, and for 3 years was directly responsible for the Red Cross programs and services on all military installations in the Western United States.

From 1981-1988, accredited to the CINC USEUCOM and on the protocol list, I served as the ARC Managing Director, European Area, with HQ at Stuttgart, Germany. Over 325 staff and 9,000 Red Cross volunteers met emergency and other needs at 80 locations. I retired at NHQ in 1989 but have continued as a leadership volunteer for the past 25 years.

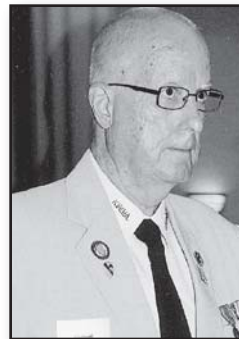
In KWVA, I'm in my second term as Commander of Shenandoah Valley Chapter #313. I served as 1st Vice Commander for 2 terms, during which our Korean War Memorial was built, and was also elected to the Department of Virginia Board. I have enjoyed participating fully in chapter, regional and national activities, as well as other notable events, such as being on stage in Washington, DC at the May 27, 2013 nationally televised Memorial Day program. It was a privilege to help represent all Korean War veterans.

I believe the experience I bring - building productive relationships, developing volunteer leadership of many groups, and dealing successfully with serious management issues over the years — prepares me well to help contribute to the achievement of KWVA goals and objectives. We must expand and diversify our Wartime and Defense membership ranks and continue to effectively "Tell America" our story. So, I welcome this exceptional opportunity to be of service as a national director and respectfully solicit your vote.

As a Life Member, my dues will remain fully paid. I certify that I will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and I understand that two (2) unexcused absences could be used for removal from office. All required documents, including an Official KWVA Application Form and copies of my DD Forms 214, have been submitted to and released for verification by the Election Committee.

NARCE CALIVA, LR 42769, 102 Killaney Court, Winchester, VA 22602-6796; Telephone 540-545-8403; Alternate Telephone (cell) 540-760-3130; E-Mail ncaliva29@gmail.com.

JOHN T. ("SONNY") EDWARDS



In accordance with the Korean War Veterans Association Bylaws, I am pleased and privileged to submit my name as a candidate for reelection as National Director for the years 2015-2018.

My military service began with enlisting in the Army Reserves in 1953 and was called to active duty in 1956. I received basic training at Fort Jackson, SC and then was assigned to Fort Leonard Wood, MO for Combat Engineer training.

I received orders in May 1957 for duty in Korea and was assigned to the 24th Infantry Division 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion. When the 24th left Korea I was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division 8th Combat Engineer Battalion. Due to the illness and death of my father, I received a hardship discharge in 1958 to run my fathers farming operation. I reported back to the Army Reserves and was assigned to a Nike Missile Battalion. I received an Honorable Discharge in 1962 with the rank of SFC. I am a graduate of the NCO Academy.

I worked 15 years in the meat packing industry, 22 years as an Insurance Manager and six years as a Deputy Sheriff.

I am a Life Member of the VFW and have served as a Post Commander, District Commander, Department Chief of Staff and as a Department Chaplain. I am a member of the 24th Infantry Division Association and the 1st Cavalry Association.

I am currently a Director and Chairman of Membership & Recruiting.

I am a member of Trinity United Methodist Church and currently serve as Church Lay Speaker.

I am a Life Member of the KWVA {LR34808}, therefore my dues are current for the term of office I am seeking and I concur with and have signed The KWVA "Code of Conduct". I will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and I understand that two (2) unexcused absences could be used to remove me from office.

Attached is a completed and signed KWVA Form 4.1.1 Official

Membership Application which contains information concerning my qualifications for the position of Director and I further authorize the release of the information included in this application for verification by the Election Committee.

I would consider it an honor to be elected to serve with the outstanding group of Officers and Directors currently leading our organization and I solicit your support. I am committed to recruiting new members to join this great organization for our continued legacy.

John T. {Sonny} Edwards, 14370 Mill Swamp Rd, Smithfield, VA 23430, H-757-357-2331, C- 757-813-0254, kvetedwards@yahoo.com

ROBERT F. FITTS



I, Robert F. Fitts intend to run for the office of Director, National Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

I served with the Illinois National Guard 44th Division, 30th Inf. Reg. Co, H from November 1947 until activated for National duty November 1951 until getting orders for Korea, arriving in Korea Nov. 1952. Served with the 7th Division, 32nd Inf., H Co., promoted to Staff Sgt. June 1953, served until Sept. 1953. Discharged at Camp Carson, Col. and assigned back to

the Illinois National Guard until December 1954.

Awards: Combat Inf. Badge, Korean Service Medal with 2 bronze service stars, United Nations Service Medal.

Education: BA Degree, McKendree College/University 1958: Divinity Degree Garrett Theo. Seminary 1962

Experience: United Methodist Minister in Illinois - June 1954 - June 1980

Director of Ministry of Criminal Justice program 1975 - J 980, Chairman, Milan Police Commission, and a Milan Auxiliary Police Officer 1971 - 1975. Financial Planner, American Express, 1981 - 1994:

Organizations: KWVA Chapter 168, member 14 years and 4 terms as President: Illinois State KWVA Commander, 2003-04, 2009-11, and 2012-14.: Managed 3 State Conventions: American Legion 171, VFW 8890.

Address: 2511 22nd Ave., Rock Island, Il. 61202, Phone: 309/793-1292, cellphone 309/269-1937. E-mail: rsfitts@revealed.net

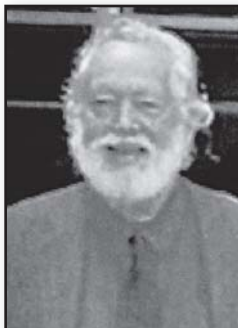
Life Membership since 6/99 - #LR25998.

I, Robert F. Fitts, will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and I understand that 2 unexcused absences could result in my removal from office

Now Hear This:

All comments concerning, or material for publication, in *The Graybeards* should be sent to Art Sharp, Editor, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or emailed to: sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

GEORGE E. LAWHON



My name is George E. Lawhon and it is my pleasure to announce my candidacy for the office of National Director of the Korean War Veterans Association for the years 2015 through 2018. I have signed the KWVA Code of Conduct. My conviction and support for the Korean War Veterans Association is expressed in its Mission Statement on the KWVA website <http://www.kwva.org>.

Military Experience

My military service began with my enlistment on August 1, 1950, in the United States Air Force. Following Basic Training at Lackland AFB, Texas, I then completed the 32-week curriculum at the Electronics & Communications School at Scott AFB, Illinois, as a Ground Electronics & Communications Technician.

I arrived in Taegu, Korea, in June, 1951, and was assigned to the 605th Tactical Control Squadron, Fifth Air Force.

Civilian Work Experience

Following my Honorable Discharge in 1954 at Patrick AFB, Florida, I worked at Cape Canaveral, Florida for Boeing, as an Electronic Technician, and later for The Martin Company (now known as Lockheed Martin) on defense contracts, first as a Test Equipment Design Engineer; later as a Quality Assurance Engineer. Presently I hold a current California State license as a Professional Engineer in Quality Engineering, # QU3927, issued July 12th, 1978. I am a working consultant in that field. In the 1960's, I worked at the Kennedy Space Center for Grumman Aerospace Engineering as a Technical Writer, writing test procedures for Apollo astronauts for the LEM (Lunar Excursion Module), on the Apollo Moon Program.

KWVA Service

I have served two previous terms as a National Director, 2008-2011 & 2011-2014.

Shortly after being elected Director in 2008, I accepted an assignment to become Chairman of the KWVA Bylaws Committee. Early on, our committee began work on the 2008/2009 Bylaws/SPM Review Project, which was to clarify and give more definition to the Bylaws, and to rewrite the Standard Procedure Manual (SPM). During my second term, I was given the honor to be Chairman of the Tell America Committee. After my term finished, the responsibility was passed on to National Director Roy Aldridge.

I expressed my principles about our duty and obligations to the KWVA in two articles I wrote for *The Graybeards*. You can read one article, "For The Good Of the Order on Pages 70-71 (Nov-Dec 2007), the other "What Has National Ever Done for Us?" on Page 9 of the May-June 2010 Edition. If you believe that my goals and standards are in harmony with yours, I respectfully request your support and your vote.

I agree with 1st Vice President Wiedhahn that "...We have a vast wealth of experience with those who have served in Korea in peace time." We need them to help build the future needs of the KWVA, they should be actively recruited, and those that have joined, encouraged to serve in any way that they can.

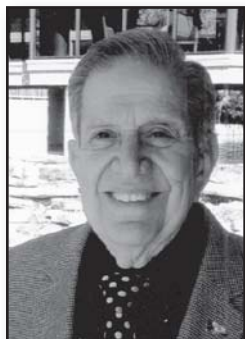
I hereby certify that I will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and I understand that two (2) unexcused absences could be used for my removal from office. A copy of my DD-214 is enclosed. I am a Life Member of KWVA, Inc, #LR18750, therefore my dues are paid and will be current throughout the term of office that I am seeking.

All information contained in this letter, the Membership Application Form, my military records, and support documentation is hereby released to the Elections Committee for verification.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Lawhon Life Member LR18750, 600 E. Weddell Drive #91, Sunnyvale, CA 94089-1731, 408-734-0305, george.e.lawhon@gmail.com

J. FRED RAGUSA



This is my notice of filing for one of the open positions of Nation(Director for the years of 2015-2018. I have enclosed an Official KWVA Membership Application Form in addition to a Certification of Military Service, with seal, in lieu of the DD form 214 due to my records being destroyed by fire in St. Louis, MO. I release the completed application form for verification of my qualifications by the Election Committee that does not involve fees. Also enclosed is a current picture suitable for

publication in *The Graybeards*.

My education, military service and professional experience prepares me to make a contribution in the position of National Director of KWVA are as follows:

a. My four (4) years of academic study toward my undergraduate degree in Accounting also included 4 years of R.O.T.C. training that resulted in my commission as 2nd Lieutenant in Army Artillery. I received orders for active duty upon graduation from the university. My leadership training prior to unit assignment included Fort Sill, Oklahoma between my Junior and Senior years in addition to the Artillery School as an officer prior to overseas assignment. This was complimented by combat maneuvers with the First Cav Division at the base of Mt. Fujiyama in Japan prior to my first permanent unit assignment in the 981st FA Bn, Charlie Battery, of the 40th Inf. Div. in Korea which was on line in the Pork Chop Hill Sector of combat with the enemy.

b. In April of 1953, I received a battlefield promotion to 1st Lieutenant as Battery Executive Officer with Responsibilities of the Fire Direction Center. All training and education received as a commissioned officer are tested in combat and confirmed by those above and below your rank as to acceptable performances.

c. I returned to the states for separation from active duty to begin my career path in Sales and Marketing of Data Processing Systems as applied to the Financial Industry. That began in 1955 until my retirement in 2010. I joined a company that just completed an I.P.O. and had annual revenue of \$85 Million. The annual revenue the year of my retirement was \$4.5 Billion. The primary focus to succeed in such a dynamic industry of technological growth was to remain a student of the business to achieve market share and profitable growth. Otherwise,

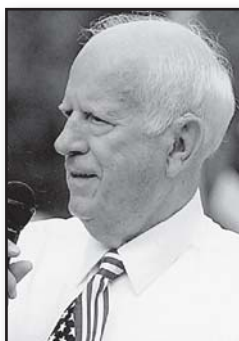
one's contribution can quickly diminish. I hope to put that initiative to work as a Director.

d. I became an active member of KWVA as one of the Chapter Officers to resurrect Alamo Chapter #298 in 2011 that had been comatose for several years. We accelerated membership through hosting the Texas Department Annual Convention in 2012 and again in 2014. San Antonio, Military City USA, should be very visible in KWVA with the high number of retired military personnel that live in this area.

e. If elected as a National Director, I will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and understand that two (2) unexcused absences could be used for removal from office. My next annual dues is due 4/8/2015. I am enclosing payment of dues for the years of 2015, 2016 and 2017 to meet qualifications.

J. Fred Ragusa, Two Remington Run, San Antonio, TX 78528, (210) 481-2817, EMail: jfredragusa@gmail.com, R038956

LEWIS VAUGHN



MY RESUME: I have extensive management experience as follows:

I served two three year hitches (July 1950-Oct. 1956) in the Armored Calvary rising to the rank of Sergeant First Class during my service in Korea (Jan. 1954-July 1955).

I worked for two major corporations during my thirty year business career. Much of my career I was a project/department manager responsible for developing business systems on large main frame computers.

When I retired in 1985, I was the Department Manager for Wear-Dated Carpet Information Systems for Monsanto Corp. located in St. Louis , MO.

I served twenty years in t he South Carolina House and Senate , chairing numerous committees. After retiring from the General Assembly in 2008, I served one term on the SC Commission on Higher Education. I currently serve on the Greenville (SC) Health System Board of Trustees and the Greer , (SC) Heritage Museum Board.

My most recent , and most gratifying project was to lead a successful effort to name a two mile stretch of busy I-385 for veterans of each of America's 20th and 21st century wars, and naming that twelve mile stretch "THE VETERANS CORRIDOR OF HONOR." We have gotten a lot of positive feedback on that project. It is my hope that we can replicate that in other states.

My mailing address,telephone number , E-Mail address and KWVA membership number is at the bottom of this letter. I do not have an alternate E-mail address. My cell number is: (864) 593-5754.

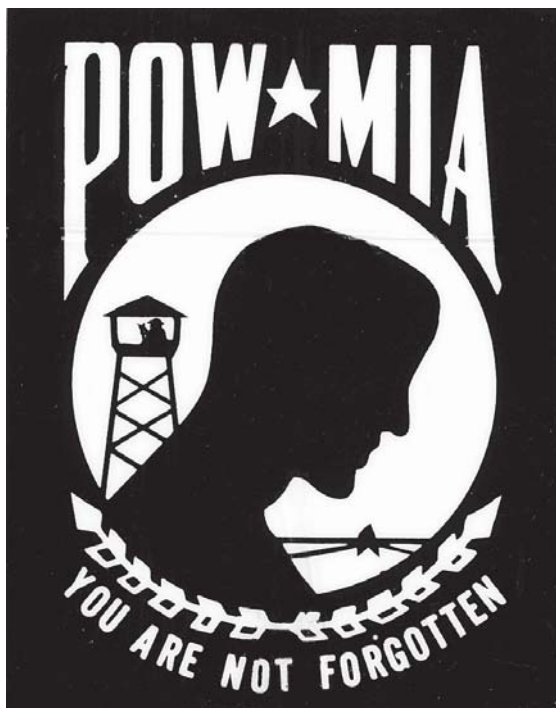
If elected I will attend all regular and called meetings. I understand that with two unexcused absences , I am subject to removal from office.

I am a life member of KWVA , thus my dues are paid through my term of office.

Should the KWVA membership award me the honor of serving , I will be an active Director , and I believe an asset to the organization.

Lewis R. Vaughn, 623 Ashley Commons Ct. Greer , SC 29651, KWVA membership number LR44320, E-mail: lewisrvaughn@charter.net, (864) 848-0368 (HOME) (864) 593-5754 (CELL)

Soldiers Missing From Korean War Accounted For



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

- **Cpl. Leland F. Smith**, U.S. Army, Company K, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, was lost Nov. 28, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for Nov. 8, 2014. He was buried with full military honors. (See the story in Chapters on p. 48.)

- **Cpl. Richard L. Wing**, U.S. Army, Company H, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, was lost Nov. 28, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for Nov. 7, 2014. He was buried with full military honors.

- **Master Sgt. Francis H. Stamer**, U.S. Army, Company M, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, was lost on Nov. 2, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for Oct. 29, 2014. He was buried with full military honors.

- **Sgt. Michael J. Barra**, U.S. Army, Company C, 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, was lost Feb. 20, 1951, in North Korea. He was accounted for Oct. 23, 2014. He was buried with full military honors.

- **Pfc. Anthony R. La Rossa**, U.S. Army, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, was lost Feb. 13, 1951, in North Korea. He was accounted for Oct. 20, 2014. He was buried with full military honors.

- **Cpl. Donald D. Skeens**, U.S. Army, Company E, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, was lost Sept. 4, 1950, in South Korea. He was accounted for Oct. 11, 2014. He was buried with full military honors.

- **Sgt. Cameron M. Flack**, U.S. Army, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, was lost Dec. 12, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for Oct. 8, 2014. He was buried with full military honors.

- **Sgt. Arnold Pitman**, U.S. Army, Company L, 3d Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, was lost Dec. 12, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for Oct. 7, 2014. He was buried with full military honors.

- **Sgt. Lee Henderson Manning**, U.S. Army, Medical Company, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, was captured Dec. 1, 1950, in North Korea while providing aid to members of the regiment. Manning died six months later from medical neglect, and was accounted for on Aug. 26, 2014. He was buried with full military honors.

Manning was buried near his mother at Inglewood Park Cemetery near Los Angeles after a service that included presentations by representatives from South Korea, who presented family members with the Ambassador for Peace Medal, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The flag from his casket was presented to his two sisters, Carrie Elam and Helena Parker. Ms. Elam told reporters, "My heart is very full. I never ever thought that it would come to fruition like this."

- **Master Sgt. Lawrence O. Jock**, Battery A, 955th Field Artillery, 8th U.S. Army, was lost July 14, 1953, in North Korea. He was accounted for June 25, 2014. He was buried with full military honors Aug. 1, 2014, in Malone, N.Y.

- **Cpl. Alva C. Groves**, U.S. Army, Company D, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, was lost on April 14, 1951, in North Korea. He was accounted for June 12, 2014. He was buried with full military honors.

- **Cpl. Lucio R. Aguilar**, U.S. Army, Company M, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, was lost on Nov. 28, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for on May 6, 2014. He was buried with full military honors in Corpus Christi, Texas.

- **Sgt. Richard John Archambeault**, U.S. Army, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, was lost on Nov. 2, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for on April 29, 2014. He was buried with full military honors.

- **Cpl. Harold W. Reed**, U.S. Marine Corps, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, was lost on Nov. 29, 1950. He was accounted for on April 22, 2014. He was buried with full military honors on May 24, 2014, in Toledo, Ohio.

- **Cpl. William N. Bonner**, U.S. Army, Medical Company, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, was lost on May 31, 1951, in North Korea. He was accounted for on April 22, 2014. He was buried with full military honors in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

- **Cpl. Richard Isbell**, U.S. Army, Company H, 2nd

Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, was lost on April 25, 1951 in South Korea. He was accounted for on April 17, 2014. He was buried with full military honors.

- **Pfc. Arthur Richardson**, U.S. Army, Company A, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, was lost on Jan. 1, 1951, in South Korea. He was accounted for on March 21, 2014. He was buried with full military honors.

- **Cpl. William S. Blasdel**, U.S. Marine Corps, Company H, 3rd Battalion, 11th Regiment, 1st Marine Division, was lost Oct. 28, 1953, in North Korea. He was accounted for March 10, 2014. He was buried with full military honors in the spring of 2014, in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

- **Cpl. William F. Day**, U.S. Army, Company C, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 31st Regimental Combat Team, was lost on Dec. 2, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for on March 6, 2014. He was buried with full military honors April 5, 2014, in La Center, Ky.

- **Sgt. Paul M. Gordon**, U.S. Army, Company H, 2nd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, was

lost on Jan. 7, 1951, in South Korea. He was accounted for Feb. 12, 2014. He was buried with full military honors June 20, 2014, in Williamstown, Ky.

- **Sgt. 1st Class John C. Keller**, U.S. Army, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, was lost on Nov. 2, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for Jan. 29, 2014. He was buried with full military honors May 2014, in Florida National Cemetery.

- **Pfc. James R. Holmes**, U.S. Army, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, was lost Dec. 1, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for Jan. 14, 2014. He was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in May 2014.

- **Cpl. Cristobal Romo**, U.S. Army, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, was lost Dec. 12, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for Jan. 13, 2014. He was buried with full military honors in Riverside, Calif., March 22, 2014.

Last year nine Korean War service members were awarded the Medal of Honor belatedly. Here is the fifth citation in that series. This time we feature Demensio Rivera.

Biography

Medal of Honor recipient Demensio Rivera, was born in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, April 29, 1933. He joined the U.S. Army, Sept. 26, 1950, in New York.

Then-Pvt. Demensio Rivera is being recognized for his actions at Changyongni, Korea, May 22-23, 1951. When the outpost area occupied by his platoon was assaulted during the night, Rivera, an automatic rifleman, held his forward position tenaciously, although exposed to very heavy fire. When his rifle became inoperative, Rivera employed his pistol and grenades, and eventually fought the enemy hand-to-hand and forced them back.

Rivera received the Medal of Honor, March 18, 2014; Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, Marksmanship Badge with Rifle Bar, United Nations Service Medal, Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

**The President of the United States
in the name of The Congress
takes Pride in presenting the
Medal of Honor
(Posthumously)
to**

RIVERA, DEMENSIO

Rank and organization: Private, U.S. Army, Company G, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division. Place and date: Changyong-ni, Korea, 23 May 1951. Entered service at: New York, New York. Born: 29 April 1933, Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico.

MOH Citations



Citation:

For acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an automatic rifleman with 2d Platoon, Company G, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Changyong-ni, Korea on 23 May 1951. Early that morning, a large hostile force emerged from a dense fog and viciously attacked Private Rivera and his comrades. Private Rivera immediately responded by firing with deadly accuracy until his weapon jammed. Without hesitating, he threw his rifle down and began to engage the enemy with his pistol and grenades. At one point, Private Rivera fearlessly crawled from his emplacement to engage an infiltrating enemy soldier in fierce hand-to-hand combat. With only the sound of footsteps and obscure shadows to

guide his aim, Private Rivera held his position against tremendous odds, inflicting numerous casualties on the enemy until he found himself without ammunition of any kind except one grenade. Displaying a peerless fighting spirit and an utterly selfless devotion to duty, Private Rivera pulled the pin from his last grenade and calmly waited for the enemy to reach his position. As enemy troops leaped inside his bunker, Private Rivera activated the grenade with the full knowledge that it meant his almost certain death. When the debris from the explosion had cleared, friendly forces recovered a severely wounded Private Rivera and discovered the bodies of four dead or dying enemy soldiers surrounding him. Private Rivera's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Honor flight is tribute above and beyond

By Therese Park

My recent trip to Washington, D.C. as part of Heartland Honor Flight with 92 veterans, both from World War II and the Korean War, and dozens of non-veterans seems to belong in a storybook whenever I think about it.

I was one of the “guardians” whose jobs included “protecting” and “helping” one or two veterans assigned to them for the trip. The organization paired me with Korean War veteran John Atkins, 81, and I sat next to him in the plane. Atkins was sent to Japan at age 17, and a year later to Korea, to participate in the Inchon Landing Operation, a successful amphibious landing that turned a losing war into a winning one for a short time. Soon afterward, he was in the north, until the Chinese troops came and mauled many Americans. He returned a year later.

I went along with the group to find bits and pieces of my childhood in Old Korea — then the poorest of poor nations that had been severely impoverished during Japan’s occupation of Korea between 1905 and 1945. Japan’s surrender to the Allied forces brought moments of joy, but they were not long enough. The Russians entered the northern part of the peninsula led by Kim Il-sung (Kim Jong-un’s grandfather) in early August that year, and American troops a month later — after the Tokyo Bay surrender ceremony on Sept. 2.

For this trip, I had a surprise for everyone on board: mini Hershey bars. My original intention was to share them with the Korean veterans in the spirit of “what comes around, goes around,” but I included World War II veterans as deserving recipients, too, after my German friend, Helga, told me that she and her friends, too, received many Hershey bars from Americans during WWII.

Around 10, at 36,000 feet above the air, the president of Heartland Honor Flight, John Doole, unexpectedly introduced me to the passengers, saying that I was 9 years old when North Koreans launched a surprise attack on the South and that I had something “special” for the veterans.

My impromptu speech went like this: “This trip to Washington, D.C. is as important for me as it is for you veterans. Some Korean veterans among you might have seen me in July 1950, when you entered my hometown of Pusan on military trucks. The whole street was lined with schoolchildren and adults, and when you passed us we shouted, waving American flags, “Victory, U.S.A.! Victory, U.S.A.!” It was the first American slogan we learned for the occasion.

“Our parents and teachers persistently told us to show our respect to any American soldier we see on the street, because you’ve come from very far away, leaving behind your home, family, and friends. And as we bowed to you, you reached into your pockets and produced candy, including Hershey bars. I can never forget the taste of those Hershey bars. ... So please have some chocolates and accept my sincere ‘Thank you’ once more.”

They applauded.

