

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

The Graybeards



Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
May - June 2016 Vol. 30, No. 3



Memorial Day 2016

Remember our fallen

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

In loving memory of General Raymond Davis, our Life Honorary President, Deceased.



The Graybeards is the official publication of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA). It is published six times a year for members and private distribution. Subscriptions available for \$30.00/year (see address below).

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See detailed list of committees at WWW.KWVA.ORG



From the President

Larry Kinard

It has been almost three years to the day that I wrote my first President's Newsletter (May-June 2013). In a way it seems like a long time ago. In reality, so much has happened during that time that it seems like just a few days ago.

I have been truly blessed at the age of 87 to have had the opportunity to serve as the president of the KWVA. I thank all our members for their patience and support over this time. The KWVA Board has been especially cooperative and helpful in making some significant changes in our by-laws that will make the future of our organization more efficient and stronger.

Tom Stevens is our new president. I am pleased. He is well suited for the job, with both his business background and experience in serving on the KWVA Board. He is very enthusiastic about the next two years and will provide strong leadership to keep us moving forward.

Like many other veterans organizations, our biggest challenge continues to be recruiting members, those who served in the war and those who have served since. The future of our legacy and our organization is the Defense Veterans. Every chapter has to realize that we must bring in the younger generation to continue to exist. (See Warren Wiedhahn's article, p. 14).

One of the best things I have experienced during the past three years is meeting and communicating with so many of our members. I have had the good fortune to talk with many of you on the telephone and visit with some at the national, department, and chapter meetings.

Last month I was invited to speak at the Department of Florida meeting in The Villages, Florida, at the Waterfront Inn. I appreciate that the members of Chapter 169 took up a collection to pay for my airfare and hotel expenses. Thank you; I was pleased to be invited.

This was an exceptional meeting with very good attendance, presided over by Maxine Parker, state department president. Most of the Florida chapters were repre-

For the first time in several years Jim [Fisher] has managed to obtain a spot for the KWVA in the nationally publicized Washington D.C. Memorial Day parade.

sented. Generally, they had positive reports on their activities.

Most of them have the same problems all chapters are having with retaining old members and gaining new ones. We had a suggestion from the floor that National may need to do more in reminding members to pay dues. After a bit of discussion it was concluded that chapters can also help retention by calling or visiting with the members and reminding them of their dues payment and that they still want them as members.

Tom Thiel, Secretary of Chapter 169, reported their recruiting had been successful in The Villages area and has attracted fifty new members. His chapter in Leesburg decided they would find a place in The Villages about eleven miles away where they could meet and hold a second meeting each month for the members there.

Tom and his chapter have been very active and are making a big impression on veterans in their area. They have set an example for what can be done with enthusiasm and member involvement.

I had the pleasure of meeting Dale Briggs, President of Chapter 155, who was one of the founders of the National KWVA organization in 1985 with membership number (LC00009). Dale, who lives in Ft. Myers, FL, is anxious to hear if any of the founding members are still around. He served as one of the first Directors of the KWVA and gave me a copy of the first issue of *The Graybeards* magazine, published in November 1985. It will be placed in our museum, if it does not already have one.

One of my last duties will be to attend the Memorial Day ceremonies in Washington D.C. In remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, we will once again place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and at our Memorial. Jim Fisher has made exceptional plans this year

by inviting several organizations to take part in the Memorial ceremonies at 5 p.m.

For the first time in several years Jim has managed to obtain a spot for the KWVA in the nationally publicized Washington D.C. Memorial Day parade. There will be several vintage vehicles loaded with Korean veterans, Korean Americans, and Korean ladies to remind all who see the parade that there was a Korean War and that we have a national association.

Our thanks to Jim Fisher, Lew Ewing, Tom McHugh, Ralph Nazatka, Tim Rickman, Bob Eader, Charles Mobley, and the 40th ID Association for providing the vehicles and drivers. Also, thanks to members from chapters 33, 100, 142, 191, 312, and 313 for coming to the city for this event. I hope events like this will give us some beneficial nationwide exposure.

It has been one of the highlights of my life to serve as the President of the KWVA. I thank you all for the support over the last three years. We have made some changes that have improved the organization and made it stronger for the challenges ahead. In particular, the addition of Executive Director Jim Fisher continues to elevate the prestige of the KWVA on the national scene.

There will continue to be challenges, but none that we cannot overcome. I have a deep regard for this organization and what it represents. We are the living representatives of those who died in the war, and we have a duty and an obligation to tell the story of what we did in saving a nation and its people. There are few among us today who can claim the accomplishment. I pray that you have similar feelings.

The chapters and membership are the heart of the organization. It will be through them that the legacy of the Korean War will be carried forward. That is still our mission.

Larry Kinard, President

COVER: Photo provided by the United States Air Force. Modified for The Graybeards from a 2008 Memorial Day Poster created by Virginia Reyes; U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Cecilio M. Ricardo Jr.)



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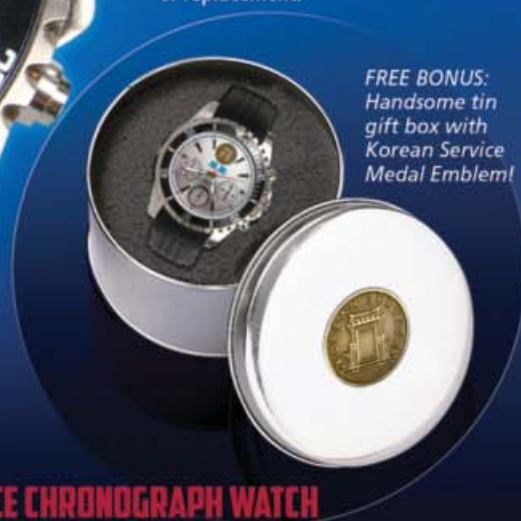
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Members are invited to help underwrite the publication costs of *The Graybeards*. All contributions in any amount are welcome. Mail your donations to KWVA Treasurer, 430 W. Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 61920 or Treasurer@KWVA.org. All contributions 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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2016 Election Winners Announced

Here are the final notarized results of the KWVA election as reported by Donna Burroughs, our accountant. Al McCarthy, Election Committee Chairman, KWVA, National Director, KWVA Adjutant, Chapter #299, KWVA.

DONNA BURROWS, CPA
5221 East Seventh St., Tucson, AZ 85771
Korean War Veterans Association

Narce Caliva**	965	
David J. Clark	873	X
Paul Cunningham	1,100	X
Luther W. Dappen	1,094	X
Bruce R. Harder	756	
Wilfred E. Lack	854	

** Narce Caliva was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board when Richard Brown resigned. Therefore, he withdrew as a candidate effective March 2, 2016. His vote tally was discounted. As a result, the next highest vote recipient, David J. Clark, was elected as the fourth Director.

2016 Election Ballot Tally Sheet Overall Votes

		Votes	Winner
PRESIDENT	Thomas W. Stevens	1,752	X
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	George S. Covell	745	
	Warren Wiedhahn	1,144	X
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	Jeffrey Brodeur	1,166	X
	Stanley J. Grogan	687	
DIRECTORS	William L. Bishop	755	
	George Bruzgis	964	X

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From the Secretary

Election

I thank our members who placed their names in nomination for one of the open positions on our national staff. We were fortunate to have a group of extremely well qualified candidates for every contested open seat. Any of the candidates would have served us well. Unfortunately, everyone could not be elected. Our members have spoken; they have elected the following members of our Association to join our Leadership Team effective June 25, 2016.

- President – Thomas W. (Tom) Stevens
- 1st Vice President – Warren H. Wiedhahn
- 2nd Vice President – Jeffery D. (Jeff) Brodeur
- Directors – George Bruzgis, David Clark, Paul Cunningham, Luther Dappen

I congratulate all these members and thank them for their willingness to serve our Association. I look forward to working with them in the coming years.

The transition in the president's position will be smooth and nearly transparent this year since Tom Stevens has worked very closely with Larry Kinard from the first of this year to get up to speed before he assumes the reins. Tom is well qualified and is ready to hit the ground running on June 25th. He will be another great leader for us. His job will not be easy.

Five of the seven members elected this year have had previous experience on the Board. Tom Stevens has served as a Director, Warren Wiedhahn, a past director, is beginning his second term as 1st VP. Jeff Brodeur, George Bruzgis and Luther Dappen have served on the Board. Only Dave Clark and Paul Cunningham are not prior Board members. They will be welcome additions.

Thank You Larry

Larry Kinard has been an exceptional leader for our Association for the past three plus years. Larry was unexpectedly placed into the position of president at a most difficult time in the Association's history. He performed his presidential duties in a manner that few others could do.

His leadership skills and ability to command the situation, regardless of how difficult it was, were always evident. In addition to serving as the National Secretary for the past year, I have worked very closely with Larry on a number of special projects during his term as our president. His exceptional leadership and expertise have always been present in his decision-making process. It has been my pleasure to work with Larry. We all thank him for his outstanding service to our KWVA.

I wish Larry and Bettye much happiness and good health as he steps back from the day-to-day pressures of serving as our president. Fortunately, he will still be around for a while as he steps into the role as our new Senior Advisor to the Chairman of the Board.

Report of Changes to Chapter Rosters

Some of our chapter presidents and/or secretaries are still confused about how to report changes to their chapter membership rosters. Actually, the process is relatively simple. All you need to do is use your chapter's user name and password to access the Secured



Lew Ewing

Administrative Section of the KWVA website, scroll down to the line entitled "Submit Member Info Changes to Membership Office," and fill in the blanks. You can use this screen to report the death of a chapter member, add or remove a chapter member or an email address, or report just about anything else you need to report to the Membership Office.

KWVA Membership Directories

We still have a few of the 2010 and the 2014 Membership Directories available for sale. These books, which contain information on thousands of Korean veterans, make great keepsakes.

- To receive a copy of the 2010 directory, mail your check for \$31.00 (\$25.00 for the directory plus \$6.00 for postage), payable to the KWVA to Frank Cohee, Jr., 4037 Chelsea Lane, Lakeland, FL 33809-4063.

- To receive a copy of the 2014 directory, mail your check for \$81.00 (\$75.00 for the directory plus \$6.00 for postage), payable to the KWVA to Lew Ewing, 310 Clay Hill Drive, Winchester, VA 22602.

The supply is limited, so if you want a copy please respond immediately.

Jr. ROTC Medals

We are still receiving numerous inquiries from high school Jr. ROTC instructors or individuals asking for information about a Korean War Veterans Association ROTC Medal for deserving graduating cadets. The KWVA does not have such an award. Perhaps this could be a topic for discussion at a future Board of Directors meeting.

Lew Ewing

EDITOR'S NOTES

1. EDITOR'S NEW PHONE

Please note the editor's new phone number: (813) 614-1326. The old one is no longer in service, as some disgruntled callers have learned.

2. CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS

Some people are still submitting material to the Beaufort, SC and Rocky Hill, CT addresses. Neither address is still valid, since both homes have been, or are in the process of being, sold.

All mail should be sent to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center FL 33573-7141. It is possible that some—or if not all—mail sent to the SC and CT addresses has been lost.

3. THIS IS A UNIQUE ISSUE

Occasionally we produce an edition that includes a plethora of administrative material. This is one of them. When that happens, stories, memoirs, short blurbs, etc. get delayed. Some that were scheduled for this edition get delayed, which causes a back-up for the next issue, and the one after that... We apologize for that, and we will do our best to catch up.



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All history is connected[®]

Oh to be back in a classroom at Trinity College in Hartford, CT, where I earned my M.A. in history, to debate a question that arises every year around the beginning of August: did Japan surrender in WWII because of the impact of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Or were there other reasons at play? (See Dr. Birney J. Dibble's analysis on pp. 16-17.) No matter how that question is answered, millions of U.S. soldiers ended up fighting in Korea in 1950—and beyond.

There was an op-ed piece in the May 14, 2016 Tampa Bay Times ("Bombs? Or was it Russia?" p. 7A,) that suggested Russia, not the use of the bombs, brought Japan to the surrender table. The article began: "Tsuyoshi Hasegawa—a highly respected historian at the University of California, Santa Barbara—has marshaled compelling evidence that it was the Soviet entry into the Pacific conflict, not Hiroshima and Nagasaki, that forced Japan's surrender." Professor Hasegawa's conclusion is suspect, largely because it defies common sense.

Logistics suggest that the Soviets could not have made a substantial impact on the fighting in Japan. They would have had to transport troops, tanks, trucks, and materiel thousands of miles across China and Eastern Europe to reach Japan in time to participate. The Soviets did not have the money, ships, trucks, etc. available to do that. They had exhausted their money, resources, and troops fighting from their homeland to Germany. What were they going to do, load everything and everybody aboard taxis and chartered buses and send them across the Sea of Japan to lend the U.S. a helping hand? Not likely.

Sure, the Soviets would have loved to get some revenge for their bitter defeat in the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905). It was humiliating for them to lose a war to a much smaller country and to lose control of a key part of their empire through a settlement brokered by a U.S. President, Theodore Roosevelt, who won

There is no sense in rehashing history here. Simply put, the Russian-controlled North Koreans had a well-maintained, well-trained, well-equipped militia. Militia, hell: it was a well-oiled army.

the Nobel Peace Prize for his effort. That key part was Korea, which Japan ruled with the proverbial iron fist until 1945.

Many Korean War veterans had not been born by 1905, yet President Roosevelt's intercession in the peace talks would have a major impact on them 45 years later, due in part to Russia's meddling in global affairs and its talent for taking advantage of U.S. negotiators in peace talks. Those veterans ended up fighting the Soviets, Koreans, and Chinese years later—and thousands of them had fought in WWII to boot, many of them during the invasion of Japan!

Realistically, the Soviets did not have to participate in the invasion of Japan. All they had to do was declare their intention by declaring war on Japan, a weakened nation that was two atomic bombs away from defeat. That way they could participate in the spoils without losing a soldier. They did, just as they did post-war in Europe, where they walled off part of Berlin and established a fiefdom in Eastern Europe. At least they earned that at a terrible economic and military cost.

As it turned out, the Soviets made major territorial gains as a result of Japan's surrender without firing a shot. That was no doubt a part of their political strategy. One gain was the return of Korea, at least part of it. The Soviets gained control of one half of a country it had previously ruled, in this case the better half. The U.S. assumed protection of the southern half.

There is no sense in rehashing history here. Simply put, the Russian-controlled North Koreans had a well-maintained, well-trained, well-equipped militia. Militia, hell: it was a well-oiled army. Their counterparts to the south were armed with the equivalent of peashooters

and water balloons so they would not pose a military threat to the north in an effort to establish unification. That did not work out too well, as many Korean War veterans can attest.

Truthfully, the reasons for Japan's WWII surrender really don't matter now. Academicians can postulate all the reasons they can for it. That's what academicians do. They gather facts (with a liberal dose of fiction, aka hypotheses), analyze them, and predict what happened hundreds or thousands of years ago. That is why I sometimes pine to return "Neath the elms" of old Trinity to join discussion groups that engage in meaningless academic debates regarding various eras of the past.

We debated history, safe in the knowledge that no matter what conclusions we formulated they could not be substantiated without a reasonable doubt. Our conclusions were sheer hypotheses. The one ingredient we often left out was common sense. That's the beauty of academia. Conclusions do not necessarily have to be based on common sense.

While Professor Hasegawa's conclusions about the impact of Russia's threatened entry into WWII in Japan may have academic merit, they defy logic. They do invite criticism and endless additional discussions. Nevertheless, there is no concrete *common-sense* evidence that substantiates his theory.

There is, however, concrete evidence that Russia's involvement in Korean affairs going back to 1904-05 eventually impacted the millions of U.S. and UN troops who ended up fighting for South Korea's freedom starting in 1950. That is proof that all history is connected. There is no doubt about that, as so many Korean War veterans can attest.

Korea War MIAs Recently Identified

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced recently that the remains of nine U.S. servicemen missing from the Korean War have been identified and returned to the U.S. for burial with full military honors.



Army Cpl. Davey H. Bart, 18, of Houston, was buried March 26, 2016 in Humble, TX. In early November 1950, Bart was assigned to Co. K, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, near Unsan, North Korea, when Chinese People's Volunteer Forces attacked the regiment, forcing the unit to withdraw. Many soldiers attempted to escape and evade the enemy but were captured and marched to prisoner of war camps. Bart

was declared missing in action as a result of the battle that occurred between Nov. 1 and 2, 1950.

In 1953, during "Operation Big Switch," a repatriated American soldier reported that Bart was held as a prisoner of war at the Pyoktong prisoner of war camp and died in February 1951. Additionally, Bart's name appeared on a POW list compiled by the Chinese, dated Aug. 8, 1953, which stated Bart died while in captivity in March 1951. Based on this information, a military review board amended Bart's status to deceased in 1953.

Army Cpl. Dennis D. Buckley, 24, of Detroit, was buried April 14 in Rittman, Ohio. On Feb. 5, 1951, Buckley was assigned to A Battery, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, which was supporting the South Korean Army attacks against units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in the area known as the Central Corridor in South Korea. The CPVF launched a counterattack, overwhelming neighboring units and leaving the 15th Field Artillery Battalion behind enemy lines. As the unit conducted a fighting withdrawal south toward Wonju, Buckley went missing near Hoengsong and was reported missing on February 13.

Buckley's remains were not located after the CPVF units withdrew north in March 1951, nor by the U.S. Army Graves Registration Service during organized searches in 1953. His name never appeared on any list of Americans who were in custody of the North Koreans or the CPVF.

A repatriated American prisoner of war provided information that Buckley was captured by the CPVF and died in their custody at the Suan POW camp. Based on this information, the U.S. Army declared Buckley dead on June 30, 1951.



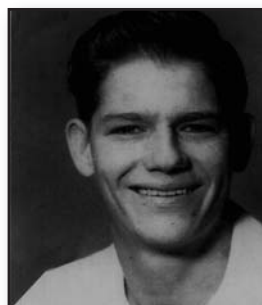
Army Cpl. Eldon W. Ervin, 21, of Wyandotte, OK, was buried March 29, 2016 in Seneca, MO. On Nov. 27, 1950, Ervin was assigned to Headquarter Battery, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division. Approximately 2,600 U.S. and 700 South Korean soldiers assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT). The 31st RCT was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it

was engaged by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. In late November 1950, remnants of the 31st RCT, known as Task Force Faith, began a fighting withdrawal to more defensible positions near Hagaru-ri, south of the reservoir.

Following the attack, a soldier saw Ervin die as a result of shrapnel wounds. As the unit withdrew from the area, only wounded soldiers were evacuated. The U.S. Army issued a report of death for Ervin with a date of Nov. 28, 1950.

Although the U.S. Army Graves Registration Service hoped to recover American remains that remained north of the Korean Demilitarized Zone after the war, administrative details between the United Nations Command and North Korea complicated recovery efforts. An agreement was made and in September and October 1954, in what was known as Operation Glory, remains were returned. However, Ervin's remains were not included and he was declared non-recoverable.

During the 21st Joint Recovery Operation in 2001, recovery teams conducted operations on the eastern bank of the Chosin Reservoir, Changjin County, North Korea, within one kilometer of where Ervin was reported killed in action. At least seven individuals were recovered and returned to the laboratory for processing.



Army Cpl. Dudley L. Evans, 24, of Greenville, MS, was buried April 23, 2016 in his hometown. In mid-February 1951, Evans was assigned to Company G, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, which was engaged in a battle against enemy forces in the vicinity of Chipyeong-ni, South Korea. Evans was reported missing in action Feb. 15, 1951.

Army Cpl. Robert P. Graham, 20, of San Francisco, was buried April 8, 2016 in Colma, CA. In February 1951, Graham was assigned to Company A, 13th Engineer Combat Battalion, 7th Infantry Division, which was engaged in a battle near Hoengsong, South Korea. Under heavy enemy attack, his unit was ordered to withdraw south to Wonju. During the withdrawal, they fought continuously with the enemy and encountered numerous roadblocks. Upon arrival at Wonju, Graham was reported missing on Feb. 13, 1951.

In 1953, during the prisoner of war exchanges historically known as "Operation Little Switch" and "Operation Big Switch," repatriated U.S. soldiers told debriefers that Graham had been captured by enemy forces and died in March 1951 at Suan POW Camp. His remains were not among those returned by communist forces in 1954, however.



Army Sgt. 1st Class Raymond K. McMillian, 20, of Axton, Virginia, was buried March 26, 2016 in Martinsville, Virginia. On Feb. 5, 1951, McMillian was assigned to Medical Company, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, which was supporting the South Korean Army attacks against units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in the area known as the

Central Corridor in South Korea. The CPVF launched a counterattack, overrunning neighboring units, which left the 38th Infantry Regiment behind enemy lines. As the unit conducted a fighting withdrawal south to Wonju, McMillian went missing near Hoengsong while assisting the wounded and was reported missing in action on Feb. 12, 1951.

In June 1951, North Koreans claimed through a propaganda broadcast that McMillian had been captured. His remains were not located after the CPVF units withdrew north in March 1951, nor by the U.S. Army Graves Registration Service during organized searches in 1953.

In August 1953, McMillian's family was notified that his name was on a list of Americans who died while in CPVF custody. Repatriated Americans were unable to provide any information on McMillian, and his remains were not returned during Operation Glory in 1954. Based on the lack of information regarding McMillian, the U.S. Army declared him dead on Feb. 19, 1954.

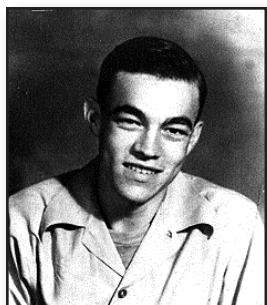


Army Sgt. Wilson Meckley, Jr., 22, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was buried April 4, 2016 in Arlington National Cemetery. In November 1950, Meckley was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, and was assembled with other soldiers into the 31st Regimental Combat Team, known as Task Force Faith. While operating along the eastern banks of the Chosin Reservoir, elements of his unit were overwhelmed by

Chinese People's Volunteer Forces and were forced to withdraw to more defensible positions at Hagaru-ri. During this withdrawal, Meckley was reported missing on Dec. 2.

In 1953, during the prisoner of war exchanges known as "Operation Little Switch" and "Operation Big Switch," returning American soldiers who had been held as prisoners of war did not have any information concerning Meckley. In 1954, a military review board amended his status to deceased.

Army, Sgt. 1st Class James P. Shunney, Company I, 3rd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt., 1st Cav. Div., lost 11/2/1950 in North Korea, was identified on 5/3/2016. (Those were all the details available at press time.)



Army Pfc. Aubrey D. Vaughan, 20, of Union, SC, was buried April 12, 2016 in his hometown. On April 23, 1951, Vaughan was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 5th Regimental Combat Team, when his company's position was overrun by the Chinese Communist Forces near Undamjang, North Korea. After the battle, Vaughan was reported missing in action.

Repatriated American prisoners of war reported that Vaughan died while in captivity at POW Camp 1 in 1951. The U.S. Army subsequently declared Vaughan deceased on July 7, 1951.

Today, 7,819 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using advances in technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously turned over by North Korean officials or recovered by American teams.

Source: <http://www.dpaa.mil/OurMissing/RecentlyAccountedFor.aspx>

July 27, 1953

On July 28th I was in North Korea in POW Camp #3 South. That evening the Chinese communists marched us to Chinese HQ about two miles away. We were hustled into a large building where there were other POWs from Camp #3 North. We started talking to the other POWs, but we didn't have any idea as to why we were there.

