

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

The Graybeards



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THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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The Graybeards

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THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



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See detailed list of committees at WWW.KWVA.ORG



From the President

Larry Kinard

Recently in Texas, the temperatures have been in the 60s and 70s. We have had very little winter this year. Even though I don't like really cold weather, I miss crisp mornings, which we have not had many of this year. But, as you read this, springtime will be in full bloom once again, and we can feel the revival of the good things on this earth.

National election fever continues to be in the air as we approach November and wonder who will be our new president and vice president for the next four years. KWVA members have the same thoughts, as we will be installing a new president, 2 vice presidents and 4 new directors. ***I cannot stress enough the need for every member to vote.*** Voting will close on May 10th, shortly after you receive this. If you haven't voted, please send in your ballot from the January-February 2016 issue with your selection.

My most exciting news since the past issue is a trip to Washington DC on February 24th, when several of us visited with Director Michael Linnington and a few of his staff with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). Executive Director Jim Fisher, MIA/POW Liaison Bruce Harder, Secretary Lew Ewing, KWVA Director of Communications Fred Lash, Wall of Remembrance Foundation VP Rick Dean, and I represented the KWVA. Our liaison, Bruce Harder, who worked several years with the agency prior to his retirement in 2015, coordinated and arranged this visit. Bruce, an efficient, hard worker, has been an invaluable addition to our staff.

The intent was to get information on the agency's latest efforts to recover remains from Korea and to establish a strong line of communication with them for future contact. We were welcomed warmly and had a very fruitful conversation. Director Linnington, a West Point graduate, Class 1980, who served three tours in Korea, retired in early 2015 as a Lt. General.

After our discussion he sent in his KWVA application. We are proud to have him as a member. He also indicated a strong interest in participating in some of our meetings, especially the July Board of Directors

Hopefully everyone is aware that HB 1475, "Wall of Remembrance" for the Korean War Memorial, passed the House of Representatives on February 24th, with 301 co-sponsors after a hard-fought effort...

meeting in Washington DC.

The meeting was a good preamble to the trip to Korea I am planning in June this year. The Sae Eden Presbyterian Church has invited me and my wife to visit there June 17-23, along with several MIA/KIA/POW family members. In the past, this church has invited Korean War veterans from select areas across the country to make this trip in alternate years as a way to say thank you for what we did.

This year, for the first time, they plan to recognize the family members of those who gave so much. I think this is a wonderful opportunity for those who experienced the loss of a loved one and have never been recognized for the anguish and suffering they have been through for all these years. Approximately eighty people from across the country will represent these families.

My wife and I have been invited to attend a special event on June 24th at Carnegie Hall in New York City that will be hosted by Reverend Dr. Billy Kim, Far East Broadcast Company Minister. Dr. Kim is doing this as a thank you for the Korean veterans in the New York City area. We plan to fly directly back from Incheon to New York City to attend the function on behalf of the Korean War Veterans Association leadership.

Long-time KWVA Board member Richard Brown, from Pennsylvania, has resigned due to ill health. We appreciate Dick's long service on the board. He was just re-elected for a three-year term last year. The vacant position will be filled according to KWVA by-laws, i.e., the next in line with the most votes from the previous election will be selected and approved by the remaining board members. This process took place in March. The result will be posted on the website.

Hopefully everyone is aware that HB 1475, "Wall of Remembrance" for the Korean War Memorial, passed the House of Representatives on February 24th, with 301

co-sponsors, after a hard-fought effort by Col. Bill Weber, his wife Annelie, Rick Dean, Bill Alli, and many others who joined them. We congratulate them for a job well done. Now, the effort has moved to the Senate as S. B. 1982. There are currently 25 co-sponsors; many more are needed. We need YOUR senators' support. Please check and make sure they are signed on.

Executive Director Jim Fisher is working with Congressman Sam Johnson's office to resurrect former H. B. 5903 that will permit Korean Defense veterans to be considered "War" veterans. When the new bill is submitted and receives a number, the information will be posted on our website and sent to all chapters. We will need lots of help to get this passed before the end of the year.

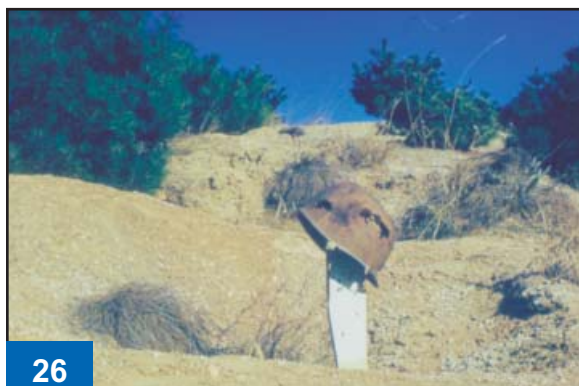
This is my next to the last letter as President of the KWVA. My term will end June 25th. The May-June issue will be the last of my term. I have enjoyed the opportunity to speak directly to the membership through this medium. I hope it has been informative.

Sadly, a very unfortunate incident involving a KWVA member occurred at a "Trump for President" rally in Louisville, Kentucky in early March. It caused a considerable flurry of publicity and emails across the internet when the member engaged in a shoving match with a female member of the Black Lives Matter organization. The final outcome of the incident is yet to be resolved, but we should take advantage of a lesson that can be learned from that encounter. **BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU DO WHILE WEARING THE UNIFORM IN PUBLIC!**

Every Korean veteran who wears the uniform to a meeting of any kind should realize that you represent a large organization of brothers-in-arms. KNOW that your actions reflect good or bad on all veterans.

Larry Kinard, President

COVER: Nnine, a Military Working Dog with the 51st Security Forces Squadron, pricks her ears forward as something captures her attention while on patrol during Vigilant Ace 16 at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Nov 4, 2015. Osan has the second largest kennel in the Air Force. Vigilant Ace 16 is a U.S. and ROK combined exercise designed to enhance operational and tactical-level coordination through combined, joint combat training. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Amber Grimm)



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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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Thanks to the 772 Military Police (MP) Association

As we mentioned in the previous issue, the 772 Military Police Association disbanded recently. One of its final acts was to donate the generous sum of \$1,840.00 to help underwrite the production costs of *The Graybeards*. Here is a copy of the announcement letter to which KWVA Executive Director Jim Fisher responded. A copy of his letter follows.

February 19, 2016

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Tom Gregg, Treasurer
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Dear Treasurer Gregg:

The 772 M P BN Veterans Association was formed in 1996 with the first reunion held in Tucson, Arizona. Twenty-three Deuce veterans and their spouses were present. It was an emotional experience, reminiscing about events that took place over forty years ago.

This past September, at the twentieth and last Deuce reunion, our membership voted to disband the Association because of age and health reasons. The remaining funds of the Treasury were to be forwarded to the K W Graybeards Magazine.

On behalf of the living and deceased members of the Deuce, please accept this check, the amount of \$1,840, to help perpetuate the continued publication of *The Graybeards Magazine*.

The Deuce Motto, "On Our Mettle," remains as a symbol of courage and fortitude of the MEN OF THE DEUCE. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Gene Michaels Secy/Treas

Here is Mr. Fisher's response and a note regarding his invitation to the members to establish or maintain ties with the KWVA.

Attached is a copy of the thank you letter I am sending to Mr. Michaels today. I will also send him a flyer on our annual Membership meeting in Las Vegas and an application to join the KWVA for those in the 772MP Association who are not members.

THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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February 23, 2016

Mr. Eugene A. Michaels
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Dear Mr. Michaels:

On behalf of the Korean War Veterans Association of the United States of America, I would like to thank you for your generous gift of \$1,840.00 from the 772 Military Police (MP) Association. Your kindness is very much appreciated as we continue to recognize and honor all of our Korean War Veterans and their families.

We are sorry to see that your fine association is coming to an end. Please let your members know that we care for them and will help them in any way we can. For members who do not presently belong to the Korean War Veterans Association of the United States, we would very much like to welcome them into our fold.

One of our missions is to keep the legacy of those who served during the Korean War alive and passed on to future generations so they will not forget the service and sacrifice of veterans such as those who served with 772 MP Association.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance. Thank you again for your kind donation.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Fisher
Executive Director
Korean War Veterans Association



From the Secretary

Thank goodness, the cold winter weather and the snows are behind us and we can look forward to the spring flowers and, in my area of the country, the beautiful apple blossoms. The older I get, the more I dislike cold weather. I have developed an increased appreciation of the warm summer sunshine and the opportunity to hit the golf course.

Election

In addition to the changes we will experience in 2016 resulting from our national election in November of a new president, the KWVA membership will also be selecting new leaders with the election of a new president, two vice presidents, and four new directors to join our Leadership Team. We have an outstanding group of members who are competing to fill the open positions.

By the time you receive this issue of *The Graybeards*, I suspect that you will have already voted. If you have not, please do so immediately. For your vote to count, it must be received by May 10, 2016. SO, DON'T DELAY: VOTE TODAY! Your vote is important!

We are fortunate to have someone with the ability and experience Tom Stevens possesses to step into the position of president. Tom has served on, and been a major contributor to, our Board of Directors for six years. We are confident that, with the help and support of all the other Board members, he will hit the ground running and continue providing the excellent leadership that we have become accustomed to under Larry Kinard during his tenure as our president.

Resignation

We were sorry to receive a letter of resignation from the Board of Directors from Richard Brown. Richard is concerned over some health problems he has been experiencing, and he is uncertain about his ability to carry his share of the workload as a director. So, he submitted his resignation effective February 29, 2016.

In keeping with the provisions outlined in our Bylaws, the Board of Directors will appoint Richard's replacement to complete his term that ends on June 25, 2018. We thank Richard for his many years of service to our Association and we will miss him at our meetings. We wish him well and pray that his health will improve soon.

Membership

If you have been reading my reports in previous issues, you realize that I have been stressing the importance of chapter presidents cooperating with and assisting our Membership Office and our Membership Management Supervisor, Jake Feaster, in keeping your membership rosters current and accurate. We thank those of you who have responded to my requests to clean-up your chapter information on our KWVA website. However, there are still many chapter files that need some significant work.

I ask again for all chapter presidents to take a few minutes to review your member information that appears on our KWVA website, and to report any changes that need to be made to either Jake Feaster or to Sheila Fritts in our Membership Office. Their contact information is printed on the inside front cover of *The Graybeards*.

Korea Reborn Books

We have a limited supply of the *Korea Reborn, a Grateful Nation*

books available for distribution to our members on a first-come, first-served basis. The books are free, but we ask our members to cover the cost of mailing them.

To obtain a copy, forward your contact information and your check for \$6.45, payable to Mr. Edward R. Valle, 1410 Foster Street, River Falls, WI 54022-6902. Upon receipt of your check, Ed will mail your book. Remember, the supply is limited. So, to accommodate as many of our members as possible, please request single copies only – no multiple orders. And, thanks to Ed for his assistance with these books.

KWVA Membership Directories

In 2010 and again in 2014, in conjunction with Harris Connect LLC, the KWVA published hard cover Membership Directories containing histories and personal information of many of our fellow Korean veterans. Some of you have already purchased a copy of these books. If you did not, and still want one at a discounted price, we have a limited supply available.

These books contain information on thousands of Korean veterans and they make great keepsakes. To receive a copy of the 2010 directory, mail your check for \$25.00, payable to the KWVA, to Frank E. Cohee, Jr., 4037 Chelsea Lane, Lakeland, FL 33809-4063. To receive a copy of the 2014 directory, mail your check for \$75.00, payable to the KWVA, to Lew Ewing, 310 Clay Hill Drive, Winchester, VA 22602.

Due to the limited supply, respond immediately. Frank or I will mail your copy quickly.

Korea War Posters

Our Tell America Materials Coordinator, A. J. Key, has an ample supply of 24" x 36" Korean War – The Forgotten Victory posters available for distribution. They are excellent tools to use during a Tell America program or at any other chapter event. The poster has a map of the Korean peninsula in its center, surrounded by names and pictures of some of the most significant leaders who were involved in the war, and a list of the countries that participated.

To obtain a supply, please contact Mr. Alves J. (A. J.) Key, 5506 Emerald Park Blvd., Arlington, TX 76017, 817-504-6937, or alveskey@sbcglobal.net.

AVKF Scholarships

It is too late for your descendants to submit applications for the 2016 American Veterans of Korea Foundation (AVKF) Scholarships. Nevertheless, we again thank Representative Kim Jung Hoon, the founder and Chairman of the AVKF, for his generous sponsorship of this very worthy program. Rep. Kim is also a member of the Republic of Korea National Assembly.

Finally, please submit your ballot to VOTE for the officers and directors to lead our Association into the next year and beyond.

Thank you.

Lew Ewing, Secretary



Lew Ewing



65TH ANNIVERSARIES KOREAN WAR REVISIT KOREA TOURS



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Reverend John Keep (Det 313) & daughter Rachel take a selfie at the National Cemetery!

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Life At One 1,000th Of A Millimeter Per Day[®]

Remember when you were a long way from home, fighting a war, and wondering if it would ever end? Time dragged, and so did you as you carried out your duties and waited—and hoped—to go home. That was when life passed at the rate of one 1,000th of a millimeter a day. Wouldn't it be great if that were always the case?

Once you got home, the pace of life picked up. You look back now and you realize that the post-war time passed much too quickly and you would prefer that it had gone at that one 1,000th of a millimeter rate. Too bad: that ship has sailed—even if you weren't in the navy.

Okay, how long is 1 millimeter? It equals 0.03937007874 inches. And how long is one 1,000th of a millimeter? Don't ask. I can't even count past 20 unless I develop more toes and fingers. With a little help from my friends who were willing to let me use their fingers and toes, I managed to count to 70. (I always knew I could count on my friends, but I never knew I could count on their fingers and toes.) So what's with all the numbers?

The explanation begins with two falls, one in Beaufort, South Carolina and one in New Orleans. I was walking toward my condo in Beaufort around 9 p.m. one night with a glass of fine single malt scotch in my hand. Suddenly I tripped over the curb—where there wasn't any curb. I simply fell. I am glad to report that I did not spill a drop of the scotch, although I attributed the fall to the beverage which I hadn't even sipped. Nah! My knee had simply given out.

Two weeks later I was walking through the New Orleans airport when I found myself lying on my back looking up at departing and arriving flights. This time there was no scotch involved. I simply fell—again. Once more, my knee simply collapsed.

After a couple more scotchless falls I

This is the 70th edition of *The Graybeards* that I have edited. That is a major milestone. I began with the September-October 2004 issue, which seems like only yesterday.

visited a medical specialist. One? Not in today's world of medicine! My primary care provider, a former U.S. Navy fighter pilot who flew cover for the Marines in the Korean War (he is 88 years old and still practicing) sent me to an orthopedic specialist, who referred me to a neurosurgeon, who handed me over to an electrician to perform an electromyography. (She might have been a doctor.)

The electrician ran some medieval torture procedures, including one in which she pounded railroad spikes into my legs with a croquet mallet and asked, "Can you feel that?" Did Don Quixote Tres Equis feel it when Torquemada ran him through the torture chamber back in 1478? (That's a rhetorical question, since I have no clue who Don Quixote Tres Equis was or whether he was tortured.) Then, X-ray technicians performed an MRI on me.

After the doctors finished pinching, mauling, and photographing me, I lost my nerve. Literally, I lost my nerve. As the Harvard-trained neurosurgeon explained in technical medical terms, "You lost your nerve." That's what the tests showed: a small section of a nerve in my right leg decided to retire before the rest of my body did.

That meant when an electrical impulse traveled down my leg to visit a relative in my lower extremities, it encountered a road block in my leg where the retired nerve stood guard. The impulse simply stopped at the gap and waited for a glass of scotch, as the neurosurgeon noted. (Maybe I imagined that part.)

The nerve condition wasn't a major problem for me. I could still perambu-

late and use big words. There was only one drawback: when the nerve couldn't reach my toes that would inhibit my ability to count. But, as my Parris Island drill instructors used to tell me, I didn't count for anything anyway. Nevertheless, the nerve's retirement perplexed me.

"How does a nerve get damaged like that?" I asked the neurosurgeon.

"If I knew, I'd win the Nobel prize," he said. "There is some good news, though. After years of physical therapy, that nerve will regenerate. The bad news is that it will only regenerate at the rate of one 1,000th of a millimeter a day."

Translated into time, it will take around a year-and-a-half for the regeneration process to finish. Unfortunately, my life is going much faster than that—which is where the aforementioned 70 comes in.

This is the 70th edition of *The Graybeards* that I have edited. That is a major milestone. I began with the September-October 2004 issue, which seems like only yesterday. The years have certainly sped by since then, and they are accelerating at a faster rate with each issue. That's the problem with life as we age. Just when we want it to go by at a rate of one 1,000th of a millimeter, i.e., slowly, as it did during our military days, it seems to pick up speed.

Wouldn't it be great if we could all go back to the slower speed under more positive circumstances and stretch out our lives? I'll take that one 1,000th of a millimeter pace any time—and I'd also like to regain my nerve long enough to say that I will edit another 70 editions



Submitted for your approval is a short narrative of a reconnaissance patrol that involves several characters. The date is May 16, 1952. Nighttime. The place is somewhere in Korea. Leading the American squad of sixteen men is Lt. Peter Jourdonnias. Opposing them, somewhere out in the darkness, is an unknown number of Chinese soldiers.

Both participants are drawn together in a brutal war that will bring these combatants together - or perhaps not. For the Americans have a weapon the Chinese do not possess - a scout dog named Arlo. And, alongside this so-called weapon is his handler, Sgt. Jack North.

Each side will be separated by just a few hundred yards in a deadly cat and mouse game between two opposing forces. Ultimately, what takes place during this encounter will not be decided by the men involved, but by a six-year-old German shepherd dog that has just one purpose in mind, one that he was trained to do: to protect the men who follow him.

The plan was simple: the American infantrymen would leave their post at the MLR (main line of resistance) during the night and reconnoiter a road which might be used as a tank route north toward enemy-held territory. The patrol is to check three bridges to see if they could support tanks.

Jourdonnias was instructed not to engage the enemy unless absolutely necessary. The men carried among them two BARs and sixteen M2 carbines. Each man carried 400 rounds of 30-caliber ammunition and two fragmentation grenades.

The patrol did not have Sgt. North or Arlo on the point when they started out, as the wind was on their backs. For the scout dog team to be effective, they needed the wind on their nose. After scouting the three

Yankee – Take Your

With the platoon leader irritated that there was no forward progress, he stepped ahead of the stalled war dog. A second later there was an explosion.

bridges, North and Arlo were placed on the point. In his own words, North later related in an after-action interview report:

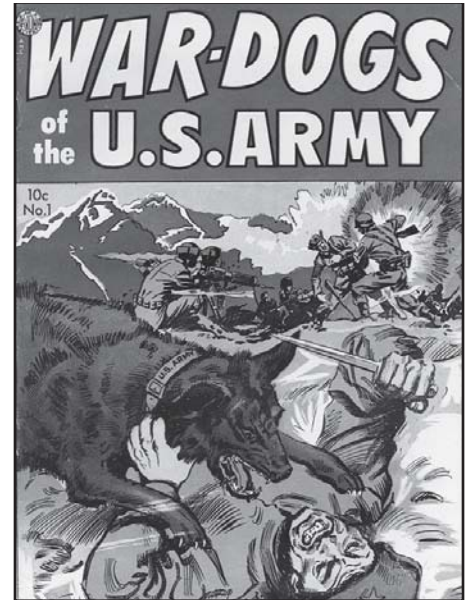
“After walking about twenty five yards Arlo gave me a very strong scent alert. I signaled for the group to drop to the ground and motioned for Lt. Jourdonnias to come forward. I told him that Arlo had given a very strong scent alert and that someone was immediately ahead but did not know how far. He [Jourdonnias] deployed fourteen men on the right side of the road and two on the left. I remained on the road with Arlo.

“Lt. Jourdonnias stated that the patrol was to remain in position until daylight. After about 30 minutes, Arlo, his ears pointed straight up, appeared to sense some movement to his left. His head seemed to move as if he detected some noises. No one in the patrol was able to hear a sound. About fifteen minutes later, a noise rang out to the left [in] front of us. Voices could then be heard.

“At this point Lt. Jourdonnias decided to move up the road to see if the enemy could be detected. We moved about 100 yards without further alert from the dog. The group returned to the MLR without incident, arriving about 0100. It is the alertness of the dog that saved the reconnaissance patrol from certain ambush.”

Did Arlo save the platoon? It is really not known what would have happened to the patrol had there not been a scout dog along. One aspect of using dogs in warfare is just how many lives may have been saved by not engaging the enemy when an early silent alert is given of their position. There is no true way to measure that. For North and, for that matter, Arlo, the results speak for themselves: everyone came back in one piece.

This was just one patrol which went



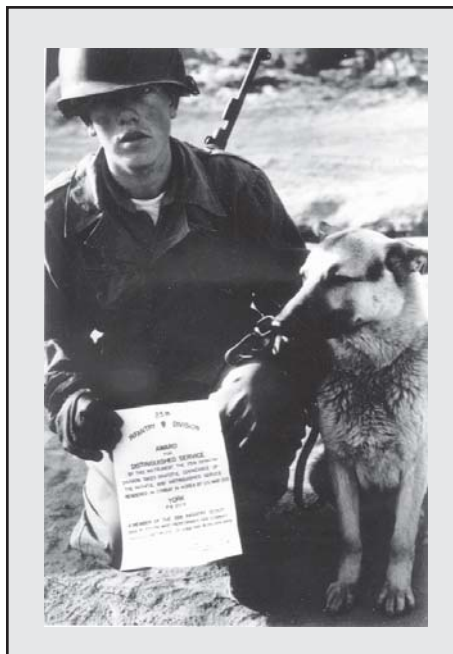
1952 comic book issue. Not PC when the Chinese officer says, “We must get those Melican dogs.” Photo: Author’s Collection

without incident during one night by handlers of 26th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon (ISDP). But it would be played out time and time again. The only scout dog team involved during the Korean War was the 26th ISDP. Yet this platoon made more than 1,500 combat patrols during the course of the war, and just about every patrol was conducted at night.

After WWII, when the military dog program was gutted, just the 26th ISDP remained active. Their mission at that time was to show the American public the capabilities of the military working dog in demonstrations around the country.

The 26th ISDP landed piecemeal in Korea in July 1950, with just seven handlers and dogs. The others were soon to follow. Their missions were simple, yet dangerous: have the scout dog provide a silent alert of the enemy during patrols, observation posts, and outposts forward of the allied battle position. Their effectiveness was well documented. In a review of after-action reports, patrols led by scout dog teams were credited

Dog And Go Home!

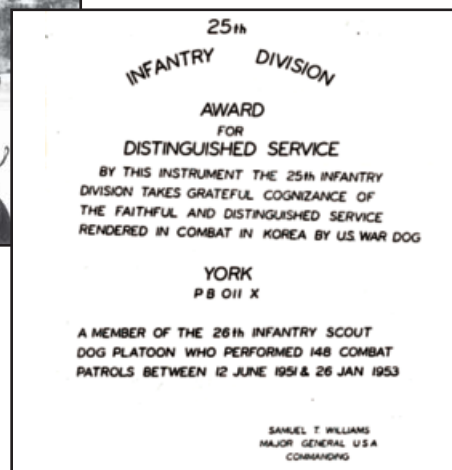


James Partain and York after receiving citation. Photo: NARA



Major General Williams presents David Hull with an award for his dog Flash. Two other dogs, Gray and York, were also awarded. Photo: NARA

Below is the field award given to exceptional dogs during the Korean War. Printed near the front lines, the quality, as expected, is not the best. Photo: Author's collection.



with reducing casualty rates by 65%.

One scout dog in particular was noted for his service. An eight-year-old German shepherd named York (011X) was presented an "Award for Distinguished Service." York led 148 combat patrols and never lost a man. He eventually returned to Fort Benning, GA, where he was interred with honors at the age of twelve.

As good as they were, patrols led by scout teams suffered. Scout dog Champ was on his 39th patrol when he stepped on a mine. Champ was killed instantly; his handler was wounded severely. Scout dogs operating in Korea were not trained to alert to mines or booby-traps. So how does one account for the actions of scout dog Happy?

While working point on a nighttime patrol, handler Alvin Steenick noticed his scout dog Happy stop in his tracks and freeze. It was not the type of alert that Steenick had seen before. He pushed the dog ahead, but Happy refused to move.

Steenick told the platoon leader that there was an unknown danger ahead. With the platoon leader irri-

tated that there was no forward progress, he stepped ahead of the stalled war dog. A second later there was an explosion. It was a grenade booby trap. The platoon leader and Happy were killed instantly. Steenick received serious injuries.

This action and the serious consequences that followed would be repeated again many times, not just in Korea, but in Vietnam. Although not trained to detect booby traps, Happy had sensed something amiss. The handler knew it also, but couldn't pin it down. When someone decides not to trust the dog, the ramifications can be, and often are, deadly.

In every conflict starting with World War II, what military dog teams have accomplished has been overshadowed by the sheer size of the war that encompassed them. It was true then and is the same today. In Korea, the impact of military dogs was miniscule, but not if you happened to be one of the soldiers who owes his life to one.

Robert Fickbohm was a handler with the 26th and worked with Hasso. In his book *Cold Noses, Brave Hearts: Dogs and Men of the 26th Infantry Platoon Scout Dog*, he says, "Between June of 1951 and the end of the war on July 27, 1953, they [the 26th] were never put in reserve. They gave sup-



Joe "Heavy" Thompson returns from a patrol with his scout dog. Note the M2 carbine and MK2 grenades. Photo: Robert Fickbohm



On his 39th patrol, Champ stepped on a mine, something he was not trained to detect. He died instantly and his handler was severely wounded. Photo: Robert Fickbohm



The 26th IPSD and the 2nd Aviation Company devised a way to quickly transport scout dogs using a Bell H-13 helicopter

Robert Fickbohm and his scout dog Hasso Photo: Robert Fickbohm



A M6-12-8 gas mask is placed on York. The potential threat of chemical agents meant that both handlers and dogs would be issued them. Photo: NARA

port to every United States Division and went on patrols with many United Nation Units. The members were awarded a total of three Silver Stars, six bronze stars for Valor, and 35 Bronze Stars for meritorious service. Too many of them earned Purple Hearts.”

Did the handlers and scout dogs like Happy, Champ, York, Hasso, Arlo, and many others have an impact on the war? I suppose it depends on your perspective. But the Chinese obviously respected them. When front lines stagnated, the Chinese sometimes would set up loudspeakers and pierce the quiet night with propaganda announcements aimed at American troops. On one occasion, which is documented in military records, they bellowed, “Yankee – take your dog and go home!”

Suggested further reading: *Cold Noses, Brave Hearts: Dogs and Men of the 26th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon* by Robert Fickbohm and Sandra Fickbohm Granger. Available from <http://bookstore.xlibris.com/>. 1-888-795-4274

Michael Lemish is a military dog historian with K-9 Partner Lucy (N430) and author of *War Dogs: A History of Loyalty & Heroism, Forever Forward: K9 Operations in Vietnam*, www.K9writer.com

Ever Wonder What Happens To A Sunken U.S. Navy Ship?

U.S. Navy ship losses were limited during the Korean War. Five ships were sunk, all by mines: Magpie, Pirate, Pledge, Partridge, and Sarsi. There were 87 incidents of damage reported. (See <http://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/s/ships-sunk-and-damaged-in-action-during-the-korean-conflict.html>.) There were far more in other wars.

The remains of U.S. Navy vessels sunk in combat or peacetime are strewn around the world. The question is, though, what happens once they come to rest on the bottom? Does the government let them remain in place in peace? Can anyone dive to the bottom and access them? Maybe, maybe not. There are laws governing “intrusive activity on Sunken military craft.”

The press release below contains information about a new revision to the permitting guidelines governing intrusive activity on sunken military craft under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy.

For Immediate Release

Aug. 31, 2015

Release No. 150831-001

Revised Navy Sunken and Terrestrial Military Craft Permitting Guidelines Published in Federal Register

From Naval History and Heritage Command

Following multi-stakeholder coordination, revised regulations were published in the Federal Register Aug. 31. The regulations implement the Sunken Military Craft Act (SMCA) permitting requirements for conducting intrusive activity on sunken military craft under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy (DON).

The regulations establish a permitting process for those interested in pursuing intrusive activities on DON sunken and terrestrial military craft for archaeological, historical, or educational purposes as specified in the act. The rule also identifies guidelines for inclusion of foreign or other Department of Defense sunken military craft under DON’s permitting program, and establishes the process by which enforcement provisions of the SMCA will be implemented.

The new regulations...will officially go into effect six months from now on March 1, 2016. During the interim the existing permitting program will continue to apply. The Naval History and Heritage Command, in concert with other government agencies, will use the interim to develop and share information about the new program and process.

In so doing, the permitting process for such activity on terrestrial military craft under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy is also being aligned into the single permitting regime, in the interest of consistency and simplicity.

The SMCA, enacted in 2004, codified customary international law in asserting that right, title and interest in and to any U.S. government sunken military craft remains with the U.S. in perpetuity, unless expressly divested. These craft are not to be disturbed, removed, or injured, and violators may face enforcement action for doing so without authorization.

The Sunken Military Craft Act itself remains unchanged. The permitting processes being established do not amend or change the SMCA, or in any way expand the stated prohibitions of the act. Activities such as fishing, snorkeling and diving which are not intended to disturb, remove, or injure any portion of a sunken military craft are still allowed without the need for a permit.

“The Department of the Navy’s sunken ship and aircraft

wrecks represent a collection of more than 17,000 non-renewable cultural resources distributed world-wide,” said Sam Cox, Curator of the Navy and Director of the Naval History and Heritage Command, the organization charged by the Navy with carrying out its responsibilities under the SMCA.

“These wreck sites often serve as war graves, safeguard state secrets, may carry environmental or public safety hazards such as oil and ordnance, and hold historical value. That’s why we take seriously our responsibility to protect them from disturbance. I am determined to honor this nation’s obligation to its fallen service members to protect the sanctity of those wrecks constituting the last resting place of American Sailors.”

In accordance with the SMCA, the Secretary of the Navy is authorized to establish a permitting program allowing otherwise prohibited activities directed at sunken military craft for archaeological, historical, or educational purposes. The DON has elected to establish such a permitting process through the revision to existing regulations (32 CFR 767). The new regulations, which can be read in full here (<https://federalregister.gov/a/2015-20795>), allow for controlled access to persons who are presently prohibited by the SMCA from disturbing, removing, or injuring DON sunken military craft, or their associated contents, and also provide similar processes pertaining to terrestrial military craft.

While unauthorized disturbance of sunken military craft will continue to be prohibited, actions of the U.S. government, or those acting at its direction, including commercial salvage entities under contract with the U.S., will continue to be allowed. The commercial salvage industry may therefore continue to operate through federal contracts and in coordination with the U.S. Government irrespective of the promulgation of the proposed regulations.

Similarly, recreational divers or commercial and sport fishermen may continue to operate over and around DON sunken military craft without requiring a permit as long as they do not intentionally or negligently disturb, remove, or injure them and their contents.

The revision to the current regulations was issued after a federal agency comment phase coordinated by the Office of Management and Budget ultimately led to the publication of a Proposed Rule in January 2014, which itself initiated a 60-day public comment period. The DON, after affording due consideration to all public comments and federal agency stakeholders, proceeded to revise the Proposed Rule and with today’s publication issued the Final Rule that will take effect on March 1, 2016.