At the airport in Washington, D.C., a crowd waited, and as the veterans passed them, they said, “Thank you veterans for your

I went along with the group to find bits and pieces of my childhood in Old Korea — then the poorest of poor nations that had been severely impoverished during Japan’s occupation of Korea between 1905 and 1945.

service.” Outside, we were divided into five buses. I was in the Red Bus, the first of all five buses. Soon, we were snaking through the traffic escorted by two siren-wailing/light-flashing police cars as if we were dignitaries.

Within minutes, we arrived at the World War II memorial. I soon discovered that our group was among others that brought veterans to the monument, each with their distinctive uniforms and signs.

One group did more than just take photos. Their heads bent, they showed reverence to their fallen comrades, while a man sang the national anthem in his velvety tenor voice, followed by “Taps” played by a female trumpeter.

This solemn ground has become a place to remember who delivered us freedom, as well as a meeting place for many veterans and civilians alike. Each inscribed granite panel talked about who served their country at the cost of their precious life. How many times the taps had echoed through those walls, the arches, the fountains and the sprawling fields? How many prayers had been said in thanksgiving for the freedom we indulge today?

On the way out, a big surprise awaited us. Our own former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole was waiting for the veterans! He seemed alert and well, except for the usual signs of the aging. A veteran in our team introduced me, and I boldly asked, “Mr. Dole, would you like to have a Hershey bar?”

I then told him why I brought them. He smiled and said to the man next to him, “Get me one!” The man picked one up from the container I was holding, removed the wrapper and handed it to Mr. Dole. He took it and put it in his mouth. Cameras flashed.

At the Korean War Memorial, the Korean War veterans held a photo session, and one of them suggested that I should take picture with them. Gladly, gentlemen!

On the return flight, my mind drifted. I am in a heaven-bound Red Bus filled with Korean veterans. Instead of police cars, winged angels are escorting us, singing Mozart’s “Alleluia” in their angelic voices. The heaven’s gate opens before us, and I see St. Peter standing in majestic golden light.

I will offer him a Hershey bar, too!

Retired musician and freelance columnist Therese Park has written three novels about Korea’s modern history. This article appeared originally in the Kansas City [MO] Star on 16 October 2014. It is reprinted here with the author’s permission.

581 Air Resupply and Communications Wing

The Wing was formed at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho in February 1951 as a CIA Wing to fly psychological warfare missions—in violation of the Geneva Convention, we were told. As such, members were war criminals. In July 1952 the wing transferred to Clark AFB, Philippines.

At the time I was flying B-26s out of K-9, Korea. Had I been able to complete my 50 missions I would have been sent home, but possibly because of my night flying experience I was transferred to the 581st at Clark in the fall of 1952. After extensive CIA training, in January 1953 four crews of B-29s were sent to Yokota, Japan to start flying psychological and other missions.

No base in Korea could handle B-29s. Our B-29s were unarmed and painted black with no USAF markings. If my plane said USAF, I would not be writing this article.

One plane would fly each night. They were long missions; from start to finish they lasted about thirty hours. Col. Arnold, our Wing Commander, flew the first night. (He died in Florida about ten years ago.) We stayed south of the Yalu River. North Korea said we flew north of it. I know where we flew our missions, and it wasn't north of the river.

The crew on the first flight was shot down. The crewman in the tail was killed. The two radar operators we think were killed in prison. I flew my first mission on the third night. You will never know how worried we were, but outside of searchlights and anti-aircraft fire, the mission went well.

In July of 1953 there was the exchange of prisoners at Panmunjom, but our crew members were not included. There were two reasons: at that point we did not think they were alive and, according to the Geneva Convention, North Korea had no obligation to release them.

We found out they were alive in the fall of 1953. On August 5, 1955, the 11 crew members were given their freedom in Hong Kong, after 31 brutal months of torture in prison.

After the "Korean Peace Action" ended, we went back to Clark AFB and continued various missions for the CIA. We were told what to do on our missions, but we were never told why we did it.

Our final mission for the 581st took place when about 400 members from our wing were sent in November 1954 to fly for the French in French Indochina, until they collapsed at Dien Bien Phu. The 581st was then disbanded, and we were told not to discuss for fifty years what we did.

One of the problems with being in the 581st for career officers was that it was a dead end assignment. No officers from the wing were ever given a command assignment.

Art Snyder, 908-272-5700.

Hardly A Flying Start

Readers may recall that the 581st's operations did not get off to a flying start—at least not figuratively. Arnold and his crew were shot down over the North Korea-China border a few

minutes before midnight on January 12, 1953. The fourteen crew members were captured or killed. Eleven of them were eventually returned to the U.S. by the Chinese, but not until 1955. Arnold was held prisoner by the Chinese for 31 months. (He died on January 3, 2002.)

Nobody is sure what happened to three of the crew members, 1st Lt. Henry D. Weese (San Bernardino, CA), 1st Lt. Paul E. Van Voorhis (Ozone Park, NY) and Airman 2nd Class Alvin D. Hart Jr. (Saginaw, MI). The Chinese said they were killed when the plane was shot down. Their bodies were never returned.

Survivors say, "Not so fast." Arnold said one of the three may have been killed in the crash, and the other two may have been handed over to the Russians.

Another survivor claimed he saw one of the three unaccounted for crew members in prison—several times, in fact. Perhaps no one will ever know what happened to the three men, just as no one was supposed to know anything about the 581st's real mission. (Hart is listed as KIA on 12 Jan 1953 in the ARC Association's "Last Flight" list. Van Voorhis and Weese are listed as MIA, which lends credence to survivors' claims (<http://www.arcassn.org/lastflights.pdf>)

So what did the 581st do in Korea? Here are a couple excerpts from an August 29, 1998 Associated Press article written by Robert Burns:

"Born in February 1951 and christened with the innocuous-sounding name Air Resupply and Communications Service, the group supported the CIA with specialized aircraft and crews that included air commandos trained in sabotage, demolition, hand-to-hand combat and other guerilla warfare skills at a secret CIA facility at Fort Benning, Ga....The idea was to combat, not just contain, communism in ways short of "hot war."....

"Details of actual ARC operations are hard to find. ARC veterans say their units did not always make written records. If they exist, the government has kept them under wraps...."

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is clear that the Chinese and Russians knew about the 581st and its two counterpart wings, the 580th and the 582nd, and their movements. This excerpt from Mr. Burns' article makes that clear:

"It may never be known just when Beijing caught wind of the ARC secret.

"...a retired Air Force colonel who served with Arnold in the 581st recalls that when the wing moved—supposedly in total secrecy—from its Idaho training base to Clark Air Base in the Philippines in July 1952, Chinese and Russian periodicals that the wing's intelligence officers had been receiving turned up at Clark before the men had even arrived."

"That tells you they knew what was going on," [he] says."

Just for the record, the complete article is available for a fee at: <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-19579170.html>.

CHANGJIN RESERVOIR BATTLE MONUMENT

A group of veterans of the battle at the Changjin Reservoir, better known to many Korean War veterans as the Frozen Chosin, is seeking support for the creation of a major battle memorial to be located at the National Museum of the Marine Corps just south of Washington D.C. We believe this battle was one of the most significant in the history of the free world and should be memorialized for future generations. Here is a brief summary of that battle.

After the surprise invasion of South Korea by North Korea in June of 1950, the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry and 27th Infantry divisions had to be sent piecemeal in the United Nation's first military operation to stop the invading Communist army which threatened to capture all of South Korea. These units were numerically inadequate to contain such a powerful army, which had been supplied with Russian T-34 tanks and heavy weapons.

Our forces were quickly driven to defensive positions surrounding the port of Pusan, which became known as the Pusan Perimeter. Fighting at the perimeter was intense, and our forces were barely holding on as UN reinforcements gradually arrived.

The tide of the war turned when the First Marine Division and the Army Seventh Division made an amphibious landing at Inchon on the west coast near the 38th parallel. This brilliant action cut the enemy supply routes and flanked their forces fighting in the south, forcing North Korean troops into full retreat. The UN forces went into the attack mode, capturing almost all of North Korea and were rapidly closing on the Chinese and Manchurian border.

The tide of the war changed again when China intervened by sending over 500,000 troops of the so called "Peoples Liberation Army" (PLA) into North Korea with orders to "annihilate the enemy to the last man!" The massive surprise attacks of the Chinese cut off and surrounded many UN units. The assigned mission of annihilation

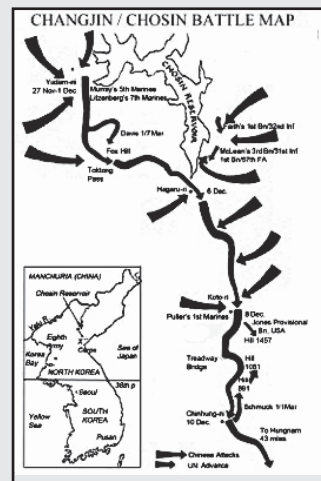
resulted in one of the epic battles of military history, which centered on the Changjin Reservoir in far northeast Korea, near the Manchurian border.

The battle began on 26 November, with forces of the Eighth Army in western North Korea rapidly withdrawing under the Chinese onslaught. The Tenth Corps units at the Changjin/Chosin Reservoir were quickly forced from the offensive into a defensive mode. The challenge was to consolidate our units that were widely scattered over a distance of 40 miles around the reservoir.

In the nearby Battle Map you get an idea of the difficulty of this task when opposed by overwhelming numbers of enemy. Our forces totaling 18,100 personnel were divided into units in 5 different locations from company to regimental size. East of the reservoir, the Army's 31st Regimental Combat Team, which consisted of about 3,100 soldiers, including 800 KATUSA, was scattered over a distance of some seven miles.

The First Marine Division and a British Royal Marine battalion, totaling some 15,000 personnel, were in place at Chinhung-ni, Koto-ri, Hagaru-ri, Taktong Pass and Yudam-ni, as shown on the Battle Map. For the next fourteen days fighting was under unprecedented conditions. The weather, with frequent blizzards in temperatures averaging 25 degrees below zero and dipping as low as 60 degrees below zero, is recorded as the worst in the history of the area, which inflicted more casualties on our forces than did the enemy.

The overall enemy infantry forces outnumbered our forces by over 6 to 1, which they could concentrate against our widely scattered forces, attacking with vastly superior numbers. Our most important advantage in fighting against such overwhelming odds was air support. This was provided around the clock by Navy carrier aircraft and land-based Air Force and Marine aircraft. They provided close air support, casualty evacuation, and resupply.



Battle map of Changjin (Chosin) area

ply. The threat of bombing and strafing from the air, as well as well directed artillery, limited the major attack efforts of the enemy to the night time.

After successfully defeating massive surprise attacks by the Chinese on all of the UN forces, we were ordered to withdraw to the vicinity of Hamhung to prepare for evacuation by sea to South Korea. The advance to Hamhung from the reservoir was some 78 miles in distance, most of which was on a single-lane, unimproved dirt road through mountainous terrain. It also involved crossing two high passes, one of which required the replacement of a blown bridge.

The movement of the Army units to the rally point at Hagaru-ri was impeded by numerous Chinese road blocks. Facing certain annihilation or capture, they abandoned their vehicles and escaped across the frozen Chosin reservoir individually or in small groups to Hagaru-ri. At Hagaru-ri their surviving officers reorganized them to fight alongside the Marines and British Commandos.

Under these difficult conditions, every man became a rifleman. Artillerymen, vehicle drivers, cooks, engineers, tankers et al participated in fighting against countless roadblocks and over hilltops, driven with relentless purpose. Morale remained high, and one Marine shouted "Our success will not be denied." Individual heroism was a common virtue.

We believe this battle epitomized the determination and will to win of the UN

forces on the Korean battlefields. And, we firmly believe that had we not been successful the Republic of Korea would not have survived as it is today. Therefore, the North Texas Chapter of the Chosin Few veterans organization is leading the effort to build a Korean American monument to this battle. The monument is to be located at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA, just south of Washington D.C.

This battle is a significant American heritage of the Korean War, which could not have been won without the totally dedicated participation of the Air Force, Army, KATUSAs, Marines, Navy, and the Royal British Marine Commandos.

The KWVA membership includes all forces participating in the Korean War, and we need your support. We are also seeking the support of the Korean government, Korean Veterans Associations, foundations and Korean-Americans.

DONATION INFORMATION

All donations will be received and held by the Metroplex Military Charitable Trust, an IRS 501 (c)(3) charitable trust of Dallas, TX. Donors shall be issued an IRS



Picture of the Chosin Monument

501 (c)(3) tax receipt stating "No goods or services were provided in consideration of this contribution."

You may support the memorial by debit or credit card at the following website:

<http://www.metroplexmarines.org>. At the home page, double click on: Chosin

Few Monument PayPal Site.

Alternatively you may mail your check or money order to Metroplex Military Charitable Trust, 3510 Rankin Street, Dallas, TX 75205.

THE MONUMENT

The monument will be an 8-sided stone base about 8 feet tall, topped with a polished stainless steel sculpture of the "Star of Koto-Ri," which will rise another 8 feet above the base.

The Star of Koto-Ri is the symbol of the Chosin Few Association. The monument will stand in the center of a circular plaza. A bronze relief sculpture on each face of the monument will portray significant combat scenes from various areas of the battle such as East of Chosin, Yudamni, Fox Hill, Hagaru-ri, Hell Fire Valley, Koto-ri, Funchilin Pass, and North Korean refugees.

Inscriptions on the granite panels will list Medal of Honor recipients, casualties, participating units, and other significant facts about the battle.

Learn more about the project by visiting our website at <http://metroplexmarines.org>.

Speaking of Chosin...

The nearby photos were taken at the dedication of the "Korean Wall" at the General Patton Museum in Chiraco Summit, CA. Close to 1,000 people were there, including six members of my chapter of the Chosin Few. There were almost 100 members of the Hemet VFW Motorcycle Club and many other veterans of the battle of the Chosin Reservoir in attendance.

Korean Consul General Skin Yeon Sung cut the ribbon. Numerous dignitaries and the general public turned out to give thanks and honor the veterans.

As of 3 January 2015 there were over 400 names on the wall.

Incidentally, I am also a member of the Charles ("Chuck") Woodman Chapter, Inland Empire of Southern California, which was chartered in 1985 with 39 members. We are down to ten now, three of whom are charter members.

O'Neil, Lester; 48485 Big Horn Dr., La Bunita, CA 92253-7151, 760-777-1481



Three Chosin Few USMC veterans, Lloyd Dodd (A-1-5), John Attensia (C-1-7), Lester O'Neil (A-1-7), Helen Patton, Congressman Raul Ruiz, Korean Consul General Skin Yeon Sung, co-founder Margit Chiyiaco Rusche, and actor/Patton portrayer Stan Wolcott (L-R) at dedication of Korean Wall



Chosin Few veterans John Attensia, Lloyd Dodd, Bill Royce (U.S. Army), and Les O'Neil (L-R) at General Patton Museum dedication

Here is a story about O'Neil's activities in Korea.

Sudong, North Korea November 2, 1950 A-1-7, 1st Marine Division

We were digging in on a hilltop. I thought I heard something down the hill. I called S/Sgt. Vanzile. He listened and said it was just the wind. About ten minutes later I heard some shots about forty feet away on the backside of the hill. Two guys had fired 4 or 5 rounds at a hut about 2,000 yards across the valley.

Some Koreans were waving their arms at us. We set up a light .30 cal machine gun and fired into the hut with tracers. I fired a couple rounds. Lt. Bradley came over and chewed us out for shooting at civilians. He got 8 or 10 steps away and the hut blew up. It was full of ammunition. Lt. Bradley called mortars in and chased the enemy troops up a canyon.

I was back at my position digging in when I heard two grenades a few seconds apart. I heard later that the third squad leader was walking by his squad's position without his rifle and met an enemy soldier. They both threw grenades. The next thing I heard was our platoon sergeant yelling, "O'Neil and Margeatta, go see what's down there."

We went 100-150 yards and found some maps and paper in Chinese. Margeatta picked up a nice walking stick, dropped it, and raised his M1. I nudged him and he said he saw something move. I told him, "If you

Korean Consul General
Skin Yeon Sung at
General Patton Museum



Les O'Neil stands in front of Chosin Few chapter plaque; five of the members listed are no longer with us



I found a head on which someone had scratched "General's Head" on the plywood door. I didn't pay any attention to the sign and used it anyway. The second time I went to use it the door opened and out stepped Major General O.P. Smith. It actually was the general's head!

shoot, we may not make it back up the hill." He held his fire.

We grabbed the papers and maps and went back up the hill at a fast pace. Back on top I gave the papers to S/Sgt Vanzile. About 20 minutes later the stuff hit the fan. The first platoon got overrun. Two of them came over the hill and into our line with rounds flying. One of them was hit in the left wrist and had four bullet holes in his parka.

We backed down the hill, reset our lines, and then went back up. I got the same position back and found my wallet there on the ground. I put it back in my hip pocket. We moved back off the top of the hill again. Margeatta told me my dungarees were

ripped. I checked and found the back right side was ripped wide open where my wallet used to be.

Lt. Bradley stuck his carbine with the bayonet attached in the ground and said, "We hold here." We did and the Chinese didn't hit us again.

I don't remember what time it was, but it was very dark. A vehicle came toward our lines. Sgt. Vanzile charged it and said, "Turn off your lights!" The Chinese driver said something in Chinese and the Sgt. dove for cover.

The next morning we came off the hill and started to move out. An explosion blew me off my feet. I was hit with shrapnel in

my right leg. I couldn't put any weight on it. The corpsman wanted to give me a shot, but I told him, "No Way."

I was put on a field stretcher at the battalion CP. They took my BAR and belt and gave me an M1. The previous group of wounded got ambushed and had a firefight. I was on the top stretcher rack with one man under me and two seated by us. We reached the division hospital the next day. The hospital was housed in a former school house. Ten or 12 of us slept on field stretchers in a room.

I found a head on which someone had scratched "General's Head" on the plywood door. I didn't pay any attention to the sign and used it anyway. The second time I went to use it the door opened and out stepped Major General O.P. Smith. It actually was the general's head!

When I found our head, it was a 2 x 4 to put our fannies on, with big pictures of Stalin and Mao indicating the urinal.

After twelve days the doctor told me to

go back to my unit. I asked where they were and he replied, "Sixty miles up that road." Hitching rides and walking, it took me two days to get to A-1-7.

I was very popular for a while. The hospital had a "geedunk" stand. If I stood in line each day I could get 1 Hershey bar and 1 pack of chewing tobacco. I had saved up 17 of each to share. We wouldn't have been

able to get many more of either item after that. We were headed up to the Chosin Reservoir.

One day, someone spotted a motorcycle that turned into a canyon in which was located two huts. The troops leveled the huts. We found out later that the Chinese were holding a staff meeting there. They pulled back very fast after we started firing.

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Members are invited to help underwrite the publication costs of *The Graybeards*. All contributions in any amount are welcome. Mail your donations to KWVA Treasurer, 430 W. Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 61920 or Treasurer@KWVA.org. All contributions will be acknowledged, unless the donor specifically requests to remain anonymous. And, if you have an "In memory of" (IMO) request, include that as well. We thank you for your generous support.

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Members in the



Wayne Pelkey...was recognized in October by the Barre, VT Service Clubs as a recipient at the “33rd Annual Recognition Awards Dinner.” Pelkey, who has a history of volunteering in his community, noted that “Sixty four years ago, we 21+/- year olds went off to the “Forgotten 3-year war in Korea” and came home with a new determination to do something more with our lives. And most of us did raising a family and leaving a betterment mark on our community, state, nation.”



Dick Carpenter, an old friend of Wayne Pelkey from their snowmobiling days, on the sax at Barre, VT dinner. He also played at the Pelkeys' 25th wedding anniversary

Perry and Kathy Grange (Wayne Pelkey's niece) and Pelkey's wife of 55 years



Wayne Pelkey delivers an old Jaycee memory during his speech at Barre, VT event

Claire Duke, Wayne Pelkey's friend of 60 years, introduces him to the audience at dinner



He served on various town boards and committees, including 8 years as chairman of the Barre Town School Board and 32 years as chairman of the Trow Hill Fire District Prudential

Committee. He noted that “At 83, I feel like the car of my year, 1931 Model A Ford, that can still start up but the fuel tank is running low so off the turnpikes and on to Sunset Avenue to try and enjoy our remaining life.”

His concluding remark was aimed at people of all ages: “Peace to all of you and take the time to ‘smell the flowers’”!

Reach Wayne Pelkey at 12 Clover Ln., Barre, VT 05641, 802-476-7638, wppelkey@charter.net

Anthony Rabasco...was featured in an article in the Jan/Feb 2010 IAEI (International Association of Electrical Inspectors) News. The article focused on his background as an inspector and his service in the Korean War, during which he served with the 101 Signal Bn. One excerpt from the article describes his service there:

“We’d climb to the highest ridge to transmit and receive radio signals. Even though the weather and temperatures were extreme and unbearable, being alone in a hostile environment was worse. Being alone was torture—so difficult to deal with. We had no idea when we might expect to be relieved. At night the mountains would tremble from the effects of artillery shelling. We shivered from cold and fear. And as the frontlines jumped and moved, so did we. That meant carrying a tent, sleeping bag, food, water, a weapon and a generator for the radios that alone weighed fifty-five pounds.”

Some of Rabasco’s memoirs were also included in *Forget Not—The Winter Of Discontent*, by Dorothy P. Campbell, pp. 323-326.

Reach Rabasco at 80 Gaylord Rd. Scarsdale, NY 10583, 914-384-6634.

Quentin Backstrom...was featured in a June 24, 2011 article published in the Korea Herald. As Backstrom notes, “This is an interview that Quentin and I had with a reporter on our way to the DMZ in June 2011.”

It reads in part:

PAJU: Although it is his first visit to South Korea, Quentin Backstrom, a 16-year-old student from Philadelphia, is quite familiar with the country through the vivid memories of his grandfather, who fought here during the 1950-53 Korean War. The veteran, Robert Hoyt, brought the oldest son of his second daughter here this week for a six-day trip to offer a glimpse of South Korea's fast progress since then and continuing military tensions on the peninsula.

Among other destinations in his itinerary, the Demilitarized Zone, which he visited on Thursday, was the most impressive. He saw only a thin borderline dividing the two Koreas, which seem to be worlds apart in all aspects.

“I was impressed by the soldiers there and their commitment to protecting the border. I learned how tense it is over there. I heard a lot about the war from my grandpa,” Backstrom told The Korea Herald....

Read the entire article at <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20110624000694>

Contact Backstrom at 190 Stony Point Dr., Berwyn, PA 19312, 610-644-9106 or 610-585-6501 (cell)



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3 – KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOC. OF ARIZONA, INC. [AZ]

Jim Bockman conducted a Korean War four-hour airborne information session at a local high school for JR-ROTC students. He brought a fully equipped mannequin for illustration purposes.

James E. Bockman
4035 E Calypso Ave.
Mesa, AZ 85206
480-510-0770
JBoc187@msn.com

Jim Bockman conducts session at local high school



Students at Luff Elementary School sing armed forces medley



LEFT: Vern Scott of Ch 43 speaks at Luff Elementary School Veterans Day commemoration

43 - KANSAS CITY MISSOURI #2 [MO]

The Luff Elementary School of Independence, MO held its 2nd annual Veterans Day program on November 11, 2014. This year they had seven veterans speaking. Last year there were three of us.

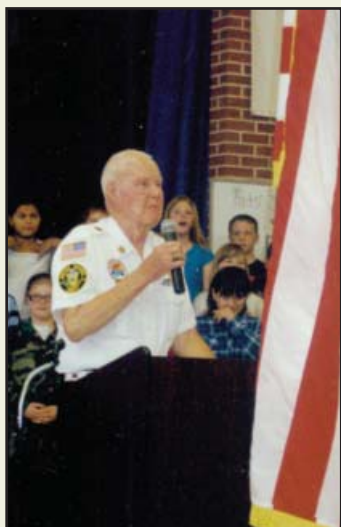
The speakers included active duty Marine Neal Young, Tresa Curl (U.S. Army), Millie Gammil

and Bob Becker (U.S. Air Force), and Richard Delmont (U.S. Navy). Chapter members Vern Scott (U.S. Air Force) and Bob Jones (U.S. Army) represented the KWVA.

Of course, the real stars of the program were the students. The songs, poems, photos, Armed Forces medley, and slideshow were chosen by the school's fifth grade leaders. Again this year was like old home week for some of the veterans who had either gone to school here or had children or grandchildren who had gone to school here.

Refreshments were served after the program. Thanks, teachers and staff, for a great program again this year—and especially for inviting us again.