After a while a Chinese representative spoke into the microphone and announced that soon we would be going home to our loved ones. Nobody said a word. Then, the guy said "and be sure and tell your loved ones that we treated you with leniency." That's when we started hollering and booing them. We did not believe them because they were always telling us lies.

After the meeting we started marching back to our compound. No one said anything.

The next morning, as I was walking on the road in our compound, I saw three Sabre jets—but they were flying in from the north! I thought that was strange because our jets always flew in from the south to engage the Russian MIGs the Chinese flew. (Our camp was in "MIG Alley.")

While I was watching our Sabre jets, one of them flew down over our compound and did the Victory Roll! Right then I knew the war was really over and I started jumping up and down like crazy and hollering "the war is over."

Soon after that we were trucked to Mampo's rail head and loaded in box cars close to Panmunjom. On August 26th I crossed the "Bridge of No Return" to FREEDOM.

Oscar Cortez, POW- 2/13/51 to 8/26/1953

oscarcortez456000@yahoo.com

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

Humor in Korea

I landed at Wonsan, Korea on 11 November 1950 with the 3rd. Inf. Div. I spent twelve months in Korea, most of the time as liaison sergeant with the 10th Field Artillery Battalion.

I recall one funny incident while we were supporting the British Queen's Own Regiment.

Our detachment consisted of our captain, myself, and four enlisted men. When stationed with the British, we had tea at four o'clock every afternoon—even under enemy fire. It didn't matter. We also had the privilege of their NAFI ration. (The NAFI is a truck that rations out free liquor to all the troops.)

Upon our arrival at the regiment, I dispatched my corporal, who was from West New York, NJ, to go to the NAFI truck and get our liquor ration. When the NAFI dispenser asked him how many men were in our outfit, he told him we had 12 men and 2 officers.

Our corporal returned with sixteen bottles of liquor—and our captain didn't drink. We had enough booze to almost last the rest of the winter. I gave it all to our captain to ration out so no one got drunk while on the line.

I returned home just before Christmas 1951.

David A. Crowell, 465C Thornbury Ct.
Lakewood, NJ 08701, 484-222-1319

Where is Perry Como when you need him?

Some of you may recall the old Perry Como TV show that ran under various names from 1948-1967—not including his numerous Christmas and other specials. One of his segments was, “Letters, we get letters.” Well, it’s time to emulate his words, with a slight variation: send, instead of get.

As many of you know, the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 1475 in February 2016 approving the creation of the Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Memorial in Washington D.C. The U.S. Senate, however, has been recalcitrant in following the House’s lead. So, outgoing KWVA President Larry Kinard and incoming KWVA President Tom Stevens are pushing to get members to contact 70 senators in 42 states to sign on to S-1982.

As Larry Kinard wrote in his cover letter, “Attached are letters to our membership soliciting their help in contacting Senators asking for their help in getting SR 1982 passed. We need to get both letters in the next issue of the magazine and posted on our website. Please show the letter to Senators as a suggested sample to be considered in their contact and an ALERT of some kind to attract attention to the membership letter.”

Even House members are writing to their senate brethren to ask for their support. (See the attached letter.) We can do the same.

The letter to members and others

Dear KWVA Members and Friends:

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation (KWVMF) has encountered substantial difficulty getting the United States Senate to approve S-1982. S-1982 would authorize the Foundation to construct a Wall of Remembrance (nearly 37,000 KIA names) on the National Mall, using private funding.

The Senate legislation has thirty official supporters (sponsors/cosponsors), and is identical to the legislation (HR 1475) which was unanimously passed by the full House of Representatives in February 2016. (See the nearby list of the U.S. Senators who have not signed on at the time of publication.) But it is stalled. The responsible Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has not announced any markup hearings for S-1982 (a requirement to reach the Senate floor for a vote).

Letters by some KWVA Chapters (Iowa, South Carolina, Virginia, etc.) to their Senators to become cosponsors have been met with form letter replies that offer no commitment or formal support. Board Members of the Foundation have even held face-to-face meetings with Senators’ staffers, but to no avail.

The Congress’s calendar for the rest of the year is being impacted by the presidential election and Supreme Court distractions, as well as the upcoming summer recess and Senate fall reelection campaign season. The National

Park Service (NPS) failed to stop the legislation in the House of Representatives, but NPS opposition is stronger in the Senate.

Only a strong promotional campaign by the KWVA, in partnership with the KWVMF, can break the deadlock and lead to eventual Senate approval in this session of Congress. Therefore, we are initiating steps to mobilize our chapters to contact the remaining 70 Senators (in 42 states) and stay in dialog with them for as long as it takes to get the bill through the committee and onto the Senate floor for approval. KWVA Directors will be requested to assist the chapters; appointed/assigned staff will be asked to determine what they can do.

For the KWVA-KWVMF collaboration, Lewis Vaughn will serve as the Association’s National Legislative Communications Coordinator. He will partner with Bill Alli, the Foundation’s Director for Legislative Liaison. They will both report directly to the KWVA President and the Foundation’s Chairman of the Board.

Time is short and the task formidable. But we have a duty, a privilege, and moral obligation to our comrades, who made the supreme sacrifice. I ask for your full cooperation.

In the not-too-distant future, I want us all to be able to assemble before the Wall of Remembrance and take credit for our efforts. We will then be able to faithfully recite Laurence Binyon’s poem that:

***They shall grow not old, as we who are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun in the evening,
and the rising in the morning,
We will remember them.***

Signed: Larry Kinard and Tom Stevens

A sample letter to a senator

The Honorable Senator [Full Name]
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator [Last Name]

As a member of the Korean War Veterans Association, I am requesting your support for S-1982, to authorize a Wall of Remembrance listing the names of our 36,574 Americans (___no. from ___State___) lost in our war. It is a 100% privately financed project that will be erected at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. An identical bill (HR-1475) was unanimously approved in the House of Representatives in February 2016.

The bipartisan case for S-1982 was made by Senators Cardin (MD) and Boozman (AR) in a written statement when they introduced the legislation. A few months ago copies of the statement, and other materials, were delivered to your Washington D.C. office - on behalf of the Korean War Veterans Association - by the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation.

We request that you help the legislative process move forward, both as a cosponsor and a colleague of other Senators. This legislation deserves a full, fair, and expeditious hearing on its merits. Beyond that, it deserves the dedicated support of people who feel most keenly the nation's obligation to honor its veterans.

Many visitors to the National Mall have expressed admiration for the current Korean War Veterans Memorial. It certainly expresses the occurrence of a war and some notion of the military activities. But it does not show the extent of sacrifice: 1,000 American deaths monthly for 37 months. By contrast, the nearby Vietnam Veterans Memorial has a wall which shows the names of their fallen and has an obvious moving impact on countless visitors.

In retrospect, rather than being a "forgotten war," the Korean War is a "forgotten victory." An independent, democratic and prosperous South Korea was made possible by our service and we have a grateful and dependable ally in that strategic region.

Victory or not, all Americans who make the supreme sacrifice serving our nation deserve to be publicly honored - by name. Our Korean War allies have already built walls of remembrance for their sacrifices: South Koreans, Brits, Turks, Australians, Canadians, French, etc.

Out of respect for our fallen American service members, we consider it to be our duty, our privilege, and our obligation to properly memorialize them. We need your support in this good endeavor.

Respectfully,

Name, KWVA affiliation, address, telephone number.

P. S. To see information on the individuals we will be honoring by building the Wall, please go to www.KoreanWar.org. Additional information is available from our Association's website - and the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation's website - www.KoreanWarvetsMemorial.org.

Good luck!

Now Hear This:

All comments concerning, or material for publication, in *The Graybeards* should be sent to Art Sharp, Editor, 2473 New Haven Cir., Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141 or emailed to: sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

Welcome, President Stevens

NOTE: This letter appeared in the March 8, 2016 "Letters to the Editor" section of the *Kansas City Star*. It was written by Therese Park, a frequent contributor to both the *Star* and *The Graybeards*.

Leadership role

When Argentinean Jesuit cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected in 2013 to be the pope to lead a flock of 1.2 billion Catholics, the world was wild, and the media buzzed in excitement. But, when the president of the local Korean War Veterans Association, Commander Tom Stevens, was elected recently to lead 14,000 members of the National Korean War Veterans Association in Washington D.C., no one heard about it except the veterans and their immediate families.

Never mind that those of "the greatest generation" are dwindling fast or that only less than 1 percent of the veterans belong to the national association.

Any war memorial is a solemn sanctuary that honors those who bled and lost their precious lives while protecting the lives of others. Is becoming the commander of the national Korean War Veterans Association less respectful than the Argentinean cardinal taking St. Peter's seat in the Vatican?

Stevens served the Korean War Veterans Association in Overland Park as the vice president-treasurer from 2003 to 2006, while he and more than 60 comrades were raising money to honor 415 fallen heroes from Kansas by constructing their memorial. He alone wrote hundreds of letters to local corporations, groups, individuals, as well as to then-U.S. Rep. Dennis Moore and Sen. Pat Roberts in Washington, D.C., resulting in \$371,250 from the Bush administration, \$50,000 from the Ewing Kauffman Foundation, and \$50,000 from the Korean-American Association, not including small and large sums from individuals. And he and his members hosted many pancake breakfasts and garage sales.

One of the widows of the veterans said: "Tom Stevens cares so much about the legacy of our local Korean War veterans. It's no surprise that he now leads the national association."

This is another reason to be proud of the town we live in.

Therese Park

The Wall of Remembrance in Busan, Korea

The Wall of Remembrance in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan is the only freestanding outdoor memorial in the world that lists the names of all Korean War soldiers from the UN allied nations outside of Korea who fell in the Korean War. In the case of the United States, 119 of the Wall's 140 black granite panels are engraved with 36,492 names of those who fell and those still listed as missing in action. They are listed by state.

The names of 4,404 fallen soldiers from 16 other nations are engraved on the other 21 granite panels nation by nation. The reflecting pool is in the center of the grand-arching granite wall, with the eternal flame of remembrance burning always.

Korea Defense veterans are warriors too

By Warren Wiedhahn

I'm getting tired of hearing that the Defense veterans (1954 to the present) should not be considered eligible for membership in KWVA. As the "War" veterans age, the Defense veterans will have to carry on the tradition and protect our legacy. The following accounts demonstrate why that is so.

On 29 July 1963, U.S. Army Pvt David Seiler and PFC Charles Dessart III were ambushed and killed by North Korean communists near the DMZ in South Korea. Another member of the team, PFC William Foster, was seriously injured. All three Soldiers, members of the 1st CAV Division, were riding peacefully in a jeep to man an observations post when this unprovoked attack occurred.

On 18 August 1976, U.S. Captain Arthur Bonifas and 1st Lt Mark Barrett were "hacked to death" by DPRK soldiers near the "Bridge of No Return" in the DMZ. Killed by axes, it was over the innocent trimming of a tree that blocked the view from a guard post.

The provocations continue to this day. Soldiers from both sides patrol inside the DMZ boundaries, but they may not cross the Military Demarcation Line (MDL). ROK soldiers patrol as a Military Police Peacekeeping Force, and have memorized each line of the armistice.

Sporadic outbreaks of violence have resulted in over 500 South Korean Soldier fatalities. Fifty U.S. Soldiers and approximately 400 DPRK Soldiers have been killed along the DMZ from 1953 to 1999.

This was particularly intense during the Korean DMZ Conflict (1966-1969) when a series of skirmishes along the DMZ resulted in 43 American, 299 South Korean, and 397 North Korean soldiers killed. This included the Blue House Raid in 1968, an attempt to assassinate South Korean President Park Chung Hee.

While many of the recent provocations are classified, official military records indicate the incidents continue to surface in duty along the DMZ. Recently, in 2014, North Korea launched six attacks along the DMZ setting fire to the DMZ area costing thousands of dollars in damages (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvoO7I7izsc>). Multiple cyber-attacks have also been conducted by North Korea against the Korean Electric Power Company (KEPCO) and cyber-attacks targeted a ROK nuclear power plant.

Very recently, on August 20, 2015, North Korea provocatively shot two artillery projectiles south of the Military Demarcation Line. There were many more such unprovoked and tragic incidents "after" the cease fire on 27 July 1953.

The next time someone tells you that Korea Defense Veterans should not be a member of the KWVA, please remind them of these unprovoked North Korean attacks on our soldiers—"in peace time!"

Fraternally,

Warren Wiedhahn, 1st Vice President, Korea Revisit
Coordinator 13198 Centerpointe Way #202
Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285 — Korea 1950: Pusan —
Inchon and Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir

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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San Francisco Monument to be Dedicated

The San Francisco Korean War Memorial will be dedicated on Monday, August 1, 2016, in a 10 a.m. to noon ceremony at Lincoln Boulevard at Sheridan Avenue, The Presidio, San Francisco. The speakers will include Korean War veterans, a KWVA representative, and senior government officials from the United States and the Republic of Korea.

All veterans and their families, as well as friends, supporters and members of the media, are invited to participate. For additional information, or to request an invitation, contact Eleanor Zapanta at, 415-921-1933 or via email at eleanor@kwmf.org.

Additional details can be obtained from Mr. Gerard "Gerry" Parker, Executive Director, Korean War Memorial Foundation, at gvparker@kwmf.org

Report from the DPAA meeting

By Bruce Harder

On May 5, 2016 I represented the KWVA at DPAA's monthly teleconference meeting with veterans service organizations, family groups, and other POW/MIA groups. This was the second DPAA teleconference meeting with KWVA participation.

The meeting started at 2 p.m. and lasted for approximately 45 minutes. Director Mike Linnington provided a summary of his recently completed trip to China (April 25-29, 2016) and the Republic of Korea (April 29-May 1). He said the talks with the China PLA Archives about the archival research cooperation program searching for information about unaccounted-for U.S. personnel from past wars went well, but he was disappointed that the Chinese asked the U.S. to postpone the joint field activity in Liaoning Province scheduled to take place in May 2016.

This mission was to investigate cases of unaccounted for U.S. servicemen from the Korean War. A new scheduled date for the mission is expected to be announced soon.

Director Linnington said his talks with the Chinese focused on ways to improve the archival research arrangement between the U.S. and China. He said his visit to the ROK went very well. While he was in Seoul, the U.S. repatriated the remains of 15 ROK servicemen from the Korean War (most of them KATUSAs), which had been recovered during past joint activities in North Korea between 1996 and 2005.

At the same ceremony, the ROK repatriated the suspected remains of two U.S. soldiers from the Korean War which had been recovered in the ROK by South Korean MAKRI (Ministry of Nation Defense for KIA Recovery and Identification) teams over the past year. Those U.S. remains are now in the DPAA laboratory in Hawaii undergoing the identification process.

During the meeting DPAA provided a worldwide summary of current operations underway to search for the remains of unaccounted for U.S. servicemen from past wars and the results of the most recent family outreach meeting which was held in Austin, Texas on April 16, 2016. Of note, a DPAA investigative team has been deployed to the ROK to work with the ROK's MAKRI team to search for U.S. servicemen missing from the Korean War.

Also, 83 Korean War family members attended the meeting in Austin, which was the highest number of family members from any of the past wars at that meeting. The next DoD family outreach meeting was scheduled for May 14th in Boston, Massachusetts.

DPAA announced a new director has been hired for External Communications. Details will be provided in its report.

I asked two questions at the end of the teleconference meeting. First: did they have a new date for the joint investigative mission in Liaoning Province in China. The answer was "Not yet." The second was whether, during the recently completed talks with China, DPAA discussed with the PLA Archives Department if they had engaged the Ministry of Public Security regarding records they might be holding from the POW camps in North Korea during the Korean War. The answer was that the PLA Archives said they were still working the issue with the Ministry of Public Security.

If anyone has any questions, please call or send me an e-mail.
Bruce Harder, KWVA POW/MIA Coordinator, 540-659-0252, harderbr@aol.com

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.

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

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

USS Renville (APA 227)/**USS Rockbridge** (APA 228) (open to anyone with ties to the ships), 31 Aug.-4 Sept., Branson, MO, Radisson Hotel. Lynda Rumble, 945 Oakwood Ln., Myrtle Beach, SC 29572, 704-906-7622, lyndarumble7@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER

8th Cavalry Regiment/10th Infantry Division Basic Trainees (Fort Riley Basic Training Companies HHC 1 Bn., 85th Inf.; Item Company, 87th Inf. Rgt. Dec '53-Jan '54; George Company 86th Inf. Rgt, Feb-Apr '54; 8th Cav. Rgt May '54-Nov '56 of Camp Crawford, Hokkaido and Camp Whittington, Honshu, Japan) 9-11 Sept., Shawnee Mission, KS, The Drury Inn, 913-236-9200. Steve Bosma, 7109 Via Portada, San Jose, CA 95135, 408-270-1319 or Jack Hackley, P.O. Box 40, Oak Grove, MO, 64075, 816-690-3443, jackremembers@aol.com

630th Eng. L.E. Co., 11-14 Sept., Branson, MO, Branson's Best Motel. Gerald Clemons, 256-757-2090.

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

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/>

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, Jelesophe@aol.com. Welcome to all Korean War alumni.

USS Colonial (LSD18), 14-18 Sept., Albuquerque, NM, MCM Elegante Hotel. Ron Wingo, 2316 Haynes Dr, Midland, TX 79705, 432 684 8545, ronald.wingo@sbcglobal.net

13th Engineer (C) Bn. Assn., 29-30 Sept., 1 Oct., The Dells, WI, Wintergreen Resort. Billy D. Quinton Sr., 727-323-1144, bquinton@tampabaay.rr.com, <http://13thengineerbn.homestead.com>

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

15th Radio Sqdn. Mobile/6922nd Radio Sq. (1950-58), 9-12 Oct., N. Myrtle Beach, SC. Jim Bramwell, 108 President Ave., Rutledge, PA 19070, 610-544-5143, j.brampres3@verizon.net

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

The atom bomb – best of two choices

As I write this, John Kerry is in Japan, reportedly preparing the Japanese for an apology by Obama for having dropped the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Obama wasn't even alive then. I was. In uniform, at Camp Lejeune Marine Base in North Carolina. I was assigned as a corpsman to a Marine division on Guam that would spearhead Operation Olympic, the final assault on the home islands of Japan with a projected death toll of a million Americans and 3-4 million Japanese. One of them was very likely to be me. So I'm biased!

Perhaps we should end the story right there? Dropping the bombs saved an estimated five million American and Japanese lives?

No. Let's start with a horrifying but verifiable statistic: 60,000,000—that's 60 million—people were killed by the Axis Powers and Imperial Japan in the six years between Germany's invasion of Poland in September 1939 and the surrender of Japan in September 1945. Eighty percent of those were civilians! They died by execution and starvation.

Now, for those who weren't there or don't remember the details, let's recapitulate what led to the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. It was not a sudden whim of Hirohito. It was a continuation of a policy in effect for decades: the "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere." (Get out your atlas.)

In the last part of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, Japan was an efficient, vicious, killing machine. It had taken by force Sakhalin, Hokkaido, the Ryukus (including Okinawa), the Bonins (including Iwo Jima), and the Carolines (including Pelelieu). By bloody warfare it had conquered Korea, Manchuria, and the immense country of China. The Philippines and the United States were next.

When in 1937 the Japanese army defeated the Chinese army at Nanking, soldiers raped, tortured, and then slaughtered 300,000 Chinese to the cries of "Long love the emperor." Three individual stories, among many thousand, are appropriate here.

Shinto Uno, a member of a field intelligence unit, boasted of personally beheading more than forty prisoners. Lt. Shozo Tominaga found that his first beheading was "uplifting."

"I felt something change. I gained strength somewhere inside me," he said. He recalled teaching recruits how to enthusiastically run bayonets through live, blindfolded Chinese tied to poles.

Azuma Shiro describes the time he bayoneted a child; the grandfather tried to stop the bleeding, so Shiro killed both of them.

Two hundred thousand female Koreans, Chinese, Filipinas, Indonesian, and Dutch POWs were sent to combat zones to serve the Japanese soldiers as "comfort women."

In 1936, Colonel Shiro Ishii opened his infamous Research Unit 731 in Pingfan, Manchuria. Its 150 buildings housed thousands of Chinese, all of them used as human guinea pigs.

When Bataan and Corregidor fell to the Japanese in early 1942, 1,300 U. S. POWs were sent to Pingfan to suffer agonizing deaths. Masked "medical personnel" injected them with various toxins, inserted glass probes into their rectums and purposely broke them, injected tetanus spores into their heels, tied naked men in minus-40 degree weather to chart how fast their limbs froze solid, fed them



Aerial view of Hiroshima, Japan, one year after the atomic bomb blast shows some small amount of reconstruction amid much ruin on July 20, 1946. The slow pace of rebuilding is attributed to a shortage of building equipment and materials. (AP Photo/Charles P. Gorry)

typhus-infected tomatoes, or sprayed them with anthrax, cholera, typhoid, and plague-infested fleas.

The Japanese drained their blood and replaced it with horse and monkey blood in an effort to create artificial bloods, tied them to stakes and exploded germ bombs overhead while timing their deaths with stop-watches, and dissected them alive without anesthesia. Not surprisingly, nearly 100% of those American soldiers died. Of the few who lived, most refuse to talk about it.

- The founder of the "hospital," Colonel Ishii, performed autopsies on the dead, meticulously recording his research, referring to the bodies as maruta ("logs").

- Overall, 34% of all Americans held prisoner by the Japanese died. (In contrast, in German camps, 4% died.)

- On the Bataan "death march," an average of one American fell every fifteen yards and, instead of being taken care of, was shot or bayoneted.

- Over 120,000 Allied prisoners died working on the Burma (Myanmar) — Siam (Thailand) railroad.

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Gaunt and emaciated, but happy at their release from Japanese captivity, two Allied prisoners pack their meager belongings, after being freed near Yokohama, Japan, on September 11, 1945, by men of an American mercy squadron of the U.S. Navy. (AP Photo)

Why a 34% mortality? Open ditches served as latrines. The rice was rotten, filled with rat droppings and maggots. Thousands were tortured to death by removing fingernails with pliers, thumbscrews, water “cure,” beatings with sticks, iron bars, knotted ropes, and wooden clubs. Soldiers forced rice down prisoners’ throats by the fistful, poured water into them by the gallon until they swelled up inside, then jumped on their bellies till they split open.

Enough! One could go on and on!

Seven years after the war ended, I was in Nagasaki on R & R from Korea where I was in combat with the First Marine Division. I was visiting with a missionary who had been in Japan when the war started and returned shortly after it ended. She spoke fluent Japanese.

I asked her how her Japanese friends felt about the bombing of their city. She said that almost 100% felt that they deserved it; it was their punishment for starting the war at Pearl Harbor. I asked her how the rest of the country felt. She said she didn’t know, but believed that it was the same everywhere.

I fully realize that this is anecdotal. I have no idea how the survivors of Hiroshima felt, nor how the rest of the country felt. But I fully agree with Rep. Mark Tarkano, an American of Japanese descent, who recently said in Congress that the president should go to Hiroshima, but – get this – should not apologize!

But, you say, the victims of the bomb were civilians. So? That argument rings hollow as soon as you remember that 99% of the 200,000 Americans killed by the Japanese in the South Pacific were civilians before the war and 99% of the survivors returned to civilian life after the war.

Let’s get another thing straight. There is no “good way” to end a war. The Japanese were given innumerable chances to surrender after it became obvious to them that they weren’t going to win the war. Innumerable times they sent messages saying that they would not surrender unconditionally, only on terms that were totally unacceptable to the allies.