Please turn to SHIPS on page 19

Until they all come home – DPAA's mission is to identify those still missing from the Korean War

By Lt. Col. Holly Slaughter and Staff Sgt. Kristen Duus, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

ARLINGTON, Virginia — With more than 83,000 Americans still missing from past conflicts since World War II, including approximately 7,800 from the Korean War, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) faces a daunting task as it pursues the fullest possible accounting for those Americans still missing.

Last year, the Defense Prisoner of War Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and the Air Force Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory (LSEL) merged to become DPAA, creating a single, unified Defense agency dedicated to the POW/MIA accounting mission. As a unified agency, we look to increase efficiencies and capabilities to improve the oversight of case research, recovery operations and family communications.

Over the past 20 years, the 600-plus highly skilled civilians and military members of DPAA have been able to locate, identify, and account for more than 1,530 missing personnel worldwide, including 336 from the Korean War.

Finding remains is a lengthy process and usually begins with in-depth research by DPAA historians and analysts. Information is collected from outside researchers, archives, and record depositories in both the U.S. and in foreign nations. Veterans, witnesses, historians, families of the missing and private citizens also routinely provide critical information in the search for the missing. At any given time, there are more than 1,000 active cases under analysis by DPAA.

In addition to research and analysis of cases, DPAA personnel travel worldwide to investigate losses, disinter gravesites of unidentified Americans, excavate crash sites, and piece together any evidence found. Remains and material evidence recovered from field sites, or from unilateral turnovers, are analyzed by DPAA's forensic anthropologists and other scientists, using numerous lines of evidence to identify individuals.

Identification of remains is a collaborative effort among the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory in Delaware and the DPAA laboratories in Hawaii, Nebraska and Ohio, where they analyze DNA, skeletal remains, dental and medical records, material evidence, and life support equipment. DPAA's laboratory in Hawaii is the largest and most scientifically diverse forensic skeletal laboratory in the world.

Since 1995, DPAA and its predecessor, DPMO, have held monthly briefings around the country for family members of the missing. These government briefings keep families informed of the agency's worldwide mission to account for those still missing. Families also share stories of their loved ones, provide DNA family reference samples, learn of the latest advances in DNA technology, and have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with DPAA analysts and service casualty officers working their specific cases.

In addition, DPAA hosts an annual meeting every summer for the families of the unaccounted for from the Korean and Cold Wars. Much like the monthly family briefings, these meetings enable the

Korean and Cold War families to get updates and meet with analysts to discuss their loved ones' cases.

The Korean War personnel accounting process has been frustratingly slow, owing in large measure to our limited ability to gain access to losses in North Korea since the armistice was signed in 1953. Actions by North Korea's leaders over the years have further hindered our efforts to pursue the accounting mission north of the 38th Parallel.

More than 5,300 American service members are still missing in North Korea, another 292 remain unaccounted for over waters surrounding the Korean Peninsula, and another 19 remain unaccounted for in China. Additionally, approximately 970 U.S. servicemen are still missing in South Korea, mostly along the Demilitarized Zone, where access is extremely dangerous.

The majority of identifications made since 2010 were from remains that were recovered prior to 2005, with the exception of those that were disinterred from the National Military Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, or part of the K208 group consisting of remains unilaterally repatriated from North Korea from 1990 to 1994.

Today, more than 1,230 remains of missing Korean War veterans are under the United States' control, either at the DPAA laboratory in Hawaii or at the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, but given the commingled state of many of the remains and other factors, it will take years for the DPAA laboratories to identify these remains.

Despite the challenges faced in identifying missing Korean War personnel, DPAA remains committed to the sacred promise of bringing every service member home.

For more information on DPAA's mission, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Korean War Veterans Voice Support for Repatriation of POW/MIA Remains

Washington, DC—March 4, 2016

The Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) has pledged its assistance and full support to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) regarding the repatriation of thousands of American servicemen whose remains are still north of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

The DPAA is focused on the research, investigation, and recovery of the approximately 28,000 missing Americans it believes to be possibly recoverable from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and other past conflicts. The mission of the DPAA is to provide the fullest accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation.

As stated by KWVA president Larry Kinard during his recent meeting with DPAA director Michael Linnington, "Our mem-

bers, who number nearly 15,000, are deeply concerned about Korean War personnel accounting because the remains of approximately 5,300 of our comrades still lie in the ground in North Korea and little or no effort is currently underway to recover them. The KWVA members, who average nearly 85 years old, want to see their fellow brothers-in-arms found, identified, brought home, and laid to rest in our country."

The DPAA reports that, as of February 2, 2016, 7,825 U.S. servicemen remain "unaccounted for" from the Korean War. Progress has been painfully slow considering that the armistice was signed in 1953. For example, since 1982, only 332 Korean War remains have been identified and accounted for.

KWVA president Kinard went on to emphasize, "The KWVA is also concerned because we are not bringing any new remains out of North Korea to undergo the identification process. Unless something is done to resume the remains recovery effort in the DPRK, eventually we are going to run out of remains that are under our control to identify."

The KWVA maintains a close association and partnership with the Korean Veterans Association of the Republic of Korea (ROK), as well as the associations of its other allies in the Korean War.

The mission of the Korean War Veterans Association is to raise awareness of numerous events that commemorate the history of the Korean War, not just among the American people, but also the Korean War veterans and their families them-

selves, many of whom are unaware of these events that are conducted in their honor. The KWVA is in touch with Congress and operates in the nation's capital on behalf of all Korean War veterans.

Point of contact: Fred Lash, Director of Communication, Korean War Veterans Association, 703-304-7665; fredand-donnalash@verizon.net.

Reunion Calendar: 2016

Mail your info to Reunion Editor, The Graybeards, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141 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.

MAY

67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (All Units), U.S. Air Force, 9-13 May, Charleston, SC. Marion Edwards, 126 Willow Ave., Greenfield Twp, PA 18407, 570-222-4307, jeeme@nep.com

Co. L, 21st Inf. Regt., 24th Inf. Div., 11-15 May, Harrisburg, PA. George Vlasic, 910-287-5618, gconanylasic@atmc.net

Military Police, 40th Div./55th MP Co./558 MP Co., Korean War Buddies. 23-27 May, Lancaster, PA, Wingate by Wyndham. Sharon Tornatore, 845 473-1244, charli1@hvc.rr.com

JULY

91st MP Bn., U.S. Army, Korean War veterans, 18-22 July, LeClaire, IA (includes a Mississippi River cruise). Jack Walker, 319-338-4654/319-331-1711 (C), walkernancy36@gmail.com

AUGUST

32nd Eng. Group (Tandies Dandy's), All Units, i.e., 430th BN. 434th BN. 439th Bn., and trucking. 12-14 Aug., East Peoria, IL. Randy Knapp, 217-329-2601

The Chosin Few (all members of all branches who fought in and around the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea in Nov. & Dec, 1950) 16-20 Aug., San Diego, CA. Chosin Few Reunion, P.O. Box 5271, Oceanside, CA 92052-5271, chosin50@roadrunner.com

1st Bn., 3rd Marines (All Eras), 23-28 Aug., San Antonio, TX. Don Bumgarner, 562-897-2437, dbumc13usmc@verizon.net

SEPTEMBER

USS Hornet (CV 8/CV/CVA/CVS-12). All ship's company, officers, Air Groups, crew, Marines and families welcomed. 13-18 Sept., Portland, OR, Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel. Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673-9817, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, <http://www.usshornetassn.com/>

USS Sphinx (ARL 24), 12-15 Sept., Branson, MO. Dennis Klein, 215-527-8176.

44th Engineer Bn. Assn. (Brokenheart), 14-16 Sept., St. Joseph, MO, Drury Inn & Suites. Ken Jobe, 757-428-0328, kejo425@aol.com, Rex Hurd, 816-688-7470, rhurd55@yahoo.com, or Joe Sopher, 740-465-5015, Jelesopher@aol.com. Welcome to all Korean War alumni.

84th/62nd Eng., 12-16 Sept., Duluth, MN. Carol Nelson, 39 Myrtle Ave., Warwick, RI 02886, 401-738-0693, CEN21255@verizon.com

USS Colonial (LSD 18), 14-18 Sept., Albuquerque, NM, MCM Elegante Hotel. Ron Wingo, 2316 Haynes Dr, Midland, TX 79705, 432 684 8545, ronald.wingo@sbcglobal.net

OCTOBER

25th Infantry Division Assn., 3-8 Oct., Honolulu, HI. Sarah S. Krause, 215-248-2572, TropicLtn@aol.com or 25thida.org

USS Rochester (CA 124), 6-10 Oct., Charleston, SC. Joe Hill, 931-432-4848, nitecrawl@twlakes.net

LEGEND: (H) = Home; (C) = Cell

Accordion War: Korea 1951

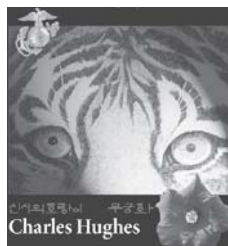
Life and Death in a Marine Rifle Company



A personal narrative of combat by Charles "Doc" Hughes. *"Flags of Our Fathers' came close but you nailed it."* Maxwell Baker FMF Corpsman, Vietnam/Korean War vet.

"Hughes. . . is a gifted writer. . . . This book is hard to put down. The writing is terrific. . . ."

Leatherneck, Magazine of the Marines



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Korean War Memorial Deteriorating

Veterans Memorial in Washington in great need of support from South Korean and the U.S. private sectors

March 3, 2016

The Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC's National Mall is a very symbolic place, but it is lacking funds to pay for its maintenance cost. I am asking South Korean and U.S. private sectors for their support to fund the memorial.

Mary Grigsby Urquhart, director of special events at the U.S. Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, said during the interview she had with Maeil Business on March 3rd that she was "very touched and felt once again the generosity of Koreans." She expressed that "Korean companies I met a couple of days ago have actively expressed their willingness to support by saying 'this is the right thing to do' and asking 'what can we do to help?'"

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation is planning to hold a fundraising event in Seoul in July this year. Another event is scheduled to be held in Washington DC toward the end of this year for individuals and companies in the United States. Meanwhile, Samsung Electronics made a USD \$1 million donation to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation last October.

Mrs. Urquhart was working as Los Angeles community activist when she decided to join this cause after hearing a story from one of her close friends. She felt that it was a "new task" for her to lead when her friend told her, "My brother is a war hero who was awarded two silver medals and most of the war veterans are aging and may pass away any time. It makes me very angry that we can't even maintain the War Memorial."

She explained that, "I realized I had to use my ability to help reach out to more people about this problem" and added, "many of the public establishments in the United States are being operated with financial support from the average American people and it was natural for me to get involved in this fundraising project given my vast experience in volunteer works"

A book issued by the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation is titled "Forgotten No More." The title expresses its regret for the Korean War being forgotten by the general public. It seems that the lack of funds to pay for the maintenance cost of the Memorial is also a reflection of this sad reality.

Mrs. Urquhart said, "The average American does not really know about the Korean War," and stressed, "The most important task of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation is to make sure the U.S. veterans who are already at least 86 years old receive the public acknowledgement before they pass away."

She explained, "The Korean War is not talked about in the United States in either a positive or negative way" and pointed out, "It is very different from the Vietnam War, which is being

"The most important task of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation is to make sure the U.S. veterans who are already at least 86 years old receive the public acknowledgement before they pass away."

portrayed in many movies and various art forms."

Mrs. Urquhart added that it is "shocking" that "so few people are reminded of the Korean War even with so many current issues we are facing surrounding North Korea and its nuclear weapons."

She has much expectation from the building of the 'Wall of Remembrance,' which was authorized by the House of Representatives recently. It is expected that the U.S. government will put it into motion this summer once a similar bill is passed by the Senate.

Mrs. Urquhart said, "The names and the flags of the countries that fought in the war will be carved on the Wall of Remembrance" and projected that once the 'Wall of Remembrance' law comes into force, it will help raise social awareness about the Korean War through media in the United States.

"If we can get a celebrity to help urge people to take part in supporting the building of the 'Wall of Remembrance' just as Tom Hanks came out on TV to help support building the Vietnam War Memorial, it will be a good opportunity for patriotic sacrifices made by the Korean War veterans to be acknowledged."

For any enquiry, please direct them via email (English: marygurquhart@gmail.com. In Korean: jamesurh@gmail.com)



Mary B. Urquhart

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **A-Vet Emblem Supply**

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Korean War Veterans Receive Recognition—Finally

The Korean War Is Forgotten No More

By Dwight L. Thomas

Recently I participated in an Honor Flight from Austin, TX to Washington, DC. The trip began when I read a notice in an area newspaper of an Honor Flight to take military veterans to our nation's capital to visit the military monuments and sights there. I contacted Honor Flight Austin and applied. I received notice I was included to be an Honor Flight Ambassador on flight #30, scheduled to leave on 23 October 2015. This experience, combined with a couple other honors I have received, made me realize that the Korean War is no longer the "Forgotten War."

On the Saturday prior to departure, I drove to Austin's City Hall for orientation of what to expect and what to take on the flight. I met fellow WWII, Korea, and Vietnam vets and was blown away by the staff and volunteers who welcomed us, including Allen Bergeron, Chairman, Honor Flight Austin (HFA), and Tina Lee, Director of Administration.

I drove to Austin's ABIA airport on the appointed day and gathered with my fellow honorees and HFA personnel who would escort us through the airport concourse to cheers and shouts of "thank you for your service" from a throng of well-wishers and airport personnel.

We were sent off with an honor guard with flags and bagpipers. I've heard of the red carpet, but this was a magic carpet send-off like none other. We boarded a Southwest Airlines plane first with front seating. Our flight was smooth, and we landed safely at Reagan International Airport. Again, we were welcomed on the concourse to flag-waving and greetings, and the "thank you for your service" calls by the welcoming crowd.

We boarded our two buses and motored through DC to Alexandria, VA's Mark Center Hilton. Once checked in to our rooms, we assembled for refreshments and a sit-down dinner. It was 10 p.m., time for everyone to go to bed to rest for what would be a Saturday whirlwind of visiting memorials in the city and a drive to Arlington National Cemetery.

Each vet was assigned a guardian to escort us during the tour. Mine was Ron Morales, who stuck with me from the time I got off the plane right through the time I was there. A Navy veteran, he was the most gracious and professional I could have asked for to attend my wishes.

Up for breakfast, grabbing our bags, we boarded our buses for our first stop at the World War II memorial on the mall, where a military band saluted us. We took pictures; our group was videoed by our professional photographer, who will re-create our experience for the Discovery Channel.

The next stop was the Vietnam Wall of Honor, displaying the names of thousands of those who gave their lives in that war. From there, we visited the memorial dedicated to honoring us Korean War veterans who survived, those who were POWs, and those who gave their lives in the defense of the now free and democratic South Korea.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial is most moving to me and fellow Korea vets. Our memorial features a squad wearing ponchos, trudging through the Korean countryside on patrol. Each statue is seven feet tall; each has individual facial expressions. There's also a



Dwight L. Thomas at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington DC.

wall with engraved faces depicting the U.S. military. I took numerous photos of fellow vets and the combat patrol to capture these memories.

From there we toured the Navy site with its reflecting pool. Next was the famous Iwo Jima monument with its Marines raising the American flag. Our next stop was the Air Force monument with its three rising spires. Then we visited the Disabled Veterans memorial. Our buses drove past the Smithsonian Museum, the Capitol, White House, the Washington, Lincoln, and Jefferson monuments, and the Pentagon.

The last stop of the day was at Arlington National Cemetery, where we viewed the precision changing of the guard and the solemn laying of a wreath ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns. There were over 200 visitors, including our contingent of veterans. The stop provided a poignant moment for us to reflect back on this wonderful tour.

Flying back to Austin, I sat next to a 96-year-old WWII veteran who was still sharp as the proverbial tack. He gave me an interesting overview of his war experiences.

The welcome home landing at ABIA was breathtaking, with two fire trucks launching arched water cannons over our plane as we landed. Filing into the concourse, we walked through cheering welcome home greeters waving flags and shaking our hands. The veterans were presented with special challenge coins signifying our Honor Flight. The 8 WWII vets, the 8 Korea vets, and 16 Vietnam vets received a commemorative book about their time in combat those decades ago.

Other honors my wife Dorothy and I have experienced on other occasions include a stay during Veterans' Week in Branson, MO. We attended a special Korea veterans reception. Theaters and shops were decorated for Christmas, with all shows recognizing us veterans. Branson, MO is recognized for honoring all vets of all wars during Veterans Week.

Five years ago my wife and I were chosen to be in the group of 200 who took the Revisit Korea six-day tour paid for by the South Korean government as thanks for their freedom obtained through the efforts of U.S. and other United Nations forces, which was recog-

Please turn to **THOMAS** on page 23

H.R. 1475 Passes In House

As you most likely have heard by now, the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 1475, the “Wall of Remembrance” legislation, on February 24, 2016. I am forwarding to you a link to the proceedings and attaching a few other items which you may want to use should you wish to let your membership know of this victory.

Six years in the making. We now need to concentrate on the U.S. Senate, where we have currently 27 co-sponsors but need some more (S. 1982). Wouldn't hurt to ask that your members contact their Senators and urge for their support. (See the sample letter below.)

Annelie Weber

PRESS RELEASE

CONGRESSMAN CHARLES RANGEL

<http://rangel.house.gov/@cbrangel>

February 24, 2016

Contact: Hannah Kim

202-225-4365

RANGEL LAUDS PASSAGE OF BILL HONORING KOREAN WAR VETERANS

Washington, DC – Congressman Charles B. Rangel (D-NY), a decorated Korean War veteran and honorary chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, lauded the passage of H.R. 1475, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2015, which would authorize the addition of a ‘Wall of Remembrance’ as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Wall would list the names of those in the U.S. Armed Forces who never came back home from the Korean War and pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifices among the Allied Forces.

“Freedom is not free. Our nation has a responsibility to make sure we do not forget our men and women in the military who sacrificed to defend the freedoms we enjoy,” Rangel said. “Most of us who went to Korea had no idea where it was but we knew one thing—the flag was waving. And so we moved forward to protect it. It is sad that too many of us did not make it back home and have been forgotten by the public.”

Nearly 1.8 million members of the U.S. Armed Forces fought under the United Nations Command alongside 20 other nations to aid Republic of Korea during the Korean War which broke out on June 25, 2010. A ceasefire agreement was signed on July 27, 1953, and the Korean War ultimately claimed 36,574 American lives and wounded 103,000, including Rangel who earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for his service in the U.S. Army. The war technically did not end, as has been commonly referred to as the ‘Forgotten War’.

The ‘Wall of Remembrance’ will include (1) a list by name of members of the U.S. Armed forces who were killed in action; (2) the number of members who were wounded, listed as missing in action, or prisoners of war; and (3) the number of members of the United Nations (U.N.) Command who were killed, wounded, missing, or prisoners. The Wall will be built by money which has already been raised through private donations and will not require public funds.

H.R. 1475, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2015, was introduced on March 19, 2014, and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources where it

passed by unanimous consent. The bill passed the House of Representatives by voice vote with bipartisan support from more than 300 Members of Congress. It is now awaiting further action by the Senate before reaching the President's desk for signature.

“I am proud to have joined my colleagues and comrades, Reps. Johnson and Conyers, in sponsoring this significant bill which has been championed by our friend, Colonel William Weber of the Korean War Memorial Foundation, and members of the Korean War Veterans Association,” Rangel said. “To know that out of ashes of impoverished people, a close ally, one of wealthiest countries and one of the firmest democracies have been established is a testament to the contributions Korean War veterans and part of the great American legacy that should be remembered. I hope the Wall serves as a reminder that America will never forget those who serve to promote and defend international security, economic prosperity, and peace on the Korean Peninsula and around the world.”

Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-NY), Sam Johnson (R-TX), and John Conyers (D-MI), the only remaining Korean War veterans in Congress, have previously worked together to introduce and pass bills pertaining to Korean War veterans and Korea, including H.Res.384 - Calling for a formal end of the Korean War; H.Con.Res.91, Encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families; H.Con.Res.41 -Encouraging peace and reunification on the Korean Peninsula (Passed in 2013); H.Res. 618 - Expressing support for designation of 2012-2013 as the “Year of the Korean War Veteran” (Passed in 2012); H. Res 376 - Calling for Repatriation of POW/MIAs and Abductees in North Korea (Passed in 2011); H.J.Res.86 - Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and Reaffirming U.S.-Korea Alliance (Passed in 2010); and Korean War Veterans Recognition Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-41).

Click here to watch Rep. Rangel speak on the House floor before the House voted to pass H.R. 1475, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2015: <http://www.c-span.org/video/?c4582244/rep-rangel-wall-remembrance-korean-war-memorial>

###

Congressman Charles B. Rangel is a decorated Korean War veteran who earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for his service in the U.S. Army during the Battle of Kunu-ri, where he led a group of soldiers out of a deadly Chinese Army encirclement after being almost left for dead on November 30, 1950. The title of his autobiography, “And I Haven’t Had a Bad Day Since” refers to this day. Congressman Rangel, who has served in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1971, currently represents New York’s 13th Congressional District, which includes Upper Manhattan and parts of The Bronx. In Congress, he has been a champion advocate for Korean War veterans and U.S.-Korea relations.

Hannah Kim

Communications Director

Congressman Charles B. Rangel

2354 Rayburn HOB

Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-4365

Here is a copy of a letter one member wrote to his local U.S. representatives. We can only hope such letters have an impact on them—especially our U.S. senators.

Dr. Crayton L. Buck
73 Dake Circle
Hammond, NY 13646
March 5, 2016

Honorable Charles Schumer 478 Russell Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand 478 Russell Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Elise Stefanik 512 Cannon House Bldg
Washington, DC 20525

Dear Sir and Madams:

Attached is a copy of a letter sent to the editor of *The Graybeards*, a bimonthly publication of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA).** I am a member and served in Korea in 1954. I assume that the writer of the letter has his facts correct. It is a shame that this issue has not been settled.

I lived for several years in Manassas, VA. When I had visitors our nation's capital was always a visit. I never deliberately took them to the Vietnam or Korean Memorials. I always waited to see if they wanted to visit and all of my friends and relatives eventually asked if I knew their location. When they heard my affirmative reply the next question was, "Can you take us there?"

All of those who gave their lives in Vietnam are engraved on the wall. However, there are no names on the Korean Wall. I had three of my friends die in Korea and I'd like to see them honored. To paraphrase President Reagan, "Honorable Senators and Representative put those names on the wall."

I would like you to indulge me in an anecdote. About 25 years ago I was attending a conference in Washington that was held on Connecticut Avenue. An old friend, a colleague from the Midwest, was in attendance. About dusk he found me and asked if I would take him to the Vietnam Memorial sometime. I said, "Let's go right now."

It was snowing lightly and the evening traffic was typical DC. I lucked out and found a parking space right by the memorial. We left the car and walked through the light snow, stopped and talked with one of the veterans who decided to go with us. The lights in the mall and those from the traffic put an ethereal glow over the site. The further we got to the center the more the aura dominated the experience. As I write this letter the memory brings tears.

Our veterans have contributed to the greatness of this country. Is it too much to tell the Park Service to stuff it? There is only one thing necessary - FIX THE PROBLEM!

With all due respect,

Dr. Crayton L. Buck

** The letter to which Dr. Buck refers was "Can Fox News Channel Help Us?," written by Wilfred Lack, Commander of Ch 314, Western North Carolina. It appeared in the "Feedback" section of the January/February 2015 edition, p. 63.

Statement From The Korean War Veterans Association Regarding A Recent Event At A Rally In Kentucky For Presidential Candidate Donald Trump

The leadership of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) is fully aware of the unfortunate circumstances involving member Al Bamberger that occurred at a recent political rally in Kentucky for presidential candidate Donald Trump.

The association has reviewed the actions and reactions which precipitated the events at that rally and is continuing to investigate the matter in order to determine if there are appropriate actions that the KWVA will take in an effort to resolve this issue. Mr. Bamberger was not officially representing the Korean War Veterans Association at this event, and the association does not, in any way, condone his actions.

The KWVA places a great deal of emphasis on the conduct and decorum of KWVA members at public meetings. Once the association has learned all the facts regarding this incident, and there are many yet to be revealed, it will be in a position to better move forward and determine the applicable actions to be undertaken.

Larry Kinard, President., Korean War Veterans Association

Contact: Fred Lash, Director of Communication, KWVA, 703-644-5132; 703-304-7665

SHIPS from page 13

A continually expanding resource for information on the implementing regulations, associated inter-agency agreements, outreach materials, and ultimately the guidelines for the revised application process, may be found on the web site of the Naval History and Heritage Command at: <http://www.history.navy.mil/research/underwater-archaeology/policy-and-resource-management.html>

For additional information about these revisions, please contact Paul Taylor with the Naval History and Heritage Command's Communication and Outreach Division. He can be reached at 202-433-0271, 202-433-7880, 202-500-9946 or via email at william.p.taylor@navy.mil or NHHCPublicAffairs@navy.mil

So, if you are interested in getting to the bottom of (not with) sunken ships, pay attention to the above guidelines. May the ships and the crew members who went down with them rest in peace—regulations or no regulations.

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

Too Many Close Calls

By Robert W. Dahman

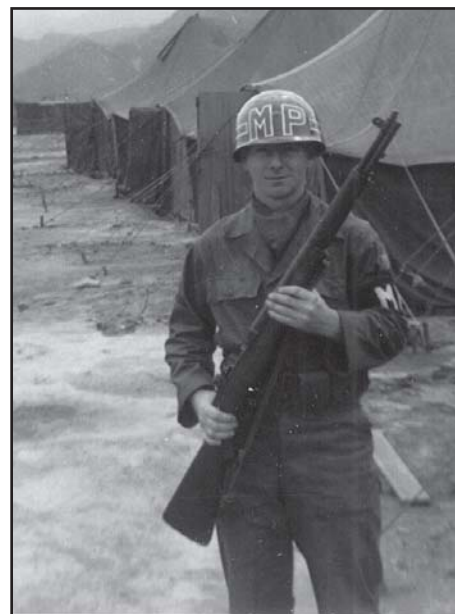
I was drafted into the U.S. Army in February 1952. After training at Fort Riley, Kansas, in March 1953, I was transported from San Francisco to Inchon, Korea, via the *USS General J.C. Breckenridge*. I served with the 10th U.S. Army, 45th Inf. Div., 180th Inf. Regt.

We were sent to occupy a mountain near Sandbag Castle. My company of 40 soldiers included 20 South Koreans who spoke no English. There was no road up the mountain, and after a month-and-a-half we finally were allowed to go down to a creek where we had cold showers. We ate C-rations the whole

time. Then a road was built, and one hot meal was delivered each day.

Our company was on outpost patrol 5 or 6 nights a week, which meant sitting between our front line and the North Koreans' line, waiting and watching for the communist soldiers to attack. I was also on contact patrols, walking up the mountain till the enemy shot at us.

Numbered patrol units were also sent up a valley, the highest numbered unit in the lead. One night our Sergeant was told by a Lieutenant that we were to go to position #3. He was wrong. After a long argument we were sent to position #2.



Cpl Dahman going on duty with the MPs, June 1953



Bunker of E Co., 180th Inf., May 1953



PFC Dahman with BAR, May 1953, when he was with 2nd Plt., E Co., 180th Inf. Regt.



Chow line on back side of hill E Co., 180th Inf. occupied in April 1953

The men in position #3 were attacked as soon as they reached their spot. Of the 10 men, 8 were killed. Six bodies were found the next morning. The other two were not found until the following day, beside a creek, dead and castrated. If it had not been for my Sergeant, we could have been the dead ones.

After a while, I was transferred to the MPs. The four squads I had been with were moved into trenches between the lines, called "No Man's Land." They were hit one night, and 2/3rds of them were killed. I felt I was very lucky to have been in the MPs then.



MPs leveling dirt behind air raid trenches, June 1953



Tank in Korea in April 1953



PFC Dahman loading a 60mm mortar with 4th Platoon, E Co., 180th Inf., June 1953

Hardly a day goes by that I do not think about the close calls I had in Korea.

I have heard remarks made by people that the Persian War was hell, but I guess they think we had it easy. The Gulf War lasted for days, but the Korean War lasted for 3 years and the Vietnam conflict lasted for about 7 years. The point I'm making is: "Don't think only of the current war. Remember the veterans of the other wars, too."

I've heard other veterans express feelings similar to mine.

Robert W. Dahman 525 Coultas Rd., Winchester, IL 62694, 217-742-5273

PFC Dahman with skull figure in front of mess hall, May 1953



The Gulf War lasted for days, but the Korean War lasted for 3 years and the Vietnam conflict lasted for about 7 years. The point I'm making is: "Don't think only of the current war. Remember the veterans of the other wars, too."

Fight Your Last Battle

It was 2012, at a Korean War Veterans reunion in Washington, D.C., that I met the Chair of the Tell America Program of the KWVA Larry Kinard, and Vice Chair Roy Aldridge. We shared a vision to preserve the legacy of the Korean War and Korean War Veterans through our work with the future generations in K-12 schools.

I had met them right after the Korean War Legacy Foundation (KWLF) started its collection of both oral and artifactual histories, starting with the 35 members of KWVA Chapter 105 in Syracuse, NY. In 2013, the KWLF launched the KWV Youth Corps, which led us to a path of transferring your legacy to your grandchildren. I found history teachers among the Youth Corps members, and we began to form a critical mass of history and social studies teachers to utilize the accumulated 700 interviews and 7000 artifacts of KWVs in their classrooms.

The KWLF launched the first History and Social Studies Teachers Conference in 2015. Our goal is to educate teachers on the sacrifice and honorable service of KWVs and Korea's simultaneous achievement of unprecedented economic development and democratization in a short period of time. As we all know, current history textbook coverage of the Korean War is too incomprehensive to expect any student to be interested in learning about the war.

After a year of trials, we found that students are fascinated to learn about detailed stories from each KWV in the form of interviews as well as through pictures, letters, and diaries. So, the KWLF, working with teachers across the nation, proposed an idea of making digital Korean War history textbooks and hosting an annual, professional teachers' development conference to the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS). For your information, the NCSS, formed in 1929, is the largest teachers' organization in the realm of social science, including history. It has tremendous influence on the contents of our history textbooks. Larry Kinard, three teachers, and I made a presentation about the prototype of the digital textbook at the NCSS Conference in 2015 in New Orleans, and discussed with NCSS Vice President Terry Cherry about our proposal.

Today, I want to share the good news with you all that the vision I shared with Larry Kinard and Roy Aldridge in 2012 has come through; NCSS has officially decided to endorse our profes-

sional teachers conference and digital history textbook on Korean War.

This year, we are going to have the Second Annual History and Social Studies Teachers Conference in Orlando, Florida from June 21-24, and, together with the Youth Corps members, supported by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the KWLF will invite one hundred teachers with all expenses paid. In this workshop with a keynote speech by Clifton Daniel (grandson of President Truman), we will learn how to use the KWLF's digital archive for our students and to make history textbook materials. In addition, the foundation will select the ten most competitive teachers and bring them to Korea in July as a part of the MPVA's Revisit Program. With the KWV's, the chosen group will visit the DMZ, major battlegrounds, the National Cemetery, and big Korean companies, learning what KWVs have brought to the nation that had been unknown to many Americans prior to the war.