Robert R. Jones, 13975 E 35th St., Apt 428, Independence, MO 64055, 816-836-0969 (H) 816-809-0123 (C), bob-jones73rdtkbn@yahoo.com



Bob Jones of Ch 43 addresses Luff Elementary School students



55 – NASSAU COUNTY #1 [NY]

Members presented two sessions recently. Don Zoeller and Buddy Epstein visited Oceanside High School in Oceanside, NY. They spent the day there talking about their experiences in Korea during the war.

They did a similar presentation for approximately 100 students at Chaminade High School in Mineola, Long Island, NY.

Robert P. O'Brien, 408 Fifth Ave., Cedarhurst, NY 11516



LEFT: Don Zoeller and Buddy Epstein of Ch 55 speak at Oceanside High School

BELOW: Buddy Epstein and Don Zoeller of Ch 55 with students at Chaminade [NY] High School



60 – ADIRONDACK [NY]

We gave a presentation at Schuylerville High School on 12 November, 2014. Our local newspaper, The Saratogian, gave us ample coverage, as it often does. The article below appeared in the paper's 15 November 2014 edition.

Veterans make sure Forgotten War isn't forgotten

By Paul Post, The Saratogian (Saratoga Springs, NY)

SCHUYLERVILLE: The Forgotten War is no longer forgotten because of veterans who tell their stories.

More than 140 spellbound Schuylerville eighth-graders heard harrowing accounts about the Korean War on Tuesday from local men who fought there.

Some served beneath the waves in submarines, others made air-

borne landings, while many endured the hardships of subzero temperatures in frozen foxholes.

"When we couldn't dig we built bunkers out of trees and sand bags," said army veteran Paul O'Keefe, of Mechanicville. "Three years of bloody battles cost us the precious lives of soldiers and Marines. I pray that the day you receive your high school diplomas we will be enjoying world peace."

Nationwide, the Korean War Veterans Association's Tell America program is dedicated to helping young understand the war, which kept South Korea free from communism. These men were young themselves when the war began on June 25, 1950, still in their teens and early 20s. Now more than 60 years later, they're all octogenarians.

"This is an opportunity for you to

hear about it, while we're here, instead of out of a book," said Robert Garland, of Malta, a member of the army's 187th Airborne Regiment.

He made 37 jumps in the service, usually from an altitude of 1,200 feet. The first 250 feet were the scariest, hoping the chute would open, Garland said.

"What I was thinking was, I hope I'm not the first one down," he joked.

O'Keefe, who served with 24th Infantry Division, had just graduated from high school when hostilities began.

"I had never touched a weapon of any kind, not even a BB gun," he said. "But you learned quickly. It was tough training."

U.S. casualties totaled 23,615 killed in action, 2,459 who later succumbed to wounds, and 4,821 missing in action presumed dead. More than 130,000 Americans were wounded including loss of limbs and the psychological effects of posttraumatic stress disorder.

"Coming home doesn't mean their war is over," O'Keefe said. "For some (PTSD victims), it means their battle is just beginning."

Unlike returning World War II troops, who received a hero's welcome, Korean War veterans were overlooked by an indifferent American public that largely ignored this conflict. One student asked O'Keefe what it was like being reunited with his family.

"It was wonderful," he said. "There were lots of hugs and kisses. Other than that nobody seemed to care that we served our country. We just went back to work the next day. Sad, but true."

Six decades later, however, each of these men knows they made a difference.

Navy veteran Jim McConkey, of Saratoga Springs, held up a satellite image that shows the entire Korean peninsula at night. South Korea is full of lights, a reflection of a modern nation that has grown to become a global economic power. Samsung, a major producer of cell phones, flat screen televisions and similar electronics, is just one of Korea's thriving international corporations.

The same night-time photo shows an almost totally dark North Korea.

"That's the difference between communism and democracy," McConkey said.

Paul Post covers NYRA, SPAC, agriculture, Wilton and other local towns, veterans' issues and more. Reach the author at ppost@digitalfirstmedia.com or follow Paul on Twitter: @paulvpost. The article, which appeared in the November 15, 2014 edition of The Saratogian, is reprinted with the author's permission.

Robert S. Garland, 35A Cass Ct., Ballston Lake, NY 12019, 518-899-4385, firecop@nycap.rr.com



Members of Ch 60, at Schuylerville High School: (Seated, L-R) Army veterans Ed Bushey, Paul Nolan and Robert Garland; (Standing) Paul O'Keefe (Army), Roger Calkins (Navy), William Reid (Air Force), Lincoln Orologio (Army) and 1st Vice Commander Jim McConkey (Navy) Source: Paul Post – ppost@digitalfirstmedia.com



Auxiliary ladies of Ch 60, all of whom are widows of Korean War veterans

138 - AKRON REGIONAL [OH]

Four members, Amon Cool, Donald George, Carl Thornton, and William Niebuhr, presented Tell America at the Barberton High School, Barberton, OH. We have presented Tell America at Barberton High School for several years to small groups of students at a time. The program has been well received.

This year, however, the school made the school auditorium avail-

able for two hours on November 10, 2014, for two sessions of one hour each for approximately 600 students each session. That was a total of about 1,200 students, the largest number we have ever spoken to.

We have scheduled several more schools for Tell America this school term.

Carl Canon, 4512 Conestoga Trail, Copley, OH 44321



Presenters from Ch 138 (L-R) Amon Cool, Donald George, Carl Thornton and William Niebuhr

142 - COL WILLIAM E. WEBER [MD]

On December 11, 2014 Commander Robert Mount met with 11-year-old Simon Weatherby, an eighth grade stu-

dent at Catonsville Middle School, to discuss the Korean War. Simon is working on a project in which he and each of his classmates

picked a war in which the United States was involved, and on which they wished to present a paper.

Simon's father is a teacher with the U.S. Department of Defense. They had spent five years in Korea, so it was a natural for him to select the Korean War. No one else selected the Korean War, so Simon's is a "lone wolf" project.

Commander Mount was impressed with Simon's maturity

and the depth of his research. Simon had prepared 25 questions to which Commander Mount was asked to respond. To help expand Simon's knowledge, in addition to answering his questions, Commander Mount presented him with a copy of the book Korea Reborn.

Linda Crilly,
CID142Webmaster@gmail.com/
Glenn Wienhoff, cid142kwva@gmail.com



Bob Mount of Ch 142 and Simon Weatherby

143 - GREATER RICHMOND [VA]

On September 10th and 17th, 2014, John Thomas, Commander of KWVA Chapter #143, had the pleasure of teaching two classes on the Korean War at the Lifelong Learning Institute in Midlothian, VA. The classes were well received by students ranging in age from 55 to 87 years.

On October 22, 2014, members met at Caroline County Middle School in Milford, VA to be interviewed by the students. The students are writing a book which will include quotes from the interview with the veterans.

When we arrived at the school, we were greeted inside by the students waving the American flag and saying, "Welcome to our Veterans." Each veteran was assigned 2 or 3 students.

John F. Thomas, Sr., 9814 Durango Rd., Henrico, VA 23228, 804-266-9037, barterbrook30@hotmail.com



Rachel Kelley, Executive Director of the Lifelong Learning Institute in Midlothian, VA, accepts a copy of "Korea Reborn" from Ch 143 Commander John Thomas



Students at Caroline County Middle School in Milford, VA greet Ch 143 members

172 – HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

We were very busy from September to December 2014. We presented programs at 6 different locations, traveled 701 miles, and informed 603 audience members about the Korean War and its effects on the history of not only our country, but the entire world.

Members made 2 visits to Lakota High School, 1 to New Riegel High School, and Bluffton High School. In addition, we gave a

presentation open to the public at the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library.

Our final program of the year was held in Tiffin, OH for a group of military hardware collectors called the Motorpool Group.

2014 was a great year for our Tell America Committee.

Harry C. Biddinger, 1 Windstone Ct., Findlay, OH 45840, 419-423-5785

Associate Member Kim Turley of Ch 172 discusses how nurses in MASH units functioned in Korea War



Ray Jameson of Ch 172 speaks at Lakota [OH] High School



Ray Jameson and Kim Turley of Ch 172 present program at Bluffton High School

209 - LAREDO 1950 [TX]

We did a presentation at the Texas Culture Center in San Antonio, TX. Several members gave talks about Korea.

Pedro Trevino, Jr.,
3219 E. Lyon St., Laredo, TX
78043 956-723-6978



Speakers from Ch 209 at Texas Culture Center (L-R) Andres Dimas, Ernesto Sanchez, Eduardo Sanchez, and Hector Garza

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

Chapter & Department News

17 LT. RICHARD E. CRONAN [FL]

Past President Joe W. Green received a plaque for his hard work. Our chapter has supported the VA Hospital in West Palm Beach, FL for many years as one of its many endeavors.

Charles Koppelman, 24 Hastings B.
West Palm Beach, FL 33417



Past President Joe W. Green (L) of Ch 17 accepts plaque from current President Stanley P. Gavlick. (Photo by Charles Koppelman)

19 GEN RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

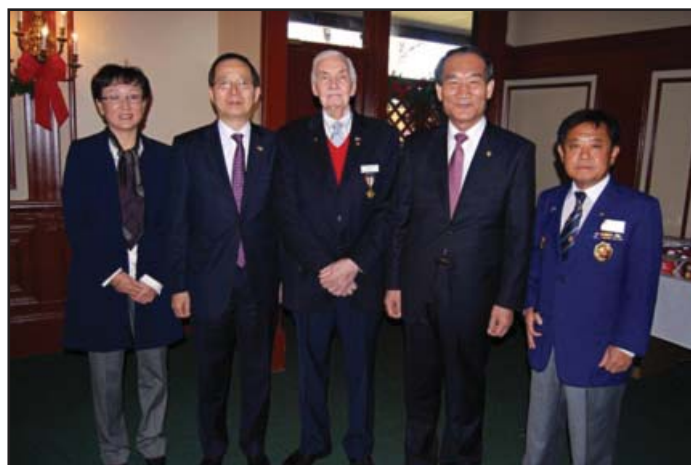
We were privileged to have Korean Counsel General Seong-Jin Kim and Minister of Patriots and Veteran Affairs Sung Choon Park speak at our annual Christmas luncheon. The Minister presented Peace Medals to ten members and gifts to all in attendance.

We again participated in the Marine Corps Tots for Tots program.

Jim Conway, conatlanta@comcast.net



Secretary/Treasurer James Conway, Korean Consul General Seong-Jin Kim, President Robert McCubbins of Ch 19 at Christmas party



Deputy Consul Bok-Ryeol Rhyou, Seong-Jin Kim, Robert McCubbins, Minister Sung Choon Park, Kyung Ho Cha, President of Korean Veterans Assoc. at Ch 19 Christmas party



Minister Park presents Ambassador for Peace Medal to Linden Johnson of Ch 19



Minister Park presents Ambassador for Peace Medal to Ch 19 member Gordon Sherman

40 MINNESOTA #1 [MN]

We assembled a few of our stout members on a cold, windy Saturday afternoon in Minnesota to visit some of our veteran comrades at the Minneapolis Medical Center.

We distributed 125 Christmas cards to staff members and patients. And, we spoke to sixty veterans in the wards we visited.



Members of Ch 40 visiting Minneapolis Medical Center included (Standing, L-R) Blair Rumble, Mike Jansen, Don Goethals, Bob Nehotte (Seated, L-R) Ray Brandes, Chanley Lundgren



Three Ch 40 members and friends who serve on the Rifle Squad at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis: Charles Korlath, George Weiss, founder of the squad, and Andy Urness (L-R)



Dick Thill, the last man standing from the Number 2 gun on the USS Ward, which put a round through the conning tower of a Japanese sub outside Pearl Harbor while they were on patrol before the war started officially

Charles Korlath, who is a member of the Rifle Squad at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, has the distinction of handing out more flags to family members of people interred at the cemetery than anyone in the country.

Another member of the squad, George Weiss, was honored in Washington D.C. by President Obama for starting the Rifle Squad ceremony that has spread to all our national cemeteries.

Blair Rumble, 969 Lombard Ave.
Saint Paul, MN 55105

43 KANSAS CITY MISSOURI #2 [MO]

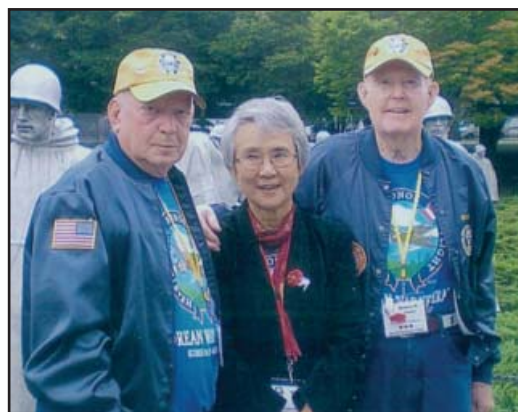
On October 7, 2014, six members participated in a Heartland Honor Flight, an exciting one-day adventure trip to Washington, D.C. The flight is free for the veterans, who can visit all the memorials that were built in honor of those who served. The participants travel with guardians who treat them like family and ensure that every veteran has a safe, memorable, and rewarding experience. (See the related story on p. 18.)

John Doole, President of the Heartland Honor Flight, and the rest of the Board members work hard for months to make sure this trip goes off without any problems, as it did on this flight. Their motto is "Whatever it takes." They certainly live up to that motto on every flight.

On September 25th we had a preflight orientation meeting to provide us with an overview of the day's itinerary and to meet our guardians. When we arrived in Washington D.C. there was a large crowd waiting to welcome us to the city. Our buses had a three-car police escort from the time we left the terminal until we returned that evening. The Korean War Memorial is as beautiful and impressive as I had been told it was.



Bob Jones, Lou Ramsey, John Atkins, Michael Hayes, Jose Alonzo, and Carlin Talcott of Ch 43 (L-R) on Heartland Honor Flight visit to Korean War Memorial



Lou Ramsey, Therese Park, and Bob Jones of Ch 43 (L-R) at Korean War Memorial



Two WWII veterans (front row) and Bob Jones and Lou Ramsey of Ch 43 (back row) help lay wreath at Tomb of the Unknowns



WWII and Korean War veterans gather around Bob Dole at WWII Memorial

Two things really surprised me when we arrived at the WWII Memorial. First, former U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) was waiting to greet us. The other was when we got to the Tomb of the Unknowns. Lou Ramsey and I were told that we would be participating in the Laying of the Wreath at the Tomb. He and I agreed later that it was the most memorable thing that we had ever done—or ever will do.



An enthusiastic crowd greets returning veterans on Heartland Honor Flight in which Ch 43 members participated



Al Lemieux, President of Ch 43, welcomes home chapter member Bob Jones (L)

When we arrived back at Kansas City International Airport we received another surprise: the size of the crowd waiting to greet us. We could not believe that an estimated crowd of 700 to 800 people were waiting to welcome us back.

Thanks to John Doole and the crew for a great day.

We were invited to a December 2, 2014 Heartland Honor Flight reunion at which all participants and guardians received commemorative DVDs and CDs of photos of their trip.

Robert R. Jones, 13975 E 35th St., Apt 428,
Independence, MO 64055, 816-836-0969 (H), 816-
809-0123 (C), bobjones73rdtkbn@yahoo.com

44 MISSOURI# 1 [MO]

On September 17, 2014 the Department of Missouri held its 18th State Reunion, led by the State Commander, Frank Williams, at Andres Banquet Center in Saint Louis, MO. Members of several state chapters planned the event. We had great attendance, comprising 76 members from chapters all over the state, plus 3 guests. Famous vocalist Bob Ellison provided the entertainment.



Frank Hunleth of Ch 78 receives award from Dept. of Missouri Commander Frank Williams

During the meeting Commander Williams presented awards to Frank Hunleth, Missouri #78, Jefferson County, and Forrest O'Neal, Ch 281, Rolla # 9. He recognized other members for their overall dedication to the KWVA.

Dept. of
Missouri
Commander
Frank Williams
presents award
to Forrest O'Neal
of Ch 281



Robert Markham
accepts award from
Commander Don
Gutmann of Ch 44



Commander Don Gutmann of Ch 44 presents award to Harry Hope

In addition, Don Gutmann, commander of Ch 44, presented awards to Bob Markham, Adjutant for Ch 44, State Adjutant and former Commander of Chapter #3 for his dedicated service, and Harry Hope, Vice Commander of Ch 44, for his relentless service to all veterans and his leadership in the St. Louis Honors Flight Program, which is starting to send Korean veterans.

Bob Osborne, our state officer for state legislative affairs, gave a rundown on the failure of the state constitutional amendment to have a special lottery to fund veteran programs. The amendment lost by less than 1%. Paul Dillon spoke on the status of the new POW/MIA Museum being established in facilities provided on the Jefferson Barracks military property. They are currently renovating the site and have a fundraising program under way to upgrade the facilities.

Kenn Dawley, 382-A Autumn Creek Dr.
Manchester, MO 63088, 636-529-1355

48 CHORWON [NJ]

In November we celebrated the installation of new officers at the Estate at Florentine Gardens, Rivervale, NJ. National Director George Bruzgis presided at the oath taking ceremony.

The officers include Vice Commander Bud Schuermann, Judge Advocate Ed Halvey, Director George Bruzgis, Adjutant Bob Bramley, Commander Tom Scully, Sr. Vice Commander Merwyn Metlitz, Finance Officer Leo Savas, Surgeon Rudy Parciaseppe, Jr., Sgt.-at-Arms Bob Kosco, Service Officer Warren Dartell, Chaplain Mark Napoletano, and Directors John Valerio and Ed Fehmian. *(The last three were absent when the nearby photo below was taken.)*

Winifred T. Bramley, 476 4th Ave.
Westwood, NJ 07675, 201-666-1281



New officers for Ch 48 (L-R) Vice Commander Bud Schuermann, Judge Advocate Ed Halvey, Director George Bruzgis, Adjutant Bob Bramley, Commander Tom Scully (in back of Bramley), Sr. Vice Commander Merwyn Metlitz, Finance Officer Leo Savas, Surgeon Rudy Parciaseppe, Jr., Sgt.-at-Arms Bob Kosco, Service Officer Warren Dartell

MYSTERY PHOTO




George Francis of Ch 281, Rolla #9, who served aboard *USS Carter Hall* (LSD 3), received the nearby autographed photo from ...? From whom? Can anyone identify the person who is shaking Mr. Francis' hand in the nearby photo or decipher the autograph? If you can, please let the editor know.

George H. Francis, 1930 Bluebird Way, West Plains, MO 65775
417-204-5220, GeorgeFrancis285@yahoo.com

54 THOMAS W. DALEY, JR. [NJ]


We held our annual holiday dinner and memorial service on December 10, 2014.

Andy Jackson, captjack71@comcast.net



Korean War & Korean Service Veterans Association

CHARTERED BY CONGRESS JUNE 30 2008
THOMAS W. DALEY JR. CHAPTER 54



DEC 10TH 2014
PROGRAM FOR 6TH ANNUAL
CHAPTER 54 DINNER & MEMORIAL SERVICE

- INTRODUCTION BY COMMANDER JACKSON
- NATIONAL ANTHEM, PLEASE STAND
- INVOCATION BY CHAPLIN DOTTIE COFFEY-TROUT.
- MEMORIAL READING FOR ALL DECEASED MEMBERS
- MIA-POW TABLE PRESENTATION BY CMDR JACKSON AND FRED CONNOLLY
- PLEASE STAND * PLAYING OF TAPS BY FRED CONNOLLY
- PRESENTATION OF AMBASSADOR for PEACE MEDALS
- DINNER BY MASSO'S * BY TABLE NUMBER
- DJ MUSIC BY JOHN BLAKER
- ENTERTAINMENT BY TOM PIZZI,
- RENOWNED PROFESSIONAL
- ENTERTAINER

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH and a
HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR



Commander George E. Parsons of Ch 66 (L) congratulates Donato ("Danny") DiTonno on receipt of Ambassador for Peace Medal



Albert Fowler, Joseph Bonamo, and George E. Parsons of Ch 66 (L-R) on Veterans Day 2014

George E. Parsons, 56 Boyce Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10306, 718-667-8052

66 CORPORAL ALLAN F. KIVLEHAN [NY]

On Veterans Day 2014, Commander George E. Parsons had the honor of presenting an official proclamation and the Ambassador for Peace Medal from the Republic of Korea to 35 chapter members. The presentation was held at the chapter's Korean War Monument located in Staten Island, NY. A luncheon followed at the Korean War Veterans Hall in the New York Korean Evangelical Church, Staten Island.



Members of Ch 66 at Korean War Veterans Hall

72 OREGON TRAIL [OR]

The monument pictured below, which we sponsor, is the smallest of the Oregon Korean War Memorials. It is located on the grounds of the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, 700 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR. The monument is a tribute to all Oregonians who served in the Korean War. The wreath helps to commemorate "Wreaths Across America."



The city of Keizer, where I live, has a population of a bit more than 37,000 residents. In speaking to students I remind them of the 37,000+ Americans killed in action, which equates to the city of Keizer being "wiped out."

Bob Wickman
rcwickman@comcast.net

The Oregon Korean War Memorial

82 ALBUQUERQUE NM #1 [NM]

In a ceremony held at the New Mexico Veterans' Memorial on 11/7/14, the Korean Consul General, Kirm Hyun-Myung, presented the Korean Peace Medal to thirty members of our chapter and several members of the Las Cruces, NM chapter (322, CPL John U. Moore). Following the presentation, all of the attendees were invited to a luncheon prepared and served by members of the local Korean community.

During ceremonies held at the NM Veterans' Memorial on Memorial Day 2014, the "Worn Flag Drop Off" donated by the Albuquerque Chapter received its first flag, deposited by a young lady appropriately named Freedom. The ex-mail box was donated by chapter member Jim Hofsis, shown with Hiroshi Miyamura (MOH Korea) and Freedom Romero. The decoration of the box was done by chapter member Lionel Specter.



Jim Hofsis of Ch 82 talks to Hiroshi Miyamura (L) and Freedom Romero (C) in front of the "Worn Flag Drop-off Box" in Albuquerque, NM

Lionel Specter,
10419 Santa Susana Rd. N.E., Albuquerque, NM
87111, SrBula@aol.com

86 NASHVILLE [TN]

We set up a booth and display at the Tennessee State Fair in September 2014.

Leonard Glenn, 920 Rexdale Dr., Nashville, TN 37217



Part of Ch 86's display at Tennessee State Fair



More of Ch 86's Tennessee State Fair display



Ray Kalil (L) and Bobbie Smith of Ch 86 at Tennessee State Fair



Charlie B. Bohn, Bobbie Smith, and Henry P. Applegate (L-R) of Ch 86



Leonard ("John") Glenn, Bobbie Smith, and Marvin A. Morris (L-R) of Ch 86

100 NORTHERN VIRGINIA [VA]

Joint Christmas Meeting And Luncheon

We hosted a joint Christmas meeting and luncheon on December 16, 2014 at the American Legion Post No. 176 in Springfield, VA. The event was attended by 90 people representing the KWVA Board of Directors, numerous Virginia and Maryland KWVA chapters, members of the Korean-American Korean War Veterans Association of Washington, and the Republic of Korea Defense Attaché to the United States.

Those from the KWVA Board of Directors included Larry C. Kinard, President; Warren H. Wiedhahn, KWVA First Vice President and President, Chapter 100, Department of Virginia; L. T. Whitmore, KWVA Director and Commander, Department of Virginia; John T. "Sonny" Edwards, KWVA Director and Chairman, KWVA Membership and Recruiting Committee; and Leo Ruffing, KWVA National Chaplain.

Major General Shin, Kyoung Soo, the Republic of Korea Defense Attaché to the United States, and his wife (Yu, Miyoung) attended, as did Jim Fisher, KWVA's newly designated Executive Director, who was introduced to the assemblage.



Head Table for Ch 100 meeting (L-R) L. T. Whitmore, LtGen William R. Maloney, USMC, (ret); Warren H. Wiedhahn, Larry Kinard; Attaché Shin, Kyoung Soo; and Mrs. Shin (Yu, Miyoung)



Plaque presentation at Ch 100 meeting (L-R) MajGen Shin, Kyoung Soo; Larry Kinard; Mrs. Shin (Yu, Miyoung); Warren H. Wiedhahn

Following the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, L. T. Whitmore, Larry Kinard, and Major General Shin each gave short addresses to the assemblage. President Kinard noted that planning is underway for the 65th Anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War to be observed in Washington, D.C. in July 2015 as a truly international event.

President Kinard presented a plaque to Major General Shin containing a piece of the same polished stone which was used in the beautiful picture wall that is a part of the Korean War Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

There was also a short presentation on the 2015 Korea Re-Visit Program by James "Jamie" Wiedhahn, primary tour leader. Trips are planned for May, June, July, and November. It was noted that the trips have been fully subscribed in recent years and persons interested in 2015 trips should submit their applications as soon as possible. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Attendees had been asked to bring new, unwrapped toys to the meeting, which would later be distributed through the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program to less fortunate children in our communities. Happily, our attendees responded generously and many children in our communities experienced a brighter Christmas and holiday season than might otherwise have been the case.