Sixty million leaflets were dropped on the bigger cities, urging

the citizens to evacuate their towns and urging them to petition their rulers to capitulate. Their rulers’ answer: an upsurge of thousands of suicide kamikaze attacks, the finest of Japan’s young men dying in honor rather than in the ignominy of defeat. In effect, the Japanese were saying that they chose to sacrifice five million men rather than surrendering and “losing face” by doing so.

Harry Truman, president for only a few months after Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s death, had only two choices: drop an atom bomb or continue to prepare for invasion of the Home Islands. He chose the former, with unanimous consent of those aware that we had such

A survivor of the first atomic bomb ever used in warfare, Jinpe Teravama retains scars after the healing of burns from the bomb explosion, in Hiroshima, in June of 1947. (AP Photo)



a weapon.

After the first bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, the Japanese made it very clear that they still would not surrender unconditionally. So, the second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki three days later. Ten million Americans in uniform and 175 million Americans fighting and suffering on their “Home Front” were overjoyed when the carnage ended.

I know I was. As we were preparing to leave for Guam to join our Marine units, no one ever said or hinted at the fact that we were unlikely to come through unscathed. In our off-duty hours we played tennis, sailed our “Lightnings” in New River Bay, swatted mosquitoes all night, and wrote letters home telling parents and girlfriends that we were enjoying life greatly!

I remember very clearly where I was and what I was doing when we heard the news that Japan had surrendered. I was on my ward, playing cribbage with a Marine wounded on Iwo Jima. A corpsman burst into the ward shouting, “It’s over, it’s over, it’s over.....!”

That roar probably burst a few ear drums! Handshaking! Back slapping! Foot stamping!

Quiet.

Some men were weeping—but not for themselves. They wept for those close buddies who weren’t there to celebrate what they had died for.

With huge grins we shook hands, my Marine buddy and I. I knew where he’d been. He knew where I wasn’t going. We both knew where we were going—home!

Ten million of us were going home.

So, Mr. President, never, never, NEVER apologize to anyone, especially not to the Japanese, for having saved millions of Japanese lives by dropping the bombs.

J. Birney Dibble, M. D., W 4290 Jene Rd.
Eau Claire WI 54701, 715-832-0709

Remembering the Korean War

By Maija Rhee Devine

The Korean War breathes on — not only for those who experienced it firsthand and who forever hold in their hearts the soldiers who perished there, but also for nature. Pig weeds, they are called. Koreans also called them “dudurogi suk,” rash sage.

Transplanted during the war, the alien weeds compete with other vegetation like wild cosmos and plain no-name weeds along the banks of rivers that wind through and around the two-mile-wide and 155-mile-long Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). During his 1993 visit, U.S. President Bill Clinton described it as “the scariest place on Earth.” It is home to millions of landmines planted by both the North and South Korean military. Dismantling them will take, experts say, 500 years. Every few meters, the flame-red color of triangle signs shriek “Landmines!” from weeds sprayed with yellow and white daisies.

“Look at the shapes of these two types of pig weeds,” Han Sang-ryong told us on Sept. 3, the day of Sogang University’s fall alumni expedition. Mr. Han, an alumnus, is on the Organizing Committee for the Berlin East Side Gallery DMZ Story Exhibition, and he served as our guide to the Peace Dam in Hwacheon, north of Chuncheon in Gangwon Province. President Clinton was right. Though not part of the DMZ proper, the Peace Dam is close enough that we were stopped at check points and made to produce identification papers by an armed soldier.

The rock-studded sides of mountains hemmed us in on one or both sides of the steep and narrow unpaved paths and hair-pin turns — a far cry from my home town, Kansas City, Missouri. Every so often, multi-ton concrete road blocks formed archways overhead. If a higher-up in a control center pressed the war-alarm button, the archways would collapse on us, turning us into instant pancakes. Or the blocks on sides of roads would snap together into the middle of the path, hurling our bus into the air.

“See the plants with leaves shaped

like those of maple? They are the maple pig weeds. They tell a secret from 65 years ago: ‘American soldiers were at this spot. We dropped here from the soles of their boots.’”

Growing alongside the maple pig weeds are Manchuria pig weeds.

“These Manchuria pig weeds say,” Han told us, “Soldiers from Shanghai spilled their guts right at this spot. We dropped here from the soles of their boots.”

The Hwacheon Dam (later the Peace Dam), built during 1939-1948, kept South Korea alive, providing 30 percent of its water. Naturally, during Korea’s battles with the Communist N. Korean and Chinese forces in 1951, S. Korean President Syngman Rhee made desperate calls to General James Van Fleet to make saving the Hwacheon Dam a top priority for the U.N. and U.S. military push. To clear the way for this challenge, the South Korean forces dropped eight torpedoes on the Chinese military forces controlling the dam.

Two hit their mark, and when U.N. troops used napalm on the area as well, 30,000 Chinese soldiers, according to our guide, became burning balls of fire and plunged into the water. Nearly all of them drowned. The jubilant, former President Rhee christened the reservoir Lake Paroho — The Lake of the Drowned Chinese. A stone marker features his calligraphy. Rebuilt and renamed Peace Dam, it supplies water to South Korea.

And every year, pig weeds rebirth themselves and shout the plant-way — “Remember the War Forever More.”

Maija Rhee Devine authored an autobiographical novel about Korea, “The Voices of Heaven,” which won four awards, and a book of poems, “Long Walks on Short Days.” Contact: maijadevine@gmail.com; www.maijarheedevine.com.

NOTE: This article appeared originally in The Korea Times, 11-24-2015. It is reprinted here with the author’s permission.

Flyer of the Month

Major D. E. O’Neil, CO of the famed 68th FIS, based at Itazuke Air Base, Japan, completed fifty combat missions in the F-82G and the F-94B in 1950-51, flying from K-13, Suwon, Korea. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal for attacking rail and highway traffic carrying supplies to the enemy troops at the front.

O’Neil also flew occasional intercept missions against enemy aircraft.

Just for the record, the 68th made the first two aerial kills of the Korean War and the last aerial kill of WWII.

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



Major D. E. O’Neil (official USAF photo)



Turned night into day

Battlefield Illumination In Korea

In Korea, the astonishing 800 million candlepower strength beams opened a new chapter in “battlefield illumination.”

By William Russell

Not much has been written about the use of searchlights in Korea, but they played a big role in the war.

As a PIO reporter covering the IX Corps central front sector in the summer of 1952 looking for stories for the Stars & Stripes, I had occasion to visit the 86th Engineer Searchlight Company. The unit was located in the Kumwha/Chorwon area in the Iron Triangle, supporting the 2nd ROK and 40th U.S. Divisions on line.

Accompanied by the official combat photographer, Sgt. Harry Koorejian, I spent a day and night with one of the platoons from the company that was beaming lights on Chinese-held hills across the way. It was amazing how they were lighting up the top of one hill while American artillery units were shelling the hilltop with some intensity. But the Chinese began to zero in on the searchlight platoon’s position and began to return counter fire, so it was a matter of shutting off the big lights and hauling out of that area.

The development and use of searchlights in the military goes back before World War I, when “artificial moonlight” enhanced opportunities for night attacks, a practice which continued into World War II. “Artificial moonlight” was invented by historian and tank theorist Gen. J. F. C. Fuller. The term “artificial moonlight” was used to distinguish illumination provided by the searchlights from that provided by normal moonlight, which was referred to as “movement light” in night-time maneuvers.

ABOVE: A searchlight crew searches several targets for a night mission across the valley. Chances are they won’t stay in that position too long after they fire up the lights. (Official U.S. Army photo)

Searchlights were used extensively in defense against nighttime raids in World War II, especially during the London Blitz. Controlled by sound locators and radars, searchlights could track bombers and identify the targets to anti-aircraft guns and night fighters to shoot down the German bombers.

In Korea, the astonishing 800 million candlepower strength beams opened a new chapter in “battlefield illumination.” The 86th, working their powerful lights, usually in precarious positions behind the MLR, operated similarly to a gun crew on an artillery piece. They zeroed in on the targets spotted by forward observers and applied the same terminology as that used by artillerymen.

Each light was mounted in the bed of a 2-1/2-ton truck equipped with a power plant costing in the neighborhood of \$80,000 (and that was over 60 years ago). Six lights comprised one platoon and were located strategically across the corps front in support of infantry divisions on line. The lights were so powerful they could be beamed for a distance of 20 miles. Master Sergeant Charles E. Holloway, from Monroe, Georgia, the first platoon sergeant, said you could read a newspaper clearly at seven miles.

The light crews may have had one or more targets during a night’s operation, depending on the tactical situation. The 60-inch lights were used in many ways: to help engineers clear or lay a minefield; locating a certain strategic target for the artillery; or lighting the way for an infantry jump-off. They were used in three different functions (1) direct lighting, or on the target; (2) indirect lighting, shining over an obstruction, and (3)



South Korea, 1957: A searchlight mounted on a 2½-ton truck is tested near Camp Casey, South Korea. The 60-inch lights, maintained by the 7th Field Artillery Searchlight Platoon in support of the 7th Infantry Division Artillery, could burn steadily for an hour and 45 minutes and throw a beam 20,000 yards. Hal Slate *Stars and Stripes*®

diffused lighting or bouncing the beam off a cloud formation directly upon an enemy-held hill.

Sergeant Holloway told me about one special operation in which one of their FOs picked up a truck convoy trying to sneak through a pass. The FO waited until the trucks cleared the pass and caught them in the open. He contacted his artillery counterpart and a nearby battery opened up, totally destroying the Chinese convoy.

The 86th was not the only searchlight company operating in Korea; the 92nd and the 61st supported the X and I Corps.

Later, probably following the White Horse Mountain-Triangle Hill-Sniper’s Ridge battles of the fall of 1952, the searchlight companies were designated as artillery units and renamed the 86th Field Artillery Battery (Searchlight).

No matter what they were called, the “searchlight” companies played an important role in providing “battlefield illumination for the missions of the infantry and artillery. As I wrote in my lead over sixty years ago, “they’ll make the area look like Yankee Stadium on Ladies Night.”

Bill Russell,
Billrider29@embarqmail.com

Farewell, Veteran Clyde Koch!

AUTHOR'S NOTE: This article is part of my tribute to Korean War veteran Clyde Koch—and all Korean War veterans. It was published originally in the *Kansas City Star* on February 20, 2016. I revised it to avoid the same information, adding the funeral scenes.

By *Therese Park*

Veteran Clyde Koch, a Purple Heart recipient, died on Feb. 10 at Good Samaritan Society in Olathe, Kansas, at age 85. Though he suffered Alzheimer's disease for several years, he vividly remembered the Battle of Chosin Reservoir he fought in as a young Marine and painstakingly wrote down what he remembered with pride, so that his personal history will not be forgotten.

His widow, Mary Lou, informed me of his passing and also kindly shared with me what he wrote, over coffee. Koch served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1947-1951 and received a Purple Heart for being shot in the chest and right leg during the first few days of the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. The battle was fought from late October to December 1950, when temperatures plunged to 30 to 40 degrees below zero.

"The ground was frozen solid. Night fell at 4:30 p.m. and light did not return for nearly 16 hours," Koch wrote. This is his story revised for clarity and length.

"The Battle of Chosin Reservoir started when Chinese came into North Korea in huge numbers. They came in waves. We were surrounded and outnumbered. Marines and soldiers fought day and night to break out of the trap the Chinese had set. Many Marines froze to death.

I was shot during the night. It was too dark to know where the enemy was. I was hit when I was advancing towards the enemy.

"When I realized I had been shot I was conscious, but very frightened. I lay there for hours. In the morning, medics came up the hill looking for wounded and dead Marines. I heard them say, 'Here's one.' They put me on a stretcher and took me down the hill to the aid station. I was put on the hood of Jeep to keep me warm..."

Koch spent two months in a hospital in Japan and then was taken to a hospital in Hawaii where he was awarded with the Purple Heart. He spent altogether four

more months in hospitals before he returned to duty.

Koch was the first Korean veteran I wrote about in an article titled "Inchon Landing Remembered" published locally in 2004, which was reprinted in the July-August, 2015 issue of *Graybeards* magazine.

In 2004, the Korean Veterans Association in Overland Park was raising money to build their memorial, which now stands on 119th and Lowell. Many local South Koreans eagerly participated in the fund-raising efforts, including a women's group that hosted two annual luncheons for the veterans, and I've met many veterans through this function, including Clyde Koch, who served in the "Memorial Committee."

Veteran Clyde Koch's funeral was at 10 a.m. on Feb. 16th at Methodist Church of Resurrection in the southern part of Overland Park, and visitation began an hour earlier. With Mary Lou's request, I had agreed to play on my cello the music we children of the long-ago war heard on AFN (American Forces Network), such as Danny Boy, Old Kentucky Home, Suwanee River, Oh Susanna, God Bless America, and Yankee Doodle Went to Town.

Later, we also sang them ourselves to entertain wounded American soldiers in a school building that served as a makeshift hospital. I thought my playing those songs on the cello would please Clyde Koch, since he too had been injured and spent a long time in a hospital.

I had played the cello with the Kansas City Philharmonic (now the Symphony) for 30 years, retiring at the end of the 1969-1997 season, but have kept up my playing by volunteering at a local hospitals and retirement homes over the years.

That morning, at 9 a.m., more than a dozen veterans in their uniforms sat in the two front pews and were taking turns, two at a time, to stand by the white casket covered with bright flowers, one on each side. It was a solemn gesture that told me, "We fought together as battle comrades as young men in a faraway land and that even after death, we stand side-by-side in Duty, Honor, and country!"

I saw some guests in the audience, as well as veterans, wiping tears.

As I played, my long forgotten memories rushed back to my mind. How we so loved these songs. How we so loved those hard candies wrapped in cellophane papers and Hershey Bars American soldiers had given us every time we had bowed to them. Back then these soldiers had been our super heroes who gave us hopes and the sweet taste of America, which became my own motherland. But now, we're "Old People" linked in the tapestry of the old memories and warm friendship.

Rest in peace, veteran Koch! Your selfless services our country at the time of her peril will remain in the minds and hearts of the Koreans who lived through it. As your memories of the Korean War — as horrendous as they were — were important to you that you wrote them down even when your health was failing, my childhood memories of the same period and those who saved my country from the North Korean Communists are my personal treasures!

Reach Therese Park at tspark63@yahoo.com

"When I realized I had been shot I was conscious, but very frightened. I lay there for hours. In the morning, medics came up the hill looking for wounded and dead Marines. I heard them say, 'Here's one.' They put me on a stretcher and took me down the hill to the aid station. I was put on the hood of Jeep to keep me warm..."

SHARING MANA'O

Last week I was given one of the highest honors I have ever received, and I'm still feeling a bit sheepish because I haven't done anything to earn it. I was installed as an honorary member of the Korean War Veterans Maui No Ka Oi Chapter.

The Korean War was over by the time I was born. Like most Baby Boomers, I knew very little about the conflict except that it was the setting for the movie and subsequent TV series, *M*A*S*H*. I didn't know why it was called *The Forgotten War*, until a few years ago, when I served as mistress of ceremonies for the Veterans Day ceremony at the Veterans Cemetery in Makawao.

Since the annual event is organized by the KWV Maui group, and they were the ones who invited me, I thought I should do a little homework. I learned that the Korean War began in June 1950 with the invasion of South Korea by the North Korean People's Army. Within a month, the U.S. and its United Nations allies entered the battle on behalf of South Korea. China and Russia joined forces with the North. Nearly two million Americans fought in Korea; 37,000 of them paid the ultimate sacrifice. In all, nearly five million people, military and civilian, lost their lives in the three-year war.

How could numbers so high be forgotten? According to Melinda Pash, author of "In the Shadow of the Greatest Generation: The Americans Who Fought the Korean War," the conflict might be more appropriately called neglected than forgotten. Her analysis is that few Americans wanted to read or think about the war, which came on the heels of World War II but without the same level of impact on the home front. No rationing? No interest.

Pash notes that "about one-fourth of Korean War veterans also served in World War II and many went on to serve in the Vietnam War. Perhaps the most distinctive characteristic of the Korean War generation is their silence. Veterans of both World War II and the Vietnam War came back to talk about what they did and to form and join veterans organizations, but Korean War veterans came home and tried to pick up their old lives and forget their wartime experiences. Many did not even tell their wives or children that they served in Korea."

In fact, the Maui No Ka Oi Chapter was founded only 16 years ago, by Marine Corps

MANA'O

In the Hawaiian language, Mana'o can mean any of the following: Thought, idea, belief, opinion, theory, thesis, intention, meaning, suggestion, mind, desire, want; to think, estimate, anticipate, suppose, mediate, deem, consider. Thus Nā Mana'o can serve to help all of us stay engaged.)

Source: http://www.answers.com/Q/What_does_the_hawaiian_word_manao_mean_in_English

My wife and I are visiting in Hawaii. In reading a local newspaper, *The Maui News*, I came across an article from a local writer regarding the local Chapter 282 of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA).

I contacted the author, Kathy Collins, and asked her to send me a copy in an e-mail that I could forward to the KWVA-FUND, of which I am a Board member with Bill and Annelie Weber. As I did, they enjoyed it and the subject came up regarding my sending it to *The Greybeards* to publish.

After discussing it with the author, Kathy Collins, she authorized me to forward her article to you for the *Greybeards*, if you approve.

I hope you find it as interesting as I did both as to the size and activities of the membership, in a relatively small place. (The entire island of Maui isn't much larger than 100,000 people!)

Aloha,

Jim Lindsey

vet Abel Cravalho. The organization has opened membership to all veterans who served in Korea from 1950 to the present day, and honorary or associate members, like myself, have been welcomed on a case

by case basis.

Far from being an old boys club, where members gather to tell war stories and relive their youth, the Maui KWV chapter has distinguished itself as an active volunteer organization. Even though the great majority of members are in their 80s, they spend many hours in public service, cleaning cemeteries, providing manpower for charity events and community activities, and sharing their knowledge and history with students.

Volunteerism and civic involvement were the main focus of last week's meeting, attended by more than 30 men (and one woman). All but one, a Vietnam vet, served in the Korean War. Many were familiar to me as friends of my parents. I grew up calling them "Uncle" and still see them in that way. The rest I met through my job at Kaunoa Senior Services, where they frequently lend a helping hand.

I choked back tears several times, as I basked in the comfort of their camaraderie, laughing at their good-natured ribbing, absorbing the warmth of their gentlemanly demeanor. It took me back 50 years, to the carefree hours spent with my father, and I had to fight the urge to climb into an uncle's lap for a hug.

Serendipitously, the chapter has begun a project through which I think I can earn my keep. Under the guidance of member Jo Davidson and a committee of about a dozen, I will soon begin conducting oral history interviews with the Korean War veterans. What fascinates me is the fact that they seem less interested in reminding the country of the Forgotten War than in continuing to serve their community. I hope to help ensure that their legacy of selfless volunteerism will be remembered for generations to come.

Kathy Collins is a storyteller, actress and freelance writer whose "Sharing Mana'o" column appears every Wednesday. Her e-mail address is kathycollins@hawaii.rr.com.

Reprinted with the author's permission:

I'd be honored if you would submit my column. You have my permission, provided it is also credited to *The Maui News* ("This column previously appeared in *The Maui News* on 3/23/16, or something to that effect.)

Mahalo and aloha,

Kathy

Worn on the 4th of July

By Leo Bomleny

It is amazing that over the miles and years there are still meaningful contacts made between and among veterans that are prompted by the stories in *The Graybeards*. This story is proof of that. It covers an exchange of letters, phone calls, and memories between veterans Harold Maples and Leo Bomleny, both of whom were serving in the 224th Regiment of the 40th Division when the guns fell silent on July 27, 1953. They had never met or conversed with one another prior to the publication of Maples' article that appeared in a previous edition of *The Graybeards*. The story is written from Bomleny's perspective.

The Korean War shaped many lives and created many unmentioned heroes. Now, South Korea ranks near the top of the most economically advanced nations in the world. Its development is due to the many unsung veterans of this ground war who fought over difficult terrain in an extreme range of temperatures. Leo Bomleny was one of those unsung heroes. Here is his story.

I was inducted into the U.S. Army on December 2, 1952, in Chicago, IL. At the induction center I underwent the normal GI processing procedures, e.g., multiple shots, testing, clothing, swearing in, and being routed by bus to Camp Atterbury, IN for sixteen weeks of infantry training, the worst part of which was the bayonet training. Later, in Korea, I learned to appreciate the issued poncho and flak jacket as well as the weeks of basic training.

After finishing basic training, I spent a few days with my family before commencing the Far East Command journey from Chicago to Korea. We took a three-day train ride to Ft. Lewis, WA, a beautiful setting for a military base. (I am sure these types of orders sound quite familiar to many of you veterans.)

We were at Ft. Lewis about three days before boarding a troop ship in May 1953 en route to Sasebo, Japan, and temporary quarters at a former Japanese naval base. Most GIs remember their "ship cruises," and will most likely describe them in very frank terms. It was one hell of a ride—seasick, hanging out over the bunk, the various stench and diesel fuel... I often wonder why they did not issue military medals for this experience!

To say I was very sick is an understatement. I stayed in my bunk for two days, avoiding food. After two days I felt somewhat better, and I ventured out to the chow line. From a farmer's perspective, the line resembled cattle-like feed troughs with a side on them in order to help you hold on and chase your food tray. This went on for approximately two weeks.

After this "extreme survival" experience ended, I arrived in

Sasebo, where I stayed for several days while awaiting orders to Korea. We stayed busy. Fortunately, the army complied. We spent our time being issued our M-1 rifles and clothing, test firing at the range, and listening over and over to the instruction, "Don't forget to clean your weapons." Finally, we went to the docks at Sasebo for the boat ride to Pusan, Korea.

My experiences really begin at the landing in Pusan. As this is written; I ask myself, "Do you jot things down as a way to remember or a way to try to forget?" Most Korean War veterans would probably say that their service duty was a turning point in their lives and, in the case of Korea, the start of a forward direction for the South Korean people who have become a thriving society. Those were people we hardly knew.

Upon our arrival at Pusan, we marched to a small train with park bench-type seats, under which were stored cases of GI ammo prepped for easy breakout. Every third car was a flatbed with sandbag-fortified 30 caliber machine guns. The troops were loaded and headed north on a double track railroad. Trains going south were carrying wounded troops. We could see them on the passing train cars. That gave each of us an eerie feeling as to what lay ahead. We were getting a view of war at ground level, noting destroyed cities, refugee villages, and mountainous terrain.

We traveled north to a replacement depot near Seoul, Korea. We stayed in Seoul several days, until a division or company requested a need for replacements. Fox Company of the 224th Infantry Regiment of the 40th Division needed me and off I went, traveling by truck to an area known as The Punch Bowl, where the road ended. We walked the remaining distance to the trenches and the comfort of bunker living near Hae-an-Myon Valley. Seeing the trenches and bunkers made me reflect on what World War I and II warfare must have been like.

We stayed in the Punch Bowl area for several weeks, then moved and took up positions at Satae-ri. That is where I saw Navy planes coming over our positions and dropping napalm on the enemy, many of whom were bathed in flames. That forced them out in the open for easy targeting by our machine gunners and mortars. That was where war came to life for me.

Static and positional machine gun fights were of constant nature and common to the Korean War actions at that time. Frequent patrols were part of the action. We were worn out as the Fourth of July approached, which was a day I will never forget.