Please help us spread and promote this vision and encourage teachers and youth in your region to participate in this conference and youth convention. This will be your final battle to preserve and utilize your legacy forever for the generations to come. Please refer to the one-page description on the next page for details on the conference and ask teachers and youth to contact Samantha and Ivy for any questions.

With respect,

Jongwoo Han (President, Korean War Legacy Foundation, www.kwvdm.org)

NAICFM

Members of KWVA Chapter #299 were invited to attend a meeting of the National Association of Intercultural Family Mission. NAICFM is a non-profit charity organization for underprivileged Korean women and fatherless Korean/American children, among other works. KWVA National Director Albert McCarthy addressed the group highlighting the shared concern of Americans, Koreans, and Amerasians for freedom and democracy on the Korean peninsula. Also in attendance was Edward Langevin, Commander of the Korea Veterans of America, Chapter #299 of the KWVA.

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The 2nd History & Social Studies Teachers Conference

“Helping Educators Preserve the Legacy of Our Veterans”

When & Where:

June 21-24, 2016 in Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Tuscany Village in Orlando, FL.

Hosts:

Korean War Legacy Foundation (KWLF, www.kwvdm.org) & Korean War Digital History Project (www.kwdhproject.com)

Endorsed by:

The National Council for Social Studies (<http://www.socialstudies.org/>)

How to become eligible:

- You must be a social studies teacher or media center specialist with a valid school address
- You must participate in an activity with the KWLF during the school year
 - Create a lesson plan that engages students in your school with artifacts from the digital archive (www.kwvdm.org)
 - Help the organization create transcripts for the current interviews in KWVDM
 - Set up interviews of veterans in your media center
 - Complete an analysis of the Korean War coverage in your history textbook
 - Toolkits, tutorials, and samples for all activities are available to help you get started. Contact Samantha.fraser@kwdhproject.org if you have questions

Goals for the Conference:

- Korean War in Textbooks
 - Collaborating for better representation of the Korean War in our schools
 - Work with NCSS to expand coverage of the Korean War in textbooks
- The Digital Memorial
 - Present their use of KWV Digital Archives (www.kwvdm.org) in their classrooms

- Showcase strategies for using artifacts from the archive in the classroom
- ESRI Storytelling hands-on practices
 - Teachers get hands on practice using ESRI to make their lessons digital and interactive
- Interactions with KWVs and related VIPs
 - Live interview sessions with local KWVs and former Commanders
 - Keynote speech from President Truman’s grandson
 - Workshops on how to set up interviews with veterans

Costs:

- If chosen, the KWLF will cover the cost for all programs, meals, and lodging
- Spouse or family members can attend but must pay for their own expenses (contact us on cost)
- Registration fee for teachers who are chosen, \$55 for those who apply by April 30th, 2016

Benefits for Educators:

- Selected teachers will be offered to attend a 7-day research trip to South Korea alongside returning Korean War veterans. (Airfare 75% covered)
- Foundation will offer scholarships to schools based on the quality of presentations
- Internships and scholarship opportunities for highly engaged students
- NCSS-endorsed Certificate of Participation to put towards PLU credits and certification

Questions? Contact Us:

Chair, Samantha Fraser (Samantha.fraser@kwdhproject.org), Ivy Bell (ivybell43@yahoo.com) KWLF President, Jongwoo Han (jonghan@syr.edu, 315-480-9427)

KWVA Tell America Program Chair, Roy Aldridge (roy-aldridge@sbcglobal.net, 915-494-0411)

Submit your proposal for a lesson plan or presentation at www.kwdhproject.org/teacher-conference

THOMAS from page 17

nized in the July 27, 1953 cease fire. The tour was a whirlwind of visiting monuments, the Korean War Museum, presentations, and Panmunjom on the DMZ, and seeing Seoul and the transformation from rubble caused by the war into an industrial, educational, and retail metropolis.

I spent thirteen months in Korea as a 1st Lt. artillery officer in the 7th Infantry Division. I and fellow military veterans answered the call to duty, fighting in a land we knew little about. I am proud of my service in the defense of freedom. Now, the Korean War is no longer “The Forgotten War.”

Background on Honor Flight Network

Since 2005, the Honor Flight Network has escorted nearly 139,000 WWII veterans to the nation’s capital. All of this is due to Retired Air Force Captain Earl Morse, physician’s assistant. He vowed to satisfy the yearning of some of his senior patients who lacked the means to view the WWII memorial. He asked for help from some other pilots—and he got it! Now male and female veterans from more recent conflicts are sent to Washington D.C. The Honor Flight Austin is a non-profit that derives its funds through donations to cover the totally cost-free flights.

Were They Coming From Or Going To Korea?

By Allen Kreymer

The 1950-51 winter set in at Fairchild Air Force Base, out of Spokane, like it was going to get even with someone for something. Four feet of snow, and still snowing, warehouse buildings about to collapse, and the base shut down, because nothing would move. Then comes the call from the base commander. All hands, man the snow shovels, save the warehouses.

Everyone turned out, no exceptions, officers and all, and the snow removal proceeded. The big mystery was where they acquired all those snow shovels. Thousands of them! Every building on the base had a crew on the roof with shovels.

My shoveling partner was a major, all decked out in his flying clothes. When we finished our assigned building—a two-story one, he turned to me and said, “Let’s jump into the snow bank below instead of climbing down.” He then told me about jumping out of a plane—and then he jumped.

Well, not to be outdone by a major, I followed him off from two stories, and ended up to my neck in snow.

The snow removal wasn’t over, and the next night I was out on the runway cleaning off the runway lights. Being low man on the crew, I was delegated the all-night job of my section of the runway. Being dressed for the Arctic, it wasn’t uncomfortable, and I managed to move right along, with only 300 lights to go before morning.

Somewhere around 0100, along came a Jeep containing two Air Police, with the warning of an incoming plane, and for me to stay down in the hole I dug for the light. In about twenty or so minutes, here it came: a B29, with lights glaring, down the runway past me with a noise that unnerved me.

The shoveling went on for several more hours. Just as it was getting daylight, here came the same jeep, with news of another incoming plane. Only this time I get to see what was coming. Way off in the distance, and coming in low, trailing a tail of black smoke, was a twin engine C47 transport.

I watched as he approached, and I noted that black smoke was coming from the engine that was running. The other one was in feather, or not turning. The pilot set the plane down not too far away from me, and rolled only long enough to get it stopped. The doors flew open and soldiers abandoned that aircraft like it had the plague.

The story we heard the next day was that the plane had left Alaska with a load of ground pounders, i.e., Army troops, bound for Great Falls, Montana. Great Falls was closed down due to bad weather, so the pilot flew on to Missoula, Montana—with the same results. Fairchild must have been the only one not closed in, so they took the gamble, and it paid off. Somewhere on the way they lost number two engine, but the Lord was with them, and they made it.

The preceding paragraph was the story going around the base. After seeing the green faces getting off that plane, I believe it.

Allen Kreymer, Box 381, Newport WA 99156

PUSAN PERIMETER

Earlier this month (September) the Korean War came to mind. I was prompted to depict a day in the Pusan Perimeter, during what I think was known as Naktong II. Hence this poem.

Yongsan, South Korea, September 3, 1950

Resting was brief in the darkness and heat
The only sounds were the shuffling feet
Of refugees on the road hurrying away
As we in the fields awaited the coming of day.

“Saddle up,” the order was too soon passed,
Then, the sound of men’s boots on the road walking fast,
What we were there for would happen soon
A battle was coming before the next noon.

Clouds of dust rise as we advance
Out of the darkness and dust, as if from a trance.

Nearing the town we can see from a hill
The tanks and infantry there, firing at will,
Men running wall to wall among narrow lanes
Small crowded thatch houses engulfed in flames,
Exploding shells and their shrapnel,
And corsairs napalming and strafing this Hell.

Under shining sun we go into the fighting ahead
All is in motion - except for the dead,
There, lying in ditches and facing the sky,
Young men from both armies, silent voices joined
In an anthem of “why”?

Afternoon brings rain and the corsairs are grounded
The advance slows, units regroup, the dead are counted.
Then artillery shells and mortars start coming in
And we with the wounded seek shelter from the din.
By the bridge into town a small tin roof building seems alright
To hide from the whistling shrieks and explosions into the night

The only light is a lantern hanging by the door.
The walls shield the stretchers of wounded on the dirt floor.
The explosions all around shake the ground through the night,
Each screaming explosion and its shrapnel brings a new level of fright.

Will this night end? Can we survive?
If there does come a morning will we still be alive?

Then, unexpected, dawn shows in the sky
The shelling slows and corsairs begin to fly,
And we, oh so slowly, know that we did not die.

Was this somehow part of a test?
We’ll soon move to more after another brief rest.

Gerald Weigle, CAPT, JAGC, USN (ret.), Corpsman, 1st Bn.,
5th Marine Regt., Korea, August 1950 to February 1951,
54654 Bellingham Dr., Shelby Township, MI 48316, 248-656-
2717, captjag@sbcglobal.net



"Freedom Is Not Free"



1950-1954



1954-Present



KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION INC.



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Winners to be drawn at October banquet 2016.
Donation \$20 for each ticket. To enter this fundraiser,
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Deadline for ticket donations is Sept 15, 2016

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KWVA INC. Korea War and Korea Service Veterans

Contact: Thomas Mc Hugh, Director Chairman Fundraiser Committee, tmchugh@msn.com for info.

Make check payable to: KWVA or Pay by Credit Card [] Visa [] Master Card

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____ V-Code _____

You need not tear the page out of the Greybeards magazine. You may copy the page and send tickets
with your payment to: **KWVA Membership Office, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407**

Return this ticket with donation of \$20

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ANNOUNCING THE KWVA 2016 FUNDRAISER

The time has again come to enter the KWVA Fund Raiser. As always, we need your help to keep the KWVA functioning.

At this time, I wish to thank all members who participated in the 2015 Fundraiser. We exceeded \$57,000 last year, with a late start. We certainly should do better this year, but only with your help. I congratulated the 2015 winners and look forward to speaking to five new winners this year. The "ALL CASH PRIZES" will allow each winner to get an item of their choice. If in the future, another member donates a fine weapon, it will be one of the prizes offered. All funds raised go to supporting the *Graybeards* and "Tell America Program," without any administrative costs.

I ask that every member who has not had to pay dues in the last 10 years, to please consider participating. Life, POW, Honorary Members your help to cover costs will be appreciated. A very large percentage of our dues go to the *Graybeards* costs. We often get requests to reduce the quantity of *Graybeards* issues. The Board continually votes against those requests, as *The Graybeards* is our

greatest asset. We need financial assistance to reach our goal of \$70,000 for 2016. With your help, we can reach, or exceed that goal.

In addition to the chances attached to the flyer, KWVA challenge coins, hats, patches and pins, are available for sale through the Membership Office. The original KWVA coins can be purchased in bulk, at reduced prices. Your Chapter can sell them locally to raise funds for Chapter projects. They also make excellent gifts, when visiting Veterans in the Hospitals.

If anyone has a question, problem, or needs help in any way, please contact Director Thomas McHugh, Chairman, Fundraiser Committee, 908-852-1964 or tmmchugh@msn.com. Address is available in the *Graybeards*. Thanking you in advance for your participation.

Always Remember: "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE"
(Neither is *The Graybeards*)

Thomas McHugh, Director
Chairman, Fund Raiser Committee

From The Vault

We have here a few photos supplied by Richard P. Ely, formerly of Auburn, PA. Unfortunately, he assumed his final guard post in March 2015. We present these photos as a tribute to his service.



Richard P. Ely in front of the 55th AAA Brigade Communications Center



An empty gravesite of a U.S. Soldier, found near Suwon, South Korea in 1954. Note the bullet hole in the helmet.

Reunion: 25th Division Signal Corps, 'Photo' Section

The 25th Division Signal Corps, "Photo" Section, held its 16th annual reunion, September 16-20, 2015 in Milwaukee, WI. Richard Wawrzyniak, Bob Eifert, Dianne Teske, and Rollie Berens hosted the event, which was held at the Hilton Garden Hotel.

On the final night, attendees and friends gathered for a Hawaiian-themed banquet. The theme was selected for two reasons: 1) the Division is based in Hawaii; 2) our own Steve Uyehara was born in Hawaii. Steve recently had serious surgery and wasn't able to attend the reunion, which was held in his honor. He was greatly missed.

The banquet included leis, Hawaiian shirts, a Don Ho impersonator (George Huhnke), a professional hula dancer, and a comedic 13-year-old amateur boy doing a hula routine. Roy Pinzke's great grandson, Noah, was the positive highlight of the evening.

Hopefully, this won't be our last reunion. If so, we had a terrific run and tons of fun and togetherness.

Thank you one and all!

Rollie Berens, 18400 Brookfield Lake Rd. #42, Brookfield, WI 53045



The men at the 25th Division Signal Corps, "Photo" Section reunion (Back L-R) Richard Wawrzyniak, Roy Pinzke, Doug Cairns, Carlton Sauder, Hank Babel, Bob Eifert. (Front L-R) Rollie Berens, Sterling ("Jay") Brown



The ladies at the 25th Division Signal Corps, "Photo" Section gathering (Back L-R) Tooter Brown, Sue Sanders, Dianne Teske, Mary Cairns, Karen Babel (daughter of George Flynn, who passed away last year). (Front L-R) Pat Pinzke, Joanne Sauder



Hula dancer Rebecca Vincetorre of Fred Astaire Studios in Brookfield, WI, who performed at the 25th Division Signal Corps, "Photo" Section gathering



Roy Pinzke's great grandson Noah teaches hula dances to attendees at the 25th Division Signal Corps, "Photo" Section reunion

The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

43 – KANSAS CITY MISSOURI # 2 [MO]

For the third year Lindsay Rimel, an elementary school teacher at Lutz School, invited us to speak at the Veterans Day assembly. This time it was held on 11 November 2015. As usual, it was a great program.

I am amazed at the talent these 5th grade students have. It was like "Old Home" week for the five

of us who participated. We either went to school there or have children or grandchildren attending Lutz.

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



Billie Gammil, Bob Jones, Vern Scott, and Teresa Curl (L-R) at Lutz School



Vern Scott (L) and Bob Jones (R) of Ch 43 flank Lutz School teacher Lindsay Rimel

Sgt. Ron Goldin (U.S. Army), Billie Gammil (U.S. Air Force), Teresa Curl (U.S. Army), Vern Scott (U.S. Air Force), and Bob Jones (U.S. Army) salute flag at Lutz School



270 – SAM JOHNSON [TX]

Seven members of Sam Johnson Ch 270 made presentations to 1,770 students at Allen High School, Allen, TX on

February 8th and 9th. This number came from the combined history classes and Marine Corps JROTC. Marine Corps JROTC,

which is in the third year at Allen High School, has become quite popular.

Taps was played by a JROTC cadet and Korean War veterans rendered the hand salute. Marine Corps cadets wearing dress blue uniforms accompanied speakers to and from their cars. They assisted them with carrying their maps, charts, and photographs. An opaque projector was used so speakers could show pictures of where they were and how they looked 60+ years ago. Many speakers felt they had not changed much, but the students quickly noticed the contrast between hair and no hair, etc.

Several photos were taken by students and Tell America Program Do's and Don'ts. This list includes no foul language or criticism of public officials, etc.

Students were armed with questions specific to each presenter.

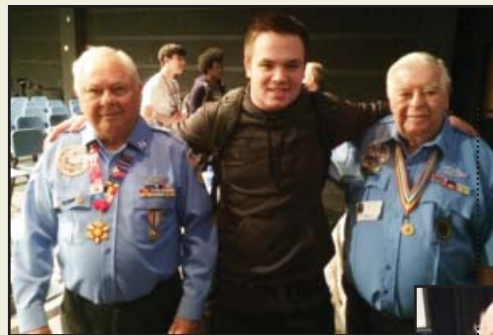
Questions were submitted in advance to Dawn Blake, history teacher and Co-Chair of the Korean War Legacy Foundation, Inc. Speakers answered all the questions.

Allen High School has 6,000 plus students. The marching band, which performed at the Rose Bowl Parade, is the largest band in America, with over 800 members marching in the parade.

The Tell America Program speakers felt they had made a special contribution, one that the history books cannot compete with. They all look forward to returning to Allen High School next year.

All speakers adhere to the Tell America Program Do's and Don'ts. This list includes no foul language or criticism of public officials, etc.

*Glen Thompson, 2005 N. Edwards Ave. Apt 11, Mount Pleasant, TX 75455, 214-284-6515 (H), 903-717-8691 (C),
Gthomp32@Suddenlink.Net*



Allen High student and Ch 270 presenter reach across the generations

Ch 270 member Dick Bové (L) poses with an Allen High School Student





Five Ch 270 members who made presentations to Allen High School students (L-R) Bill Fox, Richard Sanchez, Joe Seiling, Dick Lethe, and Dick Bové

Allen High presenters render salute at presentation



Presenters from Ch 270 (in blue shirts) with Allen High teachers and students



301 – FOOTHILLS [SC]

We shared our program with local home school students. The program, sponsored by the Upcountry History Museum-Furman University, was held on January 29, 2016. Twenty five students and their parents were provided a tour by members of the museum staff, who highlighted the Korean War Art exhibit which had been on display since September 2015.

Members then presented their program as an obligation, a challenge, and an opportunity, with the goal of making a difference in the lives of the people in our community, especially the students in their schools. Telling the story of the Korean War will also help our citizens understand the true meaning of the freedoms that we all enjoy in this country.

The program was directed by President Tom Comshaw (U.S. Air Force). He was joined by Francis Thompson (U.S. Army). They shared personal accounts of their Korean War experiences and sacrifices 66 years ago to stop the advancement of communism and allow the South Korean people to live and enjoy freedom.

We meet on the second Thursday each month, except July, at the Golden Corral, 3240 N. Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville, SC. Business meeting is at 12:30 pm, (Come earlier to enjoy lunch and good fellowship). All Korean veterans are welcome.

For further information call Membership Chairman Jerry Lunsford (864) 244-4508 or President Tom Comshaw, 864-477-4236.

Bridging Generations: With Heroes of the Korean War

Each year since 2014, Cambridge, MA-based Educational Divide Reform (EDR), together with the Andover Public Schools, has invited Korean Middle School students to come to the United States for five

weeks (January 6th to February 14, 2016). While here, the students are fully immersed in American society and engaged with American students and teachers.

During their stay, the students put

on what has become an annual public event, "Bridging Generations: With Heroes of the Forgotten War." The event is part of EDR's Intercultural Leadership Program in collaboration with the Academy at Harvard Square (TAHS), the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA), and Andover Public Schools.

The "Bridging Generations" event celebrates Korean culture and

appreciation for veterans of the Korea War. It is an opportunity for today's generation of Korean youth to share their country's history with veterans who sacrificed to secure freedom and democracy on the Korean Peninsula.

This year National Director Al McCarthy of Ch 299 delivered the opening speech:

You are our Legacy

"Bridging Generations: with Heroes of the Forgotten War"

A program jointly produced by Educational Divide Reform; The Academy at Harvard Square; Andover Public Schools; and the KWVA:

Some have asked why America fought in Korea. The answer is simple; because the struggle for freedom in Korea was and is the same struggle for freedom that America fought so hard for many years ago. The desire of the people of South Korea to live free and determine their own destiny was and is the same desire the American people had in 1776 and still have today.

Our two countries have grown, developed, and prospered because the potential of our people was set free when our military forces defeated dictators who would enslave our minds, bodies, and souls.

So why are we Korea veterans here tonight? It is because you, the youth of South Korea, are our legacy. When we look in your eyes, when we hear your laughter, when we see what your country has done with its freedom, we know that everything we Americans did, and still do, to help ensure your freedom has been worth every single drop of blood, every single drop of sweat, and every single tear that has been shed.

We are proud of what we did in Korea, and very proud of you, our legacy.

God bless you, God bless Korea, and God bless America.



Ms. GoEun Cho, Director, and Mr. Jinseop Jang, Chief Executive Director of the Academy at Harvard Square, display Certificates of Appreciation from Francisco Urena, Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Services (L-R). On right is Albert McCarthy, National Director, KWVA.

Ukrainian guest: GoEun Cho, Dir. TAHS; Jinseop Jang, Chief Exec. Dir. TAHS; Nick Paganella, Former Commander of Ch 300 (still eating kimchi); KWVA; Bob Campbell, Korean Society of New England; Vartkess Tarbassian, Ch 299; Ed Langevin, Cmdr. Ch 299; Al McCarthy, Nat'l. Dir. KWVA; Ken Cook, Ch 299; Dr. Carol Lim, M.D., student at Harvard, MPH (L-R)



Yokosuka And The Korean War



By Tom Moore

Yokosuka, America's base in Japan, is the pillar of peace in the Far East. The waters off the southeast of Japan are some of the deepest in the world, over five miles deep. The Yokosuka Base is located on Miura Peninsula, inside the huge 510-mile Tokyo Bay. It is ten miles south of Yokohama, and forty miles south of Tokyo. Thousands and thousands of American military personnel, and millions upon millions of tons of military supplies for the Korean War, have passed through this military base. Its shipbuilding/repair and ship berthing facilities are outstanding.

Thank You, France

In 1865, a young 28-year-old engineer from France, Francois Leon Verney, looked over Yokosuka harbor. It had a striking resemblance topographically to the French port of Toulon, thus simplifying Verney's task of designing.

In 1866, Verney started with the first of 42 French architects and engineers to build foundries, ship repair slips, shipbuilding ways, warehouses, armories, and quarters. In 1875, the Seiki-Maru, an 897-ton ship,

with a 443-horsepower propulsion-plant, became the first modern warship built in Japan. It had both steam and sails, and could make ten knots speed.

Seiki-Maru was launched at Yokosuka in 1890, as was the first all-steel ship constructed in Japan, the *Yaeyama Maru*, a 1,600-ton warship. To protect Tokyo Bay, three man-made forts in the entrance to Tokyo Bay were completed, heavily fortified, and manned in 1896. They exist today.

A Threat To The U.S.

In 1922, the world's first true aircraft carrier, the *Hosho*, a carrier from the keel up, not a conversion, was completed. By July 1941, the U.S. had clamped an embargo on the export of aviation gasoline, chemicals, iron ore, and scrap metal to Japan, seized all Japanese funds in America, and closed the Panama Canal to Japanese shipping.

Plan Z, the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was adopted in the Japanese War College, and rehearsals for the attack were started in 1941. Vice Adm. Chuichi Nagumo's 167-ship (8 aircraft carriers/600 aircraft) strike force sailed for Pearl Harbor on 22 November, 1941.

On 2 December a coded message was sent to the strike force from the Yokosuka Naval Base by Adm. Yamamoto: Niitaka - Yama Nobore: Ascend Mount Niitaka, code for "Launch the attack on the enemy." Then came the second part of the signal: the number 1208, code for 8 Dec., the date to commence hostilities (Japan time).

A Clever Cover-up

The radio operators of the Japanese ships were kept behind at the Yokosuka Base to send messages to fool U.S. radio monitors, since the operators each had a distinctive transmission touch, to make it seem the attack force ships were still in Japan.

Another cover-up tactic was to send Army soldiers dressed in sailors' uniforms to the haunts on the Ginza in Tokyo, where Yokosuka sailors on liberty congregated, showing the fleet was still in the vicinity.

As a result of that sneak attack, 6 U.S. ships were sunk and 12 ships damaged. Military installations were severely damaged and 188 U.S. aircraft were destroyed. Casualties included 2,004 U.S. navy men, 75 marines and 360 army personnel killed or missing. The Japanese lost 5 midjet sub-

Fireworks explode behind the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Benfold (DDG65) as seen from the flight deck of the U.S. Navy's only forward deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Adrienne Powers/Released)

marines, 28 aircraft, and fewer than 100 men. The U.S. and Japan were officially engaged in World War II.

Building Up Yokosuka—And Its Ships

In late 1943, officials at Yokosuka constructed air raid shelters. The work was done manually by workers using picks, shovels, and wheelbarrows. Within a few months, the hills of the main base were filled with over 500 caves and tunnels and 16 miles of underground caverns.

Underground rooms were 30 by 40 feet. Japan's Yokosuka building of huge war ships was unprecedented. The battleships *Musashi* and *Yamato* displaced over 59,000 tons, exceeding British and U.S. standards at the time of about 35,000 tons.

No nation had ever launched ships large enough to mount nine 18-inch guns. Despite their size, they were not unsinkable. *Musashi* was sunk in October 1944

during the Battle of Leyte Gulf; *Yamato* suffered a similar fate in April 1945 near Okinawa.

And The Ships Get Even Bigger

There was a shield of secrecy surrounding the construction of the *Shinano*, whose keel was laid in 1940 at Yokosuka as a battleship. It was then converted to an aircraft carrier, taking two years longer to build than a battleship. Never had the world seen a warship as large as the *Shinano*, with its 68,000-ton standard displacement, 858-by-162 foot flight deck made of special steel plates that were 11.8 inches thick and reinforced by a heavy layer of concrete so the ship could withstand aerial bombing attacks. The ship was equipped to handle over 85 aircraft of all kinds, and it carried a complement of over 3,500 men.

The secrecy surrounding the construction project was so tight that other shipyard workers did not know the ship was being built. To maintain that secrecy, special

agents of the Kempeitai (secret police) were with the workers, even off duty, and the workers were required to live on the Yokosuka Base. No one inside or outside of Japan knew of the ship's construction.

After four long years of effort, on 11 November 1944 the ship was floated in Dry Dock No 6. It was decided to move the giant vessel to the island of Shikoku, in the Inland Sea, for camouflage and hiding. The "unsinkable" ship, seventeen days after it was launched, got underway on her maiden voyage, with four escorts, on 28 November 1944.

The next day, the U.S. submarine *USS Archerfish* (SS-311), skippered by Cdr. Joe F. Enright, made radar contact with a large fast moving vessel. At 700 yards, Cdr. Enright put six torpedoes into Japan's new aircraft carrier's hull, below the water line, at 3 a.m. At 11 a.m. the giant ship slipped beneath the waves, stern first. The giant ship never fired a shot or launched a plane. It was probably the shortest-lived capital ship in history. The fruit of years of planning and labor at Yokosuka had disappeared—as did Japan's chances of winning

Please turn to **YOKOSUKA** on page 57



USS Charlotte (SSN 766) moors outboard of USS Texas (SSN 775) at Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka. Commander, Submarine Group 7 provide support for submarines deployed to the 5th and 7th Fleet areas of operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Cmdr. Aaron Kakiel/ Released)

Chapter & Department News

NOTE: Due to an unprecedented influx of chapter news, we ran out of space for it in the Jan/Feb 2016 issue. Remember, we have a finite number of color pages in each edition. We do not want to print the color photos in black & white. So, we ended our chapter news with CID 323. Therefore, we begin the chapter news in this edition with those inclusions that were left out of the previous edition. We apologize for the inconvenience.

325 CENTRAL ARKANSAS KWVA [AR]

The Arkansas Korean War Memorial and significant facts about the war itself were featured in a special article in the 24 May 2009 edition of the *Pine Bluff Commercial* newspaper. The article commemorated Memorial Day.

John C. Winningham, 330 Watson Rd., Bradford, AR 72020, 501-724-0782, RonaldPaul@sbcglobal.net



PINE BLUFF COMMERCIAL
SUNDAY, May 24, 2009
129th Year, No. 34

AARP praises Memorial events

AARP Hub 5 touts the Memorial Day activities of Southeast Arkansas, noting that Memorial Day is a day honoring service persons who gave their lives for their country. It is a legal holiday observed the last Monday of the month of May. This date was made a federal holiday by law that became effective in 1971. It remembers those Americans who made the supreme sacrifice in wars from the Revolutionary War to present day conflicts.

In cooperation with the Arkansas Military Heritage Foundation Inc., Gerald Andrews, AARP Hub 5 leader for Southeast Arkansas, wishes to provide information for those who desire to honor those Arkansians who served the state and country in the armed forces with personalized bricks to be placed in the "Arsenal Walk of Honor" at McArthur Park at Little Rock.

Recent preparations for Memorial Day and for those who served in the Korean War era, Andrews, along with members of the Arkansas Korean War Memorial Foundation Board, who established and constructed the memorial in McArthur Park, met recently with the consulate general of the Republic of Korea, Consul General Yun-Soo Cho, who was here on a mission to the government of Arkansas. The consul general was given a tour of the Arkansas Korean War Memorial, dedicated in 2007. Over \$400,000 was contributed via the Korean government, expressing thanks to Americans who sacrificed their lives.

The memorial is full of symbolism. The statues of two soldiers represent the 22 United Nations forces that fought and died for the freedom of the Korean people. Of the two, one is African-American, symbolizing the end of racial segregation in the U.S. military forces. The other is a medic in tribute to the Army combat medics and Navy corpsmen who labored under hostile fire and risked their lives to save the lives of others. The medic is reaching out to two Korean children, which symbolizes the humanitarian efforts that took place to aid the Korean people in their time of desperation. The statues are surrounded by black marble memorial panels with the names of the Arkansians who gave their lives during the Korean War.

Andrews provided statistical information as Memorial Day is observed in Southeast Arkansas on Monday. Often noted as the forgotten war that was sandwiched between World War II and Vietnam, it had historical worldwide impact and was very crucial in delivering freedom from aggression. It was the first war where segregation ended in the armed forces of the United States and was the first war where black and white troops were fully integrated and served side-by-side.

It was the first war for aerial combat between jet aircraft and the first war to make extensive use of the helicopter, Andrews reported.

Statistically:

- 1,789,000 Americans served in the Korean Theater.
- 103,284 Americans were wounded (some multiple times).
- 36,940 Americans died in the Korean Theater.
- 8,176 Americans were listed as missing in action.
- 7,245 Americans became prisoners of war.
- 2,847 Americans died while prisoners of war.
- 461 Arkansians died in the Korean Theater.
- 14 Arkansians were from Jefferson County.

Details: To learn more about the memorial bricks, write to Arkansas Military Heritage Foundation Inc., 503 E. Ninth St., Little Rock, Ark. 72202; phone (501) 376-4602; fax (501) 376-4593; or call Andrews at (870) 536-3627.

327 GEN. JOHN H. MICHAELIS [PA]

Ambassador for Peace Medal Awards Ceremony

Thirty six members received the ROK, Ministry for Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Ambassador for Peace medals at our regular meeting in November 2015. Making the awards on behalf of

the Korean government was Consul Kim Gun-wha.



Ambassador for Peace Medals on display before Ch 327 ceremony



Ch 327 members gather following medal ceremony



Inho Kwon speaks to Ch 327 gathering



Rev. Jong C. Kim offers benediction at Ch 327 ceremony

Consul Kim expressed the gratitude of the Korean people for coming to their defense 65 years ago, enabling them to achieve their status among the economic powers of the world today.



Consul Gun-wha Kim, LtGen Benchhoff, and President Paul Cunningham of Ch 327 flank portrait of Gen Michaelis



Dr. Duckhee Shin addresses Ch 327 group



Vocalist Eun Joo Kim entertains Ch 327 audience

Ch 327 rolled out the red carpet for Consul Kim Gun-wha: (L-R) Paul Cunningham, Dr. Duckhee Shin, Consul Kim Gun-wha, chapter VP William Kelley



Following his remarks, medals were awarded to each of the 36 members. Several other members had received their medals on previous occasions.