Donald W. Swygert, drswygert@rcn.com

126 TRI-STATE [OH]

We are always invited to take part in the 4th of July festivities in Midland, PA. In 2014 member Mike Kilcoyne led the way, riding in a jeep restored by another member, Gordie Griffiths.

In September we and other veterans groups posted Colors at the opening ceremony of the Vietnam Wall in Beaver, PA.

We closed out 2014 with our annual Christmas party.

George Piggott, 3720 Root Ave., Canton, OH 44705



Parade participants from Ch 126, Ed Peters, George Germusa, George Piggott, and Mike Kilcoyne (R-L), enjoy a break before the 4th of July Parade



George Piggott, Gelendo Malignani, and George Germusa of Ch 126 (R-L) wait to post the chapter's colors in Beaver, PA



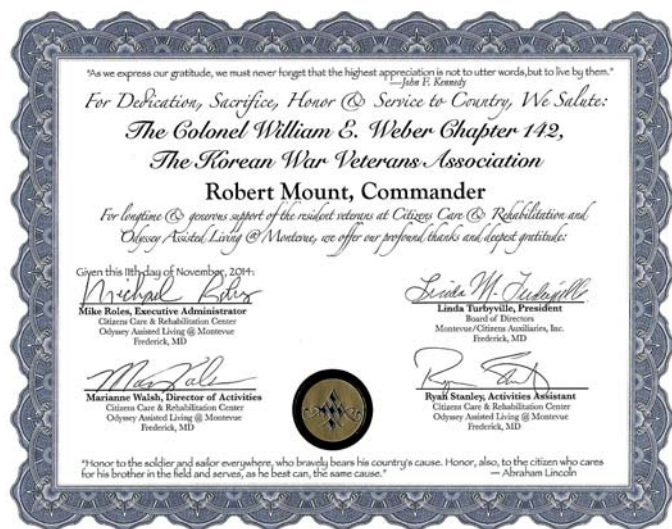
Christmas party attendees from Ch 126 at Midland, PA American Legion post (Front, sitting) Ed Broadbent, Gelindo Malignani, Ed Peters, Gerald Meek (Back) Carl Sebrell, Richard Sitler, Dan Gallagher, Dan MacLean, Larry Cummings, George Germusa, George Piggott

142 COL WILLIAM E. WEBER [MD]

Citizens/Montevue Veterans Day Program

We provided a Color Guard for the Veterans Day Program at Citizens/Montevue nursing home and assisted living facility on November 11, 2014. After the program, members visited with the veterans in attendance, one of whom, John Routzahn, is a life member of KWVA.

Commander Mount was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for our participation. We have provided \$2,000 in support of the Veterans Activity fund at the home.



The certificate presented to Ch 142

Those attending were Tony Malavenda, Chip Chipley, Jack Droneburg, Bob Mount, Ken Davis, Glenn Wienhoff, Ted Carlson and Tony Marra. Wives attending were Irene Malavenda and Rosalie Wienhoff.

Operation Second Chance

Members approved a donation of \$1,000 to Operation Second Chance at the October 2014 Meeting. The organization's mission statement reads as follows:

We are patriotic citizens committed to serving our wounded, injured and all combat veterans. We support veterans and their



Commander Robert Mount of Ch 142 presents a donation to Richard Glover, Director of Operations for Operation Second Chance as Glenn Wienhoff, Secretary/Treasurer, Creed Parker, Vice Commander and Jack Droneburg, Welfare Committee Chairman (L-R) look on

families while they recover in military hospitals by building relationships and identifying and supporting immediate needs and interests. We are dedicated to promoting public awareness to the many sacrifices made by our Armed Forces members.

Fort Detrick Food Bank

On November 14, 2014, we donated \$1,000 to the Fort Detrick Chapel Food Bank. This fund is used to help support needy service members and their families at Fort Detrick. Commissary gift cards are purchased and then distributed to the needy personnel.

Linda Crilly, cid142webmaster@gmail.com



CH (Capt) Khoi To, Deputy Garrison Chaplain, Chip Chipley, Ch 142, Mary Lee Schumeyer, President of the Protestant Parish Council, and Sgt. Gregory Hawkins, Chaplain's Assistant (L-R)

143 GREATER RICHMOND [VA]

On October 18, 2014, five members had the privilege to go on the Honor Flight trip. They included Commander Thomas, Jim Chase, John Clatterbaugh, Winfred Clark and Frank Kirks. The group was overwhelmed by the care and attention given by the Honor Flight crew.



Frank Kirks, John Clatterbaugh, John Thomas, Winfred Clark, and Jim Chase (L-R) of Ch 143 on Honor Flight

The trip included a tour of all the memorials that have been erected to honor our veterans. Two of the highlights (out of several) were a police escort to and from D.C. and the cordial greeting we had at each location visited.

LTCOL Jong Sook Hong, Assistant Defense and Marine Attaché, Embassy of Korea, was our guest at our December 13, 2014 annual Christmas luncheon. We were honored to have him present.

John F. Thomas, Sr., 9814 Durango Rd., Henrico, VA 23228, 804-266-9037, barterbrook30@hotmail.com



LtCol Jong Sook Hong (far left) with Ch 143 members at Christmas luncheon

168 QUAD CITIES [IL]

We hosted the Department of Illinois State Convention 2014 in Rock Island on October 3-5. One of the many highlights was the presence of two Korean War veterans who were awarded the Medal of Honor: Hiroshi (Hershey) Miyamura and Ronald Rosser.



Korean folk songs sung by Korean United Methodist Church Choir from Davenport, IA

Friday was a casual day, with tours around the Quad Cities and Rock Island Arsenal. The hospitality room was lined with photos and memorabilia with tables for refreshments and snacks. It was great for all to get acquainted. Several of the items on display were devices used in combat conditions. Vietnam veterans posted the Colors on Friday.



Hiroshi Miyamura then and now



Ronald Rosser then and now



Marine Corps veterans from the Quad Cities area memorialize POW/MIA

The Department of Illinois business meeting was held on Saturday, followed by dinner served to 160 people.

Several Illinois Chapters were represented at this convention, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Service at the Holiday Inn was great and the staff was very helpful, which helped make a successful event.

Bill Teichman, 4338 5th St., East Moline, IL 61244,
309-796-2084, 309-737-3292 (cell), billsallyj@att.net

170 TAEJON [NJ]

Twelve members, led by Commander Kenneth Green, attended a Pearl Harbor commemoration that marked the devastating attack that triggered America's involvement in WWII.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day New Jersey Naval Museum Sunday 7 December, 2014



Ray Marshall WWII Submarine Veteran with 12 War Patrols

One of America's "Greatest Generation"

Cover of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day program



Twelve Ch 170 members aboard USS Ling; gentleman in black jacket is WWII submarine veteran Joseph Mongell

Veterans groups held the annual event at the New Jersey Naval Museum in Hackensack, NJ to honor the more than 2,400 service members killed in Hawaii during the December 7, 1941 surprise attack. Officials of the Submarine Memorial Association vowed to keep alive the memory of those who gave



Commander Kenneth Green of Ch 170 (L) and Thomas Boyle pay tribute to U.S. Navy Submarine Service



Longtime Ch 170 Historian Louis Quagliero, who was 13 years old on Dec. 7, 1941, frames USS Ling



their lives on a “date that will live in infamy,” as then President Franklin D. Roosevelt said.

The event took place in a large tent that held about 150 people. The tent stood just fifty

Jr. Vice Commander Henry Ferrarini of Ch 170, who served with the 1st Marine Division in Korea, remembers POWs/MIAs at Pearl Harbor commemoration

yards from *USS Ling* (SS 297), which was launched August 15, 1943. (See the boat’s brief biography below.)

The ceremony began at 1300 with Call to Order and the introduction of visiting groups, which included our chapter. We were asked to stand, as we were the largest veterans group in attendance. Only a handful of WWII veterans were present, but they were honored rightly as members of the “Greatest Generation.”

The event included the Presentation of the Colors, Pledge of Allegiance, national anthem, Invocation, and an impressive telling of lost submarines, during which the name of each boat on “eternal patrol” was mentioned. The U.S. Navy lost 52 submarines and 3,400 crew members in WWII alone. (See <http://oneternalpatrol.com/submarine-losses.htm> for a list of WWII submarines that were lost or lost personnel.)

The ceremony ended with Benediction and Retire the Colors. Then, Commander Green led the Korean War veterans to Ling for photos on the 311-foot long structure. Some members toured the submarine. They were amazed at how the 10 officers and 65 enlisted men lived in the tight quarters—along with 24 torpedoes weighing 3,000 pounds each! The submariners were a special breed indeed.

Following the photo op and tour, we went to the Naval Museum house for refreshments and fellowship with veterans from all wars. As Korean War veterans, we were honored to participate in this special event.

Louis Quagliero, 142 Illinois Ave.
Paterson, NJ 07503

USS Ling (SS-297)...was laid down 2 November 1942 by Cramp Shipbuilding Co., Philadelphia, Pa.; launched 15 August 1943; sponsored by Mrs. E. J. Foy; and commissioned at Boston 8 June 1945, Comdr. George G. Malumphy in command.

After shakedown and further installations Ling headed out to sea to test her equipment 15 September 1945. The submarine based at New London until she sailed 11 February 1946 for the Panama Canal Zone, arriving 8 days later. She operated out of Panama until 9 March when she sailed north. She completed inactivation 23 October at New London, decommissioned 26 October 1946, and entered the Atlantic Reserve Fleet. In March 1960, *Ling* was towed to Brooklyn, N.Y., where she assumed the duties of a training submarine. Reclassified AGSS-297, she has continued to serve in that capacity into 1969.

172 HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

We held our annual Christmas party in Findlay, OH on December 4, 2014. A crowd of 128 members and guests gathered for a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus and to hear a special guest speaker, educator and local historian Jim Taylor.

President Ron Dutton presided over the meeting, which included Christmas music by harpist Nancy Glick.

Harry C. Biddinger, 1 Windstone Ct.
Findlay, OH 45840, 419-423-5785



Santa and Mrs. Claus stop in at Ch 172's Christmas party

BELOW: Members and guests fill the hall for Ch 172's Christmas party as President Ron Hall presides over meeting (far right).



Guest speaker Jim Taylor addresses crowd at Ch 172 gathering

181 KANSAS #1 [KS]

We are still alive and kicking. We continue to add new members and, sadly, lose old ones. The beat goes on.

The festive season kicked off with about forty members and spouses attending the annual dinner/dance, at which the orchestra played all the music from our youthful years. Later in the month a Korean gentleman, who wished to remain anonymous, hosted a breakfast at the Golden Corral restaurant for members and their spouses.

Then came the annual Veterans Day ceremony at our memorial site, where the weather forced still another tactical withdrawal into the adjoining Community Center. Colonel Philip Brewster (U.S. Army, ret) spoke to a gathering of about 100 people and memorial wreaths were placed at the Memorial Wall by our members and by the local Jewish War Veterans group.

We were invited to attend church services at the Korean Christian Church in Overland Park in the week preceding Thanksgiving, including lunch and a concert by several very talented Korean-Americans. We never cease to be amazed by the depth of the gratitude expressed by the Korean community toward the veterans. Too bad we don't have more allies like that.

Our December business meeting has traditionally been replaced by a social gathering. This year between 50 and 60 members and spouses attended. They spent a very nice evening enjoying the comradeship and friendships which have developed over the years.

Last, but certainly not least, on the 2014 social calendar was the annual Christmas lunch held at a local Marriott Hotel. There were 106 members, spouses, and guests in attendance. The lunch was first class and "The Bettys" entertained us with fun, laughs and Andrews Sisters-type music from the 1940s and 50s. Talk about ending the year on a high note.

We wish all comrades health and happiness in the coming year.

199 MANASOTA [FL]

At our November meeting we elected new officers for our Executive Board: Commander William "Billy" Skinner; 1st Vice Commander Terry Willis; 2nd Vice Commander Walter Scott Blomeley; 3rd Vice Commander (Vacant); Secretary Earl P. Sonner; Treasurer: Henry "Hank" Buhlinger. Our new Commander takes over from "Skip" Hannon, who served in that post for six years.

On a beautiful, but windy day, on the bank of the Manatee River in Bradenton, on November 22, 2014 at Veterans Park, we dedicated our impressive Korean War Monument. The event was covered professionally by Manatee Educational Television. ABC television held an interview. An estimated 200+ people attended.

We honored Pete Killingsworth of Bingo Land with a plaque, in appreciation for their generous contribution, making financing of the monument possible. Kevin Cantrell of Cycadia Monument Co. was also honored with a plaque in appreciation for his outstanding professionalism in producing our monument.



Former Commander "Skip" Hannon of Ch 199 offers comments at monument dedication



A carnation of remembrance in the walkway of Ch 199's monument

After the main ceremony, members and guests joined to enjoy a meal and other refreshments in a large tent. Our sincere thanks go to Billy Skinner for devoting countless hours working with our monument builder and obtaining the tent and refreshments at this wonderful event, and to our Judge Advocate, Chairman of Manatee Veterans Council, Don Courtney, for working out many necessary details involving the monument foundation and hospital rules and regulations.



Ch 199's monument

The memorial's concept, thanks to former Commander Hannon and his volunteers, is alive and well, a symbol long overdue in this community. Hannon and his team got it right so that the story of the warriors on the ground and the soldiers behind the lines could be told. It is now translated into molded granite, a living representation of what transpired on the Korean peninsula over 60 years ago.

"As I view the black granite" Alvarez said, "I can see how it symbolizes the tortured terrain of the Korean peninsula." Hannon added that he hoped the magnitude of the men and women who served during the conflict will be fully honored for their valor, their service, and their sacrifice.

The event attracted plenty of media attention. Read about it at:

http://www.mysuncoast.com/news/korean-war-monument-dedicated-to-those-who-served/article_c4ada3ea-72b5-11e4-bf6d-57065e64cae1.html#.VHjDwW4dqyJ.aolmail

Thomas G. ("Skip") Hannon, tghskip@aol.com

202 ORANGE COUNTY [NY]

Chapter Holds Christmas Party

Remembering their military service 64 years ago when they defended South Korea, a country they never knew about and a people they never met, members celebrated their 25th anniversary and Christmas at a gathering on December 12, 2014. Salvatore Scarlato, KWVA National Director and the President of the Department of New York, was the emcee. He presided over the gala from beginning to end with strong energy and enthusiasm.



Attendees at Ch 202's Christmas party



Hyung-gil Kim speaks at Ch 202 party. Behind him are John Ha (L) and Sal Scarlato

Dr. Hubert Hojae Lee offers remarks at Ch 202 event as Sal Scarlato and John Sehejong Ha, general Secretary of KWVA Dept. of NY (L) listen



Sadly, as 64 years have passed since the beginning of the "Forgotten War" on June 25 1950, most of the Korean War veterans have faded away from this world. Only a small percentage of them still survive. Accordingly, the number of veterans attending our annual party has been reduced to ten. That's down from the several hundred who attended in past years.

Deputy Consul General of Republic Korea Hon. Hyung-gil Kim, made congratulatory remarks on behalf of the Korean government and presented funds to chapter president John Stellingwerf. Dr. Hubert Hojae Lee, 1st vice-president, completed an almost four-hour drive to join the party.

Dr. Lee, who lost brothers and an uncle in the war, offered the below poem he wrote to honor Korean War veterans and thank them for their selfless service during the Korean War. He noted that without their efforts there would be no freedom, no democracy and no economic prosperity that all South Koreans enjoy today.

"To Our Korean War Heroes"

On the calm morning of June 25th, 1950, the specter of communism and a murderous regime of North Korea invaded the land of the morning calm. For the great cause of freedom and peace, you shed your blood, sweat and tears, soaking the rivers of Nakdong and Imgin, and covering the streets after streets, hills after hills, and mountains over mountains.

The torch of freedom that you held aloft over the fertile soil of the Korean peninsula was founded through your noble sacrifice, and the flower of democracy was planted on that day. The flower that was fertilized by your blood has today blossomed as an economic power, turning the forgotten war into a symbol of the victorious and honorable one.

Your courage and sacrifice for freedom and security lifted South Korea from the ruins like a phoenix that rises up from the ashes and takes flight from the blood-soaked battlefields. Because of your noble sacrifice, cities of South Korea, once decimated, have been transformed into gleaming urban giants on earth towering over once flaming battlefields.

With thanks and praise to the Almighty father for your selfless bravery, Koreans have devoted our lives to honor your sacrifice and memory by raising the torch of democracy high in celebration of that day, 64 years ago, when you landed on our shores to fight for our salvation.

The love and compassion you have shown for Korean people everywhere will forever burn deep in our hearts. May God bless our Korean War veterans here on earth and those called to Heaven, and may we continue to strive together, Koreans and Americans, to fight for freedom and democracy, forever and always!

Hubert Lee, drhl@frontier.com

209 LAREDO 1950 [TX]

Members were honored at a dinner at the Korean Baptist Church.

Pedro Trevino, Jr., 3219 E. Lyon St.
Laredo, TX 78043, 956-723-6978



Dinner guests from Ch 209 at Korean Baptist Church (two have since passed on: Arnoldo Gutierrez and David C. Leyendecker)

210 BREVARD COUNTY [FL]

Members were busy recently. We conducted fundraisers in Rockledge, Port St. John, and Cocoa Beach. We also raised over \$4,200.00 to help underwrite the cost of an Afghanistan Memorial on Merritt Island, FL. The memorial, which honors the brave young men and women who served in the Enduring Freedom Campaign, was dedicated on Veterans Day in 2014.

Robert Estes, 1525 Tuna St., Merritt Island, FL 32952



Emma and Maurice Meisner and Paul Spescia of Ch 210 (L-R) with unidentified visitor at Port St. John, FL fundraiser



Paul Spescia, George Rosenfield, and Jack Kuehne (L-R) of Ch 210 help out at Rockledge, FL fundraiser



Edwina and Mickey Tutolo of Ch 210 raise funds at Cocoa Beach, FL



Maurice Meisner, Paul Spescia, and Don DiFlippo of Ch 210 (L-R) help raise funds for the Merritt Island, FL Afghanistan Memorial

215 GEN WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

Joe Arnosky, 817-431-6081, jbarnotx@verizon.net

Chapter 215 KWVA was entertained by the Master Choral Group of Dallas Texas at our Christmas Luncheon meeting

The Korean Group was comprised of members from several Korean churches in Dallas



Master of Ceremonies Ted Kim & President Jim Wetmore



Korean Fan Dancers



Choral Director Aeja Kim w/MC Ted Kim



Korean Singers



President Jim Wetmore thanks the Korean ensemble for their wonderful performance



Jim Wetmore Chapter 215 President
Larry Kinard National KWVA President
& Past Chapter 215 President



Betsy Price Fort Worth Mayor
& Gene Richards Chapter V P

Armed Forces Bowl

Several members Chapter 215 were invited to attend the **Armed Forces Bowl** football event on January 2nd in Fort Worth, Texas by the host company, **LOCKEED MARTIN**.

Thankfully, we were entertained in a suite, the food was - excellent – The weather was bad – but a good football game in all.



Military Units Honored

President, Jim Wetmore



Don Oberholzer

Bill Mac Swain

Jim Wetmore

On December 18th Chapter representatives attended the presentation of the key of a specialty home built for Corporal Michael Fox, a wounded USMC veteran of the Afghanistan War. It was with great happiness and satisfaction to see this young soldier receive his new home.

President, Jim Wetmore

216 M*A*S*H* 4099 [NJ]

We participated in several events in 2014. Here is a list:

- The Memorial Day parade in Fort Lee, NJ.
- A Korean-American Chamber of Commerce affair hosted by Ms. Vivian Kim. This was the fifth time for this event at the Pine Plaza, Palisade Park, NJ.



LEFT: Vincent Arfuso, Vivian Kim, and Jerry Van Brunt (L-R) at Korean-American Chamber of Commerce affair attended by Ch 216 members

BELOW: Guests included Commander Al Gonzales of Ch 216, in blue jacket, Vivian Kim (C), and Charles Koppelman, New Jersey State Commander, to her right



Vincent Arfuso (L) and Al Gonzales of Ch 216 with their guest Eddie Ko (C) at Fort Lee, NJ VFW Post Home, Veterans Square



Mrs. Al Gonzales, Vivian Kim, and Ch 216 Commander Al Gonzales (L-R) at Pine Plaza in NJ

- In June, together with the Chorwon and Taejon chapters, we were guests of the Arcola Methodist Church.
- Also in June, we attended another dinner party, which was held in honor of the Korean War veterans from Staten Island, NY.
- We attended another Northern New Jersey dinner party at Pine Plaza, again with the Taejon and Chorwon chapters. There were over 300 veterans and family members in attendance.

Guests included National Directors Tom McHugh and George Bruzzis, New Jersey State Commander Charles Koppelman, and Commanders Al Gonzales, Ken Greene, and Tom Scully. This gathering was sponsored by the U.S. Korean War Veterans Support Foundation.

Also in attendance were Se Joo Son, Consul General of the Republic of Korea, and Junghoon Kim, National Assembly, Republic of Korea, and Jersey City, NJ Councilman Michael Yun.

- In October the three local chapters were guests of the Han Sung Church of Cresskill, NJ.
- Next came a ceremony at St. Philip's Catholic Church of Korean Martyrs. Again, all three chapters attended.
- On Veterans Day, Eddie Ko, featured in "Boy Spy," *The Graybeards*, July/Aug 2013, p. 54, was the guest of Commander Gonzales at the Fort Lee, NJ ceremonies. Eddie Ko is a hero in every sense of the word.

We are looking forward to another fruitful year for our chapter in 2015.

Al Gonzales, 115 Irving St., Leonia, NJ 07605

222 DON C. FAITH (MOH) [TX]

Our 2014 events included:

- The presentation of an award letter to the Killeen [TX] Daily Herald
- Our chapter banquet at Austin, TX
- An Appreciation Day at Fort Hood, TX
- Participation with a float in the Killeen, TX Veterans parade

- A friendship celebration between South Koreans and Americans, featuring an exploration of Korean culture
- The dedication of a Korean and American Monument in Killeen, TX
- The presentation of Ambassador of Freedom medals by the Ambassador of South Korea

Ricardo Torres-Perez, 1019 CR 4953
Kempner, TX 76539



PR Director Fermin Canto and President Homer Garza (L) of Ch 222 at presentation of letter to Killeen [TX] Daily Herald



Members and guests at Ch 222 banquet



Korean and American Monument at Killeen, TX



Korean War veterans from Ch 222 and Koreans celebrate friendship

251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

Aleda Lutz, of the VA hospital, spoke at our November 5, 2014 meeting. She was one of the most prolific young lady speakers ever.

Sara Reisinger, granddaughter of member Jack Leaman, spoke about her summer trip to South Korea as part of a group of fifty American college students who were members representing a Peace Camp in South Korea. The students toured much of South Korea and attended many presentations. We donated some of the funds to help send her to Korea.

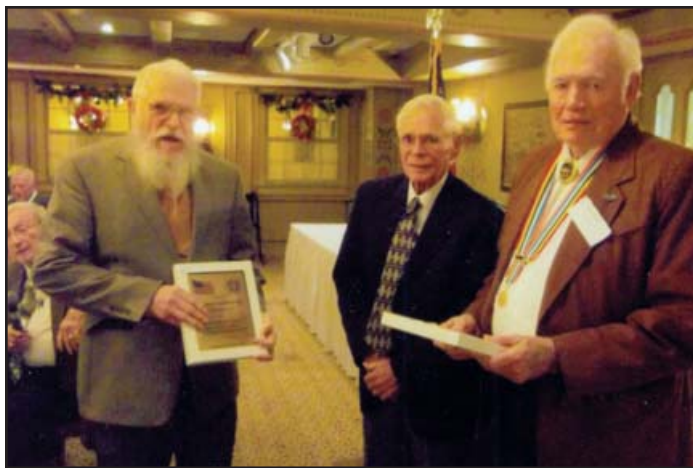
She did a super job of explaining what she did on this tour, and she showed a video of how modern Korea is today. Great job, Sara!!!



Jack Leaman, Sara Reisinger, Adjutant Lydia Davis, and 2nd Vice Dick Haney (L-R) at Ch 251's November 2014 meeting

We had a great Christmas Party at Zehnder's Restaurant in Frankenmuth on December 2, 2014, with eighty people in attendance. It cost each person only \$20 for all-you-can-eat family-style chicken. The meal followed a one-hour cash bar.

After the meal we were entertained for 45 minutes by the "Sweet Adelines" from Bay City, MI. They are a fantastic choral group comprising 25 ladies! The ladies sang twelve Christmas songs and a few military tunes.