Somehow, tracer ammo of all colors became available for the communists' machine guns. They fired rounds of tracer ammo that lit



Leo Bomleny ten days before he left for Korea

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



Leo Bromleny's "home" at Satae-ri in 1953

That is where I saw Navy planes coming over our positions and dropping napalm on the enemy, many of whom were bathed in flames. That forced them out in the open for easy targeting by our machine gunners and mortars. That was where war came to life for me.

up the landscape. Lots of firing took place. (Do any Korean War vets reading this article remember seeing extensive enemy tracer fire on this date? Could this have been mocking fire, considering our country's annual 4th of July celebration?)

Satae-ri is the area where we suffered through a big battle on the final night of the fighting. Both sides fired most of their ammunition at one another. Our machine gun was hit and blown on top of me. Our bunker was shot up badly from mortar and artillery fire. The battle was so intense I felt that I was surely going to die! Prayers were on my lips all during this intensification. Suddenly, around 10 p.m., all went silent along the front.

We stayed hunkered down in an eerie quiet until daylight; that morning I looked toward the enemy positions and saw 5 or 6 women wearing bright clothing coming down the mountain on the enemy's side. I guess they were coming to greet us! They knew the firing was over.

Our orders were to pull back and to make no contact with our oncoming visitors. One can only guess as to the visitors' motives.

On July 28, 1953, our unit started moving out from and destroying old positions in preparation for creating a "no man's land." Once we met the pull-back terms, on July 30, 1953, we moved to the Kumwha Valley. We walked to our new positions there and set up pup tents.

I had suffered a head wound on August 29, 1953 which, I learned later, might have resulted from sniper fire. Sniper fire a month after the cease fire went into

effect? I woke up covered with blood.

Two soldiers took me down the mountain to the medic's tent. The medic flipped the scalp over the wound and stapled and wrapped it. The guys took me back to my tent. The heavily bandaged wound made it difficult for me to wear headgear. As a result, my duty assignment was changed. I was assigned to work in the mess hall. The wound healed in about twenty days.

The new job worked out great for me. I was an old farm boy, and I knew how to cut meat and cook. My wound healed gradually, and I was able to do more work and accept more responsibility. Later, I became a mess sergeant and received a promotion to SFC.

It wasn't long before it was time for me to go home. I rode into Inchon on a truck to begin the journey home. My Korean War duty was over

The return voyage to Seattle, WA via troopship made me realize what "happy"

truly meant. The ride home was better than the one going over. I did not "lose my cookies" once.

When we arrived at Seattle, I boarded a train to Chicago and a thirty-day leave, after which I reported to Ft. Carson Army Base in Colorado for separation. From there it was back home to the farm, "under the cows," doing what I had been doing before I left.

For all of my GI friends who have been there and done that - CHEERS! I would like to hear from anyone who may have served in Fox Company, their locations, etc. You can write to me at Leo Bomleny, 48 West 616 Harter Road, Maple Park IL 60151.



Leo Bromleny at the Punch Bowl in 1953

Korea, before the war

These two photos were taken well before the Korean War began. We thought you would like to see them.

Soviet soldiers on the march in northern Korea in October of 1945. Japan had ruled the Korean peninsula for 35 years, until the end of World War II. At that time, Allied leaders decided to temporarily occupy the country until elections could be held and a government established. Soviet forces occupied the north, while U.S. forces occupied the south. The planned elections did not take place, as the Soviet Union established a communist state in North Korea, and the U.S. set up a pro-western state in South Korea - each state claiming to be sovereign over the entire peninsula. This standoff led to the Korean War in 1950, which ended in 1953 with the signing of an armistice — but, to this day, the two countries are still technically at war with each other. (Waralbum.ru)



Route Army on the drill field at Yanan, capital of a huge area in North China which is governed by the Chinese Communist Party, seen on March 26, 1946. These soldiers are members of the “Night Tiger” battalion.

The Chinese Communist Party (CPC) had waged war against the ruling Kuomintang (KMT or Chinese Nationalist Party) since 1927, vying for control of China. Japanese invasions during World War II forced the two sides to put most of their struggles aside to fight a common foreign foe — though they did still fight each other from time to time.

After World War II ended, and the Soviet Union pulled out of Manchuria, full scale civil war erupted in China in June of 1946. The KMT eventually was defeated, with millions retreating to Taiwan, as CPC leader Mao Zedong established the People’s Republic of China in 1949. (AP Photo)



...of interest
—or not



Gen Vincent Brooks

General Vincent Brooks assumed command of U.S. Forces in Korea on April 30, 2016. He took over from General Curtis Scaparrotti, who was reassigned as the commander of U.S. European Command and supreme allied commander for NATO forces.

According to *Stars and Stripes*, “Brooks, 57, who was born in Alaska, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1980, where he became the first African-American cadet in the school’s history to be named cadet brigade commander.

“He most recently served as commander of U.S. Army Pacific. He’s also led the Third Army and the 1st Infantry Division. He became well-known to the American public when he served as a spokesman for the U.S. Central Command and appeared on live televised briefings during the early stages of the Iraq War.”

Remains of two U.S. Soldiers discovered accidentally

We received this note recently from Mike Linnington, Director, DPAA, USD(P). “Just returned from China and Korea. Please see the attached [April 28, 2016] *Stars and Stripes* article for your information.”

Here is the link: <http://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/remains-of-15-s-koreans-2-americans-handed-over-6-decades-after-deaths-1.406684>

“ROK time was superb — true partners in our mission, and wonderful to participate in a repatriation ceremony where the USA returned 15 KATUSAs to the ROK. The ROK returned 2 Soldiers recently recovered in the ROK (to DPAA control, and hopefully, quick identification). Mike Linnington, Director, DPAA, USD(P), (703) 699-1101

Please visit our website at <http://www.dpaa.mil/>



"Freedom Is Not Free"



1950-1954



1954-Present



KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION INC.



KWVA Coins - \$20
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Winners to be drawn at October banquet 2016.
Donation \$20 for each ticket. To enter this fundraiser,
complete the attached form. Winners will be
announced on www.KWVA.org and in the Graybeards.

Deadline for ticket donations is Sept 15, 2016

Super Cash Prizes!



Special KWVA Coins - \$20
20th Anniversary Memorial



1st Prize

\$1,500

2nd Prize

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3rd Prize

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This (ALL CASH DRAWING) will allow the winners to: Enjoy life.

Go on vacation. Buy a rifle. Fix a car. Get an item of your choice.

Most importantly, SUPPORT THE KWVA

For more tickets, copy or go to www.KWVA.org For applications click "HOW TO JOIN" link

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 you participation.

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

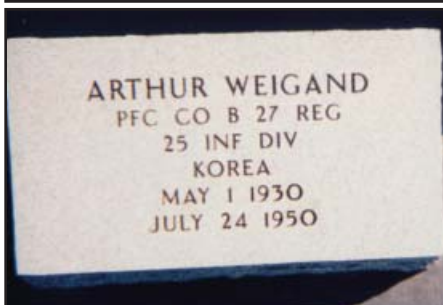
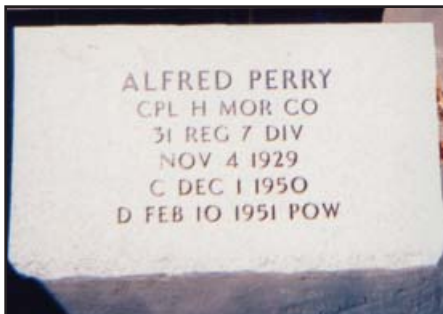
Thomas McHugh, Director
Chairman, Fund Raiser Committee

Charles Memorial Park

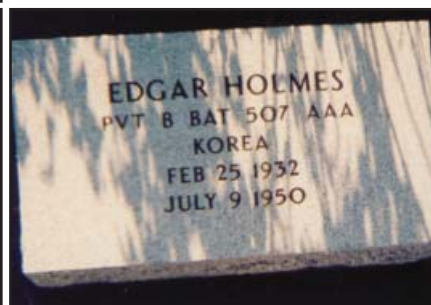
There is a park at Howard Beach, NY named for a local soldier killed in WWII. It contains a memorial dedicated on Memorial Day 1980, and rededicated on Memorial Day 2013. The memorial contains several plaques honoring local Korean War veterans. Thanks to William Hothan, 8405 266th St., Floral Park, NY 11001.



"Old Glory" flies high at the Charles Memorial Park



Plaques at Charles Park



Operation Twin Dragons

I have attached a press release and blog entry from the recent SSANG YONG 2016 exercise off the coast of Korea. I thought you might be interested in it and find it would be of interest to the readers of *The Graybeards*.

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Curtis Price and I am the Group Chaplain for the Expeditionary Strike Group 7 and senior chaplain on the USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6). I have been home ported in Sasebo, Japan since Nov 2014. I became a member of the Korean War Veterans Association last year based upon my service with the 1st Marine Air Wing out of Okinawa several years back and in anticipation of operating in the waters off Korea during my tour on this ship.

As I have led the Sailors and Marines onboard to learn about the Korean War, it occurred to me that our fellow members might be interested in recent military exercises in Korea.

Blessings to You.

Sincerely,

CDR Curtis N Price CHC USN, BHR/ESG-7
Group Chaplain, USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6),
Unit 100184 Box 804, FPO AP 96617, J-Dial:
x7596, DSN Inport: 315-252-3939, DSN
Underway: 315-453-5856, NIPR:
pricecu@lhd6.navy.mil, SIPR:
pricecu@lhd6.navy.smil.mil

Integration and Synchronization Essential to Getting Forces Ashore - Exercise Ssang Yong 2016

By Rear Adm. John B. Nowell, Jr., Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group Seven

In the weeks that led up to the start of the long-awaited combined amphibious exercise with one of our closest allies, tensions on the Korean peninsula were high. As the world watched the developing situations to the north, the Sailors and Marines of Forward Deployed Naval Forces Japan were preparing for complex and extensive operations that would surely test the cohesion, cooperation, and capabilities of the Blue/Green team.



Group SEVEN, comprised of the BONHOMME RICHARD and BOXER Amphibious Ready Groups as well as Commander, Destroyer Squadron 7 and Aegis Guided Missile Cruiser SHILOH, joined Commander Flotilla 5 of the ROK Navy off the peninsula, demonstrating to the region that the ROK-US alliance is a force for peace and stability both on the peninsula, and throughout Northeast Asia.

During Ssang Yong, we demonstrated our ability to defend ourselves in all areas of naval warfare while still executing amphibious operations ashore. Complex scenarios, including MV-22



Osprey, heavy lift, and attack helicopter flight operations were coupled with AV-8B Harrier jet launches providing close-air support to the Marines and Sailors on the beach. We flooded the well decks, launching LCACs and AAVs under the naval surface fire support from the SHILOH. ROK Navy UH-60 Huey's supported amphibious operations with personnel transport while ROK destroyers MOONMU DAEWANG and SEJONG DAEWANG provided defense of the amphibious

force. Together these assets increased the capability and capacity of the amphibious force to conduct complex operations at sea. Integration, synchronization, and communication within our combined force was key to our success, and the success of the exercise as a whole.

Ssang Yong, or "Twin Dragons" in Korean, represents the alliance and commitment to self-defense between the Republic of Korea and the United States of America. Based on shared interests and common values, this 63-year old relationship grows stronger every day.

In the past few weeks the cold waters off the east coast of Korea, flush with commerce, were host also to warships of the United States and the Republic of Korea Navies. Expeditionary Strike



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER, AMPHIBIOUS FORCE 7TH FLEET

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
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EMAIL: DAVID.LEVY@PFA.NAVY.MIL
CHELSEA.IRISH@CPH11.NAVY.MIL



PRESS RELEASE

2016-0318

March 18, 2016

Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group, ROK Forces Conclude Exercise Ssang Yong 2016

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Stacy M. Atkins Ricks, Amphibious Squadron 11 Public Affairs

EAST SEA- The Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group (BHR/ESG) and Republic of Korea (ROK) military forces wrapped up Exercise Ssang Yong 2016 (SY 16) Mar. 18 while underway off the coast of ROK.

Ssang Yong, or "twin dragons" in Korean, is a biennial amphibious assault exercise conducted in the Indo-Asia region with U.S. and ROK Navy and Marine Corps in order to strengthen interoperability and working relationships across the range of military operations from disaster relief to complex expeditionary missions.

Nearly 9,200 U.S. Marines of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (3D MEB) and 3,100 U.S. Navy personnel of Expeditionary Strike Group Seven (ESG 7) joined forces with 4,500 ROK Marines, 3,000 ROK Navy personnel, 100 Royal Australian Army Soldiers and 60 Royal New Zealand Army Soldiers for the amphibious exercise.

"When we think about interoperability we think of the phrase 'One team, one fight.' This exercise has certainly been one team, one fight. United with the ROK Navy and Marine Corps, we are an unbeatable team," said Rear Adm. John B. Nowell Jr., commander of ESG 7. "Over the past few weeks we observed a cohesive amphibious force come together and we look forward to continued integrated operations in the near future."

During the 10-day exercise the U.S.-ROK Blue/Green team conducted more than 220 flight operations and over 240 craft operations.

"Amphibious operations are like an orchestra, each unit has a very specific part to play," said Rear Adm. Ki-kyung Park, Commodore of the Republic of Korea Navy's Fifth Flotilla (COMFLOT 5). "Rank aside, each Marine and Sailor is an integral part of the mission. What I observed during Ssang Yong 16 was a masterpiece."

The exercise commenced with a 19 ship photo exercise (PHOTOEX) to include ships from the Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group and Boxer Amphibious Ready Group (BOXARG) along with COMFLOT 5.

The Blue/Green team then kicked into high gear to carry out rehearsals for a simulated amphibious assault mission, where nearly 17,000 service members from the U.S., ROK, New Zealand and Australia participated in an amphibious landing on the beaches of Pohang. Lastly, the force conducted Assault Follow On Echelon (AFOE) exercises involving M1A1 Abrams tanks from Marine Delta Company 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division along with members of the 6th Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) and a Fueling at Sea (FAS) between amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) and guided-missile cruiser USS Shiloh (CG 67), during which the large LHD transferred nearly 10,000 gallons of fuel to the cruiser, closing out the exercise.

"I want to express my appreciation to U.S. Navy and Republic of Korea leadership for the support we received in the execution of Ssang Yong 16," said Brig. Gen. John M. Jansen, commanding general 3D MEB. "The great partnerships developed with Rear Adm. Nowell, Rear Adm. Park, Brig. Gen. Lee, Commodore Thompson and Captain Ward throughout this exercise reinforced the importance of Naval integration in the planning and execution of complex, amphibious operations. It was rewarding for the entire team to be able to engage in a joint/combined exercise that provided value to the region by way of a clear demonstration of strength and resolve between the United States and the Republic of Korea."

Assets of the BOXARG who joined the BHR/ESG in SY 16 included amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4) with PHIBRON 1 embarked, the amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans (LPD 18), the amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49), and the 13th MEU 4th Marines, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 1st Tank Battalion and 1 MEF Crisis Response Force Company.

Amphibious assault ship ROKS Dokdo (LPH-6111), amphibious landing ship ROKS Cheon Wang Bong (LST 686), Chungmugong Yi Sun-sin-class and destroyer ROKS Munmu the Great (DDH 976) are among the ROK assets that participated in the exercise.

The Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group, comprised of the flagship Bonhomme Richard and amphibious dock landing ships USS Germantown (LSD 42) and USS Ashland (LSD 48), is conducting a routine patrol in the 7th Fleet area of responsibility along with the embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).

For more information about Commander, Amphibious Force, U.S. 7th Fleet, visit our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Amphibious-Force-SEVENTH-Fleet/93104046340>.

For more news from Commander, Amphibious Force, U.S. 7th Fleet, visit www.public.navy.mil/surfor/esg7/Pages/default.aspx.

- 30 -

27

The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

24 – CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

On 21 March 2016, Gene Howell, Orval Mechling, Wayne Semple, and Bill Hanes made a presentation to an assembly of students at Stewardson-Strasburg High School. There were 2 teachers and 81 students there.

On May 2, 2016, members gave a Tell America presentation at Warrensburg-Latham High School before 2 classes, 33 students in all.

williamhanes@att.net



Dave Mayberry of Ch 24 in classroom



Gene Howell of Ch 24 speaks to students at Warrensburg-Latham High School

Orval Mechling (L) and Gene Howell talk to students at Stewardson-Strasburg High School



Wayne Semple tells experiences to Stewardson-Strasburg High School students

172 - HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

Our Tell America Committee visited the Social Studies class at Vanlue High School recently. Jake Cogley, Bob Perkins, and Jim Salisbury did an excellent job in telling their stories.

understanding about the Korean War and its consequences and promoted the understanding that Freedom Is Not Free.

Larry Monday, 419-387-7532, Monday19@aol.com

They gave the students a firsthand



Bob Perkins, left, and Jake Cogley of Ch 172

Jim Salisbury of Ch 172





Part of the class in attendance at Ch 172's presentation at Vanlue High School

227 - SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN [WI]

We recently presented sixteen American flags with staffs to Somers [WI] Elementary School.

Jim Becker, 262-681-6459, jbecker625@wi.rr.com



Commander Ed Slovak, Don Orth, Jim Becker, Bill DeBock, Gene Van Wie, and Julius Mianeki (L-R) of Ch 227 with students (front) and administrator at Somers [WI] Elementary School

316 - MODESTO [CA]

We conducted a flag disposal ceremony at Keyes Charter School in Keyes, CA. We arranged it with the aid of the American Legion Post 74 Honor Guard, Modesto.

gathered to watch the ceremony, after which members answered questions.

Judy Ward Tarter, 1720 Crestview Dr., Modesto, CA 95355

Students and family members



Crowd at Ch 316's flag disposal ceremony



Students and family members at Modesto flag disposal rite



Gene Cummings, Judy Ward, Ken Williams, Rex Embry, Eddie Jones, Duane Robles (Back, L-R); Ruby Brawley, John Griff (Front, seated) of Ch 316 at flag disposal event



Members of Ch 316 answer questions after flag disposal is demonstrated: Eddie Jones, Duane Robles, Ken Williams, Judy Ward Tarter (L-R)

Letters of appreciation from Keyes Charter School students to Ch 316 members

Dear Korean War Veterans,

Thank you for coming to our school and for your service in the war.

We appreciated you letting us ask questions that you may have found discomforting.

Thank you for coming to our flag ceremony. It was an amazing privilege to have you at our school.

We loved learning about the Korean War. All in all it was an amazing day!!!!!!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Leadership Academy Representatives

More ➤

Dear Korean War Veterans and Honor Guard,

Thank you for retiring our school flag. The students, parents, and staff were proud of be a part of the ceremony and to meet all of you.

Many of the attendees had never seen a flag retired and said they would never forget the experience.

You provided such a gift to so many by coming to Keyes to Learning Charter School and doing this.

On behalf of all the attendees, I extend our sincerest appreciation for your service and the time you spent with us, sharing your stories with our students and reminding us how very fortunate we are to live in this country, where we are free because of your sacrifice.

With much respect and gratitude,

Karen Nunes

Karen Nunes
Keyes To Learning Charter School

Dear Korean War Veterans chapter 316,

Thank you for coming to our school and properly burning our flag. Thank you and shooting the guns into the air and thank you for telling us about the war. And helping our country in the war. Our favorite part was when you came and talked about the things you did and how you did it.

Sincerely, Case, Dominic, Kyle, Jett.

Dear Korean War Veterans,

Thank you for coming to our school, to share with us. We enjoyed the flag ceremony very much! If we get a chance to stop a war we will. We would love it if you could come back some day. We enjoyed hearing about your stories. Thank you for your service in the war. We hope to hear from you again.

Thank you, KTL students

TEXAS [TX]

President Eddie L. Bell, Sr., participated in a 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade awards ceremony at Willow Springs Elementary School in Killeen, TX. He was accompanied by Col. (ret.) Otis Evens, Sir Knight Michael, and Dr. Seuss (aka Mr. Brokley

Moore, the Mayor Pro Tem of Killeen, TX).

Eddie L. Bell, Sr., 1105 Craig St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522, 254-661-4673, eddiebell11858 @ yahoo.com or eddiebell11858 @gmail.com

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



Willow Brook Elementary students Todd Britton holds 2nd grade award for confidence. He is flanked by Col. (ret.) Otis Evens, Sir Michael, and Eddie Bell (L-R)



Confidence Awards winners at Willow Springs Elementary School with "Dr. Seuss," Eddie Bell, and Sir Knight Michael



Col. (ret.) Otis Evens, Sir Knight Michael, Eddie L. Bell, and Dr. Seuss (Brokley Moore) (L-R) at Willow Springs Elementary School in Killeen, TX

40th ID Builds Relationships —And Schools



Kapyong High School as originally built in 1952

Fourteen American Korean War veterans visited schools in Korea that they helped establish. They were accompanied by 22 people who lost relatives in the war and 3 current soldiers from the U.S. 40th Infantry Division (40ID), including its commander, Maj. Gen. Lawrence A. Haskins.

The veterans attended graduation ceremonies at Gapyeong High School and Kwanin Middle and High School in Pocheon, both in Gyeonggi Province. The schools were built by the 40ID in 1952 and 1955 respectively. Not only did they attend the graduations, but they presented scholarships funded by former and current 40ID members to maintain their 60-year friendship.

The building project began during the war when 40ID soldiers near the front lines observed students studying in tents that were all but collapsed. Division commander MajGen Joseph Cleland and his soldiers contributed \$2 each. That funded the construction of Gapyong High School, which was designed by 1st Lieutenant Vam Hoef and built in August 1952.

The 40ID was headquartered at the time at Gapyong, about some 36 miles northeast of Seoul. Its mission was to protect against incursions by communist forces from the north.

Gen. Cleland named the school Kaiser Middle High School after Sergeant First Class Kenneth Kaiser, the

first 40ID soldier to be killed in action. He died in battle in January 1952 at the age of 19. The local residents called the school “Gaisa,” the Korean pronunciation of “Kaiser.” That is how it became known later. Now it is Gapyong High School.

About two years after the 1953 cease fire took effect, in April 1955, 40ID built Kwanin Middle School as part its post-war rebuilding efforts. 1st Lieutenant Vam Hoef designed that school as well. Kwanin High School was built sixteen years later.



Gapyong High School in 2013 photograph (Courtesy of Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Republic of Korea)



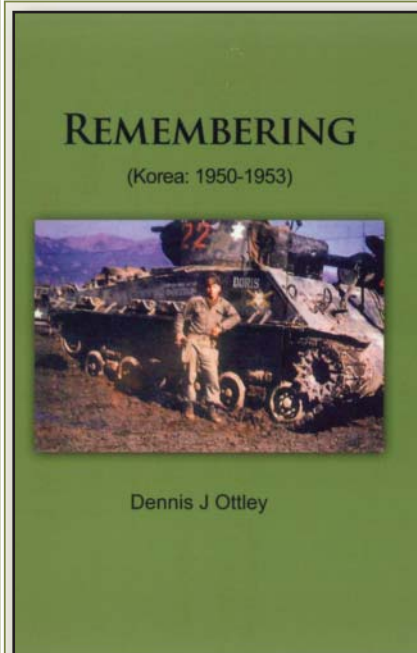
U.S. 40ID veteran with Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs Park Sungchoon at graduation ceremony at Gapyong High School in April, 2013

Veterans of four Commonwealth nations, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and veterans from the Republic of Ireland who served in British forces during the Korean War, visited Korea in April and held services at Gapyong to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the April, 1951 Battle of Kapyong.

The veterans presented scholarship awards to students from the Gapyong Middle School and others in the Solmari area, where the Battle of the Imjin River was commemorated.

Sources: The Korea Times, a leading English language newspaper published in Seoul, and the Korean War Veteran, Internet Journal for the World's Veterans of the Korean War, February 2, 2016

Remembering (Korea: 1950-1953) by Dennis J. Ottley



It was referred to as a “Police Action” but those who served know it was an all-out war and one of the bloodiest in American history.