Whereas the Ministry has provisions for awarding this medal posthumously, the chapter petitioned to have the medal awarded to our chapter namesake, Gen. John H. Michaelis. On hand to accept the award on behalf of the Michaelis family was Lt. Gen. Dennis Benchhoff, U.S. Army (ret), whose career to some extent paralleled that of Gen. Michaelis.

In accepting the award, Gen. Benchhoff noted that it was a distinct honor to stand in for Gen. Michaelis as he, too, had served in the 101st Airborne Div., and his son had commanded the

502nd Reg. of the 101st, the same unit commanded by Gen. Michaelis in WWII.

On hand to honor these veterans were the three commissioners of Lancaster County, PA, a state senator, and one member of the House of Representatives.

We used this opportunity to reach out to the Korean American community. Bringing greetings on behalf of the Central Pennsylvania Korean American community was Mr. Inho Kwon. Vocalist Eun Joo Kim favored us with a classical rendition of the "Arirang" song, and Rev. Jong C. Kim provided the benediction.

We also received valuable assistance from Dr. Duckhee Shin, a professor at Millersville University, in working with the Korean Consulate and matters of protocol.

We are indebted to Ms. Lynette Trout, President of Oak Leaf Manor, and her staff for use of their fine facility and hospitality.

Paul H. Cunningham, 1841 Pool Forge
Lancaster, PA 17601

Korean War Veterans Assoc. of Arizona, Inc.

Members participated in a 2015 Veterans Day Parade—and won the 1st Place Chairman's Award.

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



Members of Arizona #3 at Veterans Day Parade



Commander Kelly Sheets of Ch 3 and his son motor through the Arizona Veterans Day Parade

Ch 3's first place award

HAWAII

On December 21, 2015, a group of our Korean War veterans, military personnel, and civilian dignitaries and guests, numbering about 300 people, attended dinner aboard two South Korean Navy ships. The commander, Cruise Training Task Group ROK at Pearl Harbor, hosted the event.



Canvas sign on ship welcoming Korean War veterans to dinner in Hawaii



South Korean sailors salute a KWVA member at gangplank



Stanley Fujii with ships' captains Park, Hoo Byeong of Kang Gam Chan, and Woo, Sang Hyun of Dae Cheong

This world-class function was held under a huge canopy over the helicopter pads of the two ships, helicopter destroyer Kang Gam Chan, DDH-973 and a Fast Combat Support Ship, Dae Cheong AOE58. Dignitaries in attendance included ADM Harry

B. Harris, Pacific Commander, and Korean Consulate General Walter K. Paik.

The three-hour function included dinner, thank you tributes to Korean War veterans, and a variety of top entertainment by crew members that was very enjoyable and memorable.

Stanley Fujii, Hawaii Chapter #1, Publicity Chairman
stan_fujii@hotmail.com



Guests arriving at party aboard South Korean ships

Hawaiian guests enjoy buffet line aboard South Korean ships



MISSOURI

Veterans Honored In St. Peters, MO

Ken Cox, of MO #44, Missouri #1, and Dave Swinney, of MO #96, North St. Louis County #4, were requested by the Brookdale, a St. Peters independent retirement community, to produce a program honoring all veterans and loved ones of veterans living within the complex or attending the program.

Flags of each branch of service (Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard) were presented, and all people being honored were asked to stand and be proudly recognized while each respective branch's military song was sung.

Explanations of the symbols and history on each branch flag and the POW/MIA flag were given by Paul DeMereth and Peter Cauchon, members of the "Heroes of '76" from the St. Louis Scottish Rite.

Ray Leisure, Executive Director of Brookdale, St. Peters, dedicated a permanent plaque within the facility in memory of all American veterans. Mr. Leisure said, to the best of his knowledge, this is the only complex within the Brookdale Family with such a memorial to veterans.

Ken Cox, 2 Brentmoor Ln., Saint Peters, MO 63376, 636-794-1310, KDC1@wans.net



Ray Leisure, Pater Cauchon, Dave Swinney, Paul DeMereth, and Ken Cox (L-R) next to memorial plaque



Ken Cox (L) and Dave Swinney at Brookdale presentation

SOUTH DAKOTA

First state-wide medal award program recognizes sacrifices of those who served in the Korean War

South Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs presents Ambassador for Peace Medals to 470 veterans in South Dakota

South Dakota's Korean War Memorial stands outside the State Capitol in Pierre. A lone soldier watches over a wall with names of fallen servicemen engraved upon it. Sungchoon Park, South Korea's Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, placed a wreath at the memorial on a snowy, icy cold morning on January 12, then officiated in the Capitol rotunda, where medals were presented to 200 veterans. Another 270 were presented simultaneously at various locations throughout the state.

We will not use too many words to describe this amazing event. Instead, we refer veterans to the attached full-length video that was developed by South Dakota Public Broadcasting (see link below).

The State of South Dakota spent many months locating all of the Korean War veterans that it could find, and secured requests for almost 500 Ambassador for Peace Medals.

Larry Zimmerman, the secretary of the state's Department of Veterans Affairs, led the charge on that project. During the ceremony he said he wept during the planning, just before, during,



Korean War Veteran Don Barta of Rapid City, South Dakota in a corridor of the State Capitol Building after receiving his Ambassador for Peace Medal, along with nearly 500 other veterans throughout the state. Every veteran was presented with a scarlet scarf. Mr. Barta also received a personal gift from the Korean People that he carries in the white satchel



The South Dakota Korean War Memorial

and would shed tears again following the ceremony.

The Korean War Veterans recognition program was approved and encouraged by South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard, who participated in the ceremony, even though that same day he had delivered the South Dakota State of the State address, in conjunction with the 2016 opening of the state legislature.

Minister Sungchoon Park, who had been a lieutenant general in the ROK Army before entering public life, personally presented some of the medals. The presentations were made at the same time to 470 veterans, including more than 200 in the capitol building and others at various locations throughout the state.

To get an impression of this singularly outstanding program, we recommend tuning in to the full-length video provided by South Dakota Public Broadcasting, by clicking on this link: <https://youtu.be/kL40y6VVaQ>

Source: *KOREAN WAR VETERAN, Internet Journal for the World's Veterans of the Korean War, January 13, 2016, Koreavetnews@aol.com*

New Chapter News Begins Here

5 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA [CA]

We have new officers: John Baker, Treasurer; Frank Rose, 2nd Vice President; Bill McKenny, 1st Vice President; Joe Cosca, President; Leroy Newenfeld, Founder Member; Rae Cosca, Secretary. Joe Cosca takes over for Past President Chuck Goff.

Frank Rose, frose32@yahoo.com

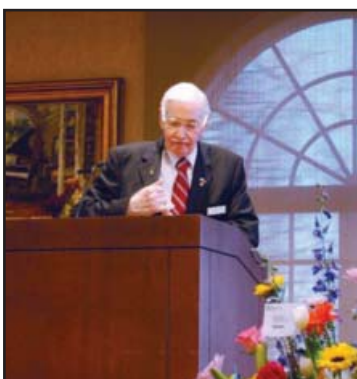


New Ch 5 officers: John Baker, Frank Rose, Bill McKenny, Joe Cosca, Leroy Newenfeld, Rae Cosca, Secretary



Joe Cosca, new President of Ch 5 (L) and Chuck Goff, Past President

19 GEN RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]



President Bob McCubbins speaks at the memorial service for Brigadier General Harold A. Dye

Wright, USAF (ret). He spoke of his three degrees, his time as a test pilot at Travis AFB, his many awards, including the Silver Star and Distinguished Flying Cross, and his 11 campaign ribbons.

During his service time he was chief pilot for President Ronald Reagan and Vice-President Walter Mondale. He answered many interesting questions.

We were saddened by the loss of Brigadier General Harold A. Dye. According to his obituary in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, "General Dye passed away peacefully Dec 9th [2015] at the age of 98." He was an active member of our chapter up till the last couple of years.

We donated two wheelchairs to the Atlanta Veterans Hospital.

The speaker at our February 2016 luncheon was Brigadier General Larry D.



BGen Larry D. Wright speaks to Ch 19 audience



Jack Robinson, Bob Hendershott, Dr. Anthony Cooper, Hospital Voluntary Chief, Urban Rump, Bob More, Bob McCubbins and Jim Conway (L-R) of Ch 19 at Atlanta Veterans Hospital

Since the lunch was on Groundhog's Day, President Bob McCubbins presented to guest Myungwoo NAM from the Consulate Office a toy which was the closest we could come to a groundhog.



Myungwoo NAM displays groundhog he received at Ch 19 luncheon

Thaddeus Sobieski, Jack Robinson, Bob Hendershott, David Lee, Jim Conway, Rodney Rector, and Stan Fisher of Ch 19 at U.S. Chamber of Commerce dinner



We were well represented at the Korean South East chapter of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce dinner held at the KIA automotive plant in West Point, GA.

Jim Conway, conatlanta@comcast.net

40 MINNESOTA #1 [MN]

February 12, 2016 was the day the Medical Center in Minneapolis honored hospitalized veterans. The VAVS, Veterans Administration Volunteer Service members handed out valentines made by local school children, along with caps and pins. The volunteers socialized with the veterans while thanking them for their service to our country.



Doug Ackerman (L) of Ch 40 and John Shelito at Minneapolis Veterans Hospital

Among the representatives were U.S. Marine Corps Korean Service veteran Doug Ackerman and former Adjutant, Army National Guard of Minnesota, MajGen Larry Shelito, who is now the head of the Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs. (Photo by Blair C. Rumble)

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

56 VENTURA COUNTY [CA]

We participated in the Santa Paula, CA Veterans Day ceremonies on 11 November 2015, which honored all medics.

David Lopez, 3850 W 180th Pl., Torrance, CA 90504, 310-323-8481, LopezPitts9@aol.com



George Castaneda, David Lopez, Manuel Adame, John Campos, and Lee Mills (L-R) of Ch 56 at Santa Paula, CA ceremony



David Garcia, David Lopez, Sammy Salas and Rudy Arellano (L-R) representing Ch 56 at Veterans Day ceremony



David Lopez, Martin Vasquez, and Gerald Olivas of Ch 56



Honoree Korean War medic Delton 'Lee' Johnson, of Ch 56 (R) with David Lopez on Veterans Day

84 IRON TRIANGLE [OR]

For the past several meetings, we have heard stories and experiences from our members. To begin the new year, chapter member, Marine with E-2-7, and author, Vito "Ted" Pileggi, spoke of his experiences prior to, during, and after his Korean War activities. He authored the book "Easy Company Marines-More Than Brothers," which is an excellent read and is available through Amazon.

The chapter meets at 11:30 a.m. on the 4th Wednesday of the month for a buffet at Canton Gardens Restaurant in Salem. We are not the largest chapter. However, we enjoy the meetings, the conversations, and, of course, the "sea stories."

Most of the membership is from Salem or the mid-Willamette Valley area. New members are always welcome.

Bob "Doc" Wickman, Korea '53/54
rcwickman@comcast.net

121 GREATER CINCINNATI [OH]

Members were interviewed and recorded on DVD by Nah Young Wook from the TV Korean Channel. Each of them received a copy of the DVD.

Bob McGeorge, 3296 Blueacres Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45239



Interviewees from Ch 121

133 THE QUIET WARRIORS [IN]

At our annual Korean Thanksgiving Lunch, all Korean veterans were presented with gift certificates from Mr. Lee, who runs our local Naked Tschopstix Restaurant. It is a very elegant Korean, Japanese, and Asian restaurant located on the southwest edge of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

We used the gift cards together to hold our annual Christmas gathering at that location. We meet after the Christmas rush is over. This year we picked January 12th for our Christmas lunch.



Ken Kurtz (Commander), Dick Loney, Howard Rice, Mel & Joan Aldridge, Julia & John Perry, Joan Botas and Asian chefs (L-R) at Ch 133's Christmas lunch

The cuisine and service were excellent. So, we are discussing the possibility of making this an annual event.



Julia & John Perry, Ken Kurtz, Joan Aldridge, Korean chef, Mel Aldridge, Howard Rice, Dick Loney, Joan Batas (L-R) highlight the décor at Naked Tschopstix Restaurant in Fort Wayne, IN, where Ch 133 held its Christmas lunch

Unfortunately, January 12, 2016 was the day after our heaviest snowfall of this season. That kept some of our members from attending, but we are looking forward to meeting there for our special events.

Dick Loney, 6324 Holgate Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46816-1523, 260-447-5296, deltadick2@gmail.com

150 NORTHWEST ILLINOIS [IL]

Two members, Ron Lawfer and Shirley Toepfer, were involved with taking quilts to the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital in Madison, WI. The ladies of Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton, IL made the quilts.

Pat Laufer and Bonnie Bordell assisted in the effort.

Shirley Toepfer, 226 N. Main St.
 Stockton, IL 61085, 815-947-3639



Ron Lawfer, Shirley Toepfer, Pat Lawfer, and Bonnie Bordell of Ch 150 (L-R)

170 TAEJON [NJ]

Chapter Honors 1st Student Bus Company

On a cold, icy February 16, 2016 morning we honored the 1st Student Bus Company of Englewood, NJ. Commander Kenneth

Green expressed our thanks and appreciation and presented to the director of the company, Cathy Nunziato, two 8 x 10 framed photos. The company has been a supporter of Korean War and chapter veterans for over ten years.



Louis Quagliero, Kenneth Green, Cathy Nunziato, and William Burns (L-R) at Ch 170's photo presentation

One photo showed chapter members in front of their 1st Student bus prior to leaving for the Veterans Day Parade in New York City on November 11, 2015. The second contained the copy of a Korean War statement by Commander Green as he presented



Kenneth Green, Louis Quagliero, 1st Student bus driver Antonio, Cathy Nunziato, and William Burns (L-R) prior to Ch 170's departure to New York City on 11-11-2015



Ch 170 Color Guard member Alexander Atheras with South Korean veterans at New York City parade

a medal to member Dominick DiPaolo, which was donated by retired Korean General Choi, Seung-woo to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Inchon landing in September 1950.

Members stood at attention as the commander placed the medal around DiPaolo's neck. At the Inchon landing DiPaolo was a part of the first wave of Marines in the surprise operation that caught the North Koreans off guard—and turned the war in our favor.

Nineteen members participated in the biggest Veterans Day parade in the nation in New York City, sponsored by the United War Veterans Council of New York City. The famous Fifth Avenue parade attracts 25,000 participants from 30 states and over half a million spectators.



Parade participants from Ch 170 preparing to board bus to New York City



Members of Ch 170 with Korean Navy officer in New York City: George Rothfritz, John DiLonardo, Henry Ferrarini, Alexander Atheras, and Joseph Louis (L-R)

Chapter members met at the VFW building where we have our meetings and traveled the twelve miles into New York City by school bus. Although the traffic was heavy and the going slow, we arrived at Madison Square Park in time for the opening ceremony, which featured remarks by the mayor, elected officials, ranking military officers, veterans groups officials, special guests, and music by the West Pont band. The ceremony included wreath laying, a 24-rifle salute, and "Taps."

The parade began at approximately 11:30 a.m. It was still in

progress by the time we boarded our bus for the return trip to Saddle Brook, NJ, where we enjoyed a post-parade free meal at Applebee's Restaurant.

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



Commander Kenneth Green of Ch 170 prepares to lead members on New York City parade route

209 LAREDO KWVA 1950 [TX]

The local Border Patrol Helicopter Unit invited us to an open house recently. Several members attended.

Edwardo R. Sanchez Jr., 2519 Garfield St.
Laredo, TX 78043



Border Patrol members with Ch 209 delegation



Border Patrol helicopter pilot stands tall at open house—as do Ch 209 members



Group photo of heroes from different types of war: U.S. Border Patrol and Ch 209 veterans of the Korean War

112 LAKE ERIE [OH]

Seven members received their Ambassador for Peace Medal recently. They included Commander Steve Szekely, Finance Officer John Bindas, Jr., Secretary Richard Doremus, and Ed Thomas. Of the three others, two were in Florida and one lives in Indiana.



Richard Doremus, Ed Thomas, John Binder, and Steve Szekely of Ch 112 (L-R)



The atom bomb model displayed for Ch 112 meeting

At a recent meeting Tony Mazzolini displayed a model of the atom bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima. We learned that the actual bomb was twelve feet in length. He received the model in recognition for his initiative in starting the restoration work on the B-29 "Doc."

Steve Szekely, 1516 Laclede Rd., South Euclid, OH 44121, 216-381-8090, sxszek@sbcglobal.net

222 DON C. FAITH (MOH) [TX]

Silver Star and Purple Heart recipient President Homer Garza was honored at the 14th Annual Purple Heart banquet on 20 February 2016 in Killeen, TX. The event was held at the Fort Hood Officers Club.

Eddie Bell, 1105 Craig St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522, 254-661-4673, eddiebell858@yahoo.com or eddiebell858@gmail.com



Homer Garza of Ch 222 at Purple Heart banquet

243 PEORIA [IL]

Korean Service Veterans Servicing Peoria, IL Area Donate \$11,200 to the La Salle Veterans Home



Ch 243 presentation at LaSalle, IL Veterans Home: Maria Malic, East Wing Supervisor - Diane Zoil, Northwest Supervisor - Larry Wilson, Resident, and Ch 243 Veterans Walter "Pete" Williams - William Noack, Charles Kalb and Chuck Noack (L-R)

We have been busy raising money for the La Salle Veterans Home in La Salle, IL. Funds raised are due to the generosity of the citizens of the Peoria area. In donating to the "Blue Daisy" project, the Korean veterans were able to give \$11,200 to purchase equipment, such as Fold-Up Digital Wheel Chair Scales, a Maxi Move Combo Patient Lift, personal items for the veterans, and the means to host a first-time picnic for them. We presented the donation on 21 January 2016.

In addition, \$2,000 was given to the Veterans Home at Quincy, as two of our members have former Army buddies living there. This money was designated to be used for these two veterans.

The Korean Veterans Chapter 243 meets at the VFW in Bartonville on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Any Korean Service veteran may join our organization by contacting Commander Walter "Pete" Williams at 309-697-3307.

Don Gustin, D401water@gmail.com

251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

On December 8, 2015 we held our annual Christmas Party at Zehnder's in Frankenmuth, MI. Zehnder's is famous for serving family-style chicken dinners. There were 69 people in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the good fellowship, food, and entertainment provided by Ollie's Follies.



Mr. & Mrs. Jack Leaman, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Redifer, and Mr. & Mrs. George Schnept (L-R) represent Ch 251 at dinner-dance

The group sang Christmas carols, hymns, and concluded by singing the different armed forces songs. Members of each branch stood when their song was played. Everyone had an enjoyable time.

Several members and guests attended the 6th annual Veterans Sweet Heart Dinner and Dance on February 14, 2016 at the Horizon Conference Center in Saginaw, MI. Everyone enjoyed an excellent dinner and the dancing that followed.

The Aleda E. Lutz Voluntary Service, Marine Corps League, John C. Rock #902



Ron & Karen Sharp and Ch 251 program director Jack Leaman (L-R)

Around the table at Ch 251's Christmas party (L-R): Mr. & Mrs. Dick Redifer, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hunter, Mr. & Mrs. William Theisen, and Eugene Feinauer



and community veteran organizations sponsored the event.

Ron and Karen Sharp, Volunteer Puppy Counselors, with a retired leader dog in attendance, gave a talk to us at a recent meeting about leader dogs for the blind and deaf. They explained how the puppies are raised for twelve months. During that time they learn housebreaking, obedience, socializing, and how to sit. After that they receive advanced training and are matched with a recipient to complete their training.

Richard Carpenter, 4915 N. River Rd.
Freeland, MI 48623

258 NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND [RI]



Commander Richard St. Louis of Ch 258, Cameron Fleury, and Edward P. Kane

Wreaths Across America truck at Rhode Island veterans cemetery

Edward P. Kane, the State of Rhode Island's President Committee on Veteran Affairs, and chapter commander Richard N. St. Louis presented a state proclamation to seven-year-old Cameron Fleury of North Smithfield, RI. Cameron collected funds on his



Guests at Ch 258's Christmas party included Mr. & Mrs. Gerald O'Neill

own to help homeless veterans and donated them to help homeless veterans and allocated them to us to administer.

Our 2015 Christmas party was well attended.

Six Wreaths Across America trucks stopped nearby at our local veterans cemetery en route from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery.



Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jaworski at Ch 258's Christmas event



Ch 258's Christmas party guests included Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Midon



Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Pezzullo enjoy Ch 258's Christmas festivities

Nicholas Paiva
42 Morgan Ave.
No. Providence, RI 02911

264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

We participated in a Veterans Day ceremony in conjunction with the VFW, VFW AUX, and the Blue Star Mothers. The event was held in a reserved section of Hillcrest Park in Concord, CA.

There were approximately 400 people in attendance on a sunny, mild day with a temperature of about 65 degrees.

Stanley J. Grogan, 2585 Moraga Dr., Pinole, CA
94564, 510-758-7534; SJGent@hotmail.com



A part of the large crowd that attended Ch 264's Veterans Day ceremony

NAICFM

Members were invited to attend a meeting of the National Association of Intercultural Family Mission (NAICFM), a non-profit charity organization for underprivileged Korean women and fatherless Korean/American children, among other works.



Attendees at NAICFM meeting

KWVA National Director Albert McCarthy addressed the group, highlighting the shared concern of Americans, Koreans, and Amer-Asians for freedom and democracy on the Korean peninsula. In attendance was chapter commander Edward Langevin.

We were well represented at the Korean Consulate General's Luncheon of Boston. Almost fifty members attended.

Albert McCarthy, mccarthy.albert@live.com and Jeffrey J. Brodeur, 48 Square Rigger Ln. Hyannis, MA 02601



ABOVE: USMC Color Guard at Veterans Day ceremony attended by Ch 264 members

RIGHT: Korean War memorial in Concord, CA

BELOW: Terry Hooker (L) and Don Sharp of Ch 264 dole out free bottles of water at Veterans Day commemoration



What better place for a restored U.S. Army jeep than Ch 264's Veterans Day event?



LEFT: Al McCarthy (L) and Ed Langevin (R) of Ch 299 meet with NAICFM member

BELOW: Ch 299 members at Boston luncheon with Korean Consulate General of Boston Song-jun Ohm and Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Services Francisco Urena





Members of Ch 299 at Boston luncheon: former KWVA National Director Jeff Brodeur stands in middle

312 ANTIETAM [MD]

KWVA Vets Visit Letterkenny Army Depot

Among the many Veterans Day events that Antietam Chapter 312 participated in was a trip north to Letterkenny Army Depot in Scotland, PA. An inter-faith service was held on November 8th in the historic Letterkenny Chapel to honor veterans of all wars.

The chapel is unique in that it was built by Italian Service Unit prisoners of war during World War II and dedicated on May 13, 1945. The Rev. Dr. William Harter presided at the service where the Rev. Chi Hyeon Yun of the Hagerstown Korean Church was the featured speaker.

Chapter members attending the service were Commander Jim Mobley, Past Commander Les Bishop, and Secretary Dr. Charles Gaush. During the past year, the Hagerstown Korean Church and our chapter have participated together in a number of social events. Numerous members from Pastor Yun's church also attended the ceremony.

Following the service, a military tribute was presented at the 911 Memorial Park adjacent to the chapel.

Les Bishop, lbishop@myactv.com

318 INDIAN RIVER [FL]

We elected new board members for 2016. They were installed December 3, 2015 and included Commander & Director Joseph A. Gomez; First Vice Commander & Director Genaro J. Pisano; Second Vice Commander & Director Robert N. Boob Jr.; Judge Advocate & Director Peter A. Budelli; Treasurer & Director: Roger D. Stoffer; Recording Secretary & Director Stanford Erickson; Director Telephone Committee Willard C. Burner III; Director of Entertainment Leon P. Lenzi; Director/Assistant Treasurer Thomas B Browne; Director of Membership William Duggan

Joseph A. Gomez, P.O. Box 650094
Vero Beach, FL 32965



New 2016 Board Members for Ch 318 (L-R) Joseph A. Gomez, Genaro Pisano, Stanford Erickson, Willard C. Burner III, William Duggan, Leon P. Lenzi

321 RICHARD L. QUATIER [WA]

We have new officers for 2016: Ms. Dixie Hotaling (Secretary); David Vasowate (Director); Robert Sumril (1st Vice Commander); George Raynor (Protocol Officer/Director); Edward L. Barnes (Commander); Harold R. Olson (Director/Korean Ambassador Liaison); Rev. Jerry L. Keesee, (Director).

The background in the photo below of the officers is the recent mural established by our group and dedicated to the veterans of the Korean War. The wall is located in Vancouver, WA, in conjunction with memorials honoring veterans from all United States conflicts.



New officers of Ch 321: Dixie Hotaling, David Vasowate, Robert Sumril, George Raynor, Edward L. Barnes, Harold R. Olson, Rev. Jerry L. Keesee (L-R)

The wall is extremely well done and open to the public as a park.

Harold R. Olson, 1702 N. W. Gregory Dr.
Vancouver, WA 98665, 360-694-0279

323 PO2 TAYLOR MORRIS [IA]

Member Don Moon swore in our new officers: President Ed Pagliai. 1st Vice President John Rossi, Secretary Lynn Runge,

and Treasurer Glen Hollister.

Bill Hartsock, 5180 Stone Creek Dr., Pleasant Hill, IA 50327, 515-494-6106, BHartsock3478@msn.com



Don Moon, behind podium, swears in new Ch 323 officers: President Ed Pagliai, 1st Vice President John Rossi, Secretary Lynn Runge, and Treasurer Glen Hollister (R-L)



Members of Ch 323 observe new officers being sworn in



Group of Ch 323 members witness new officers swearing in ceremony

NEW JERSEY

EDITOR'S NOTE: Although this notice was sent to New Jersey KWVA members, it is applicable to our entire membership.

REMINDER

To all members of the Department of New Jersey KWVA:

It is extremely important that all members of the Korean War Veterans Association be aware that as a tax-exempt organization we must be a non-partisan organization. We cannot support candidates or political parties.

KWVA shall not be used for the promotion of political candidates, partisan politics or issues and interest not authorized by the National Organization. The use of its name, uniform, insignia, and titles of rank, past or present, directly or indirectly, for any such purpose, is expressly forbidden.

Charles Koppelman, Department of New Jersey
Commander

TEXAS

Texas State President Eddie Bell presented the South Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal to Past KWVA National Veterans Service Officer and Past President of Ch 222 (Don C. Faith (MOH) Arthur E. Hills.



LEFT: Eddie Bell (L) presents Ambassador For Peace Medal to Arthur E. Hills

BELOW: Arthur E. Hills (L) and Eddie Bell display new Texas KWVA state flag



There was a Memorial Dedication and Presentation of Texas Purple Hearts ceremony at Ft. Hood, TX on 11 March 2016. Several KWVA members attended. The memorial commemorates the 5 November 2009 terrorist act that claimed the lives of 13 people and wounded more than 30 others.



Eddie Bell
1105 Craig St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522
254-661-4673,
eddiebell858@yahoo.com or
eddiebell858@gmail.com

Eddie L. Bell (L) in front of the Korean War Memorial in Killeen, TX with Anthony T. Triola, field rep for TX Congressman John Carter (R-31st District), at Ft. Hood ceremony



November 5, 2009
Fort Hood Memorial
Fermin Cantu (L) of Ch 222, Killeen, TX City Councilman Juan Rivera, and Texas State President Eddie Bell at Ft. Hood ceremony

The cover of the Ft. Hood memorial dedication

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



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,
2473 New Haven Circle
Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141

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7 – 20 May VN “Delta to the DMZ” I-II-III-IV Corps

21 May – 1 Jun WWI 100th Anniversary of the Great War-1916 Verdun plus U.S. AEF Battlefields & Paris

★ 1 – 10 Jun WWII D-Day: Normandy to Paris

2 – 12 Jul WWII 75th Anniv Op Barbarossa
“Eastern Front” Kursk, Moscow & Stalin-grad Post: St. Petersburg

15 – 27 Jul VN “Saigon to the DMZ”
I-II-III-IV Corps

15 – 27 Jul VN I-Corps “Chu Lai to DMZ”

18 – 24 Jul WWII 72nd Anniv Guam & Tinian Liberations plus Saipan too!

31 Jul – 10 Aug WWII Battle of Guadalcanal

20 Aug – 1 Sep VN 50th Anniv of Op Prairie I-Corps

20 Aug – 2 Sep VN “Saigon to the DMZ” I-II-III-IV Corps

29 Sep – 11 Oct All of Ireland Dublin—Derry—Belfast plus-WWII Sites of U.S. Marines, Soldiers & Sailors

Korean War Veterans Association: 2016 Subsidized Tours



13198 Centerpointe Way,
Ste 202 Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285
800-722-9501 * www.miltours.com
mhtours@miltours.com

Freedom is Not Free:

Chapter 74 Honors 65th Anniversary of War

Dongwon and StarKist hosted a luncheon for the Korean War Veterans of Western PA, General Matthew B. Ridgeway, Chapter 74, in commemoration of their service and the 65th anniversary of the Korean War.

On August 11, 2015 more than 100 Korean War veterans of Western Pennsylvania and their esteemed guests, along with Andrew Choe, President & CEO of StarKist, and City of Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, attended the event at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square.

In addition, there was a special program which included:

- Soprano Minyoung Joanne Chung, who sang the United States and Korean national anthems to begin the program.
- Cellist Ji-Yool Moon, whose music guests enjoyed during the lunch. Moon is a 14-year old student from the Fox Chapel area.
- Mayor Bill Peduto, who presented a City of Proclamation making August 11th Korean War Veterans of Western Pennsylvania Day in the City of Pittsburgh.
- Andrew Choe presenting a speech and video.



Attendees at Ch 74 gathering

- Remarks made by Ed Stevens, Founding President of the Korean War Veterans of Western Pennsylvania, Don McIlrath, President of the Korean War Veterans of Western Pennsylvania, and Chuck Marwood, Treasurer of the Korean War Veterans of Western Pennsylvania.

At the conclusion of the luncheon the Korean War veterans were presented with a commemorative custom made necktie.

Joseph Choi (StarKist), Don McIlrath, Karen Fedusa (StarKist), Chuck Marwood, Billy Hwang (StarKist), and Jae Choi (StarKist) (L-R) at Ch 74 event



CAPTIVE MEMORIES

By Richard J. Connors

Problems with civilian detainees and prisoners of war are making headlines today at the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where members of al-Qaida and the Taliban are being held.

Fifty years ago, during the Korean War, similar problems created headlines. But let's hope that history doesn't repeat itself, especially the May 9, 1952, Asbury Park Press headline: "General Dodd Held in Cell By Red Prisoners."

In an unbelievable scenario, the commandant of the United Nations prisoner of war camp on Koje-do Island, off Korea's south coast near Pusan, was seized and held hostage by a group of prisoners. An unknown place in a long-forgotten war was having its brief fling in the world's spotlight.

During the preceding fall my outfit (the 453rd Engineer Heavy Construction

Battalion, 8th Army) had finished rebuilding the railroad—destroyed in earlier fighting—from Seoul, South Korea, north to Chorwon. The railroad would be used to bring troops and supplies to the front, as well as to evacuate the wounded.

At Chorwon, Chinese artillery fire shut us down. We were then shipped on an old LST (Landing Ship Tank) from Inchon (Seoul's port) to Koje-do. It was a three-day trip, during which we subsisted on a steady diet of cold "C" rations, since there were no cooking facilities available. Cold franks and beans for breakfast. Ugh!