Commander Ron Lubis (C) of Ch 251 presents plaques to Directors Richard Suchodolski (L) and Richard Rosa for their support and dedication



Party goers at Ch 251 Christmas event (L-R) Frank and Dorothy Licht, Howard and Edith Auerhamer, Shirley Weber and Bob Hubbard, Dick and Crissa Redifer



Guests at Ch 251 Christmas get together (L-R) Jacob Klemm, George and Shirley Reinert, Melna and Walter Trinklein, Caroline Fordyce, and Ken Heck and Phyllis Averill

Dallas Mossman, Sr., who was a POW in Korea for 290 days, spoke to the group about how many MIAs and POWs are still unaccounted for. He received a plaque at the event to recognize his service as chapter commander in 2012.

We donated 530 pounds of food to the Saginaw East Side Soup Kitchen.

I offer special thanks to Don and Caroline Hart for traveling 132.1 miles to celebrate with us, and to Don for taking photos for me.

Our 2015 Christmas Party will be held on December 8, 2015-again at Zehnder's for the family-style dinner.

Bob Simon, 7286 Spring Lake Tr., Saginaw, MI 48603, 989-792-3718, robsimoncondo@charter.net

256 NORVILLE B. FINNEY [MI]

About sixty members and guests attended our annual Christmas party, which we take pride in holding. It is one of our main events of the year.

James E. McCarthy, 2159 Parliament Dr.
Sterling Heights, MI 48310, 586-264-4223
jimsshop@comcast.net



The Ch 256 Christmas party committee (L-R) Don Bouffard, Eugene Majetic, Hal Barber, Jim McCarthy, Jim Douglas, Fred Quinn



Members of Ch 256 at their 2014 Christmas party

Too Much Colorful News, Too Few Color Pages

Due to an unprecedented number of submissions for the Chapter and Tell America sections, we exceeded our quota for color pages. (Yes, we do have a finite number of color pages.) Chapters/Departments omitted from this edition will receive top priority for the next edition. We apologize for the omissions.

Ryang Hong of Ch 256, a Korean Medal of Honor recipient, and his wife Susan Hong enjoy Christmas party



258 NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND [RI]

We participated in the 2014 Toys for Tots program and attended a Wreaths Across America event at Ponaganset Middle School in North Scituate, RI.



Norm Paiva, Gil Bothelo, and Richard St. Louis of Ch 258 with unidentified Marines at Toys for Tots event



Former Commanders of Ch 258, Ted Martin and Melvin Hill, with present Commander Richard St. Louis



Banner at Wreaths Across America ceremony at Ponaganset Middle School attended by Ch 258 members



New members of Ch 258 being sworn in: Robert Pagliarini (U.S. Army), Alex Midon (U.S. Navy), and Antonio Carollo (U.S. Air Force)

Members also attended a Korean War veterans plaque dedication at the Rhode Island State House on 25 October 2014.

Norman Paiva, Sr., 42 Morgan Ave., North Providence, RI 02911, 401-231-9176 (H), 401-573-8338 (Cell)

259 CENTRAL INDIANA [IN]

Several members attended the reception of the remains of a POW/MIA at the Indianapolis Airport on December 6, 2014. Passengers who arrived on that flight had been told of the



Members of Ch 259 at airport to greet Cpl Smith (L-R) Tine P. Martin, National Director, Ernest Condra, John M. Quinn, William C. Barnhill, Jack Beaty, Vice Cmdr. Paul Dickerson

remains aboard the plane. After they departed, many of them stood to watch the ceremony taking place. Several had tears in their eyes as the casket was brought to the hearse and loaded for a long ride to the far Northeast Indiana town of Angola.



National Guard members load Leland Ford Smith's casket aboard hearse

The scene had an impact on some of us, as well, just knowing that this deceased Soldier was finally coming home after 64 years since his death in a POW camp. Several family members were present, and "The Rolling Thunder" escorts went with the hearse.

Corporal Leland Ford Smith had been wounded in combat against Chinese troops in North Korea in late November 1950. He became a prisoner of the Chinese, who marched him and 22 others into China where they were forced to parade before the local citizens and some Russian military. They were later transferred to North Korean prison camps at Antung, where he died.

The family was notified of Smith's death in 1954 after POW survivors were repatriated and reported the details about fellow prisoners.

John Quinn, saggi32@aol.com

270 SAM JOHNSON [TX]

Members Attend Christmas Luncheon at Binnerri Church

Forty-one chapter members, 22 spouses, and 3 guests—66 people in all—gathered in the main sanctuary at the Binnerri Church for a pre-lunch welcome and musical entertainment by church members.



Members of Ch 270 at the luncheon at the Binnerri Church



Crowd from Ch 270 gathers in Binnerri Church gymnasium converted into a dining room

After the introductions, talented musicians from the Binnerri Church entertained us with various American and Korean melodies.

At about noon, we walked down the halls to another large auditorium for group pictures.

Then we walked over to the basketball court, which had been partitioned off for a dining room. There, the ladies of the church served a tasty Korean-American buffet style meal.

Glen Thompson, gthomp32@suddenlink.net

Too Young For War

One morning the men were singing happy birthday and I asked whose it was. When I congratulated him and inquired how old he was, he grinned from ear to ear and answered that he was 17! I was really startled. He was a very big kid from New Jersey with a pink baby face. He embarrassedly explained that he was caught stealing hubcaps for his own hot rod and realized that if the judge thought he was 17 he would be given the choice of going to jail or joining the armed forces. His parents signed the false papers and soon, as a 16 year old, he was fighting in Korea, and was an excellent soldier.

I let him go back on the next jeep out to get a shower and clean clothing, which was issued at the shower point. As the jeep, fully exposed, sped down the road in the middle of the val-

ley, the enemy fired a few cannon shells, but the vehicle kept going. The young man never returned to Charlie Co., 4th Platoon.

It seems that one of the rounds went under the fleeing jeep and exploded under the front right seat where he was sitting. The driver and the other men in the rear seat were not scratched! He received a serious wound to the foot and with his "Purple Heart" added to his accumulated points and time to recuperate, they decided to rotate him home.

He had just turned 17 and the war was over for him. He had been a recent replacement and his name was Jerry Williamson. Pete Cuthbert, P. O. Box 695, East Moriches, NY 11940, colpwc@optonline.net

Veterans Day.....

As usual, individual members and chapters participated in a variety of Veterans Day events. Here is a roundup of them.

19 - GEN RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

It was a busy Veterans Day for us. We attended a Veterans Day observance ceremony at the Veterans Memorial for the Fallen Heroes at the Georgia State Capitol. Georgia's Governor, Nathan Deal, was in attendance.



Rodney Rector of Ch 19 speaks at Georgia ceremony



Urban Rump, Bob Moore, and Bob Hendershott of Ch 19 ride in style in Atlanta, GA parade

Thaddeus Sobieski, Urban Rump, Bob Moore, Bob Hendershott, Tom Harris and Jim Conway of Ch 19 (L-R) at Atlanta, GA parade



Several members participated in the Atlanta and Fayetteville, GA Veterans Day Parades. A group also attended a program at the Atlanta History Center Veterans Day Program.

Jim Conway, conatlanta@comcast.net



Urban Rump (showing off in his 1953 uniform), Jim Conway, Bob Moore, Bob Hendershott, President Robert McCubbins of Ch 19 and keynote speaker BGen John F. King, Georgia National Guard (L-R) at Atlanta History Center

Jim Conway, Bill Stubba, and Rodney Rector of Ch 19 (L-R) at Fayetteville, GA parade



43 - KANSAS CITY MISSOURI #2 [MO]

President Truman Said It Best

At the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum on November 9, 2014 there was a spectacular and emotional tribute to American veterans. The ceremony included the presentation of the colors, a wreath laying ceremony, a 21-gun salute at President Truman's gravesite, and the playing of Taps.



The reception for veterans and exhibits at Harry S. Truman Library and Museum

Rear Admiral (ret) J. Stanton of Higginsville, MO, was the keynote speaker. He provided 35 years of distinguished service in the U.S. Navy. It is always great to have one of our local Missouri natives speak.

Later there was a veterans reception and personal exhibits by local veterans hosted by the



Keynote speaker RAdm J. Stanton at Missouri commemoration

Cameron Burda, Grace Nitz, and Bob Jones of Ch 43 (L-R) at Jones' Veterans Day display at Harry S. Truman Library and Museum



City of Independence, MO. It was a great day.

I think President Harry S. Truman said it best years ago about our veterans in a statement that holds true today: "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant woman in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."

Robert R. Jones, 13975 E 35th St., Apt 428,
Independence, MO 64055, 816-836-0969 (H), 816-809-0123 (C), bobjones73rdtkbn@yahoo.com

56 – VENTURA COUNTY [CA]

Members mingled with their counterparts from other organizations and a large crowd at the Veterans Day ceremony in Santa Paula, CA. Other groups included members of the local VFW post, Rakkasans, and motorcycle riders.

Rifle Squad from Ch 56 at 2014 Veterans Day ceremony



Commander David Lopez of Ch 56 (L) accepts certificate at Veterans Day event



John Campos, a member of Ch 56 (R), talks with Santa Paula, CA Chief of Police Steven M. McLean, and unidentified Rakkasan at Veterans Day gathering

We received a certificate of appreciation from VFW post officials.

The ceremony was held at the monument that is the venue for our usual events.

The Santa Paula High School Band provided music.

David Lopez, 3850 W 180 Pl., Torrance, CA 90504

105 – CENTRAL NEW YORK [NY]

We attended a Veterans Day ceremony at the Onondaga County War Memorial. What a difference from last year. Then it was the 60th anniversary of the end of the war and there were chairs for us up front. This year we had to stand in the back.

Jim Low, 114 Wembridge Dr.

E. Syracuse, NY 13057, 315-437-0833



Jong Woo Han, Bill O'Kane, Bill Burns, Tony Vaquero, and Ed Grala of Ch 105 (L-R) make it into the Memorial Hall

Dave Allen, Carmen Zeolla, Ed Grala, Tony DeFrancisco, Larry Robbins, Bill Burns, and Tony Vaquero of Ch 105 looking for seats for Veterans Day ceremony at Onondaga County War Memorial





Jong Woo Han, Bill O'Kane, Bill Burns, Tony Vaquero, and Ed Grala of Ch 105 (L-R) standing at the back of the Memorial Hall—with tired feet after a couple hours at the Veterans Day ceremonies



Joseph Louis, Henry Ferrarini, and Walter Amos (Front, L-R) of Ch 170 mingle with Korean veterans before New York City parade

170 - TAEJON [NJ]

Commander Kenneth Green led seventeen members in the biggest parade of them all, the Veterans Day Parade.

The famous Fifth Avenue parade in New York City attracts 20,000 participants from over 30 states and nearly three-quarters of a million spectators. It was sponsored by the United War Veterans Council of New York City. For over nine decades New York has led the nation in observing Veterans Day, which was observed for the first time in 1919.



New York City Veterans Day Parade contingent from Ch 170



Thomas McHugh, Salvatore Scarlato, and Ch 170 Commander Kenneth Green get together at Veterans Day event in New York City

This year's event was again broadcast by Fox Television, from noon to 3 p.m., reaching millions of viewers. New York City's Veterans Day Parade has grown into a truly national event, as "America's Parade."

This year the United War Veterans council honored the 239th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps as the featured service and the 200th anniversary of the writing of the "Star Spangled Banner." Our chapter comprises several Marines.

The day began with the traditional opening ceremony at the Eternal Light Monument in Madison Square Park, where a large crowd of veterans and dignitaries gathered. Our members were assigned to special seats in the compound. The police would not allow anyone other than veterans into the area. We had great seats, just a few yards from the main speakers, who included Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York State, Mayor Bill DeBlasio of New York City, elected officials, and Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient Captain Paul Bucha, U.S. Army (ret).

At one point during the ceremony, veterans groups from all wars were asked to stand. WWII veterans were asked to stand first. There were not many of them. The next group was the Korean War veterans. A large contingent seated all over the park, including us, arose. We were followed by veterans of the Vietnam War and more recent and present wars.

The long ceremony ended with wreath layings by many groups, a 21-gun salute, and Taps. Then, at approximately 11:30 a.m., the parade began up Fifth Avenue. The route passed such famous landmarks as the Empire State Building, St. Patrick's Cathedral, and Rockefeller Plaza.

Incidentally, Commander Green is be commended for marching the entire route. He recently underwent a serious operation



Robert Domanski (L) and Louis DeStefano of Ch 170 at New York City parade



Charles Rangel (R) with Ch 170 members Alexander Atheras and Pasquale Candela (L) at New York City parade

and had to receive a surgeon's approval to march at all.

KWVA National Director Tom McHugh and his vintage Army jeep were included in our group. One of our usual participants, Director George Bruzgis, did not march this year due to illness. But, we met a friend of our chapter, Sal Scarlato, a KWVA National Director from Hauppauge, New York, who was on a Korean War veterans float. Also on that float was Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY), a Korean War veteran and Bronze Star and Purple Heart recipient.

Our Chapter Surgeon, Thomas Boyle, led our marching members. Color Guard Captain Henry Ferrarini kept the marchers in step by calling cadence as the large crowd cheered.

The parade was still in progress when we boarded the school bus for the trip back to Saddle Brook, NJ, whence we set out at 9 a.m. We were all tired, but grateful that we as Korean War veterans participated in the parade that honors all veterans.

Yes, veterans, this was our day.

Louis Quaglierio, 142 Illinois Ave., Paterson, NJ 07503

251 – SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

Members participated in a wreath laying ceremony. Following that we enjoyed a complimentary dinner at Applebee's Restaurant.

Bob Simon, 7286 Spring Lake Tr.
Saginaw, MI 48603, 989-792-3718



Richard Haney (L) and Ron Lubis of Ch 251 place wreath at Veterans Day ceremony

Lydia Davis, Richard Carpenter, and Eugene Feinauer of Ch 251



264 – MT. DIABLO [CA]

We co-hosted the annual Veterans Day celebration with VFW Post 1525 at Hillcrest Park in Concord, CA. MajGen Daniel C. Helix, U.S. Army (ret) and the former mayor of Concord, acted as Master of Ceremonies and delivered the keynote address. The cur-



Dan Helix of Ch 264 with his fancy tie



Mayor Tom Gregson (L) and Ismael Rodriguez of VFW Post 1525 at Concord, CA ceremony



Scott Waterhouse, Mark Steinberg, Manuel Estela, Bill Koch, and Stan Grogan (L-R) at Concord, CA ceremony

Dave McDonald, founder of Ch 264, accepts medal from Republic of Korea at Concord, CA Veterans Day commemoration



rent mayor, Tom Gregson, welcomed the attendees. Richard ("Pete") Loechner, past Commander of VFW Post 1525, spoke of the significance of the Missing Man table.

A variety of individuals and local organizations lent their support for the event. Included were Mt. Diablo High School Jr. ROTC, Commander Paul Carroll of VFW Post 1525, Patricia Barboza McDonald, Chaplain Tim Kleinhofer of VFW Post 1525, Robert Hooker, VP of Ch 264, Haley Williams, Liberty High School, and Girl Scouts of America, Troop numbers 30547, 30432, and 32082, with Troop Leader Melanie Scott.


The Girl Scouts provided the refreshments and distributed the program. The Blue Star Moms' booth had postcards for attendees. The VFW provided poppies.

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

In Praise Of Veterans

Here is a tribute to C Co., 1st Regt., 1st Marine Division (C-1-1). It was submitted by C-1-1 veteran John J. V. Cook, 300 Earlington Rd., Havertown, PA 19083.

These days, it's rare to hear words like courage, bravery, integrity and honor. Unless you happen to know a **MARINE** or a **NAVY CORPSMAN**.



HENRY A. COMMISKY...1ST LIEUTENANT
20 September 1950...MEDAL OF HONOR

JOHN N. GUILD...2ND LIEUTENANT
21 September 1950...NAVY CROSS
KILLED IN ACTION

JOHN W. CHINNER...SERGEANT
9 March 1951...NAVY CROSS

JOSEPH V. CHURCHILL...CORPSMAN
23 April 1951...NAVY CROSS

C COMPANY 1ST MARINES
1ST MARINE DIVISION
KOREA

John J.V. Cook
C-1-1
1950-1951

Barre, VT

This was the 45th Veterans Day parade and ceremony that I have participated in. My participation has ranged from MC to honor guard to marching in a formation line as a Korean veteran. I have also ridden two times in a marked Korean War veterans car.

The one WWII veteran parade participant in 2014, Tim Hoyt, told us that we probably would replace him next year at the head of the line. But I believe Tim has a few more years to go, even if someone drives his car!

Wayne Pelkey and Roland Fournier, who worked together at Rock Of Ages Quarry for 35 years, at the Barre, VT Veterans Day Parade. (Note the Korean-made car, a Hyundai)



Tim Hoyt and his car at the Barre, VT parade

Veterans Monument at the park in Barre, VT



We will gather again, God willing, next May on Memorial Day. The parade and ceremony during "Taps" always brings back memories of my Christmas Hill buddies who did not make it back. But, as I picture them in my mind, they have never aged like we have!

Wayne Pelkey, wppelkey@charter.net

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 doz. @ \$12 plus \$6.35 S/H.
- ☐ Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$60 plus \$12.35 S/H.
- ☐ Orders for 21 to 100 doz. @ \$3/doz. plus \$16.45 S/H
- ☐ Order for 400 doz. or more qualify for a special discount

Write or call: Earl House, 1870 Yakona Rd.,
Baltimore, MD 21234
Phone 410-661-8950.



Make Checks payable to:
KWVA Maryland Chapter 33

Dr. Joan Laura Treats Veterans For Free On Veterans Day[©]

By Rego Barnett



Dr. Joan Laura

Some of us may remember Dr. John Laura, a Korean War veteran and dentist who often graced our pages with his stories of his experiences in the Korean War. His spirit and concern for veterans lives on through his daughter, Dr. Joan Laura, who treated 71 of them at no cost in her office on Veterans Day 2014.

Dr. Laura and her two assistants started their gratis treatments at 7 a.m. that day. They had no way of knowing how many people would show up. Only 23 veterans (or 32, depending on the source—but who's counting) had taken advantage of her free service in 2013, compared to a mere 7 in 2012. (This was the third year she offered this free service.)

What a difference a year makes. There were so many veterans in her office in 2014 that she had to cut off appointments at 3 p.m. Good thing: her 13 waiting room seats were still filled at 3:30 p.m.

The caring Dr. Laura went out of her way in 2014 to let veterans know that her dentistry services would be available to them. She announced them through various media outlets and word of mouth. She was even giving interviews to media reps between appointments on Veterans Day!



The banner outside Dr. Laura's office

What a difference a year makes. There were so many veterans in her office in 2014 that she had to cut off appointments at 3 p.m. Good thing: her 13 waiting room seats were still filled at 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Laura has long had a soft spot in her heart for veterans. In addition to her father's service, her grandfather, Anthony Ross, served in WWI. No doubt they would both be proud of their daughter/granddaughter today. She is certainly proud of them. The words on the banner outside her office demonstrate that: "We love veterans. In Loving Memory of Captain John E. Laura, DDS – Korea."

Let's face it: free dental work is not easy to come by. Dr. Laura provides cleanings, fillings, and extractions. All the veterans have to provide is proof that they served and then complete a short med-

There's a lot of free dentistry going on behind this sign



Captain John Laura

ical form. Then it's "Open wide."

Veterans will be happy to learn that Dr. Laura plans to continue her free service on Veterans Day for as long as she can. That's good news for them, but bad news for Dr. Laura. If the number of veterans taking advantage of her kindness keeps growing as it has, she may have to open another office. But, if her ability to handle larger crowds year after year is any indication, the growing numbers may not faze her. She's been able to deal with them so far.

Now that's saying a mouthful.

(Thanks to Jim Low of CID 105, CENTRAL NEW YORK, who brought this story to our attention and provided the photos.)

Letters Of Gratitude From Korean Students

"FREEDOM IS NOT FREE"

Members of Nanum, a student organization in South Korea, worked together to send "thank you" letters in honor of the sacrifice American veterans made to save their country. After learning about the Soldiers who lost their lives or are still living with the effects of the war, these elementary and middle school students felt that they had to show their appreciation for all that was given to them.

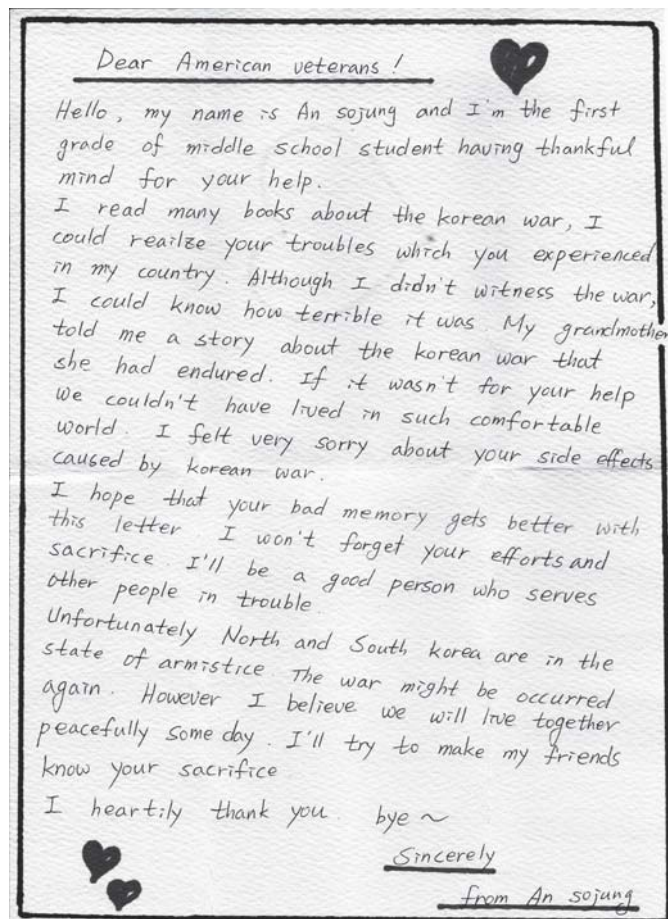
We are reprinting one of their letters below. The rest are available at our web-site, www.kwva.org.



Some of the
Nanum members



Students from
Nanum holding
their letters



MIA/POW Prayer

By Richard P. Kim

We honor you like our flag:

Red: It denotes danger, but you gave your heart so others may live, a very unselfish deed.

White: Purity, honesty, and loyalty, which you devoted to your country.

Blue: Your dreams in the sky, tranquility, and peace.

Stripes: It notes our country's beginning and what you earn on the battlefield.

Stars: Your dreams in the sky but won on the battlefield.

All of those veterans who went to the front lines gave us their lives so the people of the United States could live in peace and harmony and have the rights, freedoms, and the protection of a free society governed by laws.

Throughout life we survived the tears and joys. We gained so much being together in our lifetime.

We pray that you are in God's care and we will never forget you. We will use you as our role model in your sacrifice.

Hopefully the weight of your loss will be softened as time goes by, but you will not be forgotten as we will always remember your good deeds at home and on the battlefield.

Your courage and bravery inspire us, and your memory strengthens us to bear the burden of your loss.

May God bring peace to your body and soul. Bless you, loved one...

Richard P. Kim is the former President of the Korean War Veterans POW/MIA Group and Past Co-Chairman of the Korean War Memorial Committee in Vancouver, WA. He is also the acting chaplain for CID 21 - RICHARD L. QUATIER [WA]. Reach him at 4506 NE 48th Ave., Vancouver, WA 98661, 360-573-6887, RsKimpray4u@comcast.net

A Dramatic Rescue During The Korean War

By Sallie Barr Palmer

On August 8, 1950, minutes before he would have been picked up by a North Korean patrol boat, U.S. Navy pilot Ens. Elmer (“Mac”) McCallum, whose aircraft had been shot down the previous day, was rescued from his precarious perch on a rock in Inchon Harbor by the British destroyer HMS Cockade. Half a century later, McCallum, by then a retired U.S. Navy captain, was tracked down by members of the Cockade Association and was guest of honor at the association’s annual reunion in 1999.

HMS Cockade actually rescued two U.S. airmen at sea during the first year of the Korean War. The other was Lt. Donald Thomas, in Yalu Gulf. Thomas’s rescue is recorded in the annals of British Naval Staff History and in the book “Beyond Courage,” by Clay Blair. But McCallum’s rescue from South Watcher Rock in the entrance to Inchon Harbor is recorded only in HMS Cockade’s log in the Public Records Office at Kew in England, and in the memories of those who took part.