This book was written to help Americans understand what this war was all about and describe one soldier’s experience and opinion of it.

\$45.00 + 3.99 S&H, paperback,
full color, 264 pages

Order your copy from Rosedog Books, 585 Alpha Dr., Ste. 103, Pittsburg, PA 15238 or online at www.rosedogbookstore.com

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13 BILL CARR CHAPTER 1 [DE]

Korean War vets receive Ruck Run proceeds

We recently received \$1,200 as a result of the 17th annual Ruck Run at Dover Air Force Base (DAFB). The 6.20 mile course was run by both Air Force personnel and local runners, including two state police teams. All participants had to carry an additional 30 lbs. in their back packs during the run.

The Ruck Run commemorates the 78-mile march of both U.S. Marines and Army troops during the Korean War. The battle extended for 17 days from the Chosin Reservoir down to Hungnam in North Korea, where over 30,000 U.S. troops were evacuated while suffering through -35F degree temperatures and Chinese Communist and North Korean fire. It was one of the bloodiest battles of the Korean War, especially for the enemy forces.



Captain Christopher Goertz and SMSgt Nicholas Melenka from Dover Air Force Base presenting check to Ch 13 members Dr. Dan Coons, Walter Koopman, Jim Schafer, Charles Giangerson, and Jack McGinley (L-R)

The proceeds from the run were secured from the runners themselves, who paid an entry fee to participate. We will donate those funds to both community operations and veterans' activities, to include veterans of all wars.

Members host Delaware National Guard speaker

We recently hosted SgtMaj. Ken Hardy of the Delaware National Guard at a recent meeting. He described the mission of the Guard, recent deployments, and training exercises carried out by his units.

We could relate to Hardy's 32 years in the military, especially about the Signal Corp's contribution to the mission of the U.S. Army and the Guard in particular. His talk was timely and well received.

Anyone having served in Korea as part of the military is eligible to join our chapter—and the association.

Jack McGinley, 302-945-0698, jomcgini@aol.com



President Jack McGinley of Ch 13 presents a Wounded Warrior medal to SgtMaj Ken Hardy

14 SUNCOAST [FL]

Chapter replaces flagpole and flag

A small secluded parcel of land, hidden from a roadway, is the site of the Seminole (FL) Cemetery. The earliest grave marker reads 1820. Through the years their military and civilian members were buried there.

When it was noted by a retired serviceman that the cemetery did not have a pole or a flag, we decided to research and get the approval of the Board of Directors of the cemetery. Their policies focus on the land and its upkeep, as well as planning funerals for members of the Town of Seminole. Our interest was recognized and approval was given in a timely manner.



Richard E. Arcand, Fr. John Humphreys, Joe Slatton, Frank Kavanah, Gardner Harshman, and Joan Arcand (L-R), Ch 14's Honor Guard, at cemetery event

On March 10, 2016, members dedicated the flag and pole in a fitting program that honored the deceased and the flag. The new flagpole is fitted with an all-weather light.

Gardner Harshman, chapter president, welcomed the visitors and gave a brief history of the cemetery. Joan Arcand read a poem

entitled "The Flag." Fr. Humphreys gave a moving tribute to those buried at the cemetery.

David Smith then read the poem "The Old Soldier." A rifle salute and the playing of "Taps" ended the ceremony, which was attended by our Honor Guard, members, members of The Town of Seminole Commission, fellow veterans, and members of the Board of Directors of Seminole.

Today, this gift to the town's cemetery is a tribute to the longevity of the cemetery and those buried there.

New Officers

Our new officers for 2016-17 are Director David Smith; Director Richard Arcand; Secretary Joan Arcand; Treasurer Joe Slatton; 2nd VP Conrad Gifford; 1st VP Everett Dewitt; President Gardner Harshman. Many of the officers are serving a second term, providing knowledge and leadership for the upcoming year.



New officers of Ch 14: David Smith, Richard Arcand, Joan Arcand, Joe Slatton, Conrad Gifford, Everett Dewitt, Gardner Harshman (L-R)

We meet monthly at Our Lady of Good Hope Church Hall at 6 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of each month, except for July and August. We welcome all Korean War veterans. We have a guest speaker most months, and always have coffee and refreshments. Visit and stay for a while.

Joan M. Arcand, 5674 Bay Pines Lake Blvd.,
St. Petersburg, FL 33708, 727-392-5648

19 GEN RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

Chapter member Ben Malcom was the luncheon speaker at the 39th Annual Airborne Awards Festival held in Atlanta. Col. Malcom, U.S. Army (ret.), spoke of his tours in Korea and Vietnam.

The dinner speaker was America's first female four-star general, Ann Dunwoody. The speakers exchanged their books, Malcom's "White Tigers" and Dunwoody's "A Higher Standard."

Since our monthly luncheon was close to Easter, we conducted an Easter Bonnet party for the chapter wives. The prize was a bottle of champagne and a dozen white roses. The winner was

Ann Dunwoody and Ben Malcom of Ch 19 exchange books at Airborne Awards Festival



Ben Malcom of Ch 19 addresses audience at Atlanta meeting



Two of the fourteen wives at Ch 19's Easter luncheon, Dolores Moore (L) and Carol Rump (C) and Urban Rump



Dolores Moore accepts her prize from Ch 19 VP Bob Hendershott

Mel Pender displays his Olympic medal for track and field at Ch 19 meeting



Dolores Moore. The event proved to be such a delight that we will do it again next year.

The guest speaker at our April luncheon was Mel Pender, retired military officer, Olympian champion, and community leader. Pender won a gold medal in the 4x100 m relay at the 1968 Summer Olympics.

Jim Conway, conatlanta@comcast.com

30 INDIANA #1 [IN]

We moved our memorial from its previous location on O'Day Road to the Concordia Cemetery, 5365 Lake Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN. All the names on the bricks from the O'Day Road location were put on the black granite slabs at the new site.

Walter A. Mendenhall, 727 Florence Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46808



Two views of the recently moved Ch 30 Memorial

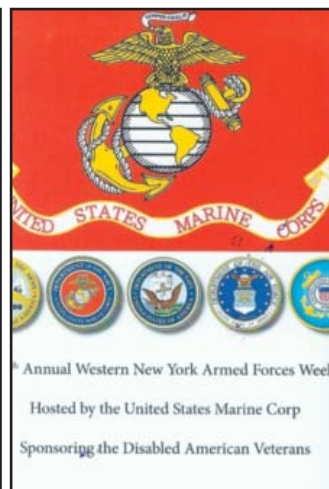
63 WESTERN NEW YORK [NY]

Members attend 56th annual Western New York Armed Forces Week Luncheon

This year's luncheon was held at the Connecticut Street Armory, Buffalo, NY on May 5, 2016. The United States Marine Corps hosted the luncheon.

Principal speaker Col. James T. Lulo, Commanding Officer, 1st Marine Corps Recruiting District, spoke of the importance of today's military, both active duty and reserve. He noted special emphasis of our disabled American veterans and the sacrifices they endure for the freedom of our country.

Norman R. Lipkus, 19 Manser Dr., Amherst, NY 14226,
(716) 835-3522, norrrip@aol.com



LEFT: Col. James T. Lulo speaks in Buffalo, NY. RIGHT: Announcement for Western NY Armed Forces Week luncheon



Members from Ch 63 at luncheon include Jerry Keohane, newsletter editor Sandra Marranea, 2nd VP Sal Schallaci, Commander Carl Marranca, Richard Miller, and 1st Vice Commander Norm Lipkus (L-R)

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:

www.kwva.org

72 OREGON TRAIL & 84 IRON TRIANGLE [OR]

Signs were installed recently designating I-5 through Oregon from the Washington border to the California border as the "Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway." The project was funded largely by CID 72, Oregon Trail, from the greater Portland area, and the MOPH.



Bob Osterlund, Paul Frykberg and Bob Kuenzli of Ch 84 display I-5 sign



Recently installed sign on I-5 in Oregon

More signs have been installed near the intersection of I-5 and I-205 closer to Portland. The sign by mile marker 260 is just north of Salem; the other sign is south of Salem, near milepost 248.

The featured speaker at a recent Ch 84 meeting was member Bob Osterlund, a former U.S. Navy Mustang. He spoke of his introduction into the Navy at NTC San Diego. From day one, his desire was to go to sea and "see the world." Of course, life is sometimes full of disappointments.

Osterlund spent much of his early time ashore trying to stay out of trouble. Eventually he managed to go to sea as an Aviation Machinist's Mate, serving aboard the carriers Midway, Roosevelt, and Coral Sea.

Through his presentation, some of us could recall our boot camp days of close order drill and suffering through calisthenics on the hot grinder, notably the pushups. Incidentally, the Iron Triangle chapter meets in Salem, OR. (Photos contributed by Paul Frykberg)

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

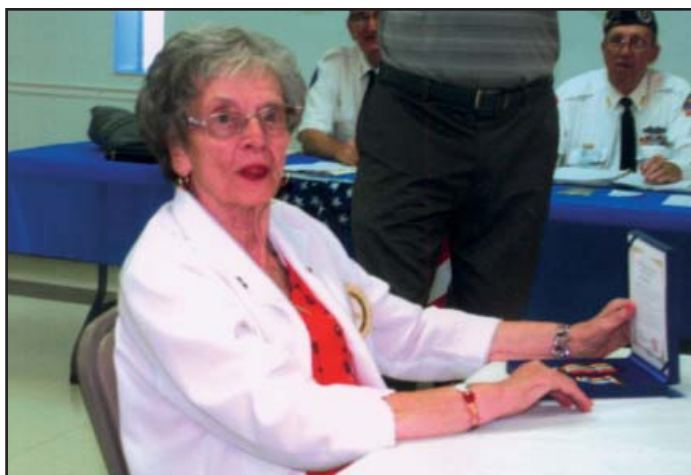
106 TREASURE COAST [FL]

Nine members received the Ambassador for Peace Medal in a recent ceremony. Also, Mary Salerno, a Gold Star Mother, accepted the medal on behalf of her son, Arthur Salerno.

Louis Deblasio, 352 NW Shoreview Dr.
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986



Members of Ch 106 who received Ambassador for Peace Medals (L-R):
Lou DeBlasio, Art Nelson, Joe Wilcox, Harold Trieber, Bob Leon, Joe Muscarella, Charley LoMonaco, John Hodorf



Mary Salerno, who accepted Ambassador for Peace Medal on her son's behalf

133 QUIET WARRIORS [IN]

Members at our 7 May 2016 meeting had the opportunity to look at the photos of Wayne Doenges' recent Honor Flight to Washington D.C. (See the story on p. 56). Our commander, Ken Kurtz, will be on an upcoming Honor Flight.

Wayne A. Doenges, 610 Entrance Dr. Apt 6, New Haven, IN, denjussolo1@frontier.com



Commander Ken Kurtz of Ch 133 looks at photos of Wayne Doenges' trip to Washington D.C.



Mel Aldridge views Wayne Doenges' photos, each of which tells a story. Note the MIA table the chapter sets up for each meeting.

137 MAHONING VALLEY [OH]

Chapter welcomes home MIA Cpl. Dennis Buckley

Corporal Dennis Buckley is finally home from Korea. It took 63 years for him to make that long trip, but he now has an honored place in the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, OH.

There were not many relatives left to welcome Dennis home, but there was an overwhelming delegation of veterans, along with three motorcycle escorts to bring him to his final resting place. The American Legion Post from Courtland, OH provided the Honor Guard.

The Lane Funeral Home in Youngstown, Ohio was shoulder to shoulder with veterans in all different kinds of uniforms who came to welcome Dennis home. Dennis' coffin was half open, with a folded uniform on display.

"So long, Dennis. If you had made it home when we did, you'd be an old man like those of us in the nearby photo. But, we're glad you're finally home."

Take a look at the guy in the nearby picture. Does he look familiar? He is our regular parade statue. It takes three strong men to lift him on to our parade floats. When members of the media saw him about a dozen years ago they asked, "Where is he going to be per-

The man in Ch 137 member Charles Stepan's back yard

manently?" I told them, "In my garage." He actually spent this past winter in my back yard.

When St. Patrick's Day arrived it was a rainy, miserable day. We have one of the largest St. Patrick's Day parades in Ohio. So, we couldn't use the statue. Instead, we used a poster of a good, solid Irish man who was also a Medal of Honor recipient, U.S. Marine John Doran Kelly.



Members of Ch 137 pay their respects to Cpl. Dennis Buckley: (Left of casket, R-L) Chuck Stepan, Honor Guard Commander Roger Gardner, Veterans Service Officer Ray Ornelas; (Right of casket, R-L) Commander Zeno Foley, Honor Guard member Harold Pitts, Vice Commander Bob Bakalik



John Doran Kelly gets a soggy ride in Ch 137's St. Patrick's Day Parade float

We couldn't use all the embellishments that usually accompany the poster. It got pretty soggy—but the rain did not dampen anyone's spirits.

Charles A. Stepan, 175 Erskine Ave.
Boardman, OH 44512

169 LAKE COUNTY [FL]

Nine chapter members received the Republic of Korea Ambassador for Peace Medal at an Eisenhower Recreation Center ceremony in The Villages on April 20, 2016. The medal expresses appreciation from the South Korean government to American service members who served in the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953, or participated in UN peacekeeping operations until the end of 1955. The medals were provided by the people of Korea, via the Consulate General of Korea in Atlanta, GA.

Presenting the Medals were HooJung Jones Kennedy, Advisor to the Republic of Korea President Park Geun Hye, National Unification Advisory Council, and her husband Major (ret.) Don Kennedy C.D., The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (WR). Both are snowbird members of Chapter 169.



Guests present included Pam Jones, Community Relations Representative, U.S. Representative Daniel Norval E. "Gene" Packwood, Jr., & HooJung Jones Kennedy at Ch 169 ceremony



John Turner, Marv Ummel, Tom DiGiovanna, Ed Domenech, Chuck Fulcher, HooJung Jones Kennedy, Ed O'Toole, Harold Huff, Gene Packwood, and Marv Smiley of Ch 169 (L-R) receive Ambassador for Peace Medals

Webster (FL-10); Al Harrison, Constituent Services Representative, U.S. Representative Richard Nugent (FL-11); Larry Metz, Florida House of Representatives (32nd District); and H. Marlene O'Toole, Florida House of Representatives (33rd District), and husband of one of the medal recipients, Rod O'Toole.

For info: www.cid169.kwva.org Tom Thiel, kwvathiel@gmail.com or 352-408-6612.

170 TAEJON [NJ]

Members marched in the 54th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Pearl River, NY on a cold March 20, 2016. Old-time member

Erwin Burkhardt reminded the members that we took the cold in Korea during the war and "We are still tough." He added, "This weather is a piece of cake."



Members of Ch 170 at St. Patrick's Day Parade: Pasquale Candela (L) and Irwin Burkert (R) hold banner, with Thomas Boyle in center. Commander Kenneth Green stands at far right.



Kenneth Green of Ch 170, restaurant manager Lowell Chen, and Alexander Atheras at post-parade meal



Color Guard Captain/Jr. Vice Commander Henry Ferrarini of Ch 170 with his son Henry Jr. (R) and daughter-in-law Lisa (L) at St. Patrick's Day Parade

We marched in the leading Honor Battalion, one of six battalions. There were five other veteran organizations in our group, but only two Korean War groups: us and CID 190, Eagle/Rockland [NY].

All our members who marched—in cadence, by the way—were in their eighties. The oldest marching member, Louis Quagliero, is 87. Of the six members who rode in cars, the oldest was Louis DeStefano, who is 88.



Color Guard of Ch 170 at St. Patrick's Day Parade: Joseph Louis, Henry Ferrarini, Alexander Atheras, and Ken Florio (L-R)



Louis DeStefano and Mark Oliveti (L-R, Back) and Frank Uvenio and driver Walter Amos of Ch 170 ride in St. Patrick's Day Parade



Perry Georgison and driver Robert Domanoski of Ch 170 travel route at St. Patrick's Day Parade

After the parade we went to the Hibachi Grill Supreme Buffet restaurant. Manager Lowell Chen escorted us to a special room, where eighteen members enjoyed Korean dishes. Mr. Chen expressed it as an honor to have Korean War veterans dressed in parade uniforms in the restaurant.

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

181 KANSAS #1 [KS]

We have a twice-a-month coffee meeting (helps keep us out of the pool halls). The nearby photo taken at a recent meeting shows some of the "Happy Warriors."

Don Dyer, Ddyer15@everestkc.net



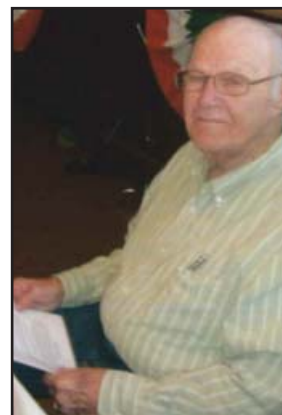
Ch 181 members avoiding the pool halls

183 NEBRASKA #1 [NE]

We held our St. Patrick's Day celebration at Darby's Tavern in Omaha, NE. Chapter members and spouses received free beer and corned beef and cabbage, compliments of Darby's.

Member Sandy Lim brings delicious homemade desserts to every meeting.

Diane Lane,
Dklane1@cox.net



Bill Christensen presents Ch 183's treasurer's report



President John Fifer (yellow shirt) of Ch 183 brings March business meeting to order

Loyal member Sung Jo (dark shirt and glasses) of Ch 183 and General Sun Ha Lim (end of table) enjoy St. Patrick's Day party atmosphere



Gracious host and loyal member Sandy Lim helps with chow line for Ch 183

251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

Richard Redifer, Scholarship Chairman, awarded \$1,000 scholarship checks to four grandchildren of members: Andrew Micolaiczik, Sara Farnsworth, Gerritt Redifer, and Katlyn Buetler.

The guest speaker at our May 2016 meeting was Ed Railling. He spoke about the Frankenmuth Military Museum.

John Mulvaney, of the Patriot Guard Riders, gave a very informative talk at our April 2016 meeting. The Patriot Guard Riders, a 100% volunteer organization, ensures dignity and respect at memorial services honoring fallen military, first responders, and honorably discharged veterans. They also attend funerals to show respect and shield mourning families from interruptions by protesters.

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



John Ryder, Gorman Wolfe, and Ed Railling (L-R) at Ch 251's May 2016 meeting



Delta College bound Gerritt Redifer accepts Ch 251 scholarship check



Andrew Micolaiczik, who will attend Michigan State University, accepts Ch 251 scholarship award



Incoming Henry Ford Community College student Katlyn Buetler, Ch 251 scholarship recipient



Dick Redifer, John Mulvaney, and Richard Haney at Ch 251's Patriot Guard Riders presentation

264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

The Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center hosted a Celebration of Life for two American military veterans who served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars as officers in the United States Army.

Both Heinrich (7/23/1928-12/13/2015) and Ferdinand (7/23/1928- 22/2016) Beernink became naturalized citizens after their arrival in New York harbor aboard the S.S. Rotterdam. Their medical training and early education took place in the Netherlands. Both officers were well known in the medical community as specialists in obstetrics and gynecology.

Chapter Liaison Stanley Grogan and family were invited to the celebration of life because of their long association with Ferd, who was always concerned with the care of veterans—for good reason.

During their early youths, the Beerninks suffered the deprivations associated with the Nazi occupiers in the Netherlands during WWII. Often, the Beernink family of five (the boys had a sister) were near starvation because of low food availability.

At the program, Dana Beernink Simonds, today a judge in northern California, spoke of her father with great affection. Other speakers, Ernie Beernink, Peter Beernink, and Cynthia Beernink McKeith, gave their versions of family life. Karen Beernink presented closing remarks.

Several veterans of the Korean War attended the event. In fact, more than 150 people were there.

Ferd Beernink and Stanley Grogan shared a close friendship. Grogan recalls one special incident.

“We fished off Point Anna Nuevo near Santa Cruz, CA. Once we were caught in a storm off the coast. Everyone became seasick except for Ferd and me,” he explained. “And, we came home with the limit allowed for bluefish!”

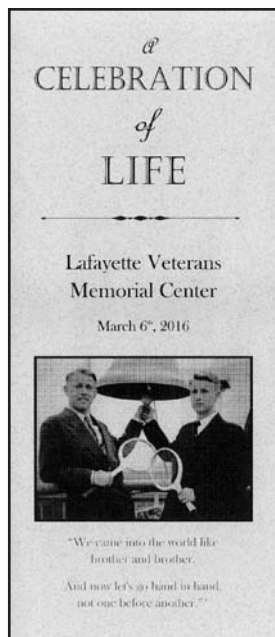
Stanley J. Grogan, 2585 Moraga Dr.
Pinole, CA 94564

267 GEN JAMES A. VAN FLEET [FL]

We participated in the University of Florida Annual Homecoming Parade again, for our 10th year. Twenty-eight members and their wives marched or rode in our float along the parade route, with over 50,000 spectators and 150,000 “Gator” fans watching at home. Over 200 marching units were in the parade, the largest in North Central Florida.

This year we honored Doctor Kirby Stewart, an Air Force veteran who flew 34 combat bombing missions over Korea as a crew member on B-29 Super Fortresses out of Kaneda AFB, Okinawa. He received one of the USAF highest decorations for valor in combat, the Air Medal.

Our new commander, Frank Murphy, led us in the parade. We were joined by our friends from the American Legion, MOAA, and the MOPH.



The Beernink ceremony handout



Mary (L) and Cassie Stewart at Gainesville parade

RIGHT: Mary Stewart, U.S. Navy ROTC (L) and Cassie Stewart, U.S. Army ROTC, granddaughters of Ch 267 member Kirby Stewart, salute his float in Univ. of FL parade



Ch 267 members wait to start parade route



Members of Ch 267 wait for parade to begin: From left, Terry Martin (Back, rear), Kirby Stewart, Ken Sassaman, Jake Feaster (seated), Ron Carbaugh (right rear)



Pat Sherry (L) and Debra Martin in truck pulling Ch 267's float



Fred Junkins (L) and Kirby Stewart beside Ch 267 float

Participants were Terry and Debra Martin-Back, who donated the truck and the float, Commander Murphy, Kirby Stewart, Ken Sassaman, Ron Carbaugh, Sarge McQuinn, Walt Viskiski, Jim and Candy Gleason, Fred Judkins, Eddie Thomas, Betty-Ann Means, Carolyn Mikell, Vickie Van Buren, Elery and Julie Cope, Jake Feaster, Norm Sassner, Stephen Dodd, Pierce and Allison Senkarik, Bernie Campbell, Kevin Porterfield, Jan Morris, Bill Barton, and Don and Pat Sherry.

Don Sherry, 9511 SW 56th Pl., Gainesville, FL 32608, 352-375-8355, dpskwva@yahoo.com

272 GREATER ROCKFORD [IL]

Commander Ramsey brought up for discussion at our April 18, 2015 meeting the possibility of us bringing back our successful Scholarship Fund. The presentation generated an exciting and vigorous discussion pertaining to the possibilities of working with our local colleges to decide how to distribute the scholarships.

Several members asked how many of their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren were currently enrolled in schools throughout Illinois. They found that we have enough active students to keep the scholarship active with just the needs of our own families.



Ch 272 Memorial, Loves Park, IL

We tabled the topic for a month and revisited it at our May meeting. The discussion was enthusiastic as it became obvious that we had enough of our own families' members who would be eligible to apply.