We disembarked in early December 1951 at this site of the U.N.'s principal POW camp. (Other prisoners were scattered among small camps on the Korean mainland.) Koje is a lush, mountainous island, a place of considerable natural beauty. But my first impression—still vivid after a half century—was distinctly negative. It was of a long line of cold, bedraggled prisoners, clad in ill-fitting army fatigues and shuffling along in oversized boots, typically with broken shoelaces.

They trudged down the muddy road, two by two, each pair carrying half a 56-gallon oil drum suspended from a wooden pole. The stench told me these "honey buckets" contained human waste, which the POWs were soon to dump on Koje's tidal flats. After emptying these foul loads, the prisoners shuffled back, faces expressionless, to their dreary tents and barracks in barbed wire-enclosed compounds. This was my introduction to the POW world.

Gradually, the background was filled in. When the U.N. forces, primarily American

and South Korean, were pushed back to the Pusan perimeter in the summer of 1950, the thousands of refugees who tagged along created a strategic and logistical nightmare for the beleaguered troops.

In September, a surprise landing at Inchon by the U.S. military sent North Korean forces streaming back over the 38th Parallel, from which they had launched the war on June 25. The North Koreans left behind thousands of soldiers, as well as civilians whom they had forced to work for or fight with them.

Autumn 1950 saw a confusing ebb and flow of combat. The U.N. forces drove north to the Yalu River, the boundary between North Korea and Manchuria, then retreated south of Seoul after the Chinese entered the fray in October. This retreat, coupled with the onset of bitter winter weather, brought death or imprisonment to many a U.S. soldier and Marine.

Another byproduct of the fighting was a rapid rise in the U.N. prisoner count, which reached an estimated 130,000 by the end of the year.

The prisoners at Koje

What to do with this mass of humanity? Although some camps were set up near Pusan, most POWs were shipped early in 1951 to Koje-do, where they would not interfere with logistical operations, i.e., the flow of men, arms, ammunition, food, etc., through the port of Pusan to combat and service troops. Koje already was home to thousands of refugees who had abandoned the mainland and thrown up crude huts of mud, thatch and tin to fend off winter's cold.



Richard Connors with Korean children on Koje-do



Battle souvenirs: a North Korean flag, spear and hammer



Anti-Communist prisoners are driven out of the United Nations POW camp on Kojé in April 1952. U.N. commanders wanted to reduce tensions by sending the anti-communists back to the Korean mainland, and then establishing control over them by moving them into smaller compounds.



Compound 76 in the United Nations prisoner-of-war camp on Kojé-do was where Brig. Gen. Francis T. Dodd, the camp commandant, was seized. In the aftermath of the hostage incident, American and other U.N. troops re-established control over the compounds and moved many POWs off Kojé, but not before a bloody battle inside compound 76 that left 31 POWs dead and 139 wounded. Following the battle, these GIs leave the burning site.

The prisoners shipped to Kojé were a mixed bag, including fanatic North Korean army officers, some of whom had deliberately become prisoners in order to maintain control over their fellow soldiers. But the camp also held bandits, civilians of questionable political allegiance, and former soldiers in the Chinese army of Chiang Kai-shek, “drafted” by the Reds after they drove Chiang to Taiwan.

The POWs were herded into hastily constructed “compounds,” each designed to hold 700 to 1,200 people, and surrounded by flimsy strands of barbed wire attached to wooden poles. As additional prisoners arrived on Kojé, they were generally stuffed into the existing enclosures, bringing the totals to 4,000 to 6,000 per compound.

Providing those crowds with food, water and clothing quickly caused headaches among supply officers in Pusan and Tokyo. But taking care of POWs was for them a low priority. The needs of the front-line troops rightly came first.

The prison guards were ROK (Republic of Korea, i.e. South Korea) soldiers, who had little love for the inmates. Bloody scuffles between guards and prisoners were frequent. More important was what happened within the compounds.

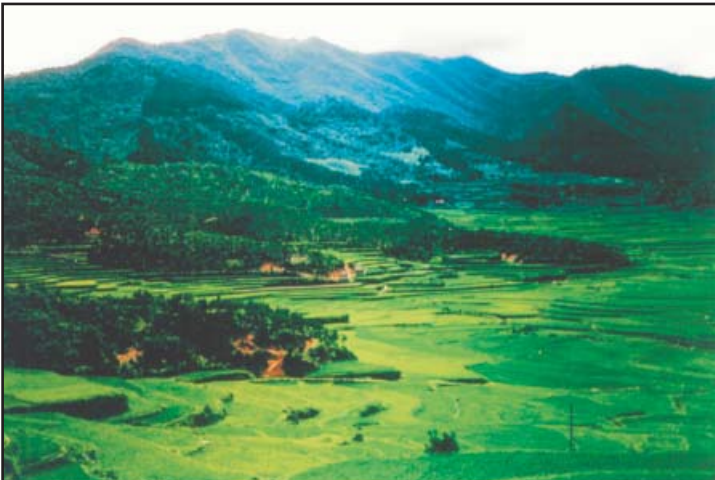
During the late winter and throughout the spring of 1951, battles to establish and maintain political control took place in a number of compounds. These were essentially struggles between anti-Communist and pro-Communist factions. There would have been more intra-compound strife had

the U.N. not made an effort to segregate North Koreans from South Koreans.

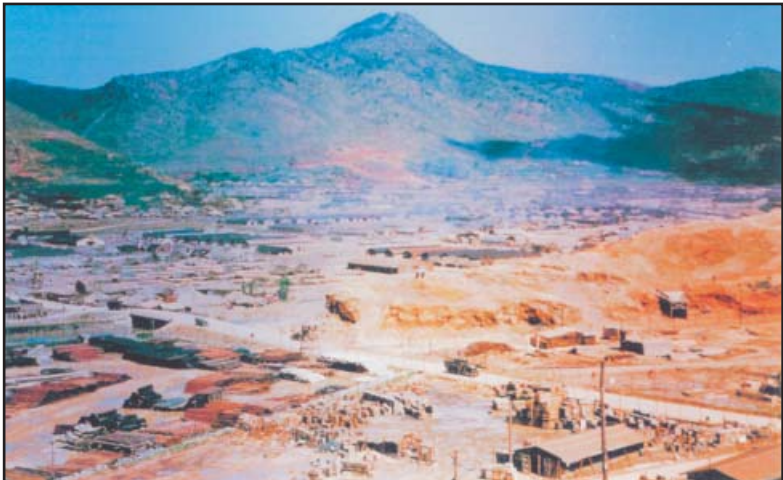
The ROK guards and their American supervisors stood on the sidelines. When one faction gained control, it typically killed the opposition leaders and buried their bodies inside the compound. Soon one could identify the political allegiance of a compound through the homemade flags and banners flown from its tent poles. Neither the 8th Army in Korea nor the Far East Command in Tokyo paid much attention to these developments. They had a war to wage.

A major confrontation

That war (or “police action,” as it was referred to by Washington’s politicians) reached a near stalemate in the late spring of 1951. In July armistice negotiations



A lush, green Kojé-do



The prison camp at Kojé-do



U.N. efforts to screen prisoners of war to determine whether they should be sent back to North Korea, Taiwan, or remain in South Korea, heightened tensions on Kojé. What followed was a violent confrontation with Army infantry in February 1952 that left more than 200 POWs dead or wounded in compound 62—and signs like this that protested the alleged “massacre.”

began between the two sides, first at Kaesong, some 35 miles northwest of Seoul, then at neighboring Panmunjon.

Stalemate is a relative term. There were no major territorial conquests by either side during the next two years, but there were bloody battles for control of strategic mountains and valleys. Key items at the negotiating table were the line of demarcation for an armistice and the fate of prisoners of war. Tentative agreement on a truce line—roughly the existing front line—was reached on November 26th. The POW issue then moved to center stage. U.N. leaders were thus compelled to pay more attention to Kojé.

At the end of 1951, additional forces were assigned to the island by the 8th Army commander, Gen. James Van Fleet, including infantry, military police, and we engineers. A serious effort at a POW census was also begun, to classify people as civilian or military detainees, North or South Koreans, etc. Central to this screening was to be a determination of who wanted to be sent back to North Korea and China, and who wanted to remain in South Korea or (in the case of Chinese prisoners) be sent to Taiwan.

Communist delegates at Panmunjom insisted that all POWs held by the U.N. be repatriated, fearing negative world publicity if large numbers of detainees opted to stay in the south. U.N. spokesmen insisted that no one on either side should be forcibly repatriated.

Unable to get their way at Panmunjon, the Communists sent word to their agents on Kojé-do: If you control a compound, don't allow a census/screening to take place. (Access to POWs was easy for the

Reds. The U.N. camp was hedged in by refugee villages, through which work and latrine details moved each day. Slipping notes past indifferent guards was no problem.)

U.N. insistence on screening led to a major confrontation on Kojé in mid-February 1952. One of the solidly Communist enclosures was No. 62, containing some 6,000 North Korean die-hards. Its leaders refused to allow ROK interpreters into the compound to conduct the prescribed screening. The camp commander then ordered elements of the 3rd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment (the “Wolfhounds”) to enforce this mandate.

On the morning of February 18th the infantry moved into compound 62, with fixed bayonets. They were met by more than 1,000 screaming POWs who hurled rocks and rushed at the troops with kitchen knives, homemade spears, and clubs. Refusing to stop even after concussion grenades were thrown at them, the prisoners were finally halted by rifle fire. More than 200 prisoners lay dead or wounded; one GI was killed.

Howls of protest at this alleged “massacre” immediately were heard at Panmunjon, while Communist newspapers in Beijing and Moscow had a propaganda field day. Kojé's run in the world spotlight had begun.

How did prisoners of war get weapons? The answer lies in a well-intentioned but ill-advised program. U.N. leaders believed that the POW camp provided an excellent place to demonstrate the advantage of democracy. An educational program was instituted, which included not only lectures (which I'm sure most POWs slept

through) but also such vocational/recreational activities as wood working, metal-working, and painting. Many products were worthwhile. (I still have samples of POW tin-can artistry.)

But the program was readily subverted in places like compound 62 to the manufacture of weapons. It was not too difficult, for example, to fashion a wicked spear from a tent pole and sheet metal.

Continuing Tensions

As the talks at Panmunjom dragged on during the spring of 1952, the politicization of Kojé became more open. Pro-Communist compounds held protest rallies and parades and lined the barbed-wire fences with banners and portraits of Stalin, Mao Tse Tung and Kim Il Sung, the North Korean premier. One even had a makeshift marching band. Most annoying were their nighttime “songfests,” which kept us GIs awake. (Our tents and barracks were close by the compounds.) On many a night their massed voices resounded through the valley, as they shouted their defiance of the U.N. and their devotion to Kim Il Sung.

The Reds were not the only prisoners to become more active politically. Anti-Communist compounds flew their flags, held their parades, and made their demands. Stones were hurled back and forth between compounds; fights took place between work details; more residents were killed and buried within the compounds. The collective tempers of prisoners and guards were flaring.

The solution reached was to calm things down by sending the anti-Communist prisoners back to the mainland, and then to establish control over the Reds by moving them into small, 500-person compounds. Soon we watched as truckloads of anti-Communists, shouting and waving South Korean flags, moved down to the ferries. (This was an embarrassment to the Reds at Panmunjon; their attitudes and positions quickly hardened.) We engineers went on a round-the-clock schedule to build the new compounds. It was hoped that both overcrowding and tension would be reduced by these moves. Dead wrong.

During 1951, Kojé had provided a revolving door for camp commanders. There was a new one almost every month. After the February 1952 uprising in com-

Enemy prisoners congregate behind compound fence



pound 62, it was decided to bring in a person of top rank. Brig. Gen. Francis T. Dodd, 8th Army deputy chief of staff, was sent to Kojé. Dodd's orders were simple: keep the island quiet while, hopefully, the Panmunjon talks brought the war to a close.

It was under Dodd's direction that the anti-Communists were shipped off Kojé and construction of the new, more manageable, compounds began. But much of the general's time was consumed just keeping a lid on things. The Reds complained about everything, including alleged guard brutality, in a well-orchestrated campaign to divert attention away from the fact that so many prisoners had refused to go back north.

Red delegates at Panmunjom continued to insist that all POWs be sent back. On the U.N. side, President Harry S. Truman replied that "forced repatriation was repugnant to the free world." When neither side would budge, negotiations reached a stalemate at the end of April 1952.

Seizure of Gen. Dodd

On Kojé, Gen Dodd continued his kid-glove strategy while POW leaders prepared for their May Day celebration, a Communist tradition. They also continued to make and hide weapons, getting ready for a possible breakout attempt. May 1, 1952, saw an amazing display of prisoner arrogance and defiance.

Using supplies and materials provided by the U.N., elaborate stages had been constructed and banners and portraits of Stalin, Mao, and Kim Il Sung were painted and displayed. On May Day itself there were fiery speeches, parades, and demonstrations. Our guards could watch, but were not allowed to interfere. Internally, most compounds were completely under Communist control.

Emboldened, Red leaders decided on another move to embarrass their captors

and strengthen the hand of their delegates at Panmunjon. This was the seizure of Gen. Dodd. On the evening of May 6, Dodd received a request from compound 76, a hard-line North Korean enclosure, to listen to complaints about conditions inside. Instead of summoning their leaders to his office, Dodd boldly (and foolishly) went to the compound gate on the following afternoon.

Soon after he arrived, the gate was opened to allow a work detail to exit. Taking Dodd and his escort by surprise, these men surrounded the general and dragged him inside the compound. A large sign quickly appeared: "We capture Dodd. As long as our demand will be solved, his safety is secured. If there happen a brutal act such as shooting, his life is danger."

The whole world soon learned that the prison camp commander was the prisoner of his prisoners! There were howls of laughter in the Communist capitals and red faces and cries of anger from the Pentagon, the White House, and the halls of Congress. Unfortunately, worse was to come.

The Army immediately dispatched another general, Charles Colson (chief of staff, I Corps), to assume the reins on Kojé. Twenty tanks and additional troops were sent over from Pusan. The press corps, which had paid scant attention, poured onto the island. Kojé was now big news!

The leaders of compound 76 presented Colson with a long list of demands, refusing to release Dodd until they were met. Included was the demand that the U.N. forces "stop torturing and mistreating prisoners to make them say they were anti-Communist." Colson was on the hot seat. Dodd's life was at risk, and rumblings of a mass POW uprising reverberated through-

out the valley.

Close by the compounds were not only GI barracks but the huts of thousands of refugees. A POW outbreak would have brought total chaos. Colson's written reply was somewhat equivocal, but contained enough remorse for past "sins" and promises not to sin again (including a disavowal of forced screening) that Communist countries enjoyed a propaganda field day. The Russian newspaper Pravda editorialized about the "island of death" where "American hangmen are torturing, tormenting and killing unarmed people." Dodd was released, and both he and Colson were removed from Kojé-do. But the damage had been done.

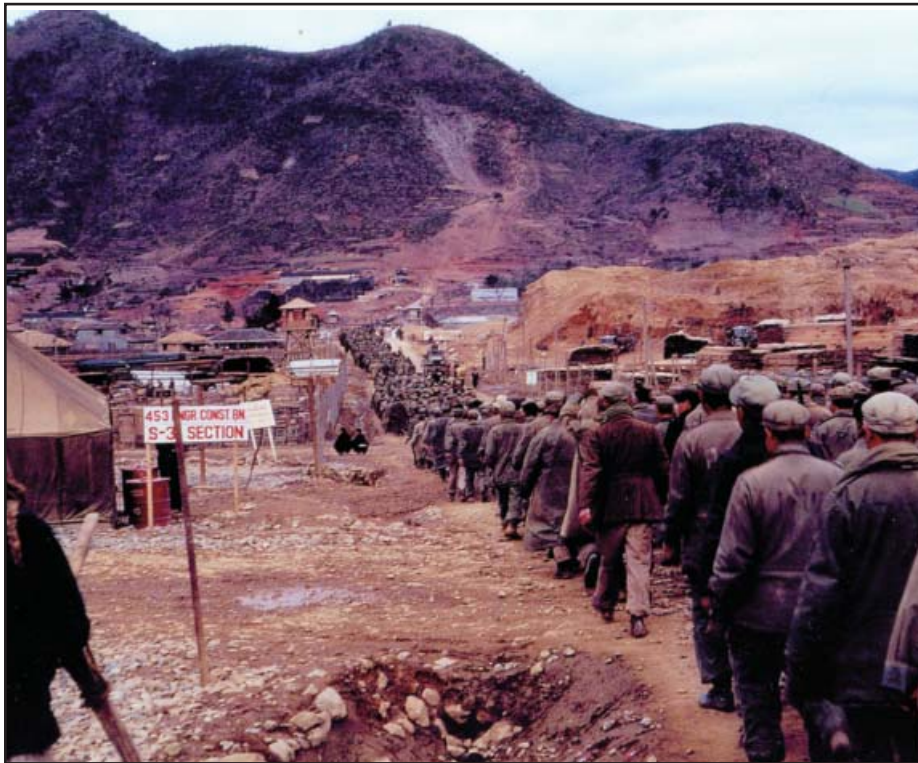
POW defiance crushed

On May 12, 1952, still another general arrived to take charge. Brig. Gen. Haydon L. ("Bull") Boatner was a no-nonsense infantry officer who spoke fluent Chinese and had long been familiar with the cultures of the Far East. To make Kojé look more diversified as a U.N. operation, contingents of Canadians, British, Turks and Greeks were also sent over, as well as paratroopers and more engineers. Boatner's orders were to:

- re-establish control over the compounds
- complete the work (begun by Dodd) of building small, secure enclosures
- break up, by force if necessary, recalcitrant compounds like No. 76
- reduce the overall prisoner population by sending additional POWs away from Kojé

Under Boatner's firm hand, the military made a series of raids into various compounds, hauling down flags and banners, which were moves to symbolize the new order. He removed civilian refugees from the vicinity and burned their huts. The schedule for construction of the smaller compounds was accelerated. Communist leaders were informed that a wholesale dispersal of prisoners was soon to take place. Compound 76 was targeted for the first move.

On the morning of June 10, paratroopers from the 187th Airborne broke into that enclosure, accompanied by tanks and flamethrowers. For more than two hours, a pitched battle took place, with U.S. troops relying mostly on concussion grenades and bayonets. When the battle was over, the prisoners were marched out of the old



Chinese POWs march past S-3 Section of 453rd Engr Const Bn on their way to scheduled work on Kojedo: March 1952 (Photo courtesy of Arthur G. Keene, 406 Island Circle East, Dataw Island, SC 29902)

compound and into their new homes.

Thirty-one POWs were killed and 139 injured. One American soldier was speared to death. Inspection of compound 76 uncovered some 3,000 spears, 4,500 knives, 1,000 Molotov cocktails, numerous barbedwire flails, etc. Here was further evidence that the prisoners were planning a mass breakout.

The “reconquest” of compound 76 soon brought an end to Kojedo’s time in the spotlight. Another symbolic move was made the next evening when Air Force jets roared down the valley in a practice strafing run. But POW resistance had ended. The other compounds meekly obeyed orders to move to their new quarters. The screening of prisoners was resumed, and a large number of prisoners were shipped from Kojedo to other locations.

In the aftermath, both Dodd and Colson were reduced to the rank of colonel. Boatner was later promoted to major-general. Communist protests against this latest massacre petered out, while negotiators at Panmunjon continued to argue about POW exchanges.

After the camp on Kojedo had been

rebuilt, the 453rd Engineer Battalion was moved back to the Korean mainland. I left the outfit for home at the beginning of December 1952. By then, most Americans were tired of the stalemated war. They looked to our new president, Dwight D. Eisenhower, to bring closure.

On April 11, 1953, both sides at Panmunjon agreed to the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners. This was followed by Communist acceptance, well disguised by obtuse language, of no forced repatriation. The armistice was declared on July 27 and the long-delayed POW exchange began. The Korean War, pretty much an ignored war since the Kojedo headlines, soon became the forgotten war.

Background for this article was obtained from the Pacific edition of the GI newspaper *Stars and Stripes*; from “Truce Tent and Fighting Front,” by Walter G. Hermes, published in 1966 by the U.S. Army Office of Military History, Washington; and from “This Kind of War,” by T.R. Ferenbach, published in 1963 by Brassey’s Publishers, Washington.

Richard J. Connors, Neptune, served with the U.S. Army in Korea, 1951-52.

Did You Ever Wonder...

...how North Korean War veterans were treated after the fighting ended?

Here is a brief suggestion from “Regime Leadership and Human Rights in North Korea,” by Robert Collins, in *International Journal of Korean Studies*, Vol. XIX, #1, Spring/Summer 2015, pp. 64-65:

“The Korean War had a major impact on the establishment of the [current] North Korean elite and the population of Pyongyang. As much as 25-30 percent of the North Korean population suffered some sort of casualty during the Korean War. The descendants of this group make up the majority of the core workers that support the regime.

“After Kim Il-sung’s extended family North Korea’s elite are led by these Korean War veterans and their surviving family members as well as families tied to anti-Japanese partisans and other historical revolutionaries. There is a significant history of these individuals being treated with exception rather than the socio-political norm of North Korea’s political stratification.

“As long as these individuals from historically elite families demonstrate complete loyalty to regime leadership, they are rewarded with the most significant of privileges in housing, education, food, health care, and occupational assignments.”

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier or Tomb of the Unknowns?

The Tomb of the Unknowns is a monument dedicated to American service members who have died without their remains being identified. It is also known as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, *but it has never been officially named.*

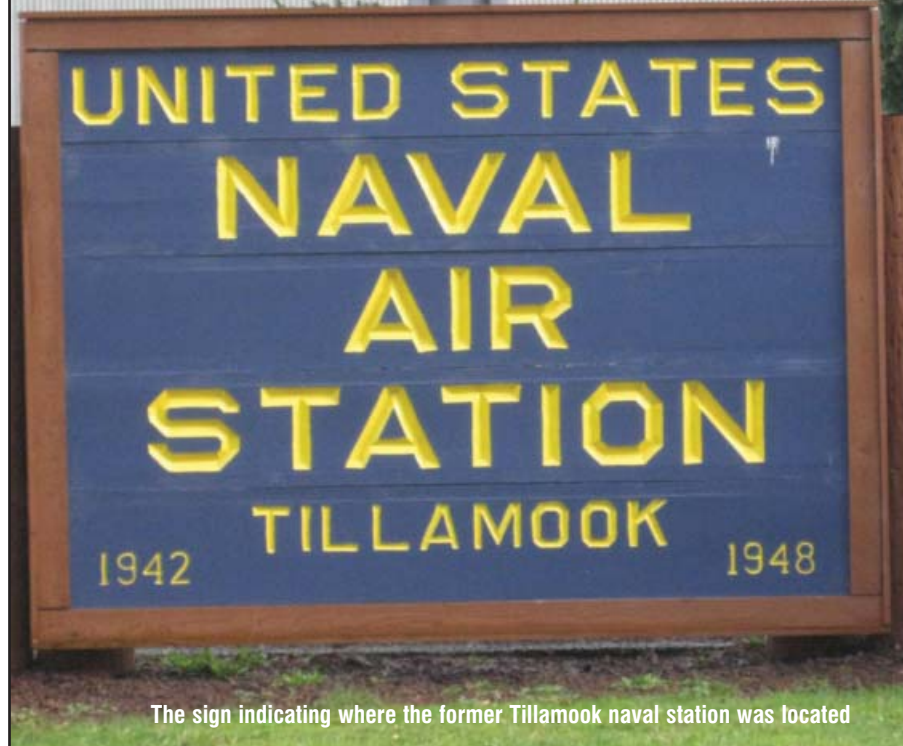
The Oregon State Korean War Memorial

My son and grandson, both ex-U.S. Army and members of the KWVA, live in Oregon. I visited them recently to attend Eagle Scout ceremony for my second grandson. They took me to Wilsonville to see the KWVA memorial. (I

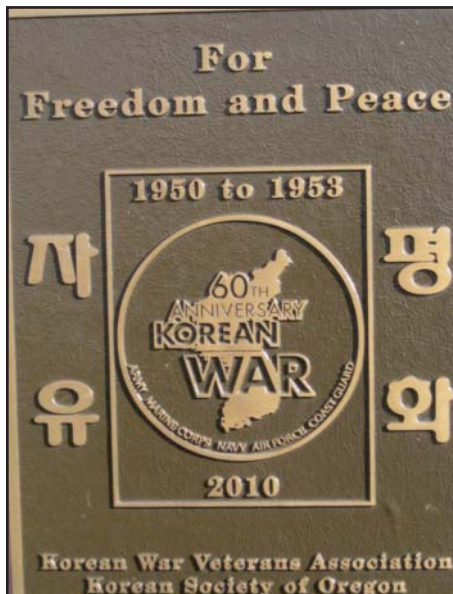
hope the Oregonians don't consider me to be an inter-loper.)

Peter Palmer, Commander CID 159, Sunshine State, FL, palmersp@verizon.net

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you're ever near Tillamook, try the cheese.



The sign indicating where the former Tillamook naval station was located



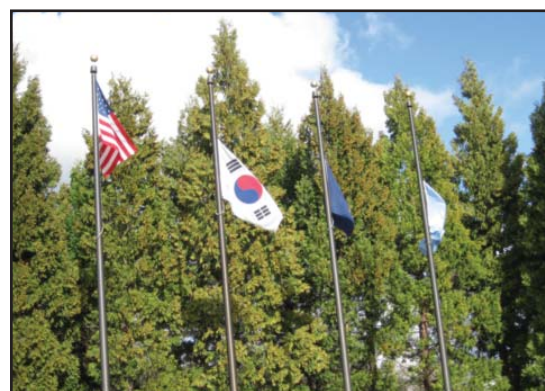
Sign at the Oregon Korean War Memorial



The Oregon Korean War Memorial stone



Peter Palmer holds up sign at Oregon memorial



Flags waving proudly over Oregon memorial

A Tragic Story With No Final End

By Claude M. Allison

This mystery began at Kimpo Air Force Base (AFB) in South Korea in October 1952. I was a medical administrative supervisor in charge of Medical Supply in the hospital of the 67th Medical Group, 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, Fifth Air Force. It involves the only casualty of the Korean War for the 67th Medical Group.

The medical records registrar had rotated and I was temporarily assigned to fill that position until a new registrar was deployed. One of the bright spots in that position was A/lc William H. Wimbish, who was the morning report clerk. He handled admissions, discharges, and correspondence for Major Spiegel, hospital commander.

Wimbish was smart and popular with the medical and nursing staff. One difficulty was typing reports on old Royal typewriters that had been stored on Guam since WWII. Most of them were in poor condition. Major Spiegel would not sign a report with a strike-over or mistake. (Remember, in those days we used carbon paper to make multiple copies, which were often required. It was, after all, the military.)

A seminar was being held at Taegu on the southern tip of Korea, which the hospital registrars were ordered to attend. That meant that I was on orders to attend. If I remember correctly, the seminar was to be for parts or all of three days, beginning on October 16, 1952. Airman Wimbish kept begging to go in my place, because he had a relative there.

At the very last minute, I had the orders changed to send Wimbish, since he was eager to go and was involved in the casualty reporting requirements covered by the seminar. Courier planes were not allowed into Kimpo, because it was a fighter/bomber base. Therefore, I took him to Seoul AFB, and I saw that he got on a C-46D courier plane at about 1700 hours. I loaned him my chrome-plated .45 side arm.

The plane was to make an interim stop above the 38th parallel on the east coast of Korea. It landed there safely and left at 0055 hours with 25 passengers and crew aboard. The flying time to K-3 was about 45 minutes. The C-46D was due at K-3 at 0135 hours. After take-off, the C-46D and all aboard disappeared. The date was October 16, 1952. I left Korea in May 1953. No report of the plane's finding or any of its occupants was made back to our headquarters or in the news by the time I left for home.

I got to be friends with 1st Lt. Virgil (Gus) Grissom, who was flying F-86 sabre jets out of Kimpo AFB and went on to become an astronaut and was asphyxiated in 1967 at Cape Canaveral, FL. Grissom was involved with the original NASA project as an astronaut in a pre-launch test of the Apollo I Mission spacecraft. The accident happened atop the launch pad in the command module when it caught fire and he and two other astronauts, Edward H. White and Roger Chaffee died in what was ruled an accident. This Apollo I Program was to culminate in placing a man on the moon.

Grissom was in charge of tracking the whiskey allotment for flying personnel in 1952. I was the Medical Supply NCO, and he had to get it from me. Gus, having completed 100 missions over North Korea, had rotated back to the states at the time of this event.

However, one of the pilots he left in charge of the whiskey allotment told me that he heard a rumor from one of his Navy contacts on the east coast of Korea that the Navy had accidentally fired on an unidentified aircraft along the 38th parallel that very night.

It is important to point out here that General Mark Clark, commander of the allied forces in Korea, and the Navy commander, possibly with the approval of President Truman, planned a "mock" invasion on North Korea while one naval command was rotating and the other was being deployed. The site of the invasion was Kojo Harbor, just south of Wonsan Harbor, at the bottleneck on the east coast of Korea, about thirty miles above the battle line.

The Navy command dubbed it "a feint amphibious operation," meaning "a simulated attack intended to catch the enemy off-guard" and frighten the North Koreans at Panmunjom into bringing a quick end to the war. The time was 0700 hours, on October 15, 1952. The fact that it was a "mock" invasion was not communicated to our troops involved until after it was over. All indications were that it was the real thing.

There were over 100 ships involved, along with the 8th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Cavalry Division that had been pulled back from the front lines. As the naval forces approached Kojo Harbor, the seas were heavy as landing craft were being launched. However, supposedly because of the rough seas and mine fields deployed by the enemy, no troops were deployed. Nevertheless, the coast line was heavily bombarded by aircraft and ships' guns.

The first report we heard was that President Truman had called off the big invasion at 0650 hours. That story was never mentioned again. All subsequent reports were that the practice invasion was a success.

Troop morale plummeted because everyone believed that we could have won that war that week. It apparently did little to benefit its original purpose, even though Gus Grissom's fellow pilots felt they had killed tens of thousands of enemy troops who had been pulled back from the front lines, expecting an actual invasion. I believe to this day that with all the ships and planes on the east coast of Korea that night the original rumor that one of the F-86 pilots heard was true and that the plane was fired on and disabled and tried to make it back to K-18. (There was another rumor later about the possibly disabled plane circling the K-18 airport sometime after it took off that did not get checked out. This rumor was also discounted.)

The lost plane mystery has bothered me almost every day

for 62 years: not knowing what happened, what the family was told... What would they think if I were able to locate them and relate what I knew? I set out to find out.

Besides knowing Wimbish personally, I knew he was from rural Virginia and that I sent his personal effects to his mother, who had a Fort Bragg, NC address. This meant that she was probably the wife of a Fort Bragg soldier. The other fact that bothered me was just how close I came to being on that plane, especially with a pregnant wife back home in North Carolina.

Some answers came in 2007 when I found an internet posting regarding Korean War aircraft losses. Lo and behold, that C-46D courier plane that I came close to being on was listed, along with the roster of all aboard. (See the roster attached)

The supplemental information gave me the home of Airman William H. Wimbish as Sutherlin, VA, a small town about fifteen miles from Danville, VA. I placed an article in the Danville newspaper asking if anyone knew of any "Wimbish" families in the area. I did not receive a response.