After the HMS Cockade Association was formed in 1985, two members of “B” gun’s crew, Bernard Stockton and Maurice Blyth, attempted to trace both officers. Sadly, Donald Thomas was no longer alive. But Stockton, who had worked in the U.S., advertised in the U.S. Navy Times in 1998. McCallum’s friends read the enquiry and passed the word on to him. He contacted Stockton, who in turn passed the word on to Blyth. Blyth dialed the number in Virginia and was greeted by the voice of the man he had not seen in nearly 50 years.

On August 7, 1950, McCallum was on a mission deep into enemy territory when his Corsair aircraft was hit by ground fire, tearing the engine apart and shattering the radio. He managed to maneuver his plane as far as Inchon Harbor, where he was forced to ditch. After freeing himself from the wreckage, he started swimming toward the setting sun until he reached South Watcher Rock. Covered with coral and seagulls’ droppings, the rock was fairly good-sized at low tide. But, at high tide, it was about the size of a table top.

McCallum remained marooned on the

On August 7, 1950, McCallum was on a mission deep into enemy territory when his Corsair aircraft was hit by ground fire, tearing the engine apart and shattering the radio.

rock through the night, equipped only with a .38 Smith and Wesson, 6 tracer bullets, and a pack of cigarettes, but no matches. At first light he was greeted by the sight of two North Korean gunboats, each carrying about 25 enemy troops, heading straight for him.

“They got to within 100 yards of the rock,” recalled McCallum. “All of a sudden there was a big splash right in front of the leading boat, which turned and disappeared.” McCallum had no idea what had happened. The second boat turned and headed away.

“Then from the other direction,” McCallum went on to say, “a grey ship appeared out of the mist.” It was HMS Cockade, a member of a British naval detachment which had been bombarding targets at Mokpo.

The British ships had been informed that a U.S. Navy pilot had ditched in Inchon Harbor and instructed to search the harbor as soon as visibility permitted. The ship’s captain, LtCdr Jack Lee, had braved the heavy fog and the dangers of navigating in the bay to come to McCallum’s rescue.

At 0725, the Cockade opened fire at the two patrol boats, which turned tail and headed away. McCallum was seen flashing with the signal mirror from his Mae West and the ship’s whaler was lowered. McCallum swam to it and was picked up at 0753. Brought back to the ship, he was “disinfected and inoculated” with a tumbler of whiskey, given a hot bath, fitted with clean clothes, and taken to the bridge to

meet the captain.

“Mac” joined the ship’s company and stayed on board for the remainder of its patrol. He returned to USS Valley Forge when the Cockade arrived in Sasebo on August 11, 1950.

During the next 20 years, all concerned lost touch with one another. In the late 1960s, McCallum’s mother visited the UK. With the help of the British Admiralty and U.S. authorities, she contacted LtCdr (now Capt.) Lee, the man who had saved her son’s life. McCallum wrote to Lee but, ironically, days after his mother had met him, Lee was killed in a motorcycle accident, and the contact lapsed again until twenty years later, when Stockton and Blyth tracked him down.

Blyth attended the 1999 reunion of Squadron VF-54, Mac’s old squadron. Then both flew over to the UK for the HMS Cockade Association’s reunion weekend in Torquay. “Mac” wore his HMS Cockade Association badge and tie for a reception given by the White Ensign Club in Exeter, after which he was interviewed by the press and on British television.

At the formal dinner in Torquay, 25 members of the ship’s company who were on board the Cockade on August 8, 1950 lined up to be photographed with him. He was presented with a framed photo and a cased model of the ship. His after-dinner speech was brief and to the point: “For this, the second best day in my life, and for the best day fifty years ago, I thank you most sincerely.”

NOTE: This story contains information from an article written by P.J. Greenwood, Cdr, RN (Ret) which appeared in the July 2000 issue of *China Chat*, the newsletter of the British 8th Destroyer Association.

Sallie Barr Palmer is the wife of Peter H. Palmer, President of CID 159, Sunshine State. Palmer is also a member of the British Korean War Veterans Association, having served in the Royal Navy during the Korean War. He is a member of HMS Cockade Association, but did not join that ship’s company until after the events in this story had taken place.

Mrs. Palmer’s father worked for 40 years for United Aircraft Corp. (now United Technologies), which manufactured the Corsair aircraft. Sadly Maurice Blyth and “Mac” McCallum have now both crossed the bar.

Korea - Through Different Eyes

By Louis E. Holmes

As a nineteen-year-old Soldier I entered the war in Korea at Inchon in September of 1950. I was a member of “E” Co., 2nd. Bn., 31st. Inf. Regt., 7th. Inf. Div. My young eyes were about to see things I had never seen before.

Thirty-three years later, as an “old” preacher of 53 years of age, and pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church in Grapevine, TX, I entered Korea again in January of 1983 and saw things I never expected to see. I saw Korea through different eyes.

When our troopship, General Simon Buckner, arrived in Korea in 1950, I knew we had arrived at the war and would soon be a part of the action. Battleships were bombarding the Wolmi-do Island and the city of Inchon in preparation for a landing. I knew in my heart that the population of Korea must be horrified with the carnage of war in their homeland.

The day arrived that we had trained for. Nets were put over the side of the ship. We were issued a full complement of ammunition and grenades; we were going in.

It was late afternoon when we went ashore. Most of the civilians had left the city, leaving it almost desolate. But the people we saw had looks of horror on their faces. This was their country and it was being destroyed by both those who wanted to conquer them and those who were there to liberate them.

When daylight came, we began to move out toward the Suwon airstrip. We could see refugees made up mostly of old men, women, and children in long columns carrying their earthly possessions. The men used A-frames to carry loads on their backs; women carried their belongings on their heads and some carried household goods on ox carts.

The looks on their collective faces were of anxiety and uncertainty. They were terrified, and it showed, because their villages, homes, family and loved ones were affected by war.

My eyes begin to see things I would never forget: the destruction and devastation of Korea and its people. Dead bodies of both civilian and soldiers of the North Korean Army lay along the road from the



Louis E. Holmes

fighting that had taken place.

During my time in Korea the civilian population was either moving north or south to escape the fighting. For many their homes had been destroyed and family members killed. The war was taking a toll on them and their way of life and it showed.

I saw the same thing in North Korea. Refugees, mostly old men, women and children, were carrying all they could of their earthly possessions while moving in the opposite direction of troop movements. The exceptions were involved in the evacuation of thousands of North Koreans civilians at Hungnam.

When I returned home from Korea in May of 1951, a reporter from our local newspaper interviewed me. One of the questions she asked was, “Do you believe Korea can ever be rebuilt?”

Remembering all the destruction I had seen, my answer was “Yes, but it will take a hundred years.”

I have not been back to Korea on a “Revisit Korea Program,” but I did go back in 1983 while on a round-the-world trip. My travels had taken me to England, India, and Japan. My next stop was Korea.

As our plane flew along the coast of Korea, anxieties begin to build within me as I recalled what I had seen during my nine months of combat. I remembered the

devastation and death, burned-out homes, and long lines of refugees carrying their belongings and the looks of terrified women and children searching for food.

When the plane landed in Seoul and we had cleared customs, my wife and I were met by our missionary friends. Walking out of the terminal to their car, my eyes were seeing Korea for the first time in a different way.

As we drove into Seoul, I could see that the city had been rebuilt; the stores were modern, and the streets were crowded with shoppers as they made their way from one shop to the next, all with the look of peace and tranquility on their faces. To my surprise, there was hardly any evidence that a war had been fought there thirty plus years before.

Early Sunday morning we took a train from Seoul to Taejon, where I preached. The church was packed with people blending their voices together in praise and worship. They were happy and smiles graced their faces as they gave thanks to Almighty God for America, and to this veteran in particular for his service for their country. There was no fear in their eyes or anxiety on their faces. They were a free and happy people.

After the morning service there was a traditional Korean wedding that we were privileged to attend. The bride and groom did not smile during the ceremony, as it was considered bad luck. However, in greeting them after the ceremony, we could see they were smiling and happy.

Following the wedding, the Korean pastor took my wife and I to a traditional Korean restaurant. Removing our shoes at the door, we took our place at a low table and sat on pillows placed on the floor. We enjoyed a delicious Korean style meal.

I was experiencing something I never thought I would see, as my view of Korea before was through the eyes of a soldier. Now it was through the eyes of a civilian pastor. I did not see war; I saw peace. I did not see fear; I saw joy. I did not see anxiety; I saw tranquility. I did not see refugees; I saw families living in peace and safety.

That Sunday night I spoke to over 500 happy Korean people at the Bible Baptist

Church in Seoul. The music was sweet, the fellowship was great, and there was no fear among the people. The war was behind them, and I was seeing a different Korea.

Monday morning we took a USO tour bus to Panmunjom at the DMZ to what was called the Joint Security Area, where soldiers on both sides faced off. We went into the building where negotiations between North Korea and those representing South Korea, the U.S., and the United Nations took place. I could see the North Korean soldiers looking through the windows on the North Korean side staring at me. This was the only place I felt the least bit of tension.

I am past eighty years old now, yet I still remember seeing Korea through the eyes of a Soldier with all the carnage of war and the look of horror on the faces of the people being displaced and devastated by the fighting. Looking at Korea through the eyes of an ordinary civilian, a preacher, was a far better view and I liked what I saw.

Today Korea is among the top fifteen industrial nations of the world. During my visit to Korea I met men who were once young Soldiers in the army of the Republic of Korea. Like myself, they are old men now and they too well remember

the bitterness of war and now enjoy the sweet taste of freedom. They also like what they see through different eyes.

Louis E. Holmes, 1302 E. 9th St., Bonham, TX 75418, 903-640-4412, lholmes@cableone.net

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A Bombardier-Navigator's Story INTO THE LAND OF DARKNESS



The Vital Role of Douglas B-26 Air Crews
in Restoring Freedom to the People of
The Republic of Korea (1950-1953)

Arthur L. Haarmeyer



Recon Missions

Looking For Veterans Born On Armistice Day

The photo below shows me standing at the beginning, or maybe the ending, of State Highway 6 in Texas, near the intersection of Interstate 45 in Galveston County at Bayou Vista, Hitchcock, Texas. State Highway 6 runs to the northwest, and as far as I can trace the route, it ends or begins at the Red River in Hardeman County, North Texas.

My thanks to the members of the Lone Star Chapter, and to Senator J.E. "Buster" Brown for this recognition in 1997. Actually, the photo was taken on my birthday—Veterans Day. (I was born on November 11, 1927.)



David Peterson standing near sign

I would appreciate hearing from any Korean War veteran born on this same day. The year does not matter.

David Peterson, P. O. Box 63, Hitchcock, TX 77563, 409-761-0629, howardcl85d@gmail.com

Looking For Members Of The 158th Field Artillery, 45th Inf Div

I'm trying to contact and locate all the Korean War veterans of the 158th FA to gather much needed information for historical archives. Anyone wanting to contact me can do so by e-mail at one-five-eight-regiment@yahoo.com or johtnjenson@yahoo.com. There is a special "Korean War" tab dedicated to the veterans under 158thFieldArtilleryAssociation.com

John Jenson



Frank Trask, Charlie Btry., 158th Field Artillery

Laurence O'Dea

I have become a member of your organization on behalf of my great uncle, CPL Laurence O'Dea, who is still MIA in the Kunu-Ri Gauntlet. I have been working on behalf of my grandfather, Larry's older brother, who is a highly decorated Army officer, WWII Pacific, to locate Larry's remains and bring him home.



Laurence O'Dea

He has been MIA since Dec 1, 1950. He was eighteen years old. I am attaching the information from the DOD POW/MIA Accounting Branch, along with a picture of him. I recently attended the DOD Family Update here in Florida.

My hope is that, with your help, someone may remember him. My family is originally from Michigan, but most of us are now located in Naples, Florida. Interestingly enough, the last eyewitness account of Larry's whereabouts was from a fellow combat engineer who made it home to Florida. He said he last saw Larry in a

foxhole laying down cover fire for his retreating brothers amidst a Chinese onslaught. A mortar shell landed either in or near Larry's foxhole, so Larry is probably still on that trail somewhere in North Korea.

I am hoping beyond hope that this 2nd ID eyewitness is still living and a member of your organization. I'm sure you have many other 2nd ID men who are still with us, thank God.

I appreciate any help you can give me. Feel free to contact me with any additional questions.

Heather (Drescher) Corace, 239-285-4383,

heather@bbseries.com



The area where Laurence O'Dea went missing

Picture of A HQ. & HQ. BTRY., 936 FA Bn. Monument in Fayetteville, AR

I was stationed in Korea in 1953 with Commo Section. I am looking for a picture of a monument for HQ. & HQ. Btry., 936 Bn. that was built in Fayetteville, AR. There was a picture of it years ago in *The Graybeards*.

If anyone has such a photo, please send it to Robert Fisher, P.O. Box 694, Indian Lake, NY 12842.

Col Frederick J. Cobb

Recently, Col. Frederick J. Cobb, U.S. Army Field Artillery, passed away. His granddaughter works in my office. At his viewing in Beltsville, MD, I learned that he served in WW 2, Korea, and Vietnam. During the Korean War, he received the Legion of Merit for his service as the Civil Information and Education Instructional officer for Compound 63 of the POW camp on Koje-do Island from approximately June to December 1951.

Since I am a retired Army officer, the family was eager to share his history with me. They and I are trying to learn more about his service in Korea. It appears that prior to his duty at the POW camp, he was assigned to the 8th FA Bn during the battle of the Bowling Alley. I say this because the April-May 1999 issue of *The Graybeards* has a story (pg 16) about a lady named Jan Bicker trying to learn more about her brother.

The story reflects quotes from the official war diary, although the unit is not named. The writer of the war diary is Capt. F. J. Cobb:

"An attack on our position underway at 2200, the enemy is using artillery, tanks and mortars . . . The weather remains hot and humid." – official war diary, Capt. F. J. Cobb, Aug. 18, 1950.

This cannot be a coincidence. Surely Col. Cobb authored the war diary when he was a captain. This fits perfectly with what we know about his service and rank in 1950. Apparently, he never discussed his combat experiences, although his family knows a good bit about his service in the POW camp, of which he was very proud.

May I ask about the war diary, where it is located, and whether it is possible to access it? We are just getting started. Any guidance you

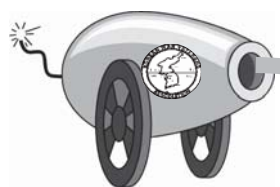
could offer would be most welcome.

Keith R. Jacobson, keith.jacobson305@gmail.com

Items From German and Japanese WWII Trials

I am looking to buy most items from WWII trials, both Japanese and German.

Jerry Keohane, CID 63, 457 Woodgate Rd., Tonawanda, NY 14150, 716-877-1439



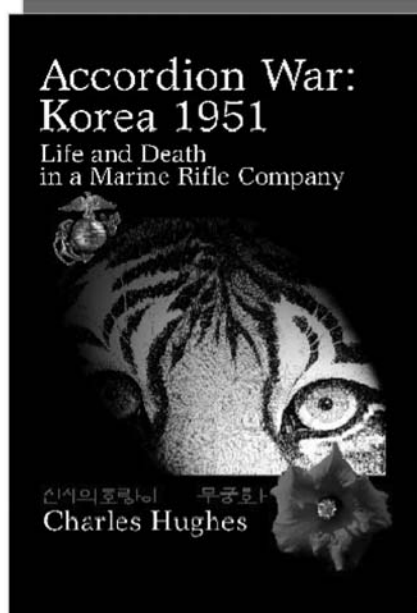
Misfires

Occasionally, we make mistakes in *The Graybeards*. We try to be as accurate as possible, and we apologize for any errors that slip through. We do not have the funds for a fact checker, so we miss a fact or two now and then. Here are a couple clarifications. Incidentally, we rely on readers to inform us of any "misfires" that need correcting. We will print corrections in the next available edition.

Not "Dodging" The Issue

In "The Man Behind The Chapter's Name," p. 73, Nov/Dec 2014 edition, we mistakenly labeled Fort Dodge. It should be Camp Dodge. And, we suggested that Chapter 323 is based in the Cedar Rapids, IA area. It got its start in Des Moines, IA.

Accordion War: Korea 1951- Life and Death in a Marine Rifle Company



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P.O. Box 1112 Arkadelphia, AR 71923

At a time when North Korea has dramatically burst into the news once more as a belligerent nuclear power, Charles Hughes has published a historical memoir of his experiences as a hospital corpsman in a Marine rifle company during its most violent "blitzkrieg" phase, the first third of the three-year Korean War. While the descriptions of battles are up close and graphic, the conflict is also viewed from the perspective of the 21st century, from a keen awareness of the wars since - Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq and the war on terror.

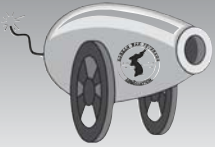
"Hughes. . . is a gifted writer. . . . This book is hard to put down. The writing is terrific . . . Well done, Doc." GySgt John Boring, USMC (Ret.) *Leatherneck, Magazine of the Marines, Sept 2007*

"I always knew that one day an FMF Corpsman would grow up, learn to write and tell their (our) unique story. *Flags of Our Fathers* came close but you nailed it." Maxwell Baker FMF Corpsman, Vietnam/Korean War vet. HMCM USN (Ret)

"*Accordion War* is a quality read. Your descriptions of that era are like paintings without the sounds, however, your recounting of the artillery barrages was deafening." Bob "Doc" Wickman, Korean War vet

"This is a gripping work and a must reading. . . .the present day overview/perspective ties the decades together and makes sense of the cost of war as well as the 'why's' of warfare. . . ." *Korean War Project Newsletter*

"This is one of the rare books that begs to be read in one reading. . . .the reader can smell both the gunpowder and the kimchi. . . .Well done, Doc." Prof. Andrew Lubin, Lead Reviewer, Military Writers Society of America



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 Dr., Rocky Hill, CT 06067; E-mail it to: sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net, or phone it in to (860) 202-3088. Whatever the medium you choose, we welcome your input.

What Happened To Post 31 August 1953 POW Photos?

Looking through *The Graybeards* magazine with all the photos makes me wonder if there is anyone out there who knows what became of all the photos taken of returning POWs after 31 August 1953 during "Operation Big Switch."

I was released on 1 September 1953. I had my picture taken by Al Chang (now deceased) and several other photographers as I was being greeted by General Ridgway. I never received a print of the photo that Al promised.

If my memory serves me correctly, my wife and I went three times to the National Archives to search for photos taken after 31 August 1953, but to no avail. I saw many of my former POW friends who were released prior to 1 September 1953, but none who were released with me on 1 September 1953 or later.

I spoke to the Director of the National Archives on my last visit and he was surprised I could not find the photos, but he promised he would conduct a search himself. A few weeks later I received a letter from him telling me he searched for photos taken after 31 August 1953. Surprisingly, he could not find any—and he could not offer any explanation why not.

So, is there anyone who can shed some light on this mystery? If there is, I would like to talk to him or her.

William F. Borer, 556 Osprey Drive, Hampstead, NC 28443, 910-270-0049, mrbill10@charter.net

Who Was That General?

One day in the summer of 1952, the 772 Military Police Battalion was called by the Army to escort South Korea President Rhee from Taegu to Yonchon POW camp. I was assigned to the observation car at the rear of the train. There was a 3- or 4-star General also with the President as the 8th Army dignitary.

On our trip back to Taegu the South Koreans knew the President was on the train and lined the tracks to wave and honor him. He started to jump and wave to all these people. The General took my rifle, and told me to grab the President by the seat of the pants and hang on. He said that if the President fell off the train none of us would get out of Korea alive. So I held the President by his belt in the rear and hung on for the twenty miles or so back to Taegu. This was my good deed for my tour of duty while in Korea.

My bad day was on my birthday, September 17, 1952. I was

sleeping in the 772 MP's rail car in the Yong Dong-Po rail yards. At about 7 a.m. I was awakened by a member of Charlie Co. of the 772 MPs.

He told me there had been a train wreck between Inchon and Seoul. There were many children killed and many injured. After getting dressed, I jumped on a "putt putt" car sitting there. The Korean yelled "NO, NO." But, when he saw I knew how to start and run it, he jumped on.

After arriving at the scene I saw 75 to 80 dead children lying on the side of the track. I commandeered one of our company jeeps and escorted the ambulances to the hospital in Seoul.

One girl was pinned under the train against the wall. The doctor cut her arm off from inside the train with a hacksaw blade. This was about 1:30 p.m. I had my camera with me and was taking pictures. But, when they brought her down to the ambulance, I just couldn't take a picture.

I jumped into my jeep and escorted them to the hospital. I toured the wards and saw all the children who had lost arms and legs. I headed to the company area and went to the club for some refreshments.

On my return to Seoul in 1994 I visited a new museum. Not finding anything about the train wreck, I asked the curator about it. He said he knew about it but no one took any pictures. I told him that I had a box of slides and said he could have them. When I got home I sent them to him. Later, I got a great "thank you" letter back from him.

I want to know if anyone from Headquarters 772s MP was on that trip with President Rhee, or if members of D Co. may know who the General was.

Joel Davis, 419-833-1613, jcdavis@wcnet.org

Did The 82nd Airborne Provide Security for 'Ike'?

On p. 65 of the September–October 2014 issue there was a letter titled "A Daring Trip by 'Ike.'" The writer stated that in the spring of 1953, President Eisenhower made a secret trip to North Korea, protected by the 82nd Airborne, where he confronted the North Korean Generals at the Pyongyang Peace negotiations, and threatened to "nuke" them, possibly being the reason for the end to the fighting in July 1953.

Neither I, nor any of my KWVA friends, have ever heard about such a trip, or such personal involvement by President Eisenhower. Since I would not think the letter would have been printed without some verifying information, I would like to know

if it was accompanied by reference to any source material that might be used to obtain further information.

J.E. Phinazee, Buford, GA, bphin55@comcast.net

CIC Recipients Should Be Awarded The Bronze Star Medal

Re Feedback letter Sep-Oct 2014, "I'm Still Waiting, Senator Lugar," Feedback, p. 64:

I stand with Sgt Ken Pearl of Indiana. Sure, Korean War veterans who earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB) or the Combat Medic Badge (CMB) should be awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious service.

At least 10-15% of our Korean War veterans were also WWII veterans and should be awarded a second Bronze Star Medal. A majority of these veterans were officers and senior Non-commissioned officers (NCOs) career soldiers.

Like Sgt Pearl, I was a platoon sergeant and later platoon leader of an infantry platoon in 1950-1951. I would guess we fought at least fifty battles, large and small, during the first year against both the North Korean and Chinese forces (CCF). Along with thousands of others I was slightly wounded by enemy mortar shrapnel, returned to duty, and treated for frostbitten toes in December 1950 and malaria in 1951.

During the first two months of the war, July-August 1950, we also donated blood after each major battle due to an initial shortage of blood. Unlike some other wars, our senior commanders, CIA, Military Intelligence and Washington D.C. did not foresee the invasion of South Korea by the well-trained, Russian-equipped, North Korean communist army.

My division was in Japan and deployed in the combat zone within 36 hours after we received orders.

I'm not familiar with the Navy-Marine Corps-Air Force awards program, but if it were my decision alone, I sure would include them, too, or award them with the equivalent medal. They sure weakened the enemy day and night before we closed with them in close combat with rifles, hand grenade, and bayonets.

When soldiers talk of meritorious service I always think of the combined actions of the 1st Marine, 3rd and 7th U.S. Infantry Divisions, and Air Force units and their fight with Chinese communist forces near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea in December 1950.

The 1st Marine Division and attached units got caught in a 30+ mile-long Chinese army "Firesack." This Chinese strategy permits the enemy to enter deep into their prepared battle zone. On command, their army stops the front of the enemy column, other large Chinese units close in on both sides and the rear, and annihilate their enemy in the "Sack." Well, they caught the wrong unit in their sack.

When ordered to withdraw the Marines not only fought their way back to the port city of Hungnam, North Korea, but together with the U.S. Army's 3rd and 7th Infantry Divisions and attached units, evacuated all their dead and wounded, 17,500 vehicles, 350,000 tons of equipment, 100,000 Soldiers and 91,000 North Korean civilians seeking freedom in South Korea.

I'd call that about 20 shiploads and 91,000 acts of meritorious

service.