We voted to make this fund available to all our members, who would advise their eligible college student family members to write a letter to the chapter explaining their current studies and plans after college. The requests received reminded us our future was going to be placed in capable hands.

We are pleased to announce that as of April 2016 we have awarded seven scholarships in the amount of \$250.00 each to direct descendants of members of our chapter. We look forward to receiving requests for the fall semester of 2016, knowing that our help is so much appreciated.

George Graham, GB1948@aol.com

286 EAST TEXAS [TX]

Honoring Korean War MOH Recipient

On 26 March 2016, we held our ninth Annual Medal of Honor Ceremony honoring Korean War Medal of Honor Recipient Master Sergeant Travis E. Watkins at Memorial Park Cemetery in Gladewater, TX. In 2007, a chapter member and friend of MSG Watkins made us aware of the grave. We adopted it and have held the annual ceremony since 2008.

Over the years, the ceremony has included flyovers, guest speakers from the Korean Embassy in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Congress, and various military figures. This year the flag that has flown over his grave for the past year was presented to Mayor Joe Carlyle of Troup, TX, where MSG Watkins grew up and attended school. The flag will be placed on permanent display at Troup High School.

"The ceremony serves not only to honor Master Sergeant Watkins, but to honor the service and sacrifices made by all those who served in the Korean War," says Bob Perry, chapter president.

James Warren, jewarren@juno.com



Travis E. Watkins

The President of the United States
in the name of The Congress
takes pleasure in presenting the
Medal of Honor
to

*WATKINS, TRAVIS E.

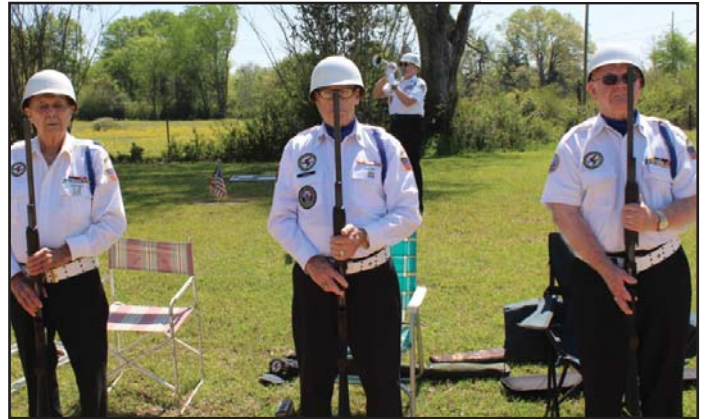
Rank and organization: Master Sergeant, U.S. Army,
Company H, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division
Place and date: Near Yongsan, Korea, 31 August through
3 September 1950. Entered service at: Texas. Birth:
Waldo, Ark. G.O. No.: 9, 16 February 1951.

Citation:

M/Sgt. Watkins distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. When an overwhelming enemy force broke through and isolated 30 men of his unit, he took command, established a perimeter defense and directed action which repelled continuous, fanatical enemy assaults. With his group completely surrounded and cut off, he moved from foxhole to foxhole exposing himself to enemy fire, giving instructions and offering encouragement to his men. Later when the need for ammunition and grenades became critical he shot 2 enemy soldiers 50 yards outside the perimeter and went out alone for their ammunition and weapons. As he picked up their weapons he was attacked by 3 others and wounded. Returning their fire he killed all 3 and gathering up the weapons of the 5 enemy dead returned to his amazed comrades. During a later assault, 6 enemy soldiers gained a defiladed spot and began to throw grenades into the perimeter making it untenable. Realizing the desperate situation and disregarding his wound he rose from his foxhole to engage them with rifle fire. Although immediately hit by a burst from an enemy machinegun he continued to fire until he had killed the grenade throwers. With this threat eliminated he collapsed and despite being paralyzed from the waist down, encouraged his men to hold on. He refused all food, saving it for his comrades, and when it became apparent that help would not arrive in time to hold the position ordered his men to escape to friendly lines. Refusing evacuation as his hopeless condition would burden his comrades, he remained in his position and cheerfully wished them luck. Through his aggressive leadership and intrepid actions, this small force destroyed nearly 500 of the enemy before abandoning their position. M/Sgt. Watkins' sustained personal bravery and noble self-sacrifice reflect the highest glory upon himself and is in keeping with the esteemed traditions of the U.S. Army.



President Bob Perry (L) and Chaplain Steve Ditmore of Ch 286 during opening prayer at Travis E. Watkins event



Members of Ch 286's Honor Guard perform ceremonial duties: Don Perkins, Jim Foy, Ross Pittman and Jack Fields on bugle (L-R)



Nancy Martin, Tom Scannicchio and Billy Roberts of Ch 286 (L-R) fold the flag flown over MSGT Travis E. Watkins' grave before presenting it to Mayor Carlyle of Troup, TX



Ch 286 members stand at the grave of MSGT Travis E. Watkins: Jim Foy, Bob Perry, Bill Jacque, Ross Pittman, and Tom Scannicchio

297 PLATEAU [TN]

Members and family members recently visited the state capitol in Nashville, TN on a day trip to that city.

Dick Malsack, Kaslam2001@yahoo.com



Group from Ch 297 at the Tennessee state capitol

312 ANTIETAM [MD]

Chapter 312 Hosts Regional KWVA Meeting

On April 13th, we hosted a regional get-together of Maryland and Virginia KWVA chapters at the local American Legion Post 211 in Funkstown, MD. In all, 5 chapters and approximately 55–60 folks attended the gathering, including wives of some members. It was a great time of fellowship. Old friends were reacquainted and new friendships were made.

After a nice lunch prepared by the Legion, several people spoke to the assembled group. The featured guest was Mr. George Owings, the Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs, who applauded the fact that our aging membership could and does socialize with one another. Secretary Owings brought the best wishes of Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and apologies from First Lady Yumi Hogan, who is of Korean ancestry and had been invited to the event.

The Secretary also announced a special project being initiated by KWVA Chapter 33 to bury a time capsule at the Maryland Korean War Memorial in Baltimore. Later in the session, Past Commander of Chapter 33 Leroy Thornton explained the details of the project.



Attendees at Ch 312 meeting



Discussions at Ch 312 table



Conversationalists converse at Ch 312 event

After Secretary Owings' remarks, KWVA Secretary Lew Ewing announced various events and things happening at the national KWVA level. These occurrences included an invitation to participate in this year's Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. and scholarship programs being offered by separate Korean foundations. Finally, he encouraged all to vote in the current election for national officers.

Col. Bill Weber also spoke to the group. As usual, he fired up the gathering with passionate pleas for two projects his foundation has initiated. The first project is a plan to read the names of all the known KATUSAs who died supporting U.S. troops in the Korean War. Col. Weber needs help from Korean War veterans to read the names at the



George Owings speaks to Ch 312 group



Col. Weber fires up crowd at MD-VA regional get-together

June 25th ceremonies at the Korean War Memorial on the Mall.

The second plea was for members to help promote the Wall of Remembrance. Col. Weber said that we are close, but the effort needs a final push. For those who have heard Col. Weber speak before, you know how his enthusiasm can really fire up a crowd.

The session concluded with some remarks from Fred Lash, Director of KWVA Communications. Fred addressed the need to seek new members specifically Koreans Service veterans. He also talked about several upcoming events.

All said and done, the gathering went very well. The time to socialize, the lunch, the displays set up by our chapter, and the various talks made for a worthwhile gathering.

Les Bishop, lbishop@myacttv.com

315 SGT. BILLY FREEMAN [GA]

We took part in the service of William Kennon Brinson, 85, of Rome, GA. Our burial committee put up the U.S. and Korean flags.

Charles W. Patterson, 545 N. Avery Rd., NW
Rome, GA 30165



Commander Charles W. Patterson, Chaplain Robert Summers, and Secretary-Treasurer Tom Jones salute the flags at William Kennon Brinson service



Flags line walkway at Ch 315's service for William Kennon Brinson

FLORIDA [FL]

Department of Florida holds 26th Annual Convention

The Department of Florida (DoF) held its 26th Annual Convention on Saturday, April 16, 2016, at the Waterfront Inn, The Villages. The Korean War and Korea Defense Service Veterans of Lake County (FL) Chapter 169, Inc., was the host chapter.



Ch 169 Color Guard opens DoF Convention: DJ Lynch, Gene Zender, Bill Simunek, John Turner and Joel Briggs (L-R)

DoF President Maxine McCartney Parker called the convention to order at 9 a.m. We were honored to welcome Association President Larry Kinard and his lovely wife, Bettye, as our special guests.

In his keynote address, President Kinard focused on two main points: maintaining membership and preserving our legacy. On the first, he stressed adding Korea Defense Service Veterans. On our legacy, Mr. Kinard cited especially Dr. Jongwoo Han, President of



Larry Kinard addresses DoF convention

the Korean War Legacy Foundation, Inc., which endeavors to preserve the legacy of the Korean War and KWVs in the forms of both oral and artefactual histories. Their website provides access to about 700 in-depth interviews of KWVs (including President Kinard's) and 7,000 historical artifacts (www.kwvdm.org).

A memorial ceremony recognized the 42 DoF Members lost since the last convention.

In addition to DoF Business, thirteen chapter representatives reported on activities of their chapters.

One of the business items dealt with the election of a slate of officers for the 2016-2017 term; elected for one-year terms were President Maxine McCartney Parker; 1st VP Marcel Cartegena; 2nd VP Richard Arcand, and Treasurer Joan Arcand. They were installed by President Kinard at the evening banquet.



President Maxine McCartney Parker opens the 2016 DoF Convention

Charter member Dale Riggs of Ch 155 was recognized at DoF convention



DoF officers being sworn-in: Maxine McCartney Parker, 1st VP Marcel Cartegena, Richard Arcand, and Joan Arcand (L-R)



President Kinard with Teresa and Brian Welke, Ch169 VP (L-R)

The 2017 DoF Convention is tentatively planned for April 2017 in the Merritt Island, FL area. (All photos by Vi Pfhaler, Ch 169 photographer)

Tom Thiel, kwvathiel@gmail.com

HAWAII#1 [HI]

On 28 March 2016, a funeral was held at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, Honolulu, HI for Edward "Doc" Brown," who died on 3 March 2016. Army Chaplain LtCol. Jack. B. Herron delivered the sermon. Bagpiper Masa Yamaguchi provided beautiful renditions of Amazing Grace and Danny Boy.

A team of Army soldiers fired a volley of shots, followed by a bugler playing "Taps" that resonated through the entire cemetery on a clear Monday afternoon.

"Doc" Brown's widow, Katherine, was the first recipient of a mounted plaque honoring a deceased Korean War veteran presented by USN Capt. Jeong Hyun Kim, of the Korean Consulate General of Honolulu.

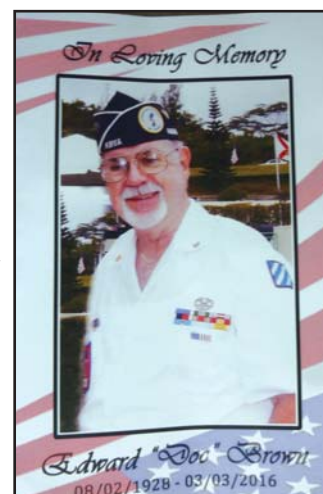


Photo of Edward "Doc" Brown



Lineup of Hawaii chapter members at "Doc" Brown's funeral

According to his obituary:

Following high school graduation, he joined the US Army and was trained as a Surgical Technician. He was a fervent patriot his entire life and proud veteran of the Korean conflict where he served as a Combat Medic. He earned several medals including the Purple Heart for grievous wounds suffered in battle. Following his Korean service, "Doc" continued his US Army career as a Medical Photographer retiring in 1973. To his last days, he was devoted to his military comrades in the Korean War Veterans Association. They all knew that "Doc" was always as close as the telephone whenever duty called. They also knew he could be counted on to be present whenever possible to give a smart salute and bid old buddies farewell on their final passage.

Stan Jones, stan_fujii@hotmail.com



Al Streck presenting folded flag to widow Katherine Brown



Capt. Park with commemorative plaque



Photo of plaque

NEW JERSEY [NJ]

Members of the Roman Catholic Church of the Martyrs honored us, CID 48, Chorwon [NJ], and CID 216, M*A*S*H* 4099 on November 4, 2015. Father Don Bosco Park welcomed everyone and cited the honor of having so many Korean War veterans at this important function. He stated that South Korea will never forget and will always be grateful for the sacrifices endured by veterans during the Korean War, which church members applauded heartily.

The event included presentations, a Korean-American meal, and entertainment. It was a very relaxing evening that provided great fellowship time between veterans and Koreans.



Ch 170 commander Kenneth Green and Father Don Bosco Park at the Roman Catholic Church of the Korean Martyrs event



Albert Gonzales, commander of CH 216, and his wife at church fete



Louis Quagliero, Ch 170 historian, and daughter Janet at church gathering



Contingent from Ch 170 at church event: (Rear) Pasquale Candela and his granddaughter Caroline (Front, L-R) newsletter editor Camille Georgison, George Rothfritz, and KWVA National Director George Bruzgis

Around 8:30 p.m. Father Park gave closing remarks and a blessing. Then, Color Guard Captain Henry Ferrarini and member Alexander Atheras retired the colors. Finally, church members presented gifts to the veterans. All in all, it was a memorable night.

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



Walter Amos, Kenneth Green, and Robert Domanoski of Ch 170 (L-R) at church meeting



William Burns of Ch 170, his wife Elaine, and Joseph Louis and his wife Carol enjoy festivities at the Roman Catholic Church of the Korean Martyrs commemoration

TEXAS [TX]

President Eddie L. Bell Sr. attended a "Sister Cities" meeting at General Shoemaker High School on 9 April 2016. Also in attendance was Commander Homer Garza of Ch 222, Don C. Faith (MOH).



Eddie L. Bell, Sr., President of Department of TX, Homer Garza, Commander of Ch 222, and Pro Tem Mayor of Killeen, TX, Brokley Moore, at "Sister Cities" event

President Bell also attended the monthly meeting of Ch 223, Victoria [TX], on 4 April 2016. Hr received an outstanding welcome from Commander C. G. Atzenhoffer and the members.

Eddie L. Bell, Sr., 1105 Craig St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522, 254-661-4673, eddiebell11858@yahoo.com or eddiebell11858@gmail.com



Commander C. G. Atzenhoffer of Ch 223 (R) and Dept. of TX Commander Eddie L. Bell Sr. at the KWVA Veterans Monument in Victoria, TX

MOH recipient buried at Arlington

A full honors funeral service was held at Quantico National Cemetery on April 22, 2016 for **U.S. Marine Pfc. Hector A. Cafferata Jr.**, who earned the Medal of Honor at the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. Pfc. Cafferata died at the age of 86 on April 12, 2016.

Cafferata was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman at a White House ceremony on Nov. 24, 1952. He was one of 42 Marine vets to receive the nation's highest military award for valor for actions in the Korean War, 14 of whom were awarded for actions in the Chosin Reservoir campaign. Seven of those awards were posthumous.

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

A Visit To Cuba

I greatly enjoyed the editor's story pertaining to his dear mother "Georgette Washington's" willingness to send him off to straighten out the Cuban Missile crises. Accordingly, readers might enjoy my letter to our local paper relating our recent experience visiting Cuba.

Tom "Skip" Hannon, Ch 199, tghskip@aol.com

A wonderfully memorable trip to Cuba by Bradenton residents

A dozen of us from Bradenton recently returned from a wonderfully memorable trip to Cuba. Despite the over half century U.S.-instituted embargo, the resilient populous of Cuba, who are optimistic and warm, enthusiastically welcome American visitors.

There is much more to Cuba than our classic cars from the 1940s and '50s.

We visited cultural as well as environmental sites, senior citizens centers, musical recitals, works of art, museums, memorials and many historical venues,

and mixed with average Cubans on the streets, parks, beaches, bars and restaurants.

One of the many highlights of our trip was when we visited a Boys and Girls Center where, thanks to contributions of the Bradenton Marauders baseball organization, and authorized by General Manager Rachelle Madrigal, we distributed many baseballs, Marauder caps and other gifts. Experiencing the unbridled joy of the young recipients was priceless.

Skip Hannon



Warm welcomes and Cuban works of art, memorials, and historical venues were experienced by the American visitors.

The distribution of baseball caps, baseballs, and other gifts in Cuba by the Bradenton visitors



Korean Ambassador

By Monika Stoy

On 17 November 2015, Consul General, Han, Dongman, from the San Francisco Consulate of the Republic of Korea presented Ambassador of Peace medals to US Korean War veterans in the town of Maxwell, CA, north of Sacramento. Veterans came from Northern California and one from Nevada.

The ceremony, organized and conducted by Brigadier General Michael LaPeilbet, USAR, CA, (ret), was held at the Vernon Jewel Danley American Legion Post in Maxwell. Twelve veterans received the medal in a solemn ceremony.

LTC Timothy Roger Stoy, US Army (ret), President, 15th Infantry Regiment Association, conducted the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Ceremony. CPT C. Monika Stoy, US Army (ret) assisted the Consul General in the presentation of the medals. The ceremony and the post-ceremony luncheon were hosted by the Vernon Jewel Danley American Legion Post.

The post's color guard presented the colors for the ceremony.

BG LaPeilbet presented a certificate to each veteran and CMSgt Evalle, USAF, retired, representing Congressman John Garamendi, presented a certificate to each veteran signed by the Congressman thanking them for their service in the Korean War.

Veterans honored were Robert Alvernaz, Robert S. Benner, Nathan Debout, Richard DePetris, Dave Ellis, Wallace M. Emery, Raymond Gonzales, Omar Gryder, Robert Alton Lovell, Anthony M. Mark, Charles Robert Meyers, Robert L. Richards, Kenneth F. Santor, Roger Shuthise, Roy George Triplett, Sr., William O. Weber, and Neil J. Wilson.

ador for Peace Medals Awarded in California



Peace medal presentation at Maxwell, CA

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- 10 – 21 Sep Spain Warfare & Cultural Experience—Madrid & Barcelona
- ★ 29 Sep – 11 Oct “All of Ireland” Dublin —Derry—Belfast plus WWII Sites of U.S. Marines, Soldiers & Sailors
- 31 Oct – 8 Nov Israel: Military & Cultural History of the Holy Land Post Tour: Petra, Jordan
- 2 – 8 Dec WWII 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor—Pacific Aviation Museum Gala Banquet, Waikiki Hotel & Ceremonies
- 3 – 13 Dec VN Special Holiday Return “Delta to DMZ”

Korean War Veterans Association: 2016 Subsidized Tours



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Members in the NEWS

Hubert Lee, John Stellingweft, commander of KWVA Chapter 202, and a few other members of the Korean American Foundation delivered funds in the amount of \$10,000 to orphaned and handicapped children in the region of Yang Pyeong, where the legendary story of the Chipyeongni battle is still alive. They delivered the money at a music concert held at the music hall of Yang Pyeong Goon on April 22nd.

Lee also held a book signing on November 15, 2015 for his



Hubert Lee, Jenny (left), and guests at book signing



Attendees at Hubert Lee's event

My Journey to America at Pine Plaza on November 15th. Irving Breibart, former president of KWVA Dept. of New York, was a keynote speaker, along with Sam Braverman, a law professor at Pace University and the president of the Bronx County Bar Association.

The busy Lee was the guest speaker for a November 20, 2015 Orange County [NY] naturalization ceremony. And, he was invited as a guest speaker at a UN NGO Promotion of universal human rights at the Time Warner Studio with NGO reps from India, Turkey, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Russia, etc.



Korean contingent at Merrimack Valley, MA 2015 Memorial Day parade

Korean War veteran **SSG Kyung S. Kang** participated in last year's Memorial Day Parade in Merrimack Valley, MA, along with a large contingent of fellow Koreans. Reach Kang, Kyung S. at 35 Common St. #215, Lawrence, MA 01840-1753, 978-725-9597.

RIGHT: Kyung S. Kang

BELOW: Korean ladies display U.S. and South Korean flags at Merrimack Valley parade



92nd Armored Field Artillery (AFA) Battalion held a reunion in Nashville, TN, April 17-19, 2016. Korean Deputy Consul General Sangho Lee, for the Southeast United States, presented the Ambassador for Peace medal to forty members of the battalion.

BGen Donald Johnson, Asst. Adjutant General for the Tennessee National Guard, was the speaker for the evening,

Members of 92nd AFA Bn. place a wreath at the Nashville [TN] Korean War Memorial



Thanks to Bob McCubbins, 458 Woodstone West Dr., Marietta, GA 30068 for the info.



92nd AFA Bn. members at reunion

Richard Brown, former KWVA National Director, spoke at a meeting of the Heritage Veterans Association of Reading, PA on 26 February 2016.



Richard Brown and his wife at Heritage Veterans meeting



BGen Johnson, with Bob McCubbins and a guest, Ms. Ehke

Eddie L. Bell, Sr., received a Welcome Home Vietnam certificate from LtGen Pete Taylor on 31 March 2016 at Texas A&M University.

LtGen. (ret.) Pete Taylor (L) presents Welcome Home Vietnam certificate to Eddie L. Bell, Sr. at Texas A&M University



Certificate awarded to Eddie L. Bell, Sr. at Texas A&M University

Heritage Veterans President David Morton introduces Director Brown



Director Brown addresses Heritage Veterans assembly

Don Edwards has agreed to become the curator of the 772 MP Bn. Association's memorabilia. Although the association disbanded at its last reunion in September 2015, the "Deuce's" memories are alive and well.

Don Edwards with many of the 772 MP Bn.'s artifacts and memorabilia



Edwards will be the “Curator of the Deuce Museum,” located at his residence in Tucson, AZ.

Hubert Hojae Lee, 1st VP of Ch 202 - Orange County [NY] acted as the powerful king, Daewon Goon, of the Lyy (sic) Dynasty, at a music concert at the Promise Church, the largest Korean church in the metropolitan New York City area.



Dr. Hubert Lee portrays king of Lee dynasty, Daewon Goon, with queen, Han Myung Sook



Dr. Hubert Lee, Rev. Kim Sang Mo, former teacher of Ewha High School, and Dr. Lee's then student Susan Kim, director of Korean American Foundation (L-R)

EDITOR'S NOTE: A little bit of Korean history is in order here. I cannot vow for its accuracy, but it does draw a parallel between Korea and Vietnam, two countries that have figured prominently in U.S. history recently.

South Korea's Syngman Rhee: A Descendent of the Ly Dynasty

Depending on your knowledge of this particular subject, this may or may not come as a shock to you. Personally, I was quite surprised when I heard about this. Syngman Rhee, the first president of the Republic of Korea, is actually a Vietnamese descen-

dent. Rhee himself declared that he was of Vietnamese ancestry, tracing his origins all the way back to the royal Ly family.

How did the Ly land in Korea anyway? In the 13th century, Princess Ly Chieu Hoang abdicated the throne in favor of her husband, Tran Canh, marking the end of the Ly and the rise of the Tran Dynasty. Many members of the Ly royal family disapproved, deeply resenting the Tran's actions afterward. Tran Thu Do, the man behind the Ly's toppling, feared of rebellion. Therefore, he decided to purge the entire Ly family.

As a result, thousands of Vietnamese people were put to death. Anyone bearing the name of Ly was hunted down and executed by the Tran. In order to save his people, prince Ly Long Tuong gathered the remaining members of the Ly and fled to Korea. This courageous act salvaged the lives of several thousand Vietnamese people, who would later become proud members of the Korean nation. One of these proud individuals would be none other than Syngman Rhee, the First President of South Korea.