A few months later there was an article in *The Graybeards* about a Korean veteran in Danville who was raising money to build a Korean War Memorial in Danville. I called him to see if he could find anyone named Wimbish in the area. After a few months, he emailed me that he had found an elderly minister near Danville who had married a Wimbish woman. I called him and found "one of the needles in the haystack." He had married the sister of Airman Wimbish's mother. And, he added, he still had a half-sister living and working in Winston-Salem, NC. He gave me her phone number.

I called her; she was shocked to hear from me and to find out what had happened to William. She said she was about ten years old when he joined the Air Force, that his mother had died several years ago, and that they only knew that he was missing in a non-combat airplane crash. The only other correspondence they had received was a request for a DNA sample in 2004 from a KIA-MIA organization at Randolph AFB in Texas. She said that Airman Wimbish's father was in Korea then, and that is who he wanted to visit.

I wrote a long email and related all the information that I had at the time. She answered my questions regarding how she felt about my involvement in his disappearance. She had no animosity toward me. She also indicated that she was very happy to find the facts about his disappearance, but she was not interested in any farther communication.

Well, I was not satisfied with that information on the internet about the plane's loss. In that data, it simply said that "Airman Wimbish was a passenger on a C-46D commando transport plane on a courier run between Kangnung, Korea (K-18) and Pohang, Korea (K-3), near Taegu, when it crashed into the sea, killing all 25 on board. And his remains

were not recovered."

That plane had to have been found at some point, due to the detail on the roster, which indicates that eight bodies, or parts thereof, were found sufficient for identification.

I have corresponded with every MIA/KIA organization based at Randolph AFB, TX; HQ AFGRA/RSA, Maxwell AFB, AL, where all records are now stored; the secretary of the Air Force; and the Pentagon to try to determine where the plane was found, what condition it was in, and if any of them had evidence of the plane being fired on. One problem was that, not being a relative, I had to resort to requesting information under the "Freedom of Information Act."

Finally, I received a stack of every report about the early loss of that plane, even copies of the telegrams sent to the next of kin. Included was a one-page memo dated October, 1955—three years after the fact—stating that a plane had been found by Korean fishermen in seven feet of water, two miles from the end of the K-18 runway, and that the salvage equipment and crew would have to come from Inchon, over 100 miles away. The report indicated that it could be the C-46D missing since October 16, 1952. That memo is absolutely the last report of findings that any organization has.

The stack of information outlines a long list of mistakes and mismanagement of reporting, the disappearance, and deployment of the air/sea rescue for that plane. Regulations require that when an aircraft does not arrive at its destination within thirty minutes of its ETA (estimated time of arrival), it must be reported missing. This plane was due at K-3 at 0135 hours, but was not reported missing until 0730 hours. Then, air/sea rescue had to come from Seoul, 98 miles away, and did not get deployed until 1230 hours. Apparently, several officers were disciplined.

One body listed on the plane's roster washed ashore, found by Koreans, about 1500 hours, the 2nd day, 4 miles from the base, with a Mae West vest half inflated, and the parachute removed. Another body was found by a Korean vessel 20 miles at sea, on the 3rd day, with an unopened parachute and an uninflated Mae West. No autopsies were done, but it was determined that both men died due to drowning, with no noticeable bodily injuries. This was strange.

I traveled by air 15-18 times between Korea and Japan on courier or supply planes, and I never wore a Mae West or parachute. Another action that was criticized was that air/sea rescue was called off on October 18th, after only 2-1/2 days. If Korean fishermen could find that plane in seven feet of water, apparently intact, why did USAF forces not find it? In seven feet of water, I was told by a former C-46D pilot, the tail would have been sticking above water.

It is also strange that there are no reports on file anywhere after the plane was found. My contacts at Maxwell AFB and

the Pentagon have indicated that it appears that the subject of that plane was "classified" after its condition was found, giving me one more reason to believe that the C-46D that I came close to being on was indeed fired on by "friendly fire," and the pilot was trying to make it back to K-18, from where he took off.

There was a note made in the official reports that several people reported hearing a plane circle the base sometime after midnight, but that report was discounted because the air controller did not hear it. It was even speculated at the time the plane went missing that the air controller probably went to sleep and turned the runway lights off.

His written report was a part of the papers that I received, but he certified that he was an air controller at K -12, not K-18. I know that some air controllers turned runway lights off and went to sleep late at night if no incoming traffic was expected. The senior tower operator certified that he

watched that plane gain altitude and bank back toward its southerly destination, which would have been 8-10 miles out. If that was true, why was that plane apparently found two miles from the end of the runway?

If any reader of *The Graybeards* or KWVA member recognizes any of the MIAs on the attached roster, please contact me for more information about anyone included. Also, if any one knows any more than I do about this story, please contact me.

Resources: much of this story is from memory and other extracts from the research I have done on the internet and the web site "KORWALD." I have also read everything that I could get my hands on about the war. Please forgive me if some of what I have written is not reported exactly. I believe the dates that I have used are pretty accurate.

Claude M. Allison, 6002 Chester St., Wilmington, NC, 28405, (910) 313-9650, callison830@ec.rr.com, former S/SGT, USAF

The C-46D Story



The C-46D-Commando

The Curtiss C-46 Commando is a transport aircraft derived from the Curtiss CW-20 pressurized high-altitude airliner design. Early press reports used the name 'Condor III,' but the Commando name was in use by early 1942 in company publicity.

It was used as a military transport during World War II by the United States Army Air Forces and also the U.S. Navy/Marine Corps, which used the designation R5C. The C-46 served a similar role to its counterpart, the Douglas C-47 Skytrain, but was not as extensively produced. At the time of its production, the C-46 was the largest twin-engine aircraft in the world, and was the largest and heaviest twin-engine aircraft to see service in World War II.

After World War II, a few surplus C-46 aircraft were briefly used in their originally designated role as passenger airliners, but the glut of surplus C-47s dominated the marketplace and the C-46s were soon relegated to primarily cargo duty. The type continued in U. S. Air Force service in a secondary role until 1968. However, the C-46 continues in operation as a rugged cargo transport for Arctic and remote locations with its service life extended into the 21st century.

The final large production-run C-46D arrived in 1944-45, and featured single doors to facilitate paratroop drops; production totaled 1,430 aircraft. The twin-engined C-46D Commando, used for personnel and paratroop transport aircraft, was fitted with an extra door on the port side. There were 1,610 built.

KORWALD SUMMARY

There are 25 names listed on KORWALD as passengers aboard the C-46D with the Tail # 44-77538. Ironically, four of them are listed as KIA (killed in action), while 13 are listed as NBD (non-battle death). According to the list, eight bodies were recovered (RCV).

A sample entry in the KORWALD file (adapted to fit *The Graybeards* format):

NAME	Arrington, Alfred W.
RANK	A1C
SERVICE	USAF
STATUS	RCV
AIRCRAFT	C-46D
TAIL NUMBER	D 44-77538
DATE OF LOSS	521016
GRP OR WING	34th Trp Car Sq
SQUADRON	315th Trp Car Wg (P)

Circumstances of Loss:
Scheduled courier flight, crashed into the sea off the coast of Kangnung after take-off from K-18 enroute to K-3, extensive SAR (search and rescue) effort

Arrington, Alfred W. (RCV)
Bevilacqua, Vincent J. (NBD)
Bishop, Billy R. (RCV)
Booth, Carnell E. (NBD)
Bowerman, Robert C. (KIA)
Bryan, Fred V. (NBD)
Butts, Lemon, Jr. (RCV)
Davidson, Thomas L. (NBD)
Deeter, Robert A., Jr. (KIA)
Dehart, Oliver P. (RCV)
Freeman, George A. (RCV)
Gammage, Harry C. (KIA)
Graper, Victor B. (KIA)
Harmon, Norman C. (RCV)
Hicks, Paul J. (NBD)
King, James P. (RCV)
Kyle, James A. (NBD)
Ruby, Daniel G., Jr. (NBD)
Rusk, Richard G. (NBD)
Rutledge, Walter K. (NBD)
Sarkilahti, Melvin E. (NBD)
Thurman, John E. (NBD)
Ulinski, Valerian (RCV)
Wilson, Bobby R. (NBD)
Wimbish, William H. (NBD)

YOKOSUKA from page 31

the war.

What A Mess Yokosuka Became

With the end of WWII, Marines of the 4th Regiment, 6th Division, waded ashore from landing crafts at Yokosuka Naval Base on 30 Aug. 1945. At the same time, Adm. William F. Halsey, commander Third Fleet, aboard *USS Missouri*, sent Rear Adm. Robert B. (Mick) Carney ashore in the light cruiser *USS San Diego* as his personal representative to accept surrender of the Yokosuka Naval Base.

The ceremonies took place on the pier, alongside *USS San Diego*, at 1100, when Vice Adm. Michitore Totsuka handed over the base to Rear Adm. Carney. Adm. Halsey came ashore that afternoon to find the base in total disarray. All base papers had been burned, debris was piled high everywhere, and there was widespread vandalism and sabotage.

The first orders were to square away the base. Tokyo Bay had been cleared of hundreds and hundreds of mines so the 986 ships of the Third and Fifth U.S. Fleets could be at the surrender ceremony on 2 Sept. 1945. The Japanese had planned for a civilian defense of an American invasion of Japan. In the base caves were found stockpiles of munitions and weapons and caches of arms everywhere. A sizeable number of motor vehicles and aircraft, intact, gassed, and ready to drive and fly, were in large caves at Yokosuka and its airfield Atsugi, where they had been sealed behind brick walls.

Other caves contained food and money. One cave yielded 125 boxes of Dutch money. Others contained several tons of tin and mercury. Tons of gold bars were found on the harbor floor, covered with a layer of coal four feet deep.

The harbor was covered with sunken vessels and bombed and burned remains of other ships sat around the harbor. The damaged hulk of the battleship *Nagato* was resting at the base. Submarines were the only effective combat boats still afloat. They were towed to sea and sunk. Around 92 destroyers, 100 escort craft, 36 minesweepers, and a few auxiliary ships were divided among the U.S., Great Britain, China, and Russia. Despite the carnage, the base

would prove useful to the U.S. in just a few years.

Yokosuka In The Korean War

The Yokosuka base was valuable to the United Nations during the Korean War, during which U.S. and Allied naval forces operated out of Yokosuka and Sasebo. The base employed over 16,000 workers to take care of the 7th Fleet, with dry dock and pier side repairs and supplies. The small 100-bed dispensary was commissioned Yokosuka Naval Hospital (YNH), a full-size medical center, with 4,388 beds. In December 1950, around 6,000 patients were admitted. Some 2,000 patients were off-loaded from two hospital ships in one 24-hour period.

During the Korean War, 80 destroyers, 11 Essex-type aircraft carriers, 8 cruisers, 4 battleships, many auxiliary, amphibious, and supply ships, and submarines operated out of Yokosuka Naval Base. Among the largest U.S. combatants calling at YNB from 1950 to 1953 were *Iowa (BB-61)*, *Missouri (BB-63)*, *New Jersey (BB-62)*, *Wisconsin (BB-64)*, the large carriers *Antietam (CV-36)*, *Bon Homme Richard (CV-31)*, *Boxer (CV-21)*, *Essex (CV-9)*, *Kearsarge (CV-33)*, *Lake Champlain (CVA-39)*, *Leyte (CV-32)*, *Oriskany (CVA-34)*, *Philippine Sea (CV-47)*, *Princeton (CV-37)*, and *Valley Forge (CV-45)*. The base provided logistic support to them all,

including fresh meat and vegetables to all Allied ships and shore facilities.

A little known anecdote reveals that fresh dressed fryer chickens became a problem, so YNB begin raising chickens, and did so for over 18 months. No doubt all the enlisted vets remember the YNB EM Club, Club Alliance. It was not until 1969 that YNB removed the most-hated midnight to 4 a.m. curfew for U.S. personnel and discontinued the use of military payment certificates (MPC).

Until this time, U.S. military personnel, civil service employees, and their dependents in Japan were prohibited from possessing and spending U.S. greenback dollars. The use of MPC by U.S. forces in Japan during the previous 24 years had been of considerable assistance in combating black market operations and controlling the rate of exchange between the yen and the dollar, or so we were told!

Korean War procurement orders kept Japan solvent during the period from 1950 to 1953.

Few have ever attempted to deny that the Korean War benefited Yokosuka. The city thrived, even with the exchange rate of 360 yen to the dollar. YNB is still operating today, and housing thousands and thousands of American dependents.

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com



Sailors erect an inflatable snowman on the flight deck of the U.S. Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier *USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76)*. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Nathan Burke/Released)

Maher's Memories: An American In The Canadian Army

Part III

By Pell Johnson

On Patrol With The Infantry

Our bunker was part of a line of trenches that traversed the hill that we were on. The trenches were generally sufficiently deep so that we could walk the line without being seen by the Chinese.

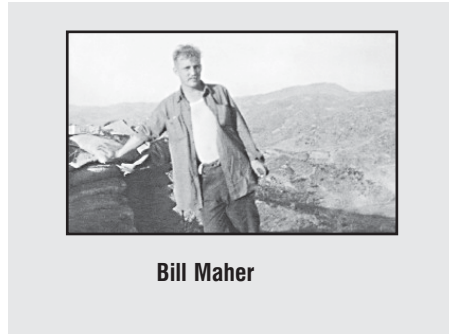
Our hill 177 was in full view of the Chinese, who occupied hill 355. They knew, as we knew about them, where our trenches were and more or less where everything connected to the trenches was located. We were strongly advised not to expose ourselves to the enemy. We were located close to the infantry and I would go over and talk with them from time to time. Life on line can be very boring or exceedingly difficult.

For some time after sunset, I had been watching an infantry patrol squad getting ready to go on a patrol. Patrols only went out at night. They would gather near the base of the hill on the side away from the enemy. I could sense tension in the squad as they milled about checking their equipment and that of the others to be sure they had everything.

I often wondered what took so long and what it would be like to go on a patrol. I found out later that they checked to see if all the equipment was secured so as not to make noise. There never was much conversation among the members of the patrol.

It never occurred to me that a patrol could walk into an ambush and the members could have been chopped to pieces by a burp gun, triggered a mine and have their body parts sprayed all over the hillside; or simply continued on a leisurely stroll to a PW camp somewhere in North Korea. So, I made up my mind to go on a patrol, if possible.

One day I asked the squad leader, a sergeant, if I could go on a patrol with his squad that comprised fourteen men. The purpose was to make contact with the enemy and determine where they



Bill Maher

were and how they were dispersed and, if lucky, get a prisoner. Then they would return to their bunker. Much to my surprise he said I could. I was tucked into the squad somewhere in the middle. I was armed with my pistol, a .45 semi-automatic, thanks to the U.S. government. I had to be armed because it was a \$25.00 fine not to carry a weapon.

I neglected to tell the sergeant about my limited weapon training in using a weapon. Moreover, I only had five rounds in my one clip of ammunition and I wasn't sure the pistol would fire. I don't recall ever firing or cleaning the gun. And, I was aware that a patrol is a well-organized and highly disciplined group. Each member relies on the others to cover one's ass, so to speak. One mistake could result in a disaster. All that aside, the sergeant didn't seem to mind my going along.

He told me to stay in line with the squad and be quiet. Off we went into the night following a path down the hill, moving as quietly as possible through openings in the barbed wire that was strung across the front of our lines. I don't remember how long we were out or what happened. But, I survived.

R&R

I became eligible for R and R for New Year's Day of 1952. I took \$500 from my pay — the first time I had done that since 1950. It was cold, so I took my parka and the card that identified the location of my lodging in Tokyo. Off I went by truck for Kimpo Air Field outside Seoul and boarded a DC-6. The seats were made of canvas, there was no

heat, and it was very cold.

I gave the card to a taxi driver in Tokyo and eventually arrived at a small hotel. I was bunked with an Australian. We spent our first day, or what remained of it, in the hotel. The next day we went to the Ginza Beer Hall and wandered around Tokyo. We passed the Dai Ichi Building where MacArthur ruled Japan and ran the war in Korea. It was just across the street from the Imperial Palace.

We headed back to the Ginza. I left my Australian friend and caught a cab to go back to the hotel. When I looked for my card that had the address of the hotel, it was not where I expected it to be. I was lost.

After a couple tries to find out where I was, I went back to the Ginza looking for my friend, the Australian, and couldn't find him. I was in a sweat because all my money and clothes were in our room in the hotel. I went to the British Building where we initially stopped and got a bed and dinner for the night. Most Brits and Canadians stayed there while they enjoyed the Japan experience for the whole five days.

The next day I went to the Ginza, found my Australian friend, and got the address of the hotel. I found my stuff and money and then went back to the Ginza. It was a most discouraging day and a half. Then it was all over and I went back to the hole in the ground.

Oh Canada, We Stand On Guard For Thee

When I arrived on line in July, I was at the Regimental Headquarters (HQ) area waiting to be assigned to my eventual posting. At the time, the line was constantly moving to keep in contact with the retreating enemy. The unit had been advancing all day and had stopped for the night.

I drew guard duty and reported to the corporal of the guard along with others. I waited to be posted to a position somewhere around the perimeter of the area. I

was reminded to bring my weapon because we had to carry one all the time. I carried a Sten gun, an automatic sub-machine gun.

The squad of guards assembled and off we marched with the corporal in charge. As we went around the perimeter, a guard was posted at intervals and then the remaining squad went on. I was eventually dropped at a designated post. I hadn't a clue as to what was happening.

Was I about to get my butt shot off or what? I didn't know a soul. My post was totally exposed, but I could walk back and forth about 20 feet or so. My Sten was locked, loaded, and at the ready. For all I knew the enemy would be screaming into the area at any moment. There must have been a moon, but not a full one, since there was sufficient light to see shapes of things. I was scared. There wasn't the remotest chance that I would fall asleep.

By and by I noticed an unusual object in a shaded area outside the perimeter, and watched it. As the night went on that object became a possible threat to my security. I would look at it, then turn away and quickly glance back. Was it moving? I was not sure, but it began to look as if it was changing position. While I stared at it, it moved suddenly. Up came the Sten and I fired a short burst.

With that, the entire camp area sprang to life. I became the object of everyone's attention. Carefully my new companions slowly advanced upon a badly shot up oil barrel. One of the officers told me at least I had shot at it.

All I Wanted To Do Was Stay Dry

I recall one other time when I was on guard duty at the regimental HQ. This must have taken place in October, since it was raining. The line was stabilizing and we weren't advancing fast.

It had been raining steadily for a few days and the area was a sea of mud. No one could ever dry out completely. I reported to the corporal of the guard. I was posted near the motor pool. My feet were soaked. Every time I moved there was a squishing sensation in my boots, I had the feeling that water was oozing

Was I about to get my butt shot off or what? I didn't know a soul. My post was totally exposed, but I could walk back and forth about 20 feet or so.

between my toes. I think I was to be on that post for about four or five hours. It was going to be a very long, wet, miserable night.

There I was with my shoulders hunched over and my head buried between my shoulder blades as far as it could go, standing in the pouring rain and listening to it bounce off my poncho. I couldn't have seen or heard an enemy if he was within fifteen feet of me.

I looked around and noticed a jeep with the canvas top up not 10 feet from where I stood. Why not sit in the front seat of that jeep and keep my feet out so I could be ready to move if need be. Besides, I would be mostly out of the rain.

So, I sat in the jeep. I don't know how long I was there when the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) suddenly appeared before me, seemingly from out of nowhere. He was furious and shouted this was dereliction of duty and a major offense and he was putting me on charges. This could be a very serious deal. He had my attention.

The next day I reported to the RSM. We would make an appearance before a reviewing officer, to whom the charges would be presented. I was concerned and appeared with sweat trickling down my back. The RSM made a very firm and very vocal presentation with me standing at a rock solid attention. The major listened. Then, in effect he told us to get out and not bother him with such a minor problem.

It's really a wonder that the RSM didn't throw a fit.

Time To Go Home

My enlistment period was for 18 months, with the caveat that it could be extended if needed. I was pulled off line near the end of the enlistment period and sent by plane from Kimpo Airfield outside of Seoul to Kure, Japan. I was given suitable clothing. Eventually, I embarked on a rather small ship with about 500 other guys and shipped off on the 14 day, unremarkable cruise to Vancouver.

I don't know what the other guys were thinking, but my life day and night in Korea was totally focused on the army and those guys with whom I was living and surviving. We were closer than brothers.

When we debarked from the ship, I went to a train depot and bought a ticket to go directly home. On the way an MP stopped me. He said I was not in the proper uniform. I told him I had just gotten off a ship from Korea. The uniform I was wearing was issued to me in Japan. I was wearing all the clothes I had.

We were about to get into a heated discussion when two officers overheard the conversation. They, too, had just arrived from Korea and were also improperly dressed. They cooled the MP down, and I went home to Toronto and right back to work with my former employer. I was out of the army, having spent exactly two years in the service.

Final Month Of The Korean War

During July 1953, the Chinese made a big offensive to capture ground near the 38th parallel as a negotiating lever during the long-stalled two-year truce talks at Panmunjom. There were two large decisive battles in the two-pronged CCF Offensive: Pork Chop Hill (7th Div.), in the western area of Chorwon Valley, and Christmas Hill (45th Div.) in the eastern sector of Mundung Ni Valley (west-adjacent to Heartbreak Ridge). Both of these battles resulted in large casualties for the U.S. forces, but they held their ground until the cease fire of July 27, 1953.



Recon Missions

Your Last Thoughts In Korea?

I am enclosing a copy of a newspaper article describing some thoughts I had the evening before I left Korea. (See below) Some memories are forever. This was included in *The Aegis* newspaper of Harford County [MD] in late September or early October of 2015. I submitted this to the paper for other reasons, but they chose to include it, for which I am very grateful.

Since then I have received numerous comments from family, friends, etc. informing me that they enjoyed the article. Recently, I have given thought to obtaining similar writings from veterans in the same circumstances, e.g., the day before departure, the moments in a combat zone when they realize their participation is over, "I'm coming home..."

If I have enough responses, say, 100, my plans are to create a small book. If so, I would not edit any comments, merely ensure the spelling, etc. The name and place of home would be included in all statements.

Bob Banker, 516 Millwood Dr., Fallston, MD 21047,
410-877-1935, robertbanker@comcast.net

On protecting the nation

The soldier was with his comrades at early evening. A ceremony held on countless occasions seemingly forever was to commence soon. This was a special evening as he would leave to return home tomorrow.

He thought to himself—I have served in this land for almost 14 months. Yes—time to go home tomorrow. A troop ship is in the harbor waiting our arrival to board.

A command was given to form several formations—all facing the flag. Further reflections still. The soldier would depart the same harbor as he arrived. Small landing craft would load from shore to be taken to the ship and again navigate the rope ladders on board.

The soldier is lost in thought of events since his arrival. Waiting in a replacement depot for two days and then getting on to a large 10-ton truck with about 20 other soldiers. Sort of a military bus. Stop here and stop there. Then his name is called and he is now with his unit—his home for the foreseeable future. The truck then continues its journey for the remaining troops. Only the good Lord knows his future.

The ceremony was to begin soon. Orders were given. The national anthem is to be played by a small band of musicians. The soldier listened to the music and the words within his head. Yes, he thought—miles and thousands of miles from his home. He said to himself—I am there—yet this is my flag, my country—for which he served.

The flag was descending ever so slowly—almost in reverence, he thought. What a grand scope of life. Duty would soon be over. Early tomorrow morning he would start the process of returning home. Another two-week boat trip to cover the 8,000 miles to his country.

The flag was now down and held reverently by the honor guard team and folded precisely. All of us held our salute during the pro-

ceedings to the last note of music and the words—land of the brave. The ceremony was now completed and the soldiers were then dismissed.

The thoughts and memories are etched in his mind—for a lifetime. The soldier will now leave this land but the land will never leave the soldier.

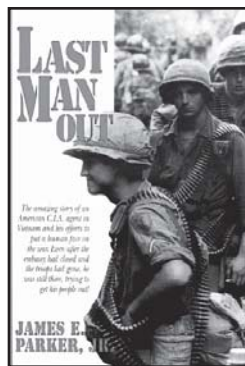
You have served your country—your duty is now complete—go home soldier.

Robert Banker, Fallston

Please send your stories to Bob Banker at the address above.

Looking For Information

Retired from the CIA, I've written several books: *Last Man Out*, *Codename Mule*, *Covert Ops*, *Kessler's*, *Battle for Skyline Ridge* and *The Vietnam War Its Ownself*.



Sample book cover for Jim Parker

I'm working now on a composite piece that involves the Korean War. (Please see the overview of this project at: <http://www.muleorations.com/blog/archives/9843>)

I am looking for any information on the following or on where to find answers:

- 1) Anyone connected with Operations Trudy Jackson (early September 1950) and Racketeer (end of October 1950)
- 2) Anyone who worked in General Willoughby's G-2 shop in Tokyo in the 1950s.
- 3) Anyone who knew Lt Commander Eugene Clark, famous for his recon before the Inchon Invasion.
- 4) Anyone who handled the intelligence reports Clark sent back from the mouth of the Yalu end October 1950.
- 5) Anyone who worked with Major General Dager, or US Army Major Stephen Norberg.
- 6) Anyone who worked with/for the CIA station in Tokyo and at CIA bases in Korea.
- 7) Anyone who worked at William Able base aka as Leopard base on Paengnyong-do (aka Baengnyong-do) island.
- 8) Anyone who worked in the Koje-do POW camps in 1952-1953.
- 9) Any American POWs held in North Korean camps.
- 10) CIA director Bedell Smith visited General MacArthur in his Tokyo office in January 1951. Anyone knowing anything about this information as it relates to Korea.

I am always on the lookout for anyone with an interest in the Korean War to help in my research by ferreting out information that adds to our data base.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Jim Parker, 3924 Delos Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89103,
702-444-1556, prk577@aol.com

Looking for buddies

Armando Vito Muscarello is looking for buddies with whom he served in Korea. (His last name is spelled Muscarella in his military records.) His records were burned in the 1973 St. Louis fire. I'm also trying to locate his record reports through the Secretary of the VA.

Armando went in service 10-10-1950. He went to Korea in January 1951 and stayed until June 1952. Here is his unit info: US Army, Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, NY; Fort Devens, MA; Camp Atterberry, IN. He went to San Francisco and sailed via troopship to Pusan, Korea via Schofield Barracks, HI.

He fought on Hill 717 with Lt. Sweeney and his friend Charlie Scherer, who was KIA. (I am not sure of the correct spelling of Scherer.) He was with Co. I, 35th Inf. Regt., 3rd Bn., 25th Inf. Div., to which he was assigned when in Hawaii.

Any information can come to me, Marilyn Walsh, 603-616-5747, ussvestal41@aol.com

Identity of Soldiers

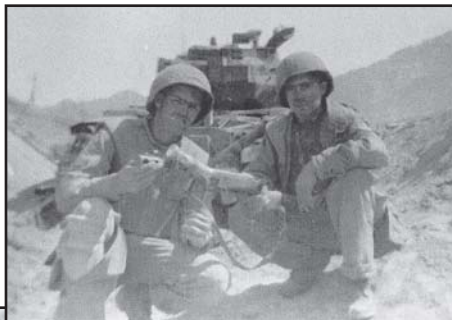
Bob Barfield is trying to identify the soldiers in the nearby photos. He wrote:

A student from the University of Central Florida interviewed me about the Korean War on 3/11/16 for some kind of veterans project they are doing. I was looking through stuff to show her when I found these pics, which I got a long time ago. Notice the Burp Gun the guy is holding, minus the clip or drum.

While with the 5th RCT in 1952 I found a working Burp Gun next to a tree. The stock was cracked. Not far away, I found some bones, remains of a GI, which still had a set of "dog tags" in them. I gave them to my CO. I wish I had written down the name!

I was in shock finding them, and so was the old man. Some of the field jacket remains were still there, along with some bones and some skin that was like it was petrified!

When we went back up on line I had to turn the burp gun in to supply, along with a Belgium dagger that I had. I got wounded later and



Bob Barfield's photos



never saw either or other stuff that was in my duffle bag again. Someone, probably from supply, kept my stuff.

Just think, this equipment was no doubt found in our trenches! Does anyone recognize either of these soldiers?

We were around the "Inje" area then, where the 187th had earlier been when I found the Burp Gun and "dog tags."

Bob Barfield
12022 Deer Path Way
Orlando FL 32832
407-384-5940, rjn187@yahoo.com

Getting To The Bottom Of The Submarine Mystery

In 1952 I was an EOD Officer assigned to a disarm/disposal project in Inchon Harbor, Korea. The project consisted of removing unexploded ordnance that had been dumped into the hull of three Japanese two-man submarines. These subs had been destroyed inside one of the submarine pens during WW2 and had been abandoned ever since they were sunk.

The sub pens were located in Inchon Harbor. We worked on them for several months to clear the ordnance.



Two less-than-serviceable Japanese submarines

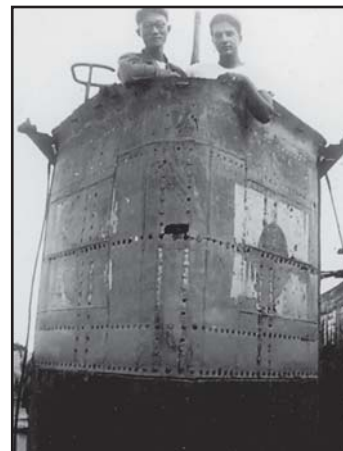
I would appreciate any information that develops.

Thank You

Neil A. Ciangi, 449
Huntington Ridge Dr.
Nashville, TN, 37211, 615-833
6345; neilciangi@yahoo.com

I want to know if any Korean vets or any Korean authorities have any information as to the fate or present location of these subs. I expect that they may have been moved to a museum, scrapped....?

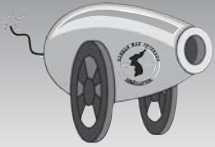
If they have been saved, I would like to revisit them for old time's sake.



A view from a Japanese submarine conning tower



Cleaning the submarines



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 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141; 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.

Combat, Hell: Pay Your Taxes

A few years back some researcher discovered official records that purportedly revealed some 20,000± Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen had not died in combat in Korea or its contiguous waters and airspace during the Korean War. His contention is the Department of Defense and the various services had lumped all deaths from all causes in Europe, CONUS, or basically anywhere in the world during the period 25 June 1950 to 27 July 1953 as casualties of the Korean War. Anyone that has worn the uniform knows that even in peacetime or in a non-combat theater, the military profession is a hazardous and sometimes a deadly one.

But saying by inference that the U.S. military killed 20,000± of its own service members in non-combat while in the fighting with the communists in a war in which the U.S. would expend more conventional munitions than we used in all of World War II (and trust me the communists would reply in kind) and suffer 34,000± deaths is not credible. Think about it: it doesn't pass the common sense test.

President Truman, who was trying to downplay the scope and the severity of the war to the American public by calling it "a police action," was going to inflate the casualty rate? Not hardly. Consider this fact: the largest single concentration of uniformed service members at the time was in Korea. Then per capita it was deadlier to be stateside than in combat.

There was no great pandemic like the Spanish Flu after World War I (fall of 1918 through the winter of 1919) to which to attribute these deaths. Did this researcher ever baseline and post the mortality rates for the years before June 1947 through June 1950, and after August 1953 through July 1956? No. I venture to say that lots of servicemen in "Europe and "stateside" were dying on the same days that coincided with a U.S. or Red offensive in Korea.