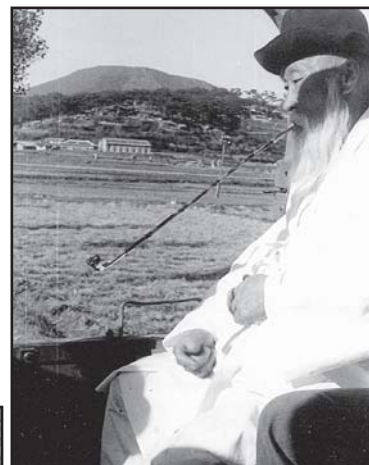
Joe Marlett, 2900 Feldewert Rd.,
Wentzville, MO 63385

A Latecomer To The KWVA—Happily

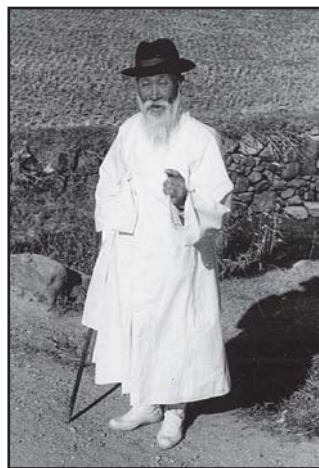
As I near my 85th birthday, I reminisce about my time in the Army. From the bus ride at my local draft board in Aledo, Illinois to the induction center at Chicago and Fort Sheridan, IL, to the train ride down through the "Smokey" Mountains to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, my sixteen-week basic at Fort Jackson, then preparing to leave the good ole' USA at Fort Lewis and Pier 91 at Seattle, Washington.

Crossing the "pond" on the troop ship General A. E. Anderson, arriving at Yokohama Japan and Camp Drake and seeing the majestic Mt Fuji, a sight one will never forget. Leaving from there on another troopship along with some Canadian troops on board, landing at Inchon, Korea, marching through the dusty streets of Inchon to the railhead, seeing and smelling the fish and the like drying out in the sun, and then boarding the train for Chunchon, our 25th Division headquarters.

From there on to the 38th Parallel and my assigned company, Service Company, 35th Inf. Regt., 25th Inf. Div. I served as 1st Cook in Service Company, at Heartbreak Ridge, Koje-Do Island at the POW camp, and the Khumwha sector at Pork Chop. My service time in Korea was from June 2, 1952 to April 1, 1953.



ABOVE: Papa-San" we picked up on our tour of Koje-Do Island on our first weekend after we arrived there in September 1952. Note his long pipe.



LEFT: Another shot of "Papa-San"

BELOW: POWs lining up for work at Koje-Do, October 1952. (Photo taken by Carroll Reid.)





Korean farmer working the fields in summer of 1952 (Picture taken by Carroll Reid from the train between Incheon and Incheon)

After serving my time in Korea, back to the good ole' USA and Camp Crowder, MO, and finally my discharge.

Now, I ask myself, "Was it worth it, and would I do it again?"

My answer is, "You're damn right I would!" God Bless the USA!

As I just joined the KWVA in 2014, I find that I have missed a lot by not doing this sooner. I belong to Chapter 168, Rock Island, IL. I must say "Hats off" to Commander Bob Fitts and his staff for a great job of sponsoring the Illinois State Convention held at Rock Island.



LEFT: Carroll ("Cork") Reid preparing a meal at Heartbreak Ridge in the summer of 1952



BELOW: Carroll ("Cork") Reid and Bill Miller, from Sterling, KS (L), kitchen truck driver, at Heartbreak Ridge in summer 1952

We were honored at the convention with the presence of two Medal of Honor recipients, Ronald Rosser and Hiroshi Miyamura. What a great pleasure to meet them and to shake their hands.

Carroll E. ("Cork") Reid, P.O Box 78
Keithsburg, IL 61442

Basic Training At Camp Breckenridge (see "Basic Training at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky," p. 67, Sept/Oct 2014)

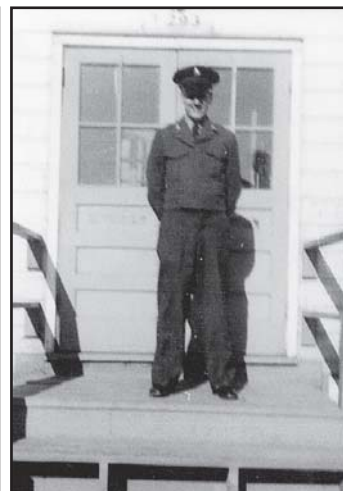
I and fellow veterans took basic training at Camp Breckenridge for 9-1/2 weeks with the 101st Division. Camping in pup tents with summer sleeping bags in February 1952...what a hell hole!

Our barracks was heated with a soft coal burning furnace, as were the mess hall stoves. After seeing a short movie, I was given a card stating that I would be a fireman for KP and barracks.

After we finished basic we were placed on a troop train. Our destination was Camp Polk, LA, home of the 37th Ohio National Guard Division. The place was also home to multi-colored snakes and wild boars.



A smiling Anthony Dalla Costa at Camp Breckenridge during his 1951-52 basic training



On left, Anthony Dalla Costa in Army uniform at Camp Breckenridge. Right, Things are looking up for Anthony Dalla Costa at Camp Breckenridge: at least he is looking up



Following ten months with the 37th Div. I was sent to Ft. Lawton, WA. I boarded a ship for Japan for a rough crossing. The weather was bad en route and there were many sick GIs aboard.

From Japan I went to Inchon, Korea, where I attended a leadership class for the Wire, Radio, and Message Center. I worked on a switchboard and served as a checkpoint guard. I got my MOS changed and earned a promotion to PFC (T).



Anthony Dalla Costa and buddies at Camp Breckenridge

When the cease fire took place, I was still in Korea. Later, I went on R&R. I saw Dick Contino and his band. I returned to Hq Hq Co., 1st Bn. My Commo Sgt. told me we were going to see the 1st Sgt. "You should get another stripe," he said.

But, I told them I would be going home in a few weeks. "Give that stripe to someone who is staying in the service." It took a month for me to get back to the states—and from where I started.

Anthony Dalla Costa, 3714 188th Pl.
Lansing, IL 60438

EDITOR'S NOTE: Does anyone remember Dick Contino? Here is an excerpt regarding his service in the Korean War:

Contino toured with the Horace Heidt Orchestra and was billed as the "world's greatest accordion player." He appeared on The Ed Sullivan Show a record 48 times. However, his success was interrupted when Contino was drafted during the Korean War.

Contino ignored the draft notice, and was jailed for a few months for draft dodging before serving in the United States armed forces. The resultant scandal dealt Contino's career a serious blow, but he continued performing, including acting in a few movies in the 1950s and 1960s. Source: <http://www.last.fm/music/Dick+Contino/+wiki>

Age Doesn't Make A Difference

EDITOR'S NOTE: We intercepted this exchange between Wayne Pelkey and Ray Kalil. It demonstrates that there is no correlation between age and achievement. If anybody else knows of Korean War veterans who achieved remarkable success at young ages, please let us know.

Hi Ray,

Your story of Charlie Smith in the KWVA 86 Nashville Newsletter is of a man born with extraordinary talent:

Charlie joined the Air Force at 17, passed aptitude and 2-year college equivalency, then went to Randolph Field for flight train-

ing and following graduation had additional flight training to become a pilot of a B-29 and then based in Guam where he flew a B-29 bombing mission to Korea on the first day of the war 6/25/50. (Amazing as he was a LT-1, only 20 years old, and in command of a B-29 that was known to be complex and not too pilot friendly.)

He then was reassigned to Okinawa, where he flew 57 B-29 night bombing missions and was released from active duty at age 21! Once home he entered UT-Knoxville for pre-med. He later graduated from UT Med in Memphis while he simultaneously earned his tuition while flying as a Captain for American Airlines with later flights on a B-747 on trans-Pacific routes.

He flew for American Airlines 30 years before retirement at mandatory age 60, then hung out his MD shingle early 1973 in Nashville.

What an exceptional career, indicating the brain power that overruled the AA height exemptions for his 5' 4" stature.

I have copied Jim Grenier, who was on B-26 low level bombing/strafing missions in Korea during same period we were there, as well as my nephew and his wife, who both are Captains of 737s with Southwest Airlines

NOTE: Capt. Charlie Smith's unusual talent at such an early age reminds me of our "Christmas Hill Brother," Dr. Robert Schorr, who graduated 1951 first in his class from University of PA and in June 1952 was battalion surgeon, at only 23, of the 179th 45th Division at Christmas Hill with us.

There are many blessed with God-given talents while we with normal IQs have, to the best of our ability, worked our way through life and hopefully have left our marks for the benefit of society.

Ray, thanks for sending me the newsletter with history of Charlie Smith, a fellow Korean War veteran.

Wayne Pelkey

Sleeping Through The Korean War

Your article, "I Must Have Slept Through That War," hit the nail on the head. (See Editor's Comments, Nov/Dec 2014, p. 9.) The same day I got my "Graybeards" I got my American Legion magazine. Lo and behold, one of the first articles I saw was from a veteran referring to a past article titled "America's Most Beloved Veterans."

In his letter he mentions, 1) "the lonely soldier on a hilltop in Afghanistan; 2) the Marine lying prone in a rice paddy in Vietnam; 3) an airman away from his family at an airfield in WWII; 4) a soldier in the trenches of WWI.

He mentions veterans in other ways. But, as usual, Korean vets are not mentioned! It irritates the living hell out of me!! This happens all the time.

I think your article describes why, in that writer's case, at least, "I Must Have Slept Through That War."

Bob Barfield, Orlando, FL, rnl187@yahoo.com

There Were Gravestones In Korea

I saw a recent article in The Graybeards concerning gravestones in Korea. A writer said there was no such thing. (See "Chinese In The Graveyards," Sept/Oct 2014, p. 62.)

I was attached to the 809th Eng. Aviation Bn. at Kimpo in 1953.

Our battalion was located on a hill on which was located a graveyard. It contained a number of gravestones, but they showed the signs of war.

Ted Morford, 637 Honeyflower Loop, Bradenton, FL
34212, 941-251-9912, tedmorford@gmail.com

Stay Out Of Matters That Don't Concern Us

I agree 100% that the KWVA should not get involved in any outside political issue unless it directly involves our organization. (See "The Most Misunderstood Job In The KWVA," Oct/Nov 2014, p. 9.)

Alan K. Lauckner, elal554@comcast.net

Listening To Radio Moscow

I read in Dale Cardinal's story ("Cardinal Leaves For Korea On Christmas Eve," p. 68, Nov/Dec. 2014) of hearing Communist propaganda broadcast over loud speakers. I recall listening to Radio Moscow on a Zenith Transoceanic Multi-band radio. The lady on the air was speaking perfect English.

The guys and I used to listen to her as a diversion on off duty hours. Our battalion also would get fly-overs by Charley in a small, single engine plane. We turned off all lights in our unit.

Dwight L. Thomas, Marlin, TX
[dwightfwk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dwrightfwk@sbcglobal.net)

A Nighttime Landing?

Mr. Dale Cardinal has every right to be proud of his service in the combat infantry with the 25th Infantry in early 1953. He certainly suffered more terrible experiences than I did, comfortably assigned to the 21st Medium Port, Inchon. (I served with 339th Transportation Harbor Craft & Marine Maintenance Co. 1952-53.)

I do, however, question his nighttime landing climbing down cargo nets from a troop ship into an "LST" (Landing Ship Tank). The vessel being used for off-loading troop ships in Inchon, a Landing Craft Utility (LCU), was a much smaller craft, at 115 feet in length.

I was serving as an Assistant Harbor Master in January 1953. I do not recall any night time landings of troops in that time frame. And why risk climbing down nets when the troopship had a long gangway (stairs) leading to a secured barge?

The soldiers, carrying their duffel bags, reached the barge where they were checked off by the Troop Movement Officer, and then they walked over to a waiting LCU tied up to the barge. Later that year I served as a skipper of an LCU. We could carry up to 500 troops for the thirty-minute ride into the Inchon beach.

Now, I could be wrong about a nighttime landing in January 1953, but it seems unlikely. Why would commanders risk such a landing in the dark and cold of January? These replacement soldiers would soon face greater danger on the MLR, as did Mr. Cardinal.

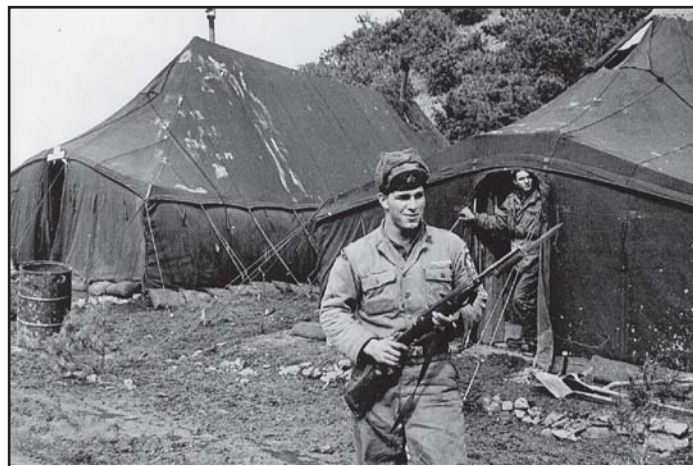
Philip Campbell, Detroit, MI, phil1512@sbcglobal.net

The Last KIA Of The 224th Regt., 40th Inf. Div.

This article is in response to an article submitted by Harold L. Maples in the May/June 2014 edition. The article, "Missing Flak Jacket," p. 23, concerned happenings on the 60th anniversary of the cease fire. Mr. Maples' article discussed the last casualty from

hostile action of the Korean War within the 224th Regiment of the 40th Division.

One significant response was from Nick Spartichino, Billerica, MA, who told Harold Maples, "I believe I have some important information for you regarding the unnamed GI in your *Graybeards*' article."



Nick Spartichino in the Chorwon Valley

Nick's response to Harold was a most welcomed and thought-provoking challenge. After so many years the seemingly quiet comes to life and a corresponding friendship of a fellow 224th soldier enters with information that could only happen from membership in the KWVA and the relentless publishing efforts of *Graybeard's* editor Art Sharp.

Nick had only known the person for two days. The unnamed soldier served in the 224th Regiment of the 40th Division, Item Co. The unit was located in Kumwha Valley at Sandbag Castle sector. They were both members of the second squad under Squad Leader Sgt. Sproul. The name of the unnamed soldier discussed featured in the article was PFC Robert Walker Bernier, of Dorchester, MA.

Nick was buddied up with Robert for those two brief days, and Robert was assigned to the same bunker as Nick. The bunker was on an extremely steep slope, two steps forward and three steps back. This war-torn scenario is playing out just prior to the cease fire. At this particular time, except for a few incoming mortar rounds, there was an eerie calm.

The Time Period: Nick's military operational assignment was from his bunker to rig napalm explosives that were strategically placed in different line positions to deter an enemy approach. The mechanism consisted of five-gallon cans of napalm. Each can was numbered with battery leads to each of the numbered cans for detonation. Nick, on this particular night, had the task of waiting and watching for any enemy movement while seated on a steel rim with a piece of cardboard for an uncomfortable cushion.

The above duties were mentioned to enable the continuing follow-up meeting with PFC Robert Bernier and the briefness of Nick and Bob serving time together.

Nick's follow-up with PFC Bernier was the next morning, after Nick's overnight with napalm duty. They had morning

chow together, brushed their teeth near a stream at the crest of the hill, and shared some conversation. A short time later Sgt Sproul picked "Bob" for a detail to carve out some steps on the steep bunker incline mentioned previously mentioned.

The reason for the steps was to make access a little bit easier when and if the cease fire did take place, as was rumored. They would make the withdrawal and/or supply route less difficult to navigate the 1-1/2-mile pullback zone. The detail assigned to Bernier evidently exposed him at various times to enemy mortar fire.

Later that day, Nick was informed by Sgt Sproul that Bob "didn't make it." Bob was hit by a small fragment of a mortar round as described in the aforementioned article by Harold Maples. To Nick, a buddy of two days serving together, PFC Robert Bernier, one of many, gave his all for freedom and was the last casualty of hostile action in the 224th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division prior to the cease fire. The date of loss was July 26, 1953.

Some of Robert's bio is recorded on a Korean War Project Remembrance page that can be found on line.

Nick, in responding to Maples' article, engaged in intense reflection of his own. On that same day he was outlined on the skyline and received enemy fire from an automatic weapon, all misses. Nick's follow-up thought was that he could have easily been the last KIA of the 224th from hostile action, if the shots had been a little lower. Quite a sobering thought.

Note: After Nick confirmed the name, PFC Robert Bernier, he supplied information that a Regimental Parade Field was named in Robert's honor. The same field was mentioned on the web pages by family members. And Robert's



The Robert Bernier Memorial Field

mother had a picture of the field, pictured below. Nick also provided a copy of the picture of the field.

He explained that the photo of Robert Bernier's memorial was developed in Japan when he was on R&R. "It is faded and the text is almost unreadable," he explained. "The picture was taken in the Chorwon Valley. The inscription reads: Named in memory of PFC Robert W. Bernier. Killed in action 26 July 1953 Sandbag Castle. It contains the 40 Inf Div 224

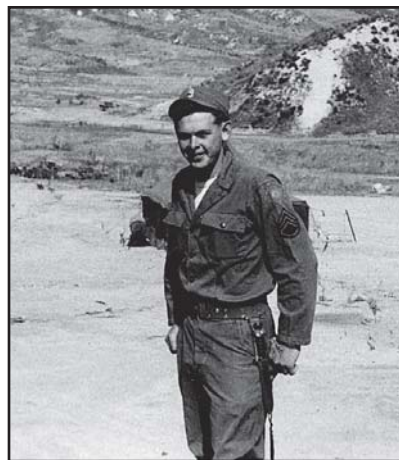
Harold Maples in Korea

crest, I company, as well as the combat infantry badge. The picture is of our inspection and parade grounds.

"I had to have the picture enhanced, since it is in poor shape," he noted.

Nick and Harold would like to receive any information concerning PFC Robert Bernier (known as R. B.) from kin, classmates, civilian life, or other vets who might have known him in basic training, pipelining to the Far East, etc.

Respond to: Harold L. Maples, 8348 Collier Rd., Powell TN 37849, p.maples@frontiernet.net, or Nick Spartichino, 1 Greenville St., Billerica, MA 01821, nickspartichino@comcast.net



GAS MASK from page 11

awoke, I was in a bed in the hospital's quite orthopedic ward, alongside men in body and limb white plaster casts.

The silence in the ward was understandable. The patients were all post-op and sedated. I was embarrassed to be in the same ward with the war's wounded. I had no visible wound, not even a scratch. My diagnosis was malaria. But around my neck I had skin eruptions which didn't fit the diagnosis.

My humiliation increased when I considered that my medical condition was possibly due to the lengthy exposure to the gas. My shame prevented me from expressing my anecdotal diagnosis to the attending nurse.

Before my discharge, I managed a conversation with my nurse, who was struck by my last name, which was Norwegian. In the short, but poignant, discussion, I explained to her that I was a Norwegian-American from a Scandinavian sector of Brooklyn, New York.

My discharge from the hospital was uneventful. But I had extracted a promise from nurse 1st Lt. Rita Hervold to plan a future gathering with some of my fellow officers. Nurse Hervold was emotionally affected by the frightful casualties with their ghastly wounds from battles for hill outposts. She and her fellow nurses admired the courage and fortitude of the wounded soldiers. As a result of their sacrifices, the nurses were always willing to provide some small respite for the warriors and from the war's trauma.

The time and date for a party were agreed upon. Nurse Hervold reserved the hospital's officers club. The club's tent had a wooden floor, record player, and small bar. After some sixty plus years the memory of that night remains. I remember especially those compassionate nurses who took time off from their busy ward rounds to provide solace for five lonely junior infantry officers and offer them a short reprieve from the war.

George Bjotvedt, 3593 S. Swan Dr., Gilbert, AZ 85297

Bad Day At Hoengsong

Brief Description of Three Years Of Hell as a Korean Prisoner Of War (POW) Enduring Indescribable Horrific Treatment

Many thousands of men vanished or became POWs in the Korean War, and the death rate for that war's prisoners was the highest in American history. Additionally, many of those who survived captivity were known to have been held back by the North Koreans during the prisoner exchanges in 1953.

The following information was gathered and submitted by Darlene and Randall Riley from a lifetime of memories during daily contact with Uncle Carl R. Burgess. They grew up with his advice and influence over many years after his return from the wars. (He served in WWII and Korea.) He was like a second father to Randall and Darlene.

This compilation is to help honor a great man. After reflection on his brief discussions with us about part of his terrible experiences during his three years of imprisonment in North Korea, we helped prepare a written record and contribute our memories about him. We were also proud of his patriotic contributions to our country when he served in WWII prior to his Korean War service, which also shows that he was an outstanding, patriotic citizen and soldier who loved his country, family and friends, as all records verify, along with his plaque in the National World War II Memorial Registry in Washington, D.C.

Carl Ramsey Burgess entered the Army in WWII on December 17, 1942. He was assigned to the 82nd Field Artillery in the South Pacific Theater of Operation. Carl was discharged from the army after completing his service in WWII on February 18, 1946. He received many recognitions and awards for his outstanding and superior service.

Sergeant Burgess joined a local army reserve unit to continue his career. In July 1950, at the age of 28, he was recalled to active service for the Korean War. He reported to Fort Hood, TX for a brief refresher orientation and training procedure before being shipped out to

Korea. He was assigned to the 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division in Korea as a Staff Sergeant and was soon promoted to Sergeant First Class. He landed in Korea at 3 p.m. on a day in late August 1950 and went straight to the front lines.

On February 13, 1951, Carl and members of his unit were captured or killed in a bloody battle with Chinese soldiers. His unit was caught off guard in their make-shift shelter. They did not have proper weapons to defend themselves or their position. They were in a horseshoe tactical arrangement that was not effective in this situation.

The Chinese closed in on the unit in large numbers. The two foes engaged in hand-to-hand combat. During this fight attack Carl incurred a bayonet wound to the right knee and leg before being captured. At the beginning of the struggle there were 76 men in Carl's unit; only 6 of them remained after the attack.

There were approximately 787 American prisoners captured and rounded up for a trip to North Korea, which was similar to the "Bataan death march." During the first 3 to 4 days they were marched in lines with their hands tied behind their backs and were gouged frequently in the back with bayonets to keep them moving and awake. Carl had unbelievable scars on his back when he was released from the many bayonet thrusts he received.

The prisoners traveled only at night and on cloudy days. During sunny days they were herded under pine trees and bushes to avoid being seen or found. They traveled approximately 750 miles in about 3 months. The prisoners who

survived got to their forced destination on the Yalu River on May 19, 1951. Only about 285 of the original group completed the trip. Of this group of primarily American prisoners, all of them suffered from horrific treatment. Over 60 percent of them died and were discarded along the trail during the march.

On the trip to the Yalu River they ate everything from weeds and turnips to soy bean balls. Occasionally, they got a little dog or horse meat. They were glad to get any food.

They stopped on their journey at a camp referred to as "bean camp" by the prisoners (which was an old mining camp), where they were given soy bean balls to eat. They stayed at this location about three weeks. Many of the prisoners died from starvation, injuries, infections from bayonet stab wounds, intestinal and kidney problems, or total exhaustion while there.

After arriving at the final camp they had to go on "wood gathering detail." Each prisoner was required to complete a daily round trip of approximately 14 miles to the mountains to cut wood and carry almost 80 pounds tied to their backs on the return to camp area.

Carl had a swollen, injured, infected leg. Out of sympathy for an "old man," as other prisoners called him, because he was a 28-year-old and a WWII veteran, younger prisoners helped him carry the load and survive. The wood was used primarily to prepare food for the Chinese and North Korean soldiers and for them to use for heat.

Sometimes the POWs stayed in huts made with mud and straw. Mostly, though, they stayed outside with no shel-

The prisoners traveled only at night and on cloudy days. During sunny days they were herded under pine trees and bushes to avoid being seen or found. They traveled approximately 750 miles in about 3 months. The prisoners who survived got to their forced destination on the Yalu River on May 19, 1951. Only about 285 of the original group completed the trip.

ter, lying on the ground with little protection in the winter.

Unrelenting interrogation of prisoners was an everyday occurrence. The higher the rank the more times a prisoner was interrogated. The prisoners were punished if they did not tell the enemy what they wanted to know. One of many dreaded punishments was isolation for thirteen days in a tunnel.

During the daytime, the prisoners were required to take "brain-washing" classes showing the benefits and value of communism. The classes lasted several hours each day. The prisoners went without baths, clean clothing, and other necessary sanitary needs on a regular basis. They wore tennis type shoes, shabby shirts and pants, and endured some days of high and low temperatures, which were reported to be below minus 40 degrees at times.

They basically received only one meal a day. Uncle Carl indicated that he often thought about the advice he got from his dad and mother, William and Mary Martha Burgess, of Yellow Creek Community, near Dickson, TN, about eating black eyed peas as a child, which he did not like. They told him to eat the peas and that the day might come when he would be happy to get them. He thought that the time had come for him in North Korea, and he would now appreciate black eyed peas.