In the 1950-60's, Syngman Rhee contacted President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam, seeking help in finding the origins of his ancestors. President Diem accepted, assigning one of his ministers to assist President Rhee on his search for spiritual truth. Unfortunately, since the tombs of the Ly family were located in North Vietnam, the proof of President Rhee's ancestry could only be verified later on, after the death of Diem.

The fact is clear now: thousands of Korean citizens are actually of Vietnamese origin, the descendants of the Ly family. Many Koreans, like Rhee Syngman, are very proud of their Vietnamese ancestry. Every year, Vietnam enjoys visits by many Korean tourists, there to visit the shrine of their Vietnamese ancestors. These people are the proud citizens of Korea, but they have never forgotten their Vietnamese beginnings.

Source: <https://freedomforvietnam.wordpress.com/2010/10/12/south-koreas-syngman-rhee-a-descendent-of-the-ly-dynasty/>

Canadian veterans cannot wear medal

All UN servicemen in Korea were awarded the Korean War Service Medal by President Syngman Rhee. The Canadian veterans have never been given permission by Canada's Chancery of Honors even to accept the medal from the Korean government. A committee from the Korea Veterans Association of Canada is looking into the situation, seeking recognition for the medal that the veterans covet and wish to receive.

Less than half of the nearly 27,000 Canadians who served in Korea have survived; all of them today are in their 80s. All Korean War veterans in the United States proudly wear the U.S. Presidential Citation medal, as do those in New Zealand. The Australian veterans also wear the medal proudly. When they returned from Korea the Canadian Army would not let the "Patricias" wear the decoration.

House of Korea hosts medal presentation

The House of Korea had a wonderful event at the Hall of Nations in Balboa Park, San Diego, CA on 22 March 2016. The initial plan was to share a documentary film about Korea produced by the Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project in Balboa Park. However, one of the organization's members, John Owens, suggested that they invite Korean War veterans to the event. They did. As a result they altered their program to include the presentation of Ambassador for Peace Medals to many of them.

First, House of Korea representatives distributed medal applications throughout the San Diego area, which they obtained from the Los Angeles Korean Consulate. The number of qualified applicants exceeded the organization's capacity to accommodate them all.

Owens' suggestion gave the event added significance. Although seventeen medals were awarded, there were some veterans who had to be left out because there was not enough room at the Hall of Nations to accommodate everyone. That was ten fewer than applied. Consequently, the House of Korea is planning to do another event later this year or early next year to honor the veterans who they were unable to accommodate this year.

The list of recipients included:

- Bob Baker
- Pat Becker for Reginald Willis Becker
- James E. Canady
- Gordon R. Collins
- Arthur M. Davidson
- Maureen Hahn for Guy C. Hahn
- John Edgar Hermann
- John T. Moore
- Jim Murtland
- John Owens
- Herbert A. Rideout
- Dale Louie Schreiber
- Richard Allen Seabury
- Nick W. Stamos
- Robert L. Weishan
- David M. Williams
- William M. Zamora

For more information, contact Jung Joo (JJ) Hwang, President, House of Korea, <http://www.house-of-korea.org>

...the House of Korea is planning to do another event later this year or early next year to honor the veterans who they were unable to accommodate this year.

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Korean American Foundation, USA makes 15th

The 15th fund delivery for the orphaned children in Korea was held at a benefit concert organized by opera singers of Korea Opera Song Arts Institute at the Koomin Hall of Yang Pyung Koon, Yang Pyung, on April 22, 2016. The artists included sopranos Kim Mimi, Kim Chung Sook, and Kim Jiyoung, tenors Son Minhoo and Shin Insoo, mezzo soprano Ko Eunjung, bass Chung Hyung Jin, pianist Cho Hyun Joon, folk song singers Bae Myoja and Lee Soja, and the Milky Way Instruments Group, represented by electronic violinist Jenny Yoo, electronic keyboard vocal Hari, and violin obbligato Michelle.

These generous artists volunteered their talents and gave a magnificent performance. They have been serving the foundation's mission in Korea since its establishment. I tender my deepest gratitude for their sincere contribution on behalf of the foundation.

This marks the 6th benefit concert in Yang Pyung and the 15th fund delivery in the amount of \$10,000, bringing the total to \$190,000 for the past 15 years in Korea. The effort is in coordination with the sponsorship of Yang Pyung Han River's Lion's Club, headed by Lee Jong Sup and Kim Kyung Sic.

Yang Pyung, a resort town only 65 miles from Seoul, is surrounded by beautiful rocky mountains, with water streaming through the valleys. As a major source of Seoul's water supply, Yang Pyung's water comes from the convergence of two major rivers, North Han River and South Han River. They meet at Yang soori, resulting in drinking water for the 11 million people of the Seoul metropolitan area.

The water from the rivers originates from babbling brooks and rocky mountains that provide pure, clean water. Yang Pyung is also the home of a 1,000-year-old ginkgo tree, which was legendarily planted in the front of yard of the Yongmoonsa Temple from the cane of the famous monk, a virtuous Seosan (warrior monk) in Korean history during the Shilla Dynasty (57 BC – 935 AD).



Assembled attendees at KVA scholarship presentation

The Jipyung-Ri battlefield in Yang Pyung was a turning point during the Korean War, when it was nearly seized by more than 100,000 Chinese soldiers who came thick and fast to communize South Korea. They were in addition to the North Korean troops already present.

During the battle, the French General Ralph Monclar, a World War I & II war hero, was injured while in a foxhole with American Colonel Freeman, commander of the 3rd Regt., 2d Infantry Div., U.S. Army. Monclar gave up the coveted three-star general rank to become a battalion commander. With only 60,000 soldiers, including 180 Korean Argumentation to the United States Army (KATUSA), the defenders used a hand-operated French siren that generated ferociously scary sounds that helped drive the Chinese soldiers back to the north.

The history of the Korean War tells us that without a UN victory at Jipyung-Ri, Korea might have been overtaken by the communist government due to outnumbered soldiers. Even with the combined forces of the UN soldiers, Korean



Noted guests at KVA presentation

forces reportedly totaled a mere 39,000.

Dr. Hubert Lee, president of the foundation, as well as 1st vice-president of CID 202, Orange County, New York, visited the office of KVV, along with directors of the foundation, Yoo Se Gap, Kim Taehee, and Ret. Col. Ji Honggie, and reporter Chung Jaedoo.

The foundation states three primary goals: strengthening the existing allied relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea, educating young college students about the world economic state, and helping disadvantaged children.

The foundation has engaged in a lecture series at several Korean colleges, e.g., Korea University, Dankook

fund delivery

University, Seowon University, etc. Dr. Hubert Lee gave a lecture on global economic crisis due to the over-expansion of a credit system. Trial lawyer John Kelly, a son of one of General MacArthur's staff members during the Korean War, spoke about the American jury system. Judge Frank Labuda addressed surrogate judgment, and law professor Sam Braverman gave a talk on police seizure and arrests.

At this year's ceremony, seventeen students were chosen to receive scholarships. In attendance were the president of the foundation and directors Yoo Segap and Kim Taehee. Former UN ambassador Ben Gilman and the Honorable Lester Wolff, chairman of Asian Affairs in the U.S. Congress, and former president Clinton's special ambassador to China, sent their congratulatory remarks to the event.

Dr. Lee concluded his speech with his own poem below, composed for the students who received the scholarships:

- An air of love blowing in the clear sky of Yang Pyung.
- Perfume of love from the foundation today again spreads to the sky of Yang Pyung.
- For boys and girls! Be ambitious toward hope and dream!
- Let your dream and hope ride on the wing of love, and spread
- Across the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Ocean.
- Such a dream and hope made possible the invention of electricity by Edison, invention of computer, and internet, digital system today.
- With the dream and hope, our life cherishes a better life and happiness.
- Let your dream and hope loft high as the rising sun.
- Your dream and hope shall bring about our eternal love, peace and happiness of mankind forever!
- Let God bless America and Korea, and those who spared no effort to spread the loving spirit to neighbors and communities around the world.

Reach Dr. Lee at drhl@frontier.com

Trusting A North Korean Family

It all started in July 1950, when I was stationed at Fort Warden, Washington with the 532nd Boat and Shore regiment. A buddy and I were informed that a person with our MOS was needed as soon as possible in Korea.

"Which one of you will volunteer to go?" we were asked.

We looked at one another in wonder.

"You are married, aren't you?" I asked my buddy. "Do you want to go?"

"Yes—and I don't want to go," he said.

So, I agreed to "volunteer."

Faster than any other of the three times the Army had transferred me in my up-till-then nineteen months in service, I was on the move. I was delivered to the airport and placed on a plane headed for Korea in record time. It wasn't until I landed in Japan and transferred to Korea that I learned why the rush had taken place.

I was assigned to the 25th Division, 90th Field Artillery Bn. as a Forward Observer (FO). I learned that their previous FO had been killed and I would be replacing him. Marriage began to look pretty good at that point.

I was assigned to A Battery, where I worked with a soldier with whom I became a close friend. After the war we visited one another every year, even though he lived in Florida and I lived in Illinois.

One night, after the Chinese entered the war, enemy soldiers spotted our three-member team on our mountainside FO position. Our officer said, "Let's get out of here."

In our haste to follow his advice, while I was dismantling my SCR/9 radio, I kicked my bedroll and carbine over the side of the mountain. I handed the radio to my sergeant and said, "Go on. I'll make it back."

I retrieved my carbine and bedroll and started walking. My second night out I saw a dim light in a straw hut. I took a chance that the family inside were simply sympathetic North Koreans who hadn't been able to make it to South Korea.

Hesitantly I knocked on the door. A young girl answered. I told her in Korean that I was a friend. She replied in English in a low tone, "Come in. Come in."

The girl spoke to her parents, who invited me to eat with them. Afterwards, the young girl motioned to me to sleep on her mat. It was a cold night, which she spent keeping the fire going under the floor.

The next morning they gave me four go-hon (rice) balls to send me off. On my fourth day on the road, a truck filled with Aussies stopped; they offered me a ride. One of them used a knife to slice off two big chunks of strong—really strong—cheese out of a large, round wooden box for me to feast on.

After we conversed about my ordeal, I gave them my outfit's name. Even though they had to move out, they delivered me to my battalion's location. After I arrived, I learned that my FO sergeant had told an American magazine reporter that my bedroll had beat me to the bottom of the mountain. The reporter thought that was a great story.

Well, I had enlisted on 23 November 1948 for a three-year stint. November 1951 arrived, and I was ready to go home. Instead, I received that "most blessed" letter that informed me that my enlistment had been extended for another year. Regardless, I never forgot that trusting North Korean family that helped me stay alive long enough to get extended.

Harold C. Huston (former Cpl.), 314 E. Washington St., Girard, IL 62640

76 MOH recipients still alive

There are 76 MOH recipients alive today, according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

The Forgotten War has never been forgotten by some

By Wayne Doenges

It was just after noon on 27 April 2016. I had been up since 4:30 a.m. to go on the Northeast Indiana Honor Flight to Washington D.C. Six-½ hours and 500 miles later, I had seen the very impressive and majestic WWII Memorial. I had seen, but not talked to, the former Senator Dole from Kansas, who was there to greet and talk to the veterans.

Senator Dole was in a wheelchair. I'm sure that it took much effort for him to be there, since he was badly wounded in WWII. Veterans, mostly in wheelchairs, were talking to him. I did not interfere. However, I did talk to U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly (D-IN), who has a record of helping "Hoosier" veterans.



U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly (D-IN)

After viewing the WWII Memorial and having a group picture taken, we visited the Korean War Memorial. This Memorial does not have the imposing grandeur and history telling of the WWII Memorial. But, in a sense, it tells its story in a different way.

The Korean War Memorial comprises nineteen stainless steel, seven-foot tall figures, each one representing a different branch of the armed forces. They are all on patrol. The patrol is cautiously advancing up a slight hill representing the hills of Korea. They all wear ponchos to indicate the typical weather in Korea.



Patrol member in stone at Korean War Memorial (photo by George Kaprelian)

The rearmost figure has his left hand palm outward and down, indicating "proceed cautiously." These 19 figures are reflected in a polished granite wall next to them, for a total of 38 figures, representing both the 38-month duration of the war and the 38th parallel, the fought over dividing line between North and South Korea. The Reflecting Wall has 'ghost' images of the more than 300,000 personnel involved in support groups, backing the combat Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, and Marines.

I was amazed by the raw telling of the Memorial. No history, no names, just the bottom line, a patrol doing its job. The Memorial ends in the inscribed words on the apex of the wall: "Freedom Is Not Free." The American



Radioman on patrol in Washington D.C. (photo by George Kaprelian)

flag is at the point of prominence.

After I spent some time viewing this Memorial, my aching knees persuaded me to take a rest. My son and I walked some distance away and found an isolated park bench. As we sat within sight of the Korean War Memorial, I stretched my legs and thought about my duty in Korea as part of a medical clearing company.

The words on the inscription were clear and to the point. I understood their meaning. Although I hadn't seen combat, I saw the results. "Freedom Is Not Free." The 618th Medical Clearing Company, where I saw duty, brought that home. In the midst of this thinking, I wondered if my war was still "The Forgotten War."

As I was pondering in the quiet set-



A people they never "et?"



Eternal patrol

ting, a young couple came up to me. The young man introduced himself. He was in the armed forces as an MP in Iraq and Afghanistan, and was presently a police officer in Virginia. He introduced his girlfriend. She was a South Korean, a quiet young lady of beauty.

The young man thanked me for my service in Korea; his eyes looked moist. His girlfriend, up to then, had been silent. Then she spoke, and said "Thank you." As she said it, tears ran freely down her cheeks.

I asked, "Why are you crying?"

I knew the answer imme-

diately. The Forgotten War has never been forgotten by some.

It was with the deepest humility that, though I served in a support group, this young lady considered me a part of the United Nations action that resulted in a continually free South Korea. She, for one, knew the costs incurred by veterans of the Korean War.

"Freedom Is Not Free." How true!

P.S. I've attached the nearby photo of the Korean War memorial. I took this photo of the inscription at the Korean Memorial last Wednesday, April 27th. I don't know how long this inscription

has been missing an important letter, but it reminded me of the story in the latest Greybeards about the memorial needing maintenance. Overall, though, the Memorial is magnificent!

Wayne A. Doenges, 610 Entrance Dr., Apt 6, New Haven, IN 260-749-2657, denjussolo1@frontier.com

NOTE: Three of the photos of the statues at the Korean War Memorial were taken by George Kaprelian on a November 2013 Honor Flight. They complement this article nicely.



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

ARIZONA

A047337 JOHN M. LAVANCE
R047336 ROBERT D. PICKERING
R047311 RICHARD H. WEAVER

ARKANSAS

R047356 JERRY K. YATES

CALIFORNIA

R047340 ALLAN BERTIK
R047372 LANCE J. BOSSHARD
A047373 STEPHEN N. BOSSHARD
R047366 ROBERT K. MARUO
R047361 HERBERT H. YAKA

COLORADO

R047331 LLOYD M. HENDRIX
R047286 GEORGIANNA K. SHEA

CONNECTICUT

R047332 ROBERT W. KROKOVICH

DELAWARE

R047345 FRANCIS J. FIERRO
R047330 JOHN S. SLEMKO

FLORIDA

R047326 JOHN W. ARENS
P047298 RICHARD L. BARNEY
R047364 GORDON J. BRADLEY
R047316 MICHAEL K. MCCADDEN
A047323 JOAN B. MEWBORN
A047310 PATRICIA C. MONTAGNINO
R047344 DAVID S. ORCUTT
R047334 ARTHUR J. POWELL
A047363 M SONIA B. RAYMOND
LR47308 ROBERT D. SILVER
A047283 BROOKE T. SMOTHERMAN
R047362 JUAN M. 'SKIP' TORRES

LR47291 ROY TUN

A047282 CHERYL L. WELIVER
R047300 EUGENE W. WRIGHT

GEORGIA

R047312 RONALD F. LAURETTI
R047305 LYNNDLE H. LORD

HAWAII

R047309 RICHARD A. MCMAHON

ILLINOIS

A047346 MATTHEW J. COOVERT
A047368 RICHARD E. DETMER
R047280 LEONARD M. HYBKI
A047360 SUSAN M. PUMPER
A047296 KAREN L. RICHMOND
R047301 LUCAS ZIMMERMAN

INDIANA

R047303 REGINALD P. AUSTIN
R047292 EDWARD A. HARRAH

IOWA

R047369 ROBERT K. BLOXHAM
A047353 STEVE W. ORR
LR47281 VINCENT J. STECKEL
A047314 STUART K. WAXENBERG

MARYLAND

A047333 JOYCE A. GATES
R047295 RAYMOND A. LONG
R047317 EMERY S. OROZCO

MASSACHUSETTS

R047276 WILLIAM E. DURGIN
A047275 WILLIAM P. MCCOBB
R047299 ALLISON J. RADER

MICHIGAN

LR47374 WALTER J. HENSON

MINNESOTA

R047293 RICHARD L. BRADSHAW
R047347 CLAYTON J. EDWARDS
R047279 ROBERT C. KLUG
R047315 DONAVAN D. ROBB

NEVADA

R047365 EUGENE F. BEISCH
R047284 MEL J. DAIGLE
R047343 RICHARD L. GRISHAM
R047348 DAVID L. HEINE
R047307 EULICE T. ROW

NEW HAMPSHIRE

R047322 ROSE H. CONNOR-ALLARD

NEW JERSEY

R047320 WILLIAM C. BEWLEY
R047335 E JOSEPH HUMMEL
LR47319 WILLIAM PUZAK

NEW YORK

R047351 FRANCIS G. FAGAN
R047350 PELLEGRINO A. PERRONE

OHIO

LR47357 CHARLES C. CUPPY
R047290 SYLVESTER G. EDDY
R047341 HORACE W. ENDERLE
R047354 ROBERT C. PALMER
A047371 DARRYL W. RITCHEY
R047349 WILLIAM B. SEWARDS JR.

OKLAHOMA

R047304 JOHN D. ALLEN

OREGON

R047370 WILLIAM S. HAMILTON
R047287 MELVIN H. JASMIN

PENNSYLVANIA

R047306 RAY L. ECKERT
R047313 WALTER R. EPPEHIMER
R047277 HOWARD M. HOWETT
R047294 HOWARD KANE JR.
R047324 ROBERT W. LOEHMANN
R047321 THOMAS W. WILLIAMS III

SOUTH CAROLINA

A047285 MAMIE L. SMITH
R047328 RAYMOND O. STEPHENS
A047329 SARA K. STEPHENS

SOUTH DAKOTA

LR47358 KENNETH L. PLUCKER

TEXAS

LR47302 JEROME E. BENJAMIN
R047297 RICHARD J. BRYANT
LR47359 HAYDEN M. COE
A047355 DANIEL M. MARKS
R047278 ARNOLD L. SCHULER
R047325 JOSEPH W. STEEDE

VIRGINIA

R047318 LLOYD ASBURY
R047327 JOSEPH E. CLEVENGER
R047342 ROBERT R. HALE

WASHINGTON

R047339 DAVID L. BROWN
R047288 GERALD W. JACOBUS
A047338 CLAY KEOWN
R047367 WAYNE E. LARSEN
R047352 JOHN W. LOEHNE

WISCONSIN

A047289 CALVIN J. HELD

FIVE BIRTHDAYS IN KOREA: KOREAN

NOTE: The photos included with this story are not directly related to the contents. They are drawn from The Graybeards files to complement the text.

By Kenneth Roberts

PART 1

Foreword

Although I did not serve a total of five years in Korea, by coincidence, I was stationed there for my birthdays in 1947, 1948, 1950, 1951, and 1953.

It is important, while we are still alive, to assemble some record of our experiences. At this time, there are those of us still alive to remind, to document, and to remember. All history needs witnesses. Without witnesses there is no past; there is no history. In our lives, the witnesses are the people we grew up, shared major experiences, and grew old with.

Growing old means losing our witnesses and, in a way, our history. In order to prevent our war history from passing into oblivion, some of us must testify about our shared experiences. That testimony is the purpose of assembling this memoir.

Before we get in to my main story, it is important, and necessary, to set the stage for the events regarding Japan and Korea before, during, and after WWII.

At the close of WWII, the powers to be dictated that the Americans were to take the surrender in Korea of the Japanese Army, south of the 38th parallel, and the Russians, who had just entered the war against the Japanese, were to take their surrender north of the 38th parallel.

The first American occupation-liberation troops landed in Seoul, Korea around the 5th to 8th of September, 1945. The famed British author, Max Hastings, in his book "The Korean War," asked, "What were the policies toward Korea?" He added, "In September 1945, our State Department sent a letter to General Hodge, the first Military Governor of Korea. As a result of this letter, on September 4, 1945, General Hodge, in a briefing to his own officers before they

arrived in Korea, told them "to regard Korea as an enemy of the U.S." This directive put the just-liberated Koreans on a par with the Japanese, who had occupied Korea from 1910 to 1945.

Hastings continued, "Our misunderstanding of the Koreans, and our close association with the Japanese, who had enslaved and brutalized the Koreans for 36 years, was one of the most expensive and tragic mistakes we ever made. Our abysmal ignorance of Korea and things Korean, the inelasticity of military bureaucracy in Korea, was astounding." I am talking about the period 1945-1950.

During WWII, Japan used Korea's food, livestock, and metals for their war effort. Japanese forces in Korea increased from 46,000 in 1941 to 300,000 in 1945. The Japanese in Korea conscripted 2.6 million Korean forced laborers, controlled with a collaborationist Korean police force; some 723,000 Korean people were sent to work in the overseas.

Korea was considered to be part of the Japanese Empire and an industrialized colony, along with Taiwan. In 1937, the Japanese Colonial Governor General in Korea, General Jiro Minami, commanded the attempted cultural assimilation of Korea's 23.5 million people by banning

the use and study of the Korean language, literature and culture, all to be replaced with that of mandatory use and study of their Japanese counterparts. Starting in 1939, the Korean populace was required to use Japanese names, and conscription of Koreans for labor and war industries began.

On 8 September 1945, Lt. General John R. Hodge arrived in Inchon, Korea, to accept the Japanese surrender south of the 38th parallel. Just appointed as Military Governor, General Hodge directly controlled South Korea as head of the U.S. Army Military Government in Korea (USAMGIK). He established control by restoring to power the key Japanese colonial administrators. But, in the face of Korean protest, he quickly reversed himself.

South Korea did not gain the eminence and self respect it possesses today from its part in the war. South Korea gained the self respect which it achieved by its own astonishing industrial effort in the generations that followed the Korean War. South Korea today displays all the traditional qualities of its people: energy, origination, fierce nationalism, competitiveness, and ruthlessness, along with the highest regards for scholastic standards.



The port of Yokohama, Japan, through which many supplies went to the UN troops in Korea (Thanks to Stanley Grogan)

WAR MEMOIRS

After WWII, Tokyo, Japan, became the headquarters for the Far East Command, under the Supreme Commander, General Douglas MacArthur, who ruled Japan like a king and was treated like God by most of the Japanese. I have been outside his headquarters on Avenue A, in downtown Tokyo, when he arrived for work. There were always Japanese crowds assembled to watch his arrivals and departures.

After WWII, for our occupation troops, Japan was the land of the “Big PX.” There was complete and total submissiveness and obsequiousness by the Japanese populace, and the girls who never said “No.” There were hardly any “off limits” places for our troops stationed there. All the bars, restaurants, etc., were wide open. It was like the “Roaring Twenties” in the U.S. No wonder everybody wanted to be stationed in Japan.

