

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

# Tell America

### 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  
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Mesa, AZ 85206  
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**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

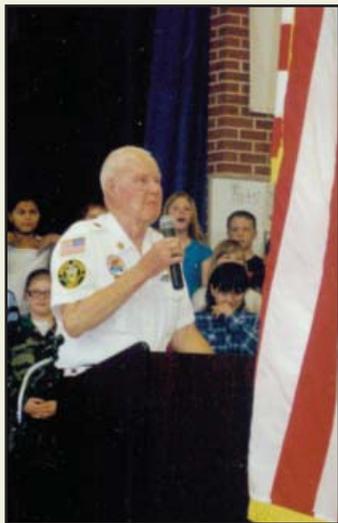
and Bob Becker (U.S. Air Force), and Richard Delmont (U.S. Navy). Chapter members Vern Scott (U.S. Air Force) and Bob Jones (U.S. Army) represented the KWVA.

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

BELOW: Neal Young, Bob Jones, Vern Scott, Tresa Carl, Millie Gammil, Bob Becker, and Richard Delmont (L-R) at Luff Elementary School



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](mailto: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.*

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**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](mailto: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, 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