Overall, the diet was bad, and extremely limited for prisoners. However, it was similar to the food that the peasant population had to eat, with fewer restrictions in quantity.

Carl was confined for most of his 33 months as a prisoner of war in W1 Con Camp no. 4 on the Yalu River. After a cease fire was agreed upon and signed

with an effective date of July 27, 1953, the prisoners were told that they were being moved to another camp. Their names were called in groups on different days. One night Carl's name was called from the list, along with those of other prisoners. They were loaded onto trucks and hauled approximately 10-12 miles to a barn-like structure in which they were locked for the night.

The prisoners had not heard any news and did not know where or why they were being moved. The next morning, they were given about a half cup of soybean and millet ball to eat. A man from Denmark, with the Red Cross, came and told the prisoners they were going to be released from prison at 9 a.m. that morning. They were loaded on trucks and crossed the 38th Parallel into South Korea.

After arriving in South Korea on September 1, 1953. Senator Nolen from California helped Carl, by then a physically, mentally weakened, damaged soldier, get off the truck and onto friendly soil.

At the time of Carl's release from prison, he weighed 78 pounds, which was down from his normal 180 pounds. On the ship home, Carl and all the others were drilled and interrogated by the FBI to determine if they had accepted communism.

They landed in California and Carl flew to Fort Meade, MD, where he stayed in a hospital for ten days. He regained some weight and got back up to 117 pounds. He was granted a 20-day leave to go home, after which he returned to the hospital for surgery on his leg, which required hospitalization for about 45 days.

Finally, on November 28, 1953, Carl

was honorably released from military service as a former POW, permanently handicapped and disabled for life. However, he struggled with daily chores, but he did operate a gas station, Burgess Amoco, for 25 years, with help from Randall Riley, his nephew, and friends. He continued to undergo intermittent hospital treatments. He did not join other prisoners in periodic reunions, but he maintained contact with several fellow prisoners. (At this time only two names come to mind: a man named Williams from KY and a Mexican named Blast.)

Carl suffered from recurring cancer along with nerve problems for many years and finally succumbed, at age 84, from this burden and many other health problems. On December 16, 2006, he died, and was buried in Dickson, TN, his hometown.

During his life, even while held captive and receiving intolerable treatment, he never lost faith in God and Jesus Christ, his savior. Every day during his imprisonment he would silently thank his heavenly father and ask forgiveness and help for all the prisoners. This saved his mind and the stress from physical endurance in the prison life. He was a hero to all who knew him.

I am thankful that we have as many Korean War POWs as we have living who can provide firsthand information about their treatment and who adhered to and believed in our Constitution and the United States of America throughout unbelievable treatment. They are a good source of information for our leading officials.

Many believe that governments and people forget the bad and repeat the same mistakes over and over. May God help us to be more thoughtful in decisions and not forget those who have stood firm on their beliefs and sacrificed for values dear to us all and country.

I am also thankful, for all the information, assistance, technical support, and constructive comments we received while collecting and preparing this information and for all the people who express a desire to remember these individuals who fought for our freedoms.

*Paul E. Riley, 2117 Covington Drive,
Florence, AL 35630, 256-767-0673*



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Credit Card # _____ ☐ **VISA** ☐ **MASTER CARD (only)**

Expiration Date _____ V-Code _____ Your Signature _____

Adopted 10/27/2012

CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR KWVA MEMBERSHIP

In addition to completing the KWVA Membership Application Form on page 1, persons applying for, and qualifying for, membership under one of the categories listed below, are also required to fill in the appropriate blanks, and sign in the space provided below.

Check Only One Category:

- ☐ **Medal of Honor:** I am a Medal of Honor recipient and the date on which it was awarded was: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- ☐ **Ex-POW:** I was held as a Prisoner of War by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces at some time during the period June 25, 1950 to the present. 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 during the Korean 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. I do not qualify to be a Regular member.
- ☐ **Honorary:** I was elected as an Honorary Member of the 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."

Applicant 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.

- 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, is eligible for membership if:
a. Said service was within Korea including territorial waters and airspace at any time, September 3, 1945 to Present, or
b. Said service was outside of Korea, June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955.
- Medal of Honor.** Any KWVA Member, who is a Medal of Honor recipient, is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.
- Prisoner of War.** Any person held as a prisoner of war by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces during and after the period of hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

B. Associate Members.

- Must not be eligible for Regular membership.
- 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 KWVA Charter and its Bylaws and Standard Procedure Manual, shall be eligible for Associate Membership in the Association. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

C. Gold Star Parents. Any person whose son/daughter was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war while serving within Korea including territorial waters around and airspace above during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

D. Gold Star Spouses. Any person whose spouse was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war while serving within Korea including territorial waters around and airspace above during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

E. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as Honorary Member by vote by the Board of Directors. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

F. Ineligible. Any person who has been separated from the service of the Armed Forces of the United States under conditions other than honorable shall be ineligible for membership in this Association.

WEB SITE: www.kwva.org

Adopted 10/26/2009, R5 Approved 7/26/2013

Page 2 of 2

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL DEDICATED

at the Spirit of '76 Memorial Gardens & Arboretum at Miami Meadows Park

July 27, 2013 was the 60th anniversary of the Korean armistice and the dedication of the Korean War memorial in The Spirit of '76 Gardens & Arboretum at Miami Meadows Park. Miami Township Trustees agreed to set aside 8 acres in Miami Meadows Park, but the project received no government money. Bill Knepp, Robert Sterling and the late R.J. Vilardo planned and raised money for three years to make the memorial a reality.

The Korean memorial is the centerpiece of the park. The memorial is a 6-foot-long, 3½-foot-high slab of polished black granite from Maggard Memorials & Laser Art Technology. One side of the granite holds the image of a bunker Bill Knepp photographed and helped build in Korea. On the other side is a list of U.S. military units that served in Korea and their casualty totals. The memorial will be engraved with the names of the 19 men from Clermont County who died in Korea.

The Spirit of '76 Memorial Gardens & Arboretum includes a 'Freedom Trail' that has benches inscribed with excerpts from historic documents and speeches, a 'Grove of American Colonies' with a crab apple tree and plaques for each of the original 13 colonies and a 'Liberty Tree.' Those and related projects happened with help from Eagle Scouts and students from Milford schools. We encourage you to take time to come out and visit the park.



Membership is Our Strength

It's not the price you pay to belong, It's the price you paid to become eligible to join



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- 7 – 19 Jun VN Special I Corps “Chu Lai to the DMZ”
- 18 – 24 Jun WWII 70th Anniv Battle for Okinawa 1945
- 2 – 14 Jul WWII Russia—“Eastern Front”
- ★ 18 – 28 Jul WWII Guam-Saipan-Tinian “Marianas 1944”
- 31 Jul – 11 Aug WWII 70th Anniv 1945 Japan Atomic Bombs
- 2 – 12 Aug WWII Guadalcanal & “Up the Slot”
- 8 – 19 Aug VN 50th Anniversary 1965 Op Starlite
- 7–18 Sep WWII 70th Anniv of the Liberation of Italy
- ★ 12–25 Oct WWII 70th Anniv “China Marines” 1945
Beijing – Tientsin – Xian – Tsingtao – Shanghai
- 7 – 20 Nov VN 50th Anniv CAV & Air Mobile 1965

In Planning for Nov WWII
Burma—Thailand
“70th Anniv of the CBI Theatre”

29 Jan – 8 Feb ‘16 WWII Philippines
13 - 26 Feb ‘16 VN Tet Offensive &
Battle of Hue City—I Corps

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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

JOHN C. COATES

ARIZONA

LES W. AYRES
VERNON L. JACOBUS
DONALD E. MAYNARD
CLARENCE A. WILLIAMS

ARKANSAS

ANTONIO LEMOS

CALIFORNIA

JOHN F. FORAN
ILIE G. NICOLAE
JOHN A. NICOLET
JIMMY OSTI
SALVADOR 'SAL' REGALADO
MARTIN S. VASQUEZ
RICHARD J. WALTERS
IRWIN ZUCKERMANDEL

COLORADO

ROBERT W. FREEMAN

CONNECTICUT

RICHARD F. BEDARD
FRANK D. BONA
OWEN F. COFFEY
SAMUEL KRIZAN
RUDOLPH ZABRANSKY

DELAWARE

A. WRAY BRITTON
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FLORIDA

WILLIAM M. ALLEN
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DAVID D. BARRETT
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JOHN LEAHY
RICHARD H. LEE
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ALICE A. PINETTE
HUGH MADISON SMITH
CLAUS J. TIESMAN

GEORGIA

ROBERT E. CROOM
THOMAS E. MUNHOLLEN

HAWAII

ALEXANDER K A. AINA
NORMAN Y. KITAZAKI
WALTER K. SUGI

IDAHO

WILLIAM K. TAYLOR

ILLINOIS

JERRY A. BRAZELTON
WILLIAM T. BREAZEAL
ARTHUR P. FARRANCE
DONALD G. HAMMERSMITH
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ROGER C. SHERMAN
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ROBERT SOESBE
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KENTUCKY

JOSEPH M. BROWN

LOUISIANA

CHARLES M. SMITH

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DON E. DONAT
WILLIAM C. GEISBERT
WAYNE R. SMITH

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JOSEPH L. SIGNORETTI
ANDREW B. SIMSKI

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WILLIAM C. ELLEDGE
EARL C. JULO JR.
NICHOLAS KOSCHOFF
MERLE R. MEEKER
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DELBERT WILSON

NEVADA

BURTON H. ANDERSON
JOSEPH E. 'JOE' FISHER
ELIZABETH M. KEMPLER
GEORGE I. KISHIMURA
JULIAN A. RUTKOVITZ

NEW HAMPSHIRE

DONALD J. LABRIE

NEW JERSEY

HAROLD DINZES
JOHN A. 'JACK' FISHER JR.
JOHN LAROCCA
ARTHUR R. SEDA
SAL TARANTO

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KEITH O. HANSON
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RICHARD J. 'DICK' WERDERITCH

TEXAS

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WILLIAM E. JARRATT
PHILIP E. LOWRY
VIRGIL E. MALONE
BILL R. MCFADIN
ROBERT L. SMALL
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UTAH

BETTY MYERS

VIRGINIA

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WASHINGTON

CHARLES W. BAILEY
A. EVERETT COOK

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ADOLPH C. KERSKA
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ALFRED W. SCHULZE

There Was More To Medical Care Than M*A*S*H

Many people are aware of the M*A*S*H units that revolutionized battlefield medical care in the Korean War. Fewer people know that other countries such as Norway and Sweden provided medical services. The British operated a small specialist hospital in Seoul, the Britcom Communication Zone Medical Unit, aka Britcom Z Medical Unit. They also supplied a hospital ship, Maine—at one time the only hospital ship in Korea. The Danish sent their hospital ship, Jutlandia. The list goes on.

Death Notice of a Member of KWVA

The following notice is submitted for publication:

Name of deceased _____

Date of death _____ Year of Birth _____

Member # _____ Chapter _____

Address _____

☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Marine Corps ☐ Air Force ☐ Coast Guard

Primary Unit of service during Korean War _____

Submitted by _____

Relationship to deceased _____

Send to: **Membership, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407**

MEMBERS from page 24

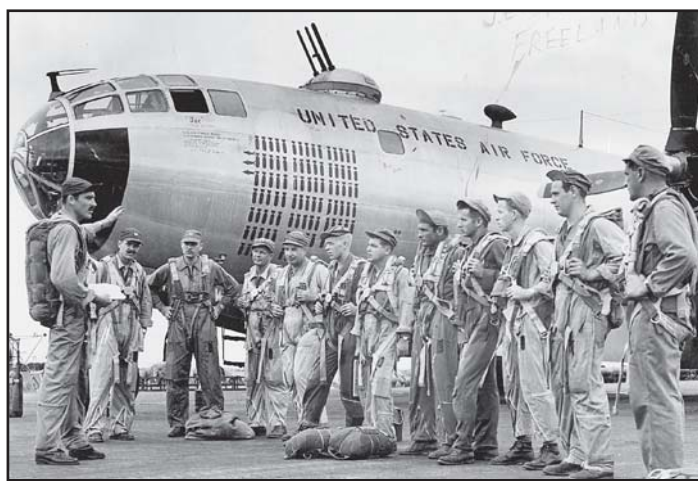
Lew Bradley...a member of Ch 122, Arden A. Rowley [AZ], represented the United States Marine Corps at a parade held November 8, 2014 in downtown Mesa, AZ. Each military service group rode in a jeep and had a representative. Representatives were members of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.



Mayor John Giles of Mesa, AZ presents Lew Bradley (R) with certificate at East Valley Veterans Parade Reception held at Cubs Field, Tempe, AZ, on November 7, 2014

John Gretchen...was featured in an August 28, 2012 article in the Hazleton [PA] Standard-Speaker. The article, “Three wars of service,” described Gretchen’s service in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. He served with the Air Force Reserves and the Merchant Marines at different times.

Reporter Jill Whalen wrote about Gretchen’s experiences in the three wars. She focused on the time the plane on which he served as a tail gunner was shot down in “MiG Alley” on



John Gretchen’s flight crew on September 21, 1951. It was the crew’s 56th mission and the plane’s 100th. Gretchen is fourth from the right. (They were members of the 307th Bomb Wing flying out of Okinawa.)

October 23, 1951 in a battle between jets and bombers that lasted for thirty minutes. The battle was the largest aerial confrontation in the Korean War. Here is an excerpt:

A sergeant, he was flying his 40th mission over Namsi when the bomber [a B-29 Superfortress] was hit.

“We had a formation of nine of our B-29s,” he said, “and we were attacked over MiG Alley by 150 MiG-15 jet aircraft.”

The fleet was outnumbered—and overpowered.

“We were supposed to be escorted with the F-86s (fighter planes), which was the only aircraft capable of dog fighting with a MiG,” he said. “Instead we were escorted by F-80s and F-84s, which were no match for the MiG. The MiG slaughtered them.”

Halfway through the battle, Gretchen said U.S. forces were joined by British Meteor jet fighters [and F-86s].

Gretchen’s plane was hit.



B-29 Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa, 1951-53

Gretchen’s plane suffered severe damage. In fact, Air Force engineers were amazed that the plane did not hit the ground before it managed to land at an Air Force base near Seoul. But, it wasn’t only the plane that suffered damage. The crew was hit hard as well. Gretchen and six others were wounded. The plane’s navigator was killed. Gretchen spent two days in the hospital, and then returned to combat duty—just in time to fly another 28 missions before going home.

Visit the Korean War
Veterans Association Website:

www.KWVA.org

A Solemn Tribute to the Fallen

Veterans participating in the Turn Toward Busan ceremony in Korea pay homage and respect to fallen Korean Soldiers and patriots at the National Cemetery of Korea.



Captain (ret) Arthur Lortie, who served in Korea as a corporal with the 2nd Battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment and retired as the Regimental Adjutant, strides briskly after debusing at the National Cemetery of Korea in Seoul. Arthur's daughter, Diane Lortie (dark hair) chats with Wendy Walker, daughter of Canadian veteran Peter Seiersen, seen at extreme right of photo. Peter Seiersen is the National 1st Vice President of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada. Arthur Lortie is quite remarkable in that he has had major surgeries for cancer, was taken off of chemotherapy with a prognosis of no more than six months to live, and has surpassed that time by a long shot. Though he admits to tiredness from time to time, it is evident in the photo above that he has put his medical ills well behind him and out of mind.

Veterans from 18 different nations and their companions and caregivers enter the National Cemetery of Korea in Seoul, and march down the walk of honor to the National Shrine, to pay homage to the Fallen soldiers of the Republic of Korea.



Veteran Alan Nevered and his wife, Margaret Nicole, stand with the veterans at the national urn, where incense was burned in honor and memory of the hundreds of thousands of fallen Korean soldiers, including tens of thousands whose remains were never located. Though they come from Australia, the Nevereds were originally from the United Kingdom. Alan served in Korea with the Essex Regiment.

Veterans react solemnly as the Korean Last Post is played by a trumpeter. Veteran at right is Captain (Ret) Arthur Lortie. To his left is Desmond Vinton, the national president of the New Zealand Korean War Veterans Association.





Veteran Vince Courtenay and his wife, Mak-ye Courtenay, stand with comrade veterans and their family members on the patio terrace of the National Shrine while the Korean Last Post is played. Vince Courtenay is the initiator of the Turn Toward Busan ceremonies and for several years has been a consultant to the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.

First Vice President of the US Korean War Veterans Association, Colonel Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (ret), also salutes during the service. Warren landed in Busan in August, 1950 and fought in three of the Battles of the Busan Perimeter with the U.S. Marines "Fire Brigade." The 1st Marine Division was then withdrawn and taken by ship to Inchon, where they made their historic "Inchon Landing" and cut off the enemy, before liberating Seoul. That would be enough action for any man, but Warren was soon fighting in the battle of the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir, where temperatures were twenty degrees below zero and where thousands of Chinese troops suddenly surrounded and attacked the American columns. Warren was wounded in August, but was patched up and sent back into the fight!



LtCol (ret) John Bishop, the president of the International Federation of Korean War Veterans Associations, burns incense at the National Shrine in the National Cemetery in Seoul on November 10, shortly before the veterans departed by KTX train for Busan to participate in the November 11 Turn Toward Busan ceremony. John served in Korea as a corporal with the 2nd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Many years later, as a lieutenant colonel, he spent three years in Korea as the Canadian Defense Attaché.

Veteran John Bishop signs the official guest book on behalf of all of the veterans.



After the service at the National Cemetery, the veterans gather for a record photograph before departing for Seoul Station and the train trip to Busan. The veteran in the wheelchair is Dr. Anders Tang, who served with the Swedish Red Cross Hospital in Busan during the Korean War. Though he is confined to a wheelchair for mobility much of the time, Dr. Anders recently celebrated his 99th birthday and is looking forward to his hundredth birthday in 2015.

APPLICATION FOR KOREA REVISIT TOURS

(UPDATE 03/07/13)

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____

KWVA Member, # _____ Expiration Date (Exp date) _____

NOTE: If you have not yet received your membership # from KWVA please insert "applied for."

List all your addresses, (seasonal/if more than one per year) and dates of residence, no P.O. Boxes.

1. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates _____

2. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates _____

Phone # _____ Fax _____ E-Mail* _____
* - CRUCIAL FOR IMMEDIATE TOUR UPDATES

Korea Revisit Only

Veterans Passport# _____ Exp Date _____ Date of Birth (DOB) _____

Companion Name/Relationship _____ DOB _____

Companion's Passport# _____ Exp Date _____

NOTE: If you do not have a passport with 6 months validity after last date of return to USA and have applied for a new one, please insert "Applied for" in the space provided and contact MHT when you receive it.

Veteran's Korean Service Information

Branch of Service _____ Unit _____

Period of Service in the Korean Theater (month/year) from _____ thru _____

Veterans / Family Member Signature _____ Date _____

Complete and mail this form along with the \$450.00 deposit / service-fee per person (check, money order or Credit Card) to Military Historical Tours. Payment in full is required for applications submitted within sixty days of tour departure.

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The amount of **\$450.00** Per Person Credit Card # _____

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Name as it appears on the Credit Card _____

Korea Revisit related material please send to:

**KWVA Revisit Korea Program
C/O MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS
13198 CENTERPOINTE WAY STE #202
WOODBIDGE, VA 22193-5285**

**Phone: 703-590-1295 or 800-722-9501
Fax: 703-590-1292
E-Mail: mhtours@miltours.com
www.miltours.com**

Background

The Korea Revisit program was begun by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA/Seoul) in 1975 for the 25th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War to express the Republic of Korea (ROK's) government's gratitude to Korean War veterans and their families also to show them the bountiful results of their sacrifices and devotion.

MPVA's Eligibility Requirements

Korean War Veterans who served in or supported ground, naval, or air operations in the Korean Theater between June 25, 1950 and October 15, 1954. Family members of deceased or disabled Veterans are eligible to participate in the "Korea Revisit Program." An eligible applicant is allowed to bring a family member or friend as a "travel companion."

Expanded Eligibility

For the 60th anniversaries (2010-13) there will be more quotas available. In addition, those who have been on a Revisit prior to 2006 can apply to return again (Call MHT for more details). Widows and family members of deceased veterans or those unable to travel are also eligible for the Revisit as Veteran Representatives.

Benefits & Schedule

Free hotel accommodations for the veteran their companion or veteran representatives, meals for 5 nights and 6 days in Seoul for 2 people. If you want to bring more people you may at your expense.

Accommodations are based on (2) persons per room, if you want your own hotel room you may at your own expense. All of the above items need to be requested in writing.

Tours of Seoul and its vicinity, banquet hosted by the MPVA and KVA with presentation of the "Ambassador for Peace" medal, tours of the DMZ, Pan-Mun-Jom, War Memorial Museum, National Cemetery.

Typical Korea Revisit Itinerary:

Day 1: Fly to Korea

Day 2: Arrival day Incheon Airport, Korea check into Seoul Hotel.

Day 3: Wreath Laying at United Nations Monuments.

Day 4: Korean War Commemoration Ceremonies.

Day 5: Panmunjom, DMZ Thank You Banquet in the evening.

Day 6: War Memorial Museum tour, Korean culture show.

Day 7: Departure

Sundry Notes

1. The MPVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.

2. Participants are required to have a valid passport that does not expire until 6 months after return to the USA.

3. Neither MPVA Seoul nor MHT Virginia U.S.A is responsible for any loss of or damage to personal or other items; medical expenses, injuries or loss of life due to any accident of whatever nature during the Revisit tours.

4. Hospitalization, Evacuation and Trip Cancellation Insurance is required by MPVA for all veterans, companions or veteran representatives. Insurance costs are included in the admin service charge for Korea only.

5. Transportation costs to and from Korea will be borne by each person who participates in the program. The Korean government is now subsidizing airfare for persons traveling with the group administered by MHT.

6. Applications will be received/accepted on a "First-come, first-served" basis.

7. Use of frequent flyer miles or other "free" transportation is allowed, but the administrative service fee of \$450.00 per person is still required for the insurance and administration.

Were The Tigers Hunting The Hunters?

Hunters in Korea circa 1954 had to wonder if they were being hunted while they were hunting. Sound confusing? Read the item below from Suwon in 1954 submitted by Richard Ely. He noted that it was included with their regular hunting licenses in Korea.

"Our house boy, Kim, did tell me he saw a tiger near his hut in 1952," Ely noted. "I saw tiger tracks near a rice paddy while hunting pheasants."

There may not have been a lot of tigers in Korea, but there were a lot of other critters suitable for hunting according to the report.

Richard P. Ely, 72 Papoose Dr., Auburn, PA 17922, 570-739-3619

Hunters in KComZ Area Say Birds, Game Plentiful

Taegu, Korea (KComZ)

The fall hunting season is well underway in KComZ, with reports filtering in that birds and game are plentiful and most hunters are returning with their full limit.

The main bag is birds, but bear and deer abound.

Hunters are cautioned by KComZ Provost Marshal Col. J. L. Driskell to observe safety and hunting regulations in order to protect life and property and to preserve the game. KComZ Circ. 102 lists most of these regulations.

Foremost among the do's and don'ts is that the only weapon

which may be used is a shotgun and that there must be two or more hunters in every hunting party. The country is heavily populated and hunters are warned to be on the lookout for Korean nationals in the fields and hills before firing.

There is a definite season and bag limit in South Korea which must be observed. The season and limits are listed below.

Game	Season Ends	Limit
Pheasant	Feb. 28	4 a day
Quail	Feb. 28	4 a day
Dove	Feb. 28	5 a day
Duck	Apr. 30	6 a day
Geese	Feb. 28	4 a day
Deer	Feb. 28	one per season
Wild Pig	Dec. 31	one per season
Rabbit	Feb. 28	no limit
Squirrel	Feb. 28	no limit
Bear	closed	
Tiger	closed	
Cranes	closed	
Mandarin Duck	closed	
Bulbul	closed	
Black Marten	closed	
Finch	closed	
Thrush	closed	

All seasons now open except those listed close.

Korean War Veterans Association
Membership Administrative Assistant
P.O. Box 407
Charleston, IL 61920-0407

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MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CAMP, Pyeongchang, South Korea - Gunnery Sgt. Matthew C. Luckey provides cover while Republic of Korea Marines radio for assistance prior to a raid in an area where simulated enemy activity was spotted Jan. 22 during Korean Marine Exchange Program 14-3 at the Mountain Warfare Training Camp in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea. As part of KMEP, the Marines cross-trained in a multitude of cold-weather skills and missions such as skiing, assaults, patrols and raids. The raid is part of the training evolutions leading up to a 400-kilometer hike. Luckey is a platoon sergeant with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The ROK Marines are with the 1st ROK Special Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st ROK Division.