An explanation for this documentation error is simple and straight. There was a critical manpower shortage. Exigent demands caused the services to react in different ways. The U.S. Army started to send soldiers on levy with orders to Europe or other posts and soldiers that were at the 90-day loss mark to Korea with amendments to orders to follow.

Routing amendments to soldiers without a pinpoint assignment (gaining unit) was an extremely labor and time intensive process, which meant that amendments just floated around in AG limbo.

I landed at Inchon, Korea with the X Corps on 15 September 1950, as a U.S. Army radioman. Since the 1st Marine Division didn't have the capability to talk to X Corps HQ, my unit was attached to them. The 1st Marine Division was understrength when ordered to Korea. To help fill the shortage, Marine Reserve units were called up and assigned to the division. I ran across a number of "Marines" in these reserve units who hadn't even been to boot camp. Official regulations were bypassed.

I came back to Camp (now Fort) Gordon, Georgia in October 1951. At the transfer point there were signs that stated "Personnel returning from Korea will NOT be sent back to Korea." By January 1952 I was in Japan. By February 1952 I was in a replacement depot (aka repple depple) in Korea. Luckily for me, my old buddy Hayden, who was "field first," was on a raiding party to the "repple depple." He grabbed me and I went back to my old unit. He and others couldn't believe I had been to the states and back.

Officially, the Internal Revenue Service recognized me as not being in combat in Korea. Therefore, I owed them federal income tax. If I didn't pay up I was going to the federal pen. The Army Finance Corps officially had me in a unit not in Korea. I wrote the IRS a reply "Please come get me." They didn't.

Several of my buddies were in similar circumstances. One was from Montana. He said his dad knew the congressman. So he wrote to the congressman. Long months passed. Then one day a jeep stopped at the top of our hill. Out jumped an O-6—a full colonel. He shouted three names, mine among them. He said, "Grab your gear; you're going home. NOW!"

We asked, "What about our replacements?"

He replied, "Not your concern."

My buddy had written congressman just turned U.S. senator Mike Mansfield (D-MT). Nobody wanting to make the military a career stalls a congressional inquiry. The date was 26 July 1953—the day the cease fire went into effect!

By the time we got to the rear, the cease fire had been signed. So the U.S. Army, in its infinite wisdom, kept me in Korea. I sailed out of Pusan, Korea on the General Randall on 24 September 1954—into a typhoon, of course.

I arrived at Seattle/Tacoma Pier 92 on 7 October 1954 and disembarked the next day. (After four long voyages across the North Pacific, maybe I'm due U.S. Merchant Marine back pay and retirement.)

So, is there anyone who has been in the service who's gone a

whole year without his orders or pay not being fouled up? We “Graybeards,” the ones who there and know, are passing over the horizon fast. Before I pass I refuse to let someone—especially someone who wasn’t there—rewrite history for some possible hidden agenda using faulty, poor, or lazy research techniques to present half-truths as whole truths.

Grady E. Reichard, late of X Corps, late of 1st Marine Div., late of 2nd Inf. Div., late of 7th Inf. Div., 820 Ponca Tr., Maitland, FL 32751

Editor’s Note: *Did anyone else experience problems with the IRS during their days in Korea—or in the military in general? If so, how did you resolve them—or did you?*

Fighting Communism In Different Places

All the articles in *The Graybeards* cover only those who served in Korea during the war years of 1950-1953. (I am aware that no peace treaty has ever been signed.)

My draft board told me that I would not be called to active duty until October or November of 1952. I believed in our mission in Korea, and wanted to be involved with it before an armistice was signed. Therefore, I went to my county seat in June 1952 and volunteered for the draft. By volunteering, I could pick the branch in which I wanted to serve. In addition, my active duty time would be only two years, followed by six years of inactive reserve.

I was called to active duty in late June and went from Camp Kilmer, NJ to Camp (now Fort) Gordon, GA. I underwent Signal Corps basic training there, which involved no weapons larger than a .30 cal. Then, I attended a twenty-week course in the Southeastern Signal School, studying Carrier & Repeater operations.

In February 1953 I received orders to Europe. At first, I was disappointed that I was not going to FECOM. Then, I remembered to “never volunteer.” I traveled on a troop ship sailing from Staten Island, NY to Bremerhaven, Germany.

I was assigned to the 142nd Armored Company, 2nd Armored Division, a part of the 7th Army. As I recall, we were there to discourage the Soviet Union from occupying all of Germany. I have since read that most of the military personnel occupying Germany from the United States, Great Britain, and France were not combat trained troops.

The U. S. State Department was concerned that if the USSR sent its 30-40 available divisions into Germany, they would occupy it all before we could react. (NATO was in its infancy then.) Our maneuvers were always to retreat across the Rhine River and hold there.

I was a member of the Radio Relay platoon. We operated deuce-and-a-half vans with our WWII vintage equipment permanently mounted in them. Our mission was to provide telephone communications from one unit’s location to another unit. My three-man team was often assigned TDY to a Recon battalion on the Czech-German border. (This unit’s brass was still crossed cavalry sabers.) They attached their EE-8 telephone lines to our van. Their calls were then modulated to a higher frequency and transmitted over VHF radios to the unit being called. Usually we were there for two weeks, living on C-rations, German beer, and

bread. We always carried loaded weapons.

The 2nd Armored Division had many “practice alerts,” and 2-3 “Red Alerts” for which we were issued a basic load of ammunition. We’d travel to our assigned assembly area, begin operating, and await “further orders.” To this day, I am thankful I have never had to fire my weapon at anyone. I am also proud of having been a 2nd Armored Division trooper. It turned my life around.

Many of us who served during those war years were not in Korea. We did what we were ordered to do. I believe The Graybeards could devote some space to those of us who served on the DEW LINE on Greenland, or in Alaska, in Europe, or wherever. We all fought the USSR.

Robert L. Wichterman, cabwich@comcast.net

The First Soldiers To Reach The Yalu

There has been some discussion recently among our readers as to whether any U.S. troops actually reached the Yalu River early in the war. Here is evidence that some did.



A copy of the LIFE photo depicting Gardner and Robinson at the Yalu

First to the Yalu: Co. C, 17th Inf. Regt., 7th Inf. Div.

Two soldiers scouting in advance of C Co. reached the Yalu just days before Thanksgiving in November of 1950. Cpl. Mayford (Jim) Gardner and PFC Tommie L. Robinson reached the river.

When they returned to the company they were told they were the first soldiers to reach the river and were photographed by LIFE Magazine. They were also told the picture would be published in LIFE in December 1950.

The company enjoyed a great Thanksgiving meal. A couple days later all hell broke loose. The 17th Reg. pulled back and made their way to Hungnam, where they were evacuated by ship. (Needless to say, I condensed the above info.)

Mayford (Jim) Gardner is now 85 years old and still lives in Michigan. He has lost track of Robinson. Incidentally, Mr. Gardner has the original picture given to him by the LIFE photographer.

Charles Gey, geyelo@comcast.net

No One Could Keep That Hill

When we reached the front lines on 14 October 1951, we were told the second battalion of the 7th Cavalry had “jumped off” on 3 October. Within three days they had taken back the desired territory at terrible costs. We were told only sixty troopers survived. These facts are documented in the 1st Cavalry book that I have.

We were also told we would be in defensive positions on what was called Line Jamestown. The ridges were somewhat like honeycomb-bunkers and tunnels. There was one exception to being defensive.

One night we learned that the 5th Cavalry was going to take the dangerous outpost called Hill 200. (I later learned several other troopers had been on this hill.) As we lay in a back-up position during the night, we observed all the firepower it took for the 5th to accomplish its mission, which was a difficult task at best. I will never forget what a wounded trooper told me, in tears: “No one could keep this bloody hill.”

We were there for a few days, then we made another of our many moves. Now, we had places to stay, without digging. There was one exception. My late foxhole pal, Elmer Van Scoik, and I worked the better part of three days digging a hole on the forward slope. We placed steel posts, wood, and gravel on top to make it safer.

I, being an assistant squad leader, was making my rounds right after supper when the artillery started coming in big time! I will never forget these words from somebody: “Let’s get the hell off this hill!” Right away I left.

We assembled at the foot of the hill. A few minutes later, trooper Norbert J. Vanyo, who lives in Minnesota today, came huffing and puffing off the hill. I asked him where he had been. Norbert told me he knew one of the rounds hit so close by that he wanted to check it out. Don’t you know, my safe bunker had taken a direct hit! Norbert said it was a miracle I had jumped into his bunker because it was closer. Once again, I dodged a bullet, so to speak.

There isn’t a night that I don’t think about my short experience in The Land of The Morning Calm.

Leroy Rogers, a thankful trooper leroyrogersusa@hotmail.com

NOTE: The following letter is a reply to Leroy Rogers’ letter above from his army pal, John Elden from Geneseo, IL. They went to Korea on the same ship and were with the same battalion in Korea. They didn’t meet until March of 1952 in Hokkaido, Japan in the personnel department. They worked together until Rogers left for home in January 1953.

The First Cav Book really brings everything back into perspective. Yes, I remember after we landed in Inchon, boarding the train and heading up to the front lines, while wounded troops were coming back on a hospital train on the other tracks, heading back to Inchon. My next recollections are before we were assigned to companies in the 7th Cav, when they took us out into the areas that had just been taken in the big push, just before we got there. I remember seeing all the hills, practically denuded of any trees or bushes and picking up empty rifle shell casings, etc.

Then we got to the replacement area and were all interviewed as

to whether we were to be assigned to the machine gun, mortar or 75 recoilless rifle platoons. Everyone around said “Don’t volunteer for the machine gun platoon, because we’d then be assigned to a rifle company, right on the front lines and outposts!! Go for the mortar or 75 recoilless rifle platoons. They are a hill or two behind.” Wouldn’t you know it? The lieutenant doing the interviewing was the leader of the machine gun platoon!

I’ll never forget after the small talk about where we went to basic and the trip over, he asked me what I knew about machine guns. I honestly told him, “A fair amount. We had some training in basic. I’m sure I could handle it.”

He kind of looked at me strangely and then asked me what I knew about radio? I happily told him, “Quite a Bit!! Being I had so much training in Artillery Fire Direction, and that of being a Forward Observer, calling in Fire Missions.” Shortly after, I was dismissed. Of the 12 replacements I came up with, 11 of them were assigned, but no one called my name. So, I had to ask the sergeant where I was to be assigned. He looked at his list and said, “You are the Assistant Radio Operator for Headquarters Company.”

WOW!! We were two hills back!! That didn’t last very long before we moved up on line.

I was also the company runner for Captain Frietag. I had to run all over Hell’s Half Acre, repositioning platoons. That’s when I unknowingly ran into Stan Schaaf.

I was hunkered down in a shell hole waiting for the Chinese to lift their mortar fire so I could get on with my mission. While I was in the shell hole, four GLs jumped into the hole with me. It took a while, but while I was there one of the other guys with me was talking about the shrapnel that tore up his towel and mess gear that he had hung up by his fox hole. It turned out this was Stan Schaaf talking!!

I found this out when we all were assigned to Personnel and overheard Stan talking about this to one of the guys. We compared notes and found out we had both been there together and didn’t even know each other!!! Small world!

I spent a week on Hill 200. We moved up on it and got there at midnight of the same day that the 5th Cav had just taken the hill and moved off, when George Co, your company, moved on to the hill. I’ll never forget when Captain Frietag, after we got there, had me go over to the forward slope and wait for you guys in George Company to move in.

While we were waiting, Captain Frietag called in white phosphorous mortar rounds, right down in front of me, so that we would be ready if the Chinese decided to counter attack. Of course, he never mentioned what he was going to be doing, so when the mortars were dropping in, I figured the Chinese were attacking, because I could see all their flares out in front of us. To be sure, I was all keyed up and ready!!

When the first guy from your company arrived, I damn near shot him, because he couldn’t remember the password!!

Later that week is when I came over to your area. I was to pick up a guide from one of the platoons to come back and guide a ROK soldier who was bringing up a replacement water-cooled machine gun that had been destroyed by shrapnel. I was there when the Chinese waited for one of your platoons to get down to the banks of the Imajin River and then blew the hell out of them and us as

well, back up the hill!

I'll never forget being stuck in a tiny crevice in the trench on the top, all by my lonesome, for some 45 minutes of shelling us with their mortars!! I recited the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd psalm more times than I could count!

I also remember when they were carrying all the wounded back up the hill from the river area. It still gets to me when I think about it and the many other times I was so lucky!! I had a sniper after me one time and I couldn't hear his rifle firing, since he was shooting from across the Imajin River! He fired two rounds at me and I could see the dirt flying up at my feet. Someone yelled "Sniper," and I dove into my fox hole.

Another time I was pulling guard duty and had a hell of a cough and fever. I was ready to go on duty at 2 a.m. when one of my foxhole buddies took one look at me and felt my head and said he'd take over for me. I thought he was pulling my leg, but he wasn't. He told me there was a "Hutch" behind and on the side of our position. He said, "Go sack out!" Wow, I did.

The next thing I knew, it was morning, and I crawled out and brushed all the dust and crap off me and went forward. They all said, "You're alive!!!"

I said, "You bet. I've never slept so well and I feel great!"

They then told me that a mortar round came in and landed on what they thought was right next to where I was sacked out, which was the 75 Recoilless Rifle ammunition dump. It evidently blew up and was like the 4th of July all over!!

I'm so thankful to have been so blessed and still can't understand why I should have been, when so many good friends were killed!

John Elden, jdemarleye3@gmail.com

The 38th Parallel Crosses Indiana

Sometime ago I read in The Graybeards that the 38th Parallel went across the United States and that one of the cities that it passed through was Evansville, IN. What a strange coincidence, since I had read that in 1997 the Indiana General Assembly passed a resolution to name Interstate 69 "The Korean Veterans Memorial Highway."

After doing some map reading (thanks to Google), I found that the 38th Parallel does go through Evansville and intersects with Interstate 69, approximately 100+ yards north of a main road, Morgan Ave.

There were just too many coincidences not to try and put them together. I discussed it with a fellow Korean vet (Delbert). He, too, was amused and surprised at the findings. Delbert and I are part of a group of "old guys" who build homes for Habitat for Humanity. Several other Korean vets were also surprised at our discovery. We looked for a way to put the two together.

We felt that one of our local state senators, Jim Tomes, a Vietnam veteran who often attends our Habitat Home dedications, would be the likely champion to see if the State of Indiana would erect a plaque at the intersection of I-69 and the 38th Parallel that read, "Korean War Memorial – 38th Parallel."

Senator Tomes introduced Resolution SCR-3. The Resolution passed with no dissenting votes. Jim then turned it over to his counterpart in the State House of Representatives, Rep. Ronald Bacon, who guided it through the House chambers. It passed

without any negative votes.

We await the Indiana Department of Transportation's erection of the plaque; it would be great if it were done by Memorial Day. We will alert The Graybeards when it is done. Since Interstate 69 will soon extend from the Canadian border (Michigan) to the Mexican border (Texas), we hope this plaque will appear on all maps that include Indiana. One of our local news anchors has already expressed a desire to interview Senator Tomes and discuss the plaque.

I thank John Quinn (CID 259, Central IN) for his support, guidance, and prayers for this project. We met with John and his lovely wife while wintering in Florida.

Footnotes:

Both Delbert and I were concerned for a while when we found out that we now live north of the 38th Parallel. We'll be on guard from now on.

We have already sent out a "thank-you" letter to all the senators and representatives who helped by co-authoring the resolution.

Don Gillies, Evansville, IN, don26@twc.com

neiljefferies64@yahoo.com

Thornton Date Set (See "Did You Graduate From Thornton Township [IL] High School?," Recon, 11/12/2015, p. 69)

Many thanks for printing about the program that will honor all former and current veterans from Korea as well as WWII, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, who attended Thornton Township High School located in Harvey, Illinois. The program will be presented by Tom Dreesen '57, (Navy) Comedian and opening act for Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr., and the Thornton Alumni Legacy Fund (TALF) in November 2016 at the newly rebuilt auditorium at Thornton Township High School. A definite date of Saturday, November 12th, 2016 at 1 p.m. has been set for this program.

All Thornton veterans who served are invited to attend this free program with their families. Relatives of deceased veterans are also welcome, as those servicemen and women will also be honored. Invitations will be sent out when more details are available.

If any of your members who are interested in this program and attended Thornton would like to attend, have them send their names, branch of service, years served, military awards, current addresses, the year they graduated from Thornton, phone numbers, and/or email address to Richard W. Condon, 439 Linden Ct., Frankfort, IL 60423 or kristine.m.condon@gmail.com.

As of this date I have 322 veterans' names from WWI through Afghanistan. Some of the notables that will attend are Lou Boudreau Jr. '57 (Marine), (son of Baseball Hall of Fame legend Lou Boudreau '35) and Bill Hayes '42 (Navy), Broadway and soap opera star who sang the Ballad of Davy Crockett Song. There will be many others in addition.

I am also sending along a check to help support your magazine.

Richard W. Condon, Korea '53-54, 439 Linden Ct.,
Frankfort, IL 60423, 815-469-2537

No Beards In Korea?

I served with the 2nd Infantry Division in 1952. No beards were allowed on the MLR due to the difficulty of repairing a

worked. We thought the smell alone would keep the mosquitoes at bay. Not so!

The picture of the “pup tent” accompanying that article caught my eye. Yes, we were “pups” all tight. And we “pups” soon earned the name “dogfaces.”

I also like the letter about the uniforms on p. 69, “Should We Change The Blue & White For Our Original Uniforms?” I never understood why the army made the change to the hotel door-man’s look.

I still have my OD “Ike” jacket. It doesn’t really fit, but I can get it on. Unfortunately, I can’t button it. But my Chevron Class A hat still fits.

Marvin Reed, 2900 Right Hand Canyon Rd.
Reno, NV 89510

Do You Need A Polygraph Test To Prove An Event?

On June 14, 1953, Co. “F” 7th Regt., 3rd Div., was involved in a five-hour battle with the Chinese. (I have a website, – robert-barfield – that explains the battle.) Just before dark that day I made sure my men were ready. A message had been intercepted that we were to be hit!



Bob Barfield

I got my squad ready. The bunker I was in had four men in it. I told my men that no one was to attempt to throw a grenade through the aperture of our bunker. One man would hold up the chicken wire on the door of our bunker, and another would get in the trench and throw the grenade over the trench!

Not long after the battle started one of my men screamed, “It didn’t go out!”

I yelled, “What?”

He said “the grenade” as he ran from the bunker! He had been firing through the aperture with his M-1. The copy of polygraph I am sending you explains that if I had been standing then, I wouldn’t be here. (NOTE: *We did not include the polygraph report here.*)

The other two men were in the back of the bunker out of harm’s way. When the grenade went off, rocks, wood dirt, sand blew down on top of me! The same man who ran later refused to help me with two of my men who had been seriously injured. I threatened to “SHOOT” him if he didn’t help. He did. (I took a polygraph about this also.)

Why did I take a polygraph test? (Actually, I took three separate different ones.) I had already decided to write about my life, which I did in 2012). At that time I hadn’t ever been in touch with anyone who was in the “Boomerang battle” with me until “after” I took “any” of the polygraph exams. I figured this was the only way I had of proving I was telling the truth.

A couple of years ago I read the book about Louis Zamperini, a real hero. In his book, Zamperini wrote regarding his story, “Everything had to be authentic.” I felt the same way about my book: “We had to confirm everything.”

My sentiment exactly!

Robert Barfield, rmj187@yahoo.com

Memory Expansion

Thank you for publishing my “memories” in the January-February 2016 edition, p. 68, “Walking Into Walker.” Just to correct an error on my part, I shipped out of Oakland, CA in either September or October of 1948, not 1950, as I stated.

As the letter noted, the army changed our orders just before we landed in Korea. So, we went to Yokosuka, Japan instead. The administration was reducing the number of troops in Korea.

I recall an incident in Tokyo involving a “dress assembly” at the Imperial Plaza at which General MacArthur and his staff reviewed thousands of military troops. One would have to be there to explain the feeling of being a part of that formation.

Many division, battalion, regiment, etc., flags flew on that beautiful sunny day. The formation included returning Korean and WWII veterans and occupation forces in Japan. What a display of military force it was. (Regardless of our backgrounds, we were all one force that day.)

Many years later I wondered if the leader of Japan, who was allowed to live in the Imperial Palace for life, overlooked the plaza during the assembly and said to himself, “We sure screwed up at Pearl Harbor.”

Thanks for The Graybeards. It keeps us veterans in touch with one another as we remember not to forget the past.

Al Crawford, 135 High Barney Rd.
Middletown, NY 10940

MPs Received The CIB?

Regarding your request for information about other incidents regarding the CIB: see “The Mistake That Came Close To Getting Me Killed,” p. 68, January-February 2016...

I arrived in Korea in June 1952 and rotated in May 1953. I was assigned to the Scout Section of the 3rd Reconnaissance Co., 3rd. Inf. Div. I served on the lines at least fifteen days or more every month I was there. Even though I accumulated 36 points in 9 months, there was no replacement for me.

Our missions were infantry related in every operation we undertook. In September 1952, while on line, I was assigned to a night ambush patrol to set up at the base of Outpost Kelly in Yonchon, North Korea. Early in the evening we were ambushed from our left flank as the notorious battle for Kelly broke out on the hill. The 1st Platoon of the 65th Inf. Regt. was practically wiped out.

We were separated from our NCO. I moved the patrol to a defensive position, then moved them again when a grenade was thrown in our midst. The patrol was given up for dead, but I got them back safely the next morning. One month later, October 1952, our outfit was called up to the MLR in the Chorwon Valley region to retake Iron Horse Mountain (aka Jackson Heights). A number of 65th troopers refused to take the hill. Our recon placed them under guard.

I got hung up in the hill engagement as I was extricating a fellow soldier whose leg was blown off in a minefield outside the wire.

The point of these examples is that our company has never been recognized for the CIB. A buddy of mine has strived with-

out success for the past twenty years to remedy this omission. We've heard stories about MPs going to the MLR and remaining there for a few days and receiving their CIBs.

In our case we will need an act of congress—literally. Many recon units in other divisions functioned in a fashion similar to ours, but the military nuanced requirements for the CIB when it transitioned from the early part of a “movement” war to a stationary concept of the MLR. Once they established this new structure, strategies and functions began to change, as did the criteria for earning the CIB.

We shared the same bunkers on the line with the infantry, guarded the same trenches, supplied relief for the infantry as they drew back for rest, and continued our night patrols at the same time. But, we did not receive the CIB.

I hope this adds some more detail to the ongoing controversy regarding the award of the CIB.

Ben Farnan, 5 Cambridge St., Glen Cove
NY 11542, 516-676-0203

My Short Korean Story

I was drafted in December of 1952 and took basic training in Camp Atterberry, Indiana. In May of 1953, on the way to Korea, I was assigned to the motor pool with the 555 FAB, better known as the Triple Nickel, for its ripple. We were put in the Kumsong River Salient right next to the front lines to support a South Korean division the first part of July 1953.

On the night of July 13, 1953 the CCF forces started lots of fireworks and the Chinese and North Koreans came in wave after wave. We were left on the front line. This was after the South Korean Division was overrun. Then, we were too.

A round came in and I had a concussion and a broken ear drum. Moreover, I had a bunch of shrapnel in my knee, which remained there for thirty days before it worked out. It was hard for me to walk, but I got a lot of help from my buddies.

We were captured in the morning of July 14th. It took about three weeks of walking, mostly at night, to get to prison camp. We were kept in shacks during the day. To my surprise, I met my 2nd cousin, Walter Geppert, who was there a month longer than me and Ralph Meier from the neighboring town of White Lake, who was there close to three years.

After the truce was signed on July 27th, we were involved in the “Big Switch” prisoner exchange in the first part of September. On that fateful night of July 13-14 there were 22-25 KIA, 19 WIA and 46 captured. We did not have much for food until the last night in camp before the prisoner exchange. They did get us some wine, sugar coated redskin peanuts, and canned duck, which was pretty tasty—after we took the feathers off.

One of the greatest sites during our exchange was seeing that great flag of ours.

After the war I married Maxine. We had 2 boys, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren, and 9 great grandchildren. Sadly, she died on 7 December 2015.

If anyone from the Triple Nickel or any other unit in Korea reads this and cares to contact me, they are welcome to do so.

Phillip E “Phil” Konechne, PO Box 76, Kimball, SD
57355, 605-778-6594 (home), 605-680-6594 (cell)

Ch 327 Honors MIA Soldier From Korean War



PNG Brig. Gen. Anthony Carrelli speaks before presenting medals to Clarence Stuck, brother of Cpl. Kenneth Stuck.

Cpl. Kenneth Stuck honored

After 65 years of anguish and uncertainty, Cpl. Kenneth Stuck was finally welcomed home from the Korean War by his family, many friends, active military, and a contingent from KWVA Chapter #327, Gen. John H. Michaelis, in South Central Pennsylvania.

For all the years since October of 1950, when Kenneth was declared Missing in Action, his brother Clarence persisted in the search for information that might help the Stuck family know what had happened to their brave son. Clarence, an Army Korean War veteran (ret) with 28 years of service, and KWVA member, never gave up hope that his family would one day get definitive answers surrounding the status of his brother.

Unexpected news from the Department of the Army was received in November 2015. Through the use of modern DNA technology, an Army forensic laboratory in Hawaii had identified Cpl. Kenneth Stuck's remains among those in a mass grave deep in North Korea, in the area of the disastrous battle of Unsan, near the Chinese border.

It was determined that Cpl. Stuck, as part of the 1st Cavalry Division, took part in the Battle of Unsan, suffered massive wounds, and was apparently killed instantly. His remains were returned to his family when they met the plane carrying his casket at the Harrisburg, PA airport. A full military honor guard was on hand to honor Cpl. Stuck's arrival home for eternal rest.

Cpl. Stuck's memorial service was held at a beautiful church on a snow-covered hilltop in rural Pennsylvania on January 30, 2015. As the honor guard stood by his casket, BG Anthony Carrelli, Acting Adjutant General of the PA National Guard, presided over the posthumous awarding of military medals and ribbons that Cpl. Stuck did not live to receive. They included the Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman Badge.

As part of the ceremony, General Carrelli recounted the events surrounding the Battle of Unsan and the first infusion of over 10,000 Chinese troops that overwhelmed the UN forces, primarily the 1st Cavalry Division. This battle resulted in the most devastating U.S. losses of the Korean War.

All U.S. flags at the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania facilities were ordered at half-staff for the day by our governor to honor Cpl. Stuck.

Official Membership Application Form

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407 (Telephone: 217-345-4414)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE Assigned Membership Number: _____

KWVA Regular Annual Dues = \$25.00 ♦ Associate Membership = \$16.00
MOH, Ex-POW, Gold Star Parent or Spouse & Honorary - \$0.00

Regular Life Membership: (May be paid in lump sum or 6 equal payments by check over a 12 month period.)

Ages up to and through 35 years of age:\$600

Ages 36 through 50 years of age:\$450

Ages 51 through 65 years of age:\$300

Ages 66 years of age and older:\$150

Please Check One: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Member (# _____)

Please Check One ☐ Medal of Honor ☐ Regular Member ☐ Regular Life Member ☐ Associate Member
☐ Ex-POW ☐ Honorary ☐ Gold Star Parent ☐ Gold Star Spouse

(Please Print)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle/Maiden Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Apt. or Unit # (if Any) _____ Phone: (_____) _____ Year of Birth: _____

Email _____ Chapter Number/Name (if applicable) # _____

All Regular members please provide the following information if applicable

Unit(s) to which Assigned

Branch of Service

Division _____ ☐ Army
Regiment _____ ☐ Air Force
Battalion _____ ☐ Navy
Company _____ ☐ Marines
Other _____ ☐ Coast Guard

Dates of service:

WithIN Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

WithOUT Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes as indicated, is true and correct."

[If you are applying for membership in a category other than Section 1, par A.1., of the "Criteria for Membership" listed below, complete the "Certification of Eligibility for KWVA Membership" Form on page 2.]

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Note: If this is a GIFT Membership – please sign here to certify, under penalty of law, that to the best of your knowledge, ALL of the information you have provided about the Applicant is true and correct. [Note: If applicable, you must also complete and sign the Eligibility Form on page 2.]

Signature: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Make checks payable to: KWVA – Mail to: **Korean War Veterans Association Inc., P. O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407** (Or you may pay by Credit Card)

Credit Card # _____ ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD (only)

Expiration Date _____ V-Code _____ Your Signature _____

Adopted 10/27/2012

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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.

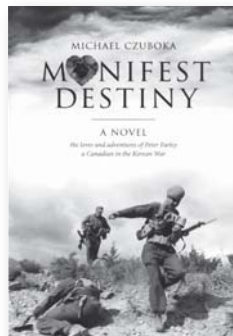
F. Ineligible. Any person who has been separated from the service of the Armed Forces of the United States under conditions other than honorable shall be ineligible for membership in this Association.

WEB SITE: www.kwva.org

Adopted 10/26/2009, R5 Approved 7/26/2013

Book Review

A Novel Approach To History



Czuboka, Michael. *Manifest Destiny: the loves and adventures of Peter Farley, a Canadian in the Korean War*. Victoria, BC, Canada: Friesen Press; 2015, 397 pages. Kindle: \$2.99; Paperback: \$25.99; Hard Cover: \$39.99.

Caveat: Anyone who reads this review is likely to think it is negative. To the contrary: there may be criticisms of the book, but it is still worth reading.

Let's start with the synopsis on the amazon.com website:

"*Manifest Destiny* is a novel that is based largely on events that took place during the Korean War in the early 1950s. Conflict, romance, mystery, the stigma associated with mental illness and humorous events take place. The cultural characteristics of the era, and especially those of the small towns of Canada and home of the main protagonist, are portrayed. The lives of the principal characters before, during and after the war are described.

"Peter Farley, the main protagonist, becomes romantically involved with several women, and especially with an American nurse in Korea. The Soviet Embassy in Ottawa recruits a Canadian communist fellow traveler to spy on Canadian Forces in Korea and his identity remains a mystery until near the end of the book.

"Combat occurs against the Chinese and North Korean communist forces in Korea. Peter Farley becomes a prisoner of war and returns to Canada to a difficult and uncertain future because his mind has been damaged by torture that he endured while in captivity."

The synopsis is accurate. Everything in it is mentioned in the book. The author, who served in the Korean War with the Canadian Army, does a good job of portraying the events he addresses. And, he brings to the story historical facts which help frame some of them. They are helpful, but sometimes superfluous.

Czuboka's writing style makes readers wonder whether he is presenting a historical novel or a novel approach to history. (He is a first-time author.) And, he does stretch readers' credulity at times. For example, the protagonist, Peter Farley, falls in love with seemingly every beautiful woman he meets. Inexplicably, they fall in love with him as well. Meanwhile, back home there is another woman who loves him, but he really does not love her. If nothing else, readers will become jealous of Farley, even if they don't believe anyone can fall in love so easily. (Warning: there are actually two characters named Peter Farley in the book, which gets confusing at times.)

And one of the main stories in the book, the existence of a spy with the Canadian forces, stretches readers' imagination. (Hey,

one of the beauties of fiction is that readers have to suspend their disbelief and just enjoy the story.) The spy disappears for large portions of the book. When his identity is revealed, his demise is so sudden that the reader has to wonder why it took so long to uncover his identity.

Okay, enough of the petty observations. Czuboka manages to balance weak spots with illuminating historical background, e.g., his account of an actual train wreck at Thunder River, British Columbia, involving Canadian troops en route to Ft. Lewis, WA for training before shipping out for Korea and his account of the Ukrainian diaspora in Canada. And, his descriptions of combat and post-war psychological reactions make for compelling reading. So, readers may not love the protagonist in the book, but they might enjoy his escapades and attention to history.

No doubt there is more than a grain of truth in the events portrayed in the book. The truth from this reviewer's perspective is that, on balance, it is worth reading. No one may fall in love with the book as quickly as Peter Farley fell in love with beautiful women, but, love is not required to appreciate a good book. Like is enough—and there is a lot to like about *Manifest Destiny* (a term which the author explains in detail concerning Canadians' fears that their country might have become our 51st state).

NOTE: Readers can order the book through www.amazon.com. Or, go to Google and type: "Manifest Destiny: Michael Czuboka" for information about the book. It is available in all major bookstores in Canada and the United States.

Manifest Destiny can also be accessed online, via Google, by means of Amazon Kindle, Barnes & Noble's Nook, or FriesenPress Bookstore.

Freedom is valued—but never free

**Bless all our veterans, alive and dead
When things looked hopeless they forged ahead
They never failed to do their part
Some came home, some did not.
Some traded a limb for a Purple Heart.**

**Fellow veterans from coast to coast
Enjoy the freedom you love most.
But remember the ones who deserve your toast
Those veterans whose spirits remain at their
post.**

**In the final agreement we have to agree
Though freedom is valued—it never is free.**

Peter De Gaetano, 31 Tynan St., Staten Island, NY 10312

A Woman's Perspective

"When A Woman Marries A Combat Veteran, She Marries The War"

By Edna Holmes

Since you printed the article I submitted: Just a Pen Pal (On The Home Front) in *The Graybeards* in the September-October issue of 2005 (p. 50) I have been surprised that you have not had more ladies correspond in writing about their experience as wives or sweethearts of veterans of wars. There is so much to be told by every one of them that I've met. Our experience is unique, and common with our lot.

In 2003, Louis (Korea-Through Different Eyes, Jan-Feb 2015 issue) and I were still in the pastorate, and active in our KWVA chapter #215. They asked me to speak on the subject of how wives of military men cope in time of war and in the aftermath, etc. In reviewing the speech recently, I decided to send it to *The Graybeards* and see if you could use any part of it. Though it was given twelve years ago, I would say the same thing today, with one after thought: when a woman marries a combat veteran, she marries the war!

The horrors of war on the front lines of combat make such a deep impression on those young men; they can never get rid of it. Getting into their careers and life when they came home took the edge off,

but it only takes a sound, sight, or smell to trigger the horror of war that's imbedded in their memories.

My 85-year-old veteran is still touched once in a while, for no apparent reason, and I can tell he is "back there" and coping. I simply don't have the ability to write about what little I have come to understand about the subject. I wish I did.

If you can use any part of this article in the future, I'd be very happy to share it. Maybe some other wife would sit down and "put it all on paper" if she is inspired by seeing that someone else made an effort. There are many stories that *The Graybeards* audience would appreciate.

After the speech, our chapter president at that time, Marvin Dunn, presented me with a nice plaque. We don't get to attend every meeting now, but Louis is a lifelong member. We go back for very special occasions and events with the chapter. He is also active in this area, making speeches, and participating in any patriotic event where he can be of service.

Soldier/Veteran's Wife

(Speech made to Korean Veterans Chapter 215)

I was 12 years old when I became aware that being a soldier's wife was a little different from the norm. My older brother was in the military, stationed in Alaska, and could not get a leave to be home at Christmas. His wife came out to our farm for the day. She sat at the piano several times and sang "I'll have a Blue Christmas without you." Nobody enjoyed that day with those sad notes filling up the hours as my sister-in-law expressed her sorrow and loneliness. My brother was not in harm's way, and there

was no war on, but he was just not there with her on the most special time of the year.

A soldier's life is framed by the military as long as he is in it. You see the picture and the frame, which is obvious. He can't come and go as he pleases and is subject to orders. He and his family are 'contained' more or less, held in by the framework of the military. Many men make the military service a career, and for those wives, it means constant moving and coping with the children adjusting to new places and schools, etc.

When war comes, normal life for those in the military goes into a holding pattern. How do these wives and sweethearts of soldiers cope? I've known a few in my life, having four brothers in the military at different times. And though I was not married to Louis when he was in Korea, my life was greatly affected by the tum of events.

I remember the day it started, for I was cultivating our cotton field on a little Ferguson tractor when a sudden rainstorm blew in. I got the tractor out of the field and down the road to my brother's barn and my sister-in-law rushed out to tell me the Korean War had started. It was a sad day, because everything I'd hoped and dreamed of for over two years was now on hold. I could imagine how Louis felt.

He finished teaching the term in Leadership School in Japan and they sent him to Korea. Fifty-three years ago September 18, he made a beachhead landing at Inchon, a platoon sergeant at 19 years old. In October, standing in a rice paddy somewhere in Korea, he received his Combat Infantry Badge. That month he was 20 years old.

Louis had on leather house shoes when he arrived. That's all he wore and he got married in his dress uniform and those house shoes! I thought it was a little odd, but thought maybe it was a Yankee thing! Maybe all Yankees get married in house shoes! Anyway, I didn't care and I certainly didn't know how significant that was.



Edna Holmes delivers speech in 2003

TV didn't bring the war into the living rooms then; in fact, hardly anyone had television in 1950. But we listened to the news on the radio with an ear straining to hear mention of his outfit, etc. Every day I'd hope and hope that they would announce that the Korean War was over! But it was not to be, and so life had to go on with working the farm and attending school. The war was never out of my mind, and there was always the fear that Louis would be hurt or killed. I can imagine how wives with little children must feel when their husbands are in the thick of front line fighting in a war.

One of my brothers was a pilot in the Vietnam War. He couldn't be there when his wife had their first baby. (I called him to get the right particulars about this story.) He had a notice posted from the Red Cross on his board after a flight mission about 8 p.m. at night. At midnight he went out to his plane and got on the long distance frequency of his radio and asked if anyone was out there. Several ham radio operators answered. Mack would ask where they were located.

When one in San Diego, Cal. answered, Mack asked him if he could get him through to Dallas, Texas. He knew a ham radio operator there, called him, and explained the situation. That operator called Methodist Hospital and got Sandy on the phone, plugged the telephone into his radio somehow, and they could talk to each other, but had to follow radio procedure.

"Hello Sandy this is Mack, I love you.....over. . ."

"Mack, I love you ...we have a baby boy ...over!"

So, in that manner, their crying and talking went on. Mack said after the call that both ham radio operators congratulated him on the birth of his son. And just before he switched the frequency back in his plane, a voice from a Pan Am flight over Wake Island spoke up with a word of congratulationsthen one from Tokyo "...pleased to congratulate you for new son," and then a voice from Honolulu!

Even strangers listening in the night were touched by the trauma of a young couple being separated by war at such a time.

Barbara, our Associate Pastor's wife,

tells me how she coped when Greg was in Vietnam. They had been married 11 months when he was shipped out. She couldn't get settled anywhere for a while, but finally decided to live with his parents in New Jersey, where Greg grew up. She felt closer to him there.

After work, she spent the evenings entertaining herself by meticulously coloring the pages of coloring books! (Stacks and stacks.) She couldn't bear to watch the TV and news about the war. She wrote to him every day, and regularly sent packages for every occasion.

Now she is encouraging her own daughter whose husband is an officer in Iraq, with the 4th Army. The mother now tells the daughter—"You can cope!"

Louis got home from Korea in the latter part of May 1951. He came in on the ship Marine Adder that docked in Seattle, Washington. In a few days he arrived home in Illinois, and shortly after came to Texas to see me. We met on Tuesday night for the very first time and were married the following Sunday!

We had written to each other for two years, but never seen each other! It is one of those wartime romance stories which is unusual. We have already had two reporters jump on it with great delight. The story was in the Dallas Morning News, and another time in the Grapevine Sun.

I married a veteran of war! I didn't have the slightest idea of what that would mean to my life. A veteran of combat brings the war home with him. He doesn't do it consciously, but the horror of war makes an impression in his heart that he is reluctant to talk about, but can never forget. Most come out with health problems, even when there is not a major physical wound to the body.

Louis had on leather house shoes when he arrived. That's all he wore and he got married in his dress uniform and those house shoes! I thought it was a little odd, but thought maybe it was a Yankee thing! Maybe all Yankees get married in house shoes! Anyway, I didn't care and I certainly didn't know how significant that was.

'Cold injury' had not been defined yet, but Louis' feet were in awful shape. It's been a lifetime problem since Korea, and

for many years he could only wear white cotton socks. He might be dressed in formal attire to perform a wedding, but underneath the finery was white cotton socks on his feet.

During that first summer before he had to report back for duty in Baltimore, MD, he was constantly in the dentist's or a doctor's office trying to cope with his health problems. He'd lived on C-rations so long, his stomach couldn't handle regular food without severe cramps. But he was determined and I was sympathetic and together we made it through that period of time.

You veterans' wives know how difficult it is for your man to share his deepest feelings about what he experienced in the war. He may offer a comment every year or so when something triggers the emotions he has bottled up inside. But it is not going to be a detailed sharing time that women are prone to expect.

In 1983 Louis took me with him on a Missions trip and one of the stops was Korea—his first time back since the war. I could tell that it was a little disturbing for him. That Sunday he preached in the largest Baptist Church in Seoul. Before we left we visited the DMZ. Coming back, the bus we were on broke down and we had to walk to a shelter down the road about a half mile. A light rain had begun to fall and as the passengers strung out walking, Louis said as though he was talking to himself, "Yes, this is Korea It's raining, it's cold, and you're walking."

The thing that made the trip tolerable for him was the gracious attitude of the Korean people. They were kind and very respectful.

As the aging army of veterans meet in their various groups around the country to share camaraderie and work as a group for the good of all veterans, the wives stand with them.

I've lived with my veteran for 62 years now. I admire him and I know he has the bravery to fight for his country again if they would let him!

Now, he is a soldier in God's army and a fine example of a pastor for 41 years this month. I'm a veteran's wife two times over! I feel honored. I'll stand with him as long as I live.



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.

ARIZONA

STEVEN N. GERHARDT
JAMES A. 'JIM' RICHARD
HAROLD STANTON

CALIFORNIA

DAVID A. BALINT
PETER A. CARTWRIGHT
HENRY M. GUEVARA
LONNIE G. GUIN
CLYDE W. KOCH
WILLIAM A. PING
JACK O. POULSEN
ALEX SALDANA SR.
CHARLES C. SANDS

COLORADO

CHARLES J. ARNBRECHT JR.
DENNIS O. ARNEY
GEORGE R. BAKER
WAYNE I. BARTLETT
PETER A. BASEFLUG
NORMAN W. BERRY
BETTIE J. BLAIR
GEORGE H. BLAIR
VIRGIL N. BOHENSTENGEL
JOHN BOLDT
ELMER G. BOLZ
BETTY J. BOWMAN
JAMES F. BOYLAN
GIDEON H. DIAMOND

CONNECTICUT

WILFRED G. DOUGLAS
VERNARD J. 'VERN' GAUDET
GEORGE J. SAM
WILLIAM B. WOODIN
FRANK C. WYNNNE

FLORIDA

HERMAN ADELMAN
KARL R. ALLEN
BARBARA A. BLOMELEY
RICHARD A. CAVERLY
KENNETH L. COSGROVE
JOHN M. EASTMAN
GEORGENE A. EMSHOFF
EDWARD J. FLANAGAN
JOE A. FONT
WILLIAM J. 'BILL' GILKERSON
WILLIAM P. 'HAP' HARRINGTON
ROBERT W. HERMANSON
ANTHONY R. RICIGLIANO
AUGUST T. SPOSA JR.
MARGARETT P. TODARELLO
MARTIN TUROFF
MICHAEL W. TUTOLO
HOWARD B. VAINE
ROBERT VILA
ROBERT J. WIRE JR.
WILLIAM T. 'BILL' WOLFE
DAVID L. WOODS

HAWAII

EDWARD A. 'DOC' BROWN

IDAHO

ALLAN J. CERIALE

ILLINOIS

JOHN F. ADAMEK

INDIANA

JOSEPH 'JOE' BAILLARGEON
JAMES R. BALSAMELO
CHALEN H. BEAN
HAROLD G. HOLESINGER
DONALD J. KATZ
FRANK MARCAN
JOSEPH J. MUELLER
ARTHUR L. SMITH
WILLIAM D. STIEHL
LLOYD A. VRELL

INDIANA

ELDON L. BIDDLE
PAUL L. KENNEDY
RICHARD F. LASKY
HERBERT A. MYERS
GLENN SHEETS

IOWA

BOB L. PAULSON
JIM H. PEELER
LAVERN WRIEDT
JOSE A. 'CHEP' ALONZO
ROBERT R. MOES

LOUISIANA

HUBERT E. GREATHOUSE

MAINE

CHARLES W. CHESNUTT

MARYLAND

REGINALD O. FAUST
SEBASTIAN J. LAROSA

MASSACHUSETTS

DAVID H. KENNEDY
ROBERT N. 'RED' MORIN
SEBASTIAN R. PINA
ROBERT A. ROBERGE

MICHIGAN

DONALD C. AHO
BENNIE M. ALLEN
JOSEPH M. AMORE
HERBERT B. ANDRUS
RICHARD K. ANSTETT
RICHARD C. ARNOLD
GEORGE R. ATKINS
EARL R. BADEN
RAYMOND G. BOGSON
GERALD L. RISCHACK
JOHN T. ROYALTY

MINNESOTA

OLIVER L. ANDERSON
DAVID B. OLSON

MISSISSIPPI

MELVIN L. ASHFORD
WILLIAM T. ASTON
NEWTON R. BALL
WILLIAM H. CAMERON
JACK W. CARTER
HENRY COOK III
LAYNE W. DOWDY
WILLIAM R. EASTERLING
KENNETH W. FAIRLY
AUBREY I. FRESHOUR SR.
WILLIAM E. GARNER
DUDLEY J. HUGHES

MISSOURI

JAMES K. BOOHER
JOHN A. BOYLE JR.
THOMAS P. BRYANT
RALPH BULLINGTON
KENNETH L. DAWLEY
WALTER D. 'DUB' DEASON
LESTER J. ECKELKAMP
LARRY W. MARTIN
JAMES R. MEEKER

NEVADA

LEO PRECIADO

NEW JERSEY

LAWRENCE P. BARULLI
ROBERT H. CLARK SR.
NEIL A. DESENA
BERNARD FACTOR
TED FITZGERALD
BARTHOLOMEW LONG
CLYDE NEAL SR.
LAWRENCE J. NUGENT
FRANK D. POLERA
HERBERT STICKER
CHARLES SWIDER
GABRIEL E. TUONO

NEW YORK

KEITH E. BOCKES
PETER J. CAYAN
CHRISTOPHER FARLEKAS
FRANK R. FONTANO
ANTHONY T. GUTTILLA SR.
MICHAEL J. HAUGHIAN
JUAN A. HERMIDA
DONALD L. MILLER
STANLEY MILLER
ROBERT R. NICOL
LINCOLN J. OROLOGIO SR.
DONALD J. PARISOU
FURINO N. PERRIELLO
GABRIEL SCHIAVONE
MYRON E. 'MIKE' STENZEL
ROBERT A. SWANWICK
LOUIS J. TROPE

NORTH CAROLINA

WALTER B. CROWDER

CEDRIC L. EARLY
BOBBY J. PACE
FREDERICK B. PARKER
THOMAS J. QUIRK

OHIO

WILLIAM K. BALSER
RICHARD B. DICKINSON
DOUGLAS M. FARLEY
BERNARD E. HALL
RICHARD T. PHILLIPS
JAMES H. ROONEY
JOHN J. SIEMEN SR.
HARVEY M. SMITH
GERALD J. 'JERRY' SWISHER

OKLAHOMA

WALTER S. HAMMERT JR.

OREGON

ROBERT R. BOWEN JR.
ARTHUR J. 'ARTIE' LINDON
ROBERT B. STUART

PENNSYLVANIA

RUSSELL E. HORN JR.
MARVIN T. HUDSON JR.
HELEN L. 'PEGGIE' MILLER
LAWRENCE F. RYAN
ROBERT C. SNYDER
JOHN L. STRUBE

RHODE ISLAND

FRANK E. LIGHTOWLER
FREDERICK C. REYNOLDS SR.

SOUTH CAROLINA

GEORGE HOOK

TENNESSEE

BILL E. ASBURY
JAMES E. BROWN
SONNY JAMES
KENNETH W. KINNE
THOMAS J. LATHAM
JONATHAN M. PENNEY
LOWELL THOMPSON

TEXAS

REYMUNDO M. 'RAY' FALCON
PATRICIA K. JETTON
EUGENE C. MANSKE

HAYES C. MCCLERKIN
BOB R. PERRY
JOSEPH W. PREOLA
CHARLES R. TERRY
BRUCE R. WOODWARD

VERMONT

JOHN R. TYNAN

VIRGINIA

ROBERT M. ANDERSON
CHARLES E. ANTON SR.
CECIL F. ASHWORTH JR.
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WILLIAM T. BAUER
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CLAYTON L. BEST
SUZANNE M. CROWDER
FRED A. DAVIS
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CLAUDE C. DECK
VINCENT J. LIMMEX

WYOMING

DON R. HEGDAHL

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**



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

ARIZONA

R047202 LAVERNE D. BRUCE
LR47193 FRANK H. GRZESIK
R047245 CLAUDE V. SEDENQUIST
R047249 ROBERT D. SMITH

CALIFORNIA

R047159 RAMIRO G. BARAJAS
A047153 JUSTIN N. KIM
R047240 LLYWIN G. MARR
R047195 EARLE R. MURIE
LR47170 JOHN L. OWENS
A047215 ROSALYN E. RUBIN
LR47222 ALLEN L. SHULER
R047225 ELDON J. TUCKER
R047254 GERALD J. WILLIAMS

CONNECTICUT

A047155 JANET BARRETT
R047206 LEONARD M. FELDSTEIN

FLORIDA

A047270 LORI A. COAR
R047243 EDWARD G. COX
R047230 WALTER C. DAVIS
R047264 IRVING DUBOFF
A047191 PERRY W. FOX
R047227 HOWARD GARLIN
R047238 BOYD GUTTERY
R047165 JOHN H. HODES
R047164 ROBERT F. KRAUS
R047189 LEONARD H. LANDSMAN
R047182 GEORGE R. MCELVY
R047184 STANLEY L. MERCK SR.
A047221 SHEILA A. MORO
R047232 RONALD W. O'KEEFE
R047190 WILLIAM R. ROBERTS
R047211 RAYMOND L. TAYLOR
R047181 JAMES E. VAN DEMAN
R047257 BARRY G. YODER

GEORGIA

A047209 KEON LEE

ILLINOIS

R047251 CHARLES F. BEACH
R047263 RICHARD W. KRAHN
A047173 JAMES E. LOVELESS
R047180 DAVID B. PARKER
A047236 PHILIP L. ROBINSON

IOWA

R047154 DAVEY L. SMITH

MARYLAND

LR47204 CHARLES P. ROE

MASSACHUSETTS

A047220 JOSEPH P. THOMPSON

MICHIGAN

R047217 LARRY D. FIELDS

MINNESOTA

R047197 ROGER F. LARUE
R047219 DAVID C. SMITH

MISSOURI

R047200 CHRISTOPHER M. JOHNSON
A047235 JOSEPH N. PACINO
R047273 TEDDY G. RICHARDSON

NEVADA

A047247 JOHN A. DIAZ
R047267 DOUGLAS J. DUTRA
R047166 ALBERT S. GRANDIS
R047260 ROLAND G. HAGGARD
R047186 CHARLES E. JOHNSON
R047261 HUGH E. JOHNSON
A047262 RENEE M. JOHNSON
R047177 GEORGE H. METENJIES
A047212 JAMES E. PARKER
A047205 DIANA L. SHAW
R047229 HAROLD SIMLAK
R047176 NORMAN C. ZELLER

NEW JERSEY

R047214 JAMES R. BONEY
A047272 WARREN R. HALL
LR47175 WILLIAM J. HODGE
R047158 RAYMOND G. HUFNAGEL
A047218 PETER A. MANIC

NEW YORK

R047233 BRUCE A. BLACKIE
R047228 JOHN J. FEELEY
R047160 WILLIAM F. GALVIN
LR47157 ROBERT M. IBE
LR47174 LAWRENCE V. IUSO
R047207 ARMANDO V. MUSCARELLO
R047255 PETER J. PARKER

NORTH CAROLINA

LR47201 GEORGE E. DAVIDSON
LR47269 LORNA L. WEBER

OHIO

R047265 ROBERT A. PRIEBE
P047199 JACK M. TAYLOR
R047183 CARL W. TRAPP

OKLAHOMA

R047246 HANCEL L. HARRIS
A047224 LAURIE L. HOLMES
R047223 JOHN R. HOLMES JR.
LR47194 JIMMY MCCOY

OREGON

R047256 RICHARD F. ALVORD
R047179 JONATHAN P. LUCKY
R047231 DONALD L. MASON
PENNSYLVANIA
R047213 FRANK J. BERLETH
R047185 GILBERT E. CONDOR SR.
LR47253 RICHARD W. EDWARDS
R047163 WILBUR J. GAYLOR
R047187 CHARLES L. HALLGREN
R047208 DAVID F. SERGEANT
R047259 LARRY WARSHAWSKY
LR47196 PAUL WIKER JR.

RHODE ISLAND

R047203 RICHARD M. BARTLETT

SOUTH DAKOTA

LR47242 VERNON E. NEUHARTH

TENNESSEE

A047237 ROBIN L. SAMSEN

TEXAS

LR47226 AUBREY D. APPLEWHITE
R047169 BILL FELTNER JR.
R047162 JUAN R. GONZALES JR.
A047172 KIM L. HITESMAN
R047258 RALPH L. HODGE
R047216 BILLY R. JIMENEZ
R047241 RONALD W. LINDEN

LR47188 SHELBY G. MCLEOD
LR47156 BRUCE C. PARENT
A047171 CHOM SEALS
R047268 CLIFFORD A. SWAYZE
R047178 RICHARD L. TERRELL

UTAH

R047250 LEONARD S. CARTER

VIRGINIA

R047210 NORMAN L. BAKER
R047198 KELLY J. BANKS
R047252 CHARLES J. BRAMMER
R047239 RAYMOND H. GOFF
LR47248 WILLIAM C. HAGZAN
R047271 RAYMOND C. HARRIS
R047244 MICHAEL S. LINNINGTON

WASHINGTON

LR47168 DONALD L. PETERSON
R047161 JAMES B. SAELENS

WISCONSIN

LR47274 WILLIAM P. CYBULA
R047167 JEROME F. KOSMICKI
R047266 DALE L. POTTER
R047192 HARRY L. REGAN

ONTARIO

A047234 DOUGLAS D. GINGRICH

From Missouri To The Missouri

On July 27, 1953, the day the Korean War cease fire took effect, I was in the U.S. Navy, serving aboard USS Whetstone (LSD 27). We had dropped anchor at Wonsan Harbor in North Korea, away from land.

Our job was to hoist mine sweeping boats into the water. The crew would then clear the harbor of mines. Once cleared, the battleship Missouri, which had 16-inch shells, and two destroyers would go in and shell Wonsan. There were also planes dropping bombs on Wonsan. But, on the day of the cease fire, it all stopped.

I was raised in Duke, Missouri, located about twenty miles south of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. I attended a one-room school-house in which all eight grades were in the same room. There, I took the test to pass the eighth grade. One of the questions was, "Where did the Japanese sign the surrender to WWII?" The answer was aboard USS Missouri.

It was hard to believe that a few years later I would be serving on USS Whetstone, working alongside the Missouri. I had come a long way from the place I was raised in the hills of Missouri!!!

Buddy L. Wilson, 805 Bray Ave., Rolla, MO 65401, 573-364-9289, bleowilson4@gmail.com

Thanks!

The fact that Korean individuals and organizations continue to thank Korean War veterans profusely in a variety of ways is no longer surprising. Here is the story of another privately-funded "Thank you," this one provided for members of Ch 56, Ventura County, CA, and other veterans, by Stella Kang and family.

The flyer and photos tell it all.

The dinner was held at the Glen Tavern Inn in Santa Paula, CA. As the nearby photos suggest, the chapter was well represented.

*David Lopez, 3850 W 180th Pl.
Torrance, CA 90504, 310-323-8481
LopezPitts9@aol.com*

** Appreciation Dinner **

Dear KWVA Chapter #56 Members & Korean War Veterans,

You and a guest are cordially invited to join us for an appreciation dinner to honor Korean War Veterans. This event will be hosted by Ms. Stella Kang & Family as an appreciation for your service. Ms. Kang and her family are truly grateful for your sacrifices and expressed her interest in setting up this appreciation dinner to honor all of you on her behalf.

Date: Saturday December 5, 2015

Time: 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Place: The Glen Tavern Inn
134 N. Mill Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060
(805) 933-5550

Please RSVP no later than November 30, 2015, as we need to provide the restaurant with a total head count. Please call me at (310) 323-8481 and let me know if you will be able to attend. If at all possible we ask that you please come in uniform attire. Due to liability issues we have decided not to have an open bar. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Commander David Lopez
3850 W. 180th Place
Torrance, CA 90504



Benjamin Espinoza, Betty Espinoza, Shirley Ramirez, and Raul Ramirez enjoy appreciation dinner



Stella Kang (C), the host of the appreciation dinner, with George Castaneda, William Duarte, Martin Vasquez, Commander David Lopez, and Rudy Arellano of Ch 56 (L-R)

Invitation to dinner



Guests at appreciation dinner include Ch 56 member Tony Sandova and his wife, in the center of the photo





Unidentified Korean veteran and daughter, Lee N. Wills of Ch 56, and girlfriend (L-R) at the Glen Tavern Inn



Chaplain David Pressey of Ch 56 and his wife enjoy company of unidentified guests at Glen Tavern Inn

Members of Ch 56 socialize at appreciation dinner



Henry Nava, his daughter, and Martin Vasquez (L-R) represent Ch 56 at appreciation dinner



Ch 56 contingent at Stella Kang's appreciation event



A group of Ch 56 members and guests talk at Glen Tavern Inn



Manuel Adame (R), Stella Kang, and Delton Lee Johnson (L) at dinner

Rudy Arellano, Gregory Garcia Jr., David Lopez, and Manuel Adame of Ch 56 (R-L) at Glen Tavern Inn

Gilbert Cabrera, Rose Cabrera, Lupe Garcia, and David Garcia (L-R) at Glen Tavern Inn



APPLICATION FOR KOREA REVISIT & PCFY TOURS

(UPDATE 01/05/16)

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 nonrefundable \$50.00 deposit per person (check, money order or Credit Card) to Military Historical Tours. Payment of the remaining \$400 service fee is required for participants once a tour departure date is selected and submitted. The remaining \$400 service fee will be nonrefundable but a continuation into the following year is allowed if an emergency precludes the participants from attending the revisit that they have selected and been scheduled for.

Credit Card Authorization

I authorize **Military Historical Tours** by my signature above to charge my Visa, Discover, Master Card or Amex a **\$50.00 Deposit Per Person**,

The nonrefundable amount of **\$50.00 Per Person Credit Card #** _____

Expiration Date: _____ **please include the 3-Digit code on back of card** _____

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
Website: 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." Korea Defense Veterans (1945 – Jun 24, 1950 and Oct 16, 1954 – present) are eligible to go when Korean War Veterans are not available.

Expanded Eligibility

1. For the 65th anniversaries (2015-19) there will be more quotas available. In addition, those who have been on a Revisit prior to 2011 can apply to return again. (Call MHT for more details)
2. Widows and family members of deceased veterans or those unable to travel are also eligible for the Revisit as Veteran Representatives.
3. Korea Defense Veterans who served in Korea during these periods (1945 – Jun 24, 1950 and Oct 16, 1954 – present) are eligible to return on a space available basis TBD by the MPVA and the ROK criteria.

Benefits & Schedule

1. 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.
2. Accommodations are based on (2) persons per room, if you want a single hotel room you may at your own expense. All of the above items need to be requested in writing.
3. 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, and National Cemetery.

Typical Korea Revisit Itinerary

Day 1: Fly to Korea.

Day 2: Arrival day Incheon Airport, ROK check into Seoul Hotel.

Day 3 - Tribute Ceremony at the "Korean National Cemetery", visit to the Korean War Memorial.

Day 4 - Visit Panmunjom, DMZ, Joint Security Area, Camp Bonifas & wreath laying.

Day 5 - Ceremony for Korean War Veterans & Display/Show.

Day 6 - Visit tour of "Korean Folk Village" and shopping opportunity. Banquet hosted by MPVA and KVA.

Day 7 - Depart Korea or begin post-tour extensions.

Sundry Tour Requirements

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. Medical and Evacuation 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. Roundtrip transportation costs to Korea are not included and will be borne by each person who participates in the program. The participants must purchase roundtrip airfare, the ROK government will subsidize air costs (approximately 50% Veterans and 30% Companions.) The refunded airfare reimbursement will be calculated by the ROK after all the revisits. The reimbursement will be sent in a lump sum to be distributed by MHT for the entire year's groups.
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 nonrefundable service fee of \$450.00 per person is still required for the insurance, tour leaders and administration costs.
8. The initial \$50 per person registration fee that is required for postage, printing, phone charges, file maintenance and personnel staffing to manage the Korea Revisit Programs is not refundable. The remainder of the nonrefundable Service Fee (\$400) will not be charged until the participant has selected his Korea Revisit (KR) dates on the KR Preference Sheet that will be mailed in March-April as part of the KR Handbook.

Check Your Mailing Label

Membership Number
First two characters reflect membership type

Membership Dues Expiration Date. The example shows a dues expiration date of November 1st, 2015

*****5 Digit
R012345 11/1/2016
JOHN J. JOHN
12345 MAIN ST
SMILEY NY 01234-5678
DELIVERY POINT BARCODE

Check your name and address (Apt./Bldg/Lot No.). Notify the Membership Administrative Assistant at membership@kwva.org if you find an error. **If your zip code does not contain 9 digits (zip+4)**, your address is not correct according to the USPS. Contact your local Post Office for proper format.

Important: If barcode does not extend across the full label, then your zip code does not have 9 digits and your address is not complete according to the USPS. Contact your local Post Office for proper format.

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Korean War Veterans Association, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920

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SANSEORI, South Korea - U.S. Marines with Golf Battery, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, fire their M777A2 lightweight 155 mm howitzer at Sanseori, South Korea, as part of Exercise Ssang Yong 16, March 15, 2016. Ssang Yong is a biennial combined amphibious exercise conducted by U.S. forces with the Republic of Korea Navy and Marine Corps, Australian Army and Royal New Zealand Army forces in order to strengthen interoperability and working relationships across a wide range of military operations. The Marines and sailors of the 31st MEU are currently deployed to Korea as part of their spring deployment of the Asia-Pacific region. (U.S. Marine Corps Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Ismael Pena/Released)