During our occupation-liberation of Korea, some 90 to 140 miles away from Japan, almost everything was off limits. We could not go into private homes, shops, restaurants, or bars, nor could we carry Korean civilians in our vehicles.

The military answers for having everything off limits in South Korea were because the Koreans used human waste for fertilizer on their farms and they experienced a dangerous and raging political situation at that time. In Korea, Americans revealed arrogance, paternalism, and insensitivity in the handling of the local people.

The first critical phase in the economic recovery of the new Japan was made possible by the economics of the Korean War, and later by the Vietnam War. Quickly forgotten were the barbaric Japanese treatment of the allies’ prisoners of war (POWs) in World War II, including terrible beatings, starvation, punishments, and exposure to cold and heat that resulted in untold thousands of deaths.

The Japanese had used many thousands of Koreans as laborers in the islands of their conquest, in addition to the homeland of Japan. It was reported that as WWII was nearing an end, the Japanese “kill-all” policy toward their prisoners

was invoked, and in just one instance, known to us, they murdered 5,000 Korean laborers on the island of Tinian.

There was never an equivalent to this systematic, wholesale brutality the Japanese practiced upon the POWs. Everyone should read the book “Unbroken,” by Laura Hillebrand, the first person life story of Louis Zamperini, including his time as a POW of the Japanese.

Now Back To My Main Story

It was June, 1950. I was on way my back to Japan from Fort Lewis, Washington, for my second tour of duty in the Far East. We were several days out by ship from the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco when word was flashed that North Korea had attacked South Korea in the early morning hours on Sunday, June 25, 1950.

A few days later we docked in Yokohama, Japan, and hurriedly proceeded to the Camp Drake Replacement Depot, outside Tokyo. I was assigned to the 99th Field Artillery Battalion, First Cavalry Division, which was already in Japan. The general feeling at that time among the troops was anticipation and excitement. They did not have any idea of the deadly meat grinder we were headed for.

On June 25, 1950, the Korean War began, when some 75,000 soldiers from the North Korean People’s Army (NPKA), poured across the 38th parallel, the boundary between the Soviet-backed Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to the north and the pro-western Republic of Korea to the south.

The beginning: an awakening

The battle of Osan, a small town a few miles south of Seoul, was the first significant American engagement of the Korean War. It involved the 540 soldiers from Task Force Smith, which was a small forward element of the 24th Infantry Division that had been flown in from Japan. On 5 July, 1950, Task Force Smith attacked the North Koreans at Osan, but

without weapons capable of destroying the North Korean tanks. They were unsuccessful; the result was 180 dead, wounded, or taken prisoner.

We were outmaneuvered and suffered heavy casualties during the first two months of the war. We, along with the South Koreans, were forced back to the Pusan perimeter (about 10% of the land area of South Korea). Twenty-one countries of the United Nations contributed in one way or another, to the defense of South Korea, with the U.S. providing 88% of the soldiers. After being assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division, a few short days later, we were sent to Camp Zama, a small Port of Embarkation-Debarcation, on the west coast of Japan, across from Korea.

There, we boarded a large landing craft. In a day or two, we landed at Pohang-Dong, a port on the east coast of Korea, a few miles north of Pusan, the first or second largest seaport in South Korea. As I recall, our landing was basically unopposed. This was July 18, 1950, a date I shall always remember.

We quickly proceeded northwest to the south of Taejon, to a small town which may have been Yongdong. I was in Headquarters Battery. As we were setting up in an apple orchard, all “hell” broke loose. We were hit by a mortar barrage, which was completely unexpected. A tall red-headed soldier standing next to me was hit by a fragment which cut off half of his left hand, and left it hanging by some skin.

At the same time, I received a laceration to the left side of my head and some small mortar fragments to my chest. My wound was minor compared to those incurred by other soldiers. At about the same time, we received word that a 1st Lieutenant in one of the firing batteries had been killed by a mortar fragment that sheared off part of his head.

As it evolved, this sudden and shocking attack brought home to us in the most horrible way that this was the real thing, and that we were headed for big trouble in the immediate future.

As I recall, the mission of the 1st

At the same time we were confronted by a mass exodus of humanity of historic proportions, as thousands and thousands of uprooted civilian refugees poured south down the roads and railroad tracks toward us.

Cavalry Division was to fall in behind and reinforce the 24th Infantry Division, which had been committed some few days or weeks earlier and was being seriously mauled by the advancing North Korean Army. The 24th Division had been stationed in Japan on occupation duty. It was poorly trained, had many new replacements, was seriously under-strength, and had left-over weapons and materiel from WWII.

Outmanned, outgunned, and out of options

As we moved up the road north to find the 24th Division, we were shocked to see some of their soldiers fleeing south towards us, pell-mell, in complete and total disarray. Some were minus their weapons, steel helmets, and rifles. A few were barefoot. We could see most were in a state of shock. All they were thinking about was getting away from the death and destruction they had just left

At the same time, unknown to us, the command post of the Commanding General of the 24th Division, Major General William F. Dean, had been overrun by the North Koreans, and General Dean and his staff were fighting the enemy and their T-34 tanks in hand-to-hand combat. He was subsequently captured, and spent about three years in the POW camps along the Korea-China border.

A little later, one of our jeep radios picked up a broadcast by a woman speaking perfect English. She gave the names, ranks, and serial numbers of U.S. soldiers just killed by the North Koreans. These daily broadcasts were designed to affect and damage our morale. They had a sobering effect, and made us quickly realize that this was a serious and deadly business and that we could become casualties at any time. (The announcer was "Seoul City Sue," reminiscent of Tokyo Rose and Axis Sally of WW II fame.)

North Korean soldiers join the exodus

At the same time we were confronted by a mass exodus of humanity of historic proportions, as thousands and thousands of uprooted civilian refugees poured south down the roads and railroad tracks toward us. They were frantically trying to stay ahead of the North Korean Communist Army, which was right behind them. They clogged the roads, the ditches, and a large swath of land on either side.

This was a most pitiful and heartbreaking scene. They were of all ages and descriptions, and all had fear and desperation on their faces. Most were dressed in the traditional Korean, white or light gray. All the men carried the traditional A-frame (chigae) on their backs, packed with all their food and family possessions. Some had two-wheel carts which they pushed. The women were carrying babies and young children on their backs.

They had all been suddenly and painfully uprooted from their homes and farms by the sudden murderous attack by the North Korean Communist Army. All they knew was to keep going south, ahead of the enemy, and to get through the American lines to comparative safety.

Since we were going north to meet the enemy, and they were fleeing south, there were constant and unfortunate mishaps between them and our vehicles, tanks, and foot soldiers. Many times some of our overzealous GI drivers would not wait for the pressure of humanity to move sideways and partially clear the road. As a consequence, many civilians were crushed, injured, and pushed aside.

Actually, there were millions of refugees swarming south just barely ahead of the North Koreans. Some were starving, and all were exposed to the elements. Unfortunately, mixed in with this frenzied multitude of civilian refugees were enemy soldiers dressed as civilians, carrying on their A-frames broken-down mortars,

machine guns, and other small arms and ammunition, clearly camouflaged as regular family possessions.

Marching south in small groups with their deadly cargo, and dressed just like the other refugees, they would find a suitable exit to pull off the road to the rear of our lines. They would quickly reassemble their weapons and start firing on us. At first, we couldn't figure out where this killing fire was coming from. In many cases it was devastatingly effective, and resulted in many dead and wounded among our troops. It was impossible to distinguish friend from foe in the multitude of refugees pouring south.

Shoot first, ask questions later

It was reported in some cases that large groups of civilians, either composed of, or controlled by, North Korean soldiers, were reaching our positions. This information was in a memo from USAF Colonel Turner Rogers, dated 25 July 1950.

In addition to conventional military operations, North Korean soldiers fought the UN forces by infiltrating guerrillas among refugees. These soldiers, disguised as refugees, would approach U.S. forces asking for food and help. Then, they opened fire and attacked. Therefore, U.S. troops inaugurated a "shoot first, ask questions later" policy against any civilians who approached U.S. battlefield positions.

The new policy led U.S. soldiers, in one incident, to kill an estimated 400 civilians at a small village called No Gun Ri (26-29 July 1950), in central Korea. This was because they believed some of the refugees killed to be North Korean soldiers in disguise. This was one of hundreds, if not thousands, of cases of civilians being killed by UN troops. This event was the subject of a book written by Hanley, Choi, and Mendoza, titled "The Bridge at No Gun Ri."

Many years later, I talked to several refugees of that time. Although they were very thankful for our intervention in saving their country, they had some harsh comments about the callous and insensitive attitude and behavior of our troops confronting this huge refugee tide. As I was there from July 18, 1950 (about three weeks after the beginning of the war), I

was in the middle of, and witness to, all this taking place. I concur with these observations.

Cornered—but not for long

We were finally pushed south, to the Naktong River, by the overwhelming, well trained, well equipped North Korean Army to a comparatively small piece of land that became known as the Pusan Perimeter, measuring approximately 50 miles wide and 100 miles long, of a rectangular shape, just above the port city of Pusan.

Initially, we were greatly outnumbered and outgunned, while our UN allies were trying frantically to pour troops and materiel into the conflict from long distances away. This was frustrating and time consuming. It put us in a desperate, defensive position. Our troops on the ground were trying to stop the enemy avalanche and suffering very heavy casualties.

Later on, one prominent source had the following statistics on the two combatants; by mid-1950, the North Korean forces numbered between 150,000 and 200,000 troops organized into 10 infantry divisions, 1 tank division, and 1 air force division, with 210 fighter planes and 280 tanks. They captured scheduled objectives and territory, among them Kaesong, Chuncheon, Ujeongu, and Ongjin, and 35 reconnaissance aircraft. In addition to this invasion force, the North Korean People's Army had 114 fighters, 78 bombers, 105 T-34-85 tanks, and some 30,000 soldiers stationed in reserve in North Korea.

In contrast, the Republic of South Korea (ROK) was relatively unprepared, and ill equipped. As of June 25, 1950, the date the North Koreans attacked, the ROK army had 98,000 soldiers, of whom 65,000 were combat and 33,000 support, no tanks, and a 22-piece air force comprising 12 liaison-type and 10 AT6 advanced trainer airplanes. There were no large foreign military garrisons at invasion time in South Korea.

But, slowly and gradually, help began to arrive from the Continental U.S. and many UN allies. Eventually, there were 21 nations supporting the U.S. in various capacities. After several weeks we were no longer on the defensive, and everything changed literally overnight, due to the amphibious landing far above us, at

Inchon Harbor, about 110 miles behind the enemy lines. This landing was on Sept. 15, 1950. (Inchon is situated on the west coast of Korea, about thirty miles west of Seoul, the capital city of South Korea.)

This amphibious landing, which was a masterpiece of strategy against all odds, by General MacArthur, with tides running 29-30 feet, put us in great force behind enemy lines. After days of furious fighting, we pushed the North Koreans out of Seoul and back north to their side of the 38th parallel.

Shortly after my landing at Pohang-Dong with the 1st Cavalry Division, on July 18, 1950, I had been assigned to the Air Section of the 99th Field Artillery Battalion as an aerial observer, which is a gross misnomer. Far from being just aerial observers, we flew at low altitudes behind enemy lines, sometimes in adverse flying conditions, at low altitudes, braving small arms and machine gun fire and, later in the war, some anti-aircraft fire. Our mission was to find and fire on enemy targets.

The North Koreans were pounding our forces day and night, with total superiority, with battle trained troops and Russian T-34 tanks, and desperately trying to push us south and across the Naktong River, which was our main line of resistance (MLR) at that time.

We were flying off one side of a horse-race track in the city of Taegu. Since our small planes required a flat and a straight surface of some distance for take-offs and landings, one side of a horse race track was ideal.

As these were desperate times, sometimes we would fly 2 or 3 missions per day. We were flying in the small L-4 planes, sometimes called Piper Cubs, which were necessarily slow, but ideal for our mission. They were two-seaters, with the pilot in front and me, the aerial observer, in the back, sitting on a parachute and carrying my map, binoculars, and radio.

As an aerial observer, my mission was to pick out enemy targets of opportunity and bring artillery fire on them as quickly as possible, while staying away from the shell trajectory of our artillery in the rear.

The 99th Field Artillery Battalion was a 105 millimeter battalion. As I recall, their range could be up to twelve miles. The targets of opportunity could be

infantry in the open, large guns like artillery or mortars, tanks, trucks, convoys, or most anything that moved. Sometimes, even in the daytime, we could see the flash from the enemy guns when they fired at us.

The tide turns at Inchon, literally and figuratively

Korea, especially the northern part, is very hilly and mountainous. We usually flew around 1,500 to 3,500 feet above the terrain. We had to be low in order to see our targets. Therein lay the danger. If we were at 2,500 feet, and we flew over a mountain or hill 1,000 to 2,000 feet high, we were in range of enemy small arms and machine gun fire, which was a constant danger. In fact, I replaced a lieutenant and his pilot who were shot down by small arms fire before they could acclimate to the conditions on the ground.

In the early part of the war, there was no anti-aircraft fire from the North Koreans. Later, when the Chinese entered the war, we began to receive a lot of "ack-ack" fire. It was scary and unnerving to see black puffs of smoke outside the window of our plane.

The first few weeks of the war were tumultuous, shocking, and devastating, with very high casualties on our side. We were thrown into the juggernaut in a piece-meal fashion to try to stop a well-trained, well-equipped enemy, many of whom were battle tested from their recent successful campaign against General Chiang Kai-shek and his Nationalist Chinese Army on the mainland of China.

After fighting in the Pusan Perimeter during July, August and half of September, until the Inchon landing, we suddenly broke out with little or no opposition. Apparently the enemy had gotten the word about the Inchon landing. Their supply lines were stretched and our forces were getting stronger.

As my unit was proceeding north toward Seoul, we encountered large numbers of unguarded North Korean prisoners with their hands over their heads walking south toward us while we were going north. At times we would see our military police (M.P.) trucks loaded with the North Korean prisoners going south. We did not have enough MPs to oversee, control, and direct the many thousands of North

I learned later that during the North Koreans' two short occupations of Seoul (along with the Chinese the second time) there were many collaborators. Later, several thousand were rounded up, taken to the outskirts of the city, and executed by the South Korean authorities.

Korean prisoners who were surrendering. I later heard that many of these prisoners escaped to the hills and became guerrillas.

Winning is good for the 'Seoul'

Since there was little opposition, we arrived in Seoul in a few days. The Han River is large and wide, and flows just outside the southern part of Seoul. The South Korean Army had blown up this highway bridge on June 26, 1950, in an attempt to stop the North Korean Army. The bridge was detonated when 4,000 refugees were crossing, and hundreds were killed. Destroying the bridge also trapped many South Korean military units north of the Han River.

We all crossed with our vehicles on the newly constructed and shaky pontoon bridge, just recently constructed by our engineers. As our convoy was moving north through Seoul, I pulled out of line with my jeep to find my old billet, the Plaza Hotel, which was my residence from February 1947 to September 1948, when I was first stationed in Korea before the war. The hotel was still standing, and I ran up to the 3rd floor to my old room; there was broken glass all over, but the building was otherwise apparently undamaged.

During my stay there in 1947 and 1948, right outside the front door was a large vacant lot full of caves inhabited by several lepers. Their faces, hands, and arms were disfigured. Several wore masks on their faces, and gloves on their hands. We fed them leftovers and scraps, but they basically foraged on their own, without any help from the government. It was a pitiful scene.

Let's leave the convoy for a minute and go back a couple years.

Serving with the CCIKG

In 1947 and 1948 I was stationed with

the CCIKG (Civil Censorship Group in Korea), commanded by Major Linton Pound. One officer I remember on his staff was Captain Brown. The CCIKG comprised three departments or divisions, the largest being the Mail Censorship. The others were the Telephone and Telegraph sections. Several of our officers oversaw the large Mail section, a head Korean who spoke English, and many Korean civilians.

I was in charge of the telephone subsection. My location was on the second floor of the main telephone exchange in downtown Seoul. I had under me a middle-aged Korean civilian who was fluent in English, Mr. Cha Se Jin and a USDAC (Department of the Army Civilian), David Lee. Sometimes his brother Daniel Lee was with us. They were Korean-Americans from Hawaii.

Our main employees were Korean civilians with earphones who sat at a long table listening to the telephone traffic on selected lines that were tapped from the main lines in the basement. Most of the telephone lines for a large part of Seoul ran into our basement. We were given certain telephone numbers to be tapped. New numbers were given to us periodically.

The Koreans who did the listening wrote their interceptions in Korean on large paper pads, which were instantly translated by Mr. Cha, then given to one of the Lee brothers, and finally to me. As I recall, during this period of some seventeen months of my assignment there tapping telephone lines, there were never any interceptions that could be construed as important to anyone. They were primarily fishing boat captains reporting their catches to their bosses, and other miscellaneous, unimportant traffic.

I remember wondering at the time why we were wasting all this time and resources censoring the mail, the telephone, and the telegraph lines of the peo-

ple we were sent to help, and who were just liberated from 36 years of barbaric treatment by the Japanese. This was just another example of the misguided policy pursued by our military in Korea from 1945 to 1950, which cost the American taxpayers untold millions of dollars.

In 1948, my second year in Korea, Syngman Rhee became the first freely elected president of South Korea. As I recall, his inauguration was on or about August 15, 1948. Our headquarters advised all U.S. troops to stay away from his inauguration, as trouble was expected.

The South Koreans had erected a large wooden platform several feet off the ground with a wooden railing around it. This was in downtown Seoul, on a main thoroughfare. Thousands of people were in attendance. General MacArthur had flown from Tokyo to attend this momentous occasion and to support the new president. A couple of buddies and I went there against orders and stood a few feet from the stage. There were no incidents to mar this historic ceremony.

Finally, on September 20, 1948, I was transferred across the water to Osaka, Japan, where I was assigned basically to the same kind of job I had in Korea.

Back to the convoy

When I rejoined my convoy, as we were moving north through the northwestern part of Seoul, I saw a long line of several hundred men and women being marched south, each with their hands on the hips of the person in front of them, and each bound with rice straw ropes. They were about 3 to 5 abreast. They were flanked on both sides by armed guards, either Republic of Korea Army, or Korean National Police, probably KNP, who were well known for their cruelty.

From this group of prisoners came the most pitiful sounds you could imagine, including loud moaning and crying. I stopped my jeep and got out to see what this was all about. I was told to stay out of this, as these prisoners had been collaborators with the North Koreans during the short time the enemy had occupied Seoul during the initial phase of the war.

I learned later that during the North Koreans' two short occupations of Seoul (along with the Chinese the second time)

there were many collaborators. Later, several thousand were rounded up, taken to the outskirts of the city, and executed by the South Korean authorities.

Continuing north, with limited opposition, we finally arrived in Pyongyang, the capital city of North Korea. This was around the 19th of October, 1950. I was still in the Air Section as an aerial observer. We flew into the main airfield in Pyongyang. My pilot taxied around and pulled off to one side of the tarmac. We got out, and were sitting along the side when we heard a loud roar. In came an American jet fighter plane. The pilot taxied off to one side, got out, and came over to us. He was a large African-American captain, with a half cigar clenched in his teeth. He said he was out of fuel; we could not help him and I don't know if he ever found any.

After our convoy arrived in Pyongyang, the ingenuity and resourcefulness of our GIs became evident. Some of our troopers in a 1/2-ton truck had found the local brewery and loaded several cases of beer. The beer was in large, dark green, and blue colored bottles, packed in rice straw, probably about one liter in size. It's an understatement to say the beer was mighty good!

Pyongyang was almost devoid of civilians. Apparently they had all left just before our arrival. We found an old abandoned building, where we took up quarters. It appeared that it had just been vacated by Russian advisors to the North Korean Army, of which there were many. After we brought in our beer, the first thing I saw was an American-style canvas and wood folding cot, which looked just like one of our issue-cots. When I turned the cot over, I saw what appeared to be a Russian name, probably the owner's name, printed on the back of the canvas.

It was great to be sleeping off the ground and inside for a change. I learned later that my outfit, the 1st Cavalry Division, and the 1st Republic of Korea (ROK) Division were the first units in Pyongyang.

At this time, a rumor was going around that we would be back in Tokyo for Christmas. This was believable, because we had completely defeated the North Korean Army, and were in their



Korean orphan child in Incheon railroad yard (1952) (Photo from David Keefe)

capital city. This rumor probably originated from General MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo. It was not the first or the last piece of misleading information emanating from there. (More about that later.)

Where there's hope...there's Hope

While we were still in Pyongyang, we got word that famed entertainer Bob Hope was coming to put on one of his shows. In preparation, our troops had found an old school building and fixed the wooden floor as a large enough stage for his troupe. At the appointed time, out came Bob Hope with Les Brown and his Band of Renown. Bob had on an issue parka, and Russian fur hat, while swinging a golf club. This was about the end of October, and it was starting to get cold.

On stage with Bob were the comic Jerry Colona, memorable for his large pop eyes, a beautiful blonde actress (maybe Marilyn Maxwell), and one or two other lovely girls. The band played beautiful music and the girls sang and danced while Bob made wisecracks and told jokes. We couldn't get enough of it, and it went by far too fast.

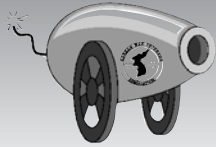
Many years later, Bob Hope sponsored a golf tournament called the Bob Hope Dessert Classic in Palm Springs, CA. It was an annual event, and sometime in 1970 or 1980, my wife and I

attended the event. Bob Hope always hit the first shot of the tournament; I wanted to tell him how much I appreciated his show in Pyongyang in 1950, but I couldn't get close to him because of all the bystanders.

Remember, at this time we were in the capital city of North Korea after having for all practical purposes defeated the North Korean Army. The grand strategy for the war was being conducted out of the Dai Ichi Building in downtown Tokyo, MacArthur's headquarters. At the time, many derided MacArthur for not having spent a single night in Korea and waging the war from Tokyo. However, the fighting on the ground in Korea was under the command of Lt. General Walton H. Walker, the 8th Army Chief.

I had seen General Walker several times in the early part of the war at various forward airfields. He was a short man, who appeared to be about 5' 4" tall, and about 4-5 feet wide, with no visible neck, just a steel helmet with three large silver stars sitting on his shoulders. He had a fearsome and intimidating appearance. Sadly, he was killed in a jeep accident in Seoul a few months later, on December 23, 1950. I heard that General Walker was on the staff of the famous General George S. Patton's Third Army in Europe in WWII.

To be continued...



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 (813) 614-1326. Whatever the medium you choose, we welcome your input.

"The last years of your life are like a toilet roll — the closer you get to the end, the faster it goes."

There is a Chapter 319

You have twice published our chapter news with the wrong numerical designation. In the January-February 2016 we were listed as Chapter 309. In another edition it was listed as Chapter 329.

Once I can understand, but twice? I hope that you have the information that there is a Chapter 319 in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Bud C. Arenz, Secretary, Chapter 319

EDITOR'S NOTE: The editorial staff apologizes to the members of Chapter 319 in Lawton, OK. We have located the gremlin that keeps changing the number and remedied the problem. (It is the editor.) From now on Chapter 319 in Lawton, OK will be identified as such.

A combat photographer was the third American to reach the Yalu

I enjoy your magazine. I think it is the best military magazine for veterans. So did my father, Peter "Rupy" Ruplenas, who passed April 16, 2016. He was a combat photographer in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam—and the third American to reach the Yalu River, which is why I am writing this letter. I think my father should be given the proper credit he deserves. I am referring to the March-April 2016 edition, page 63, "The first soldiers to reach the Yalu."

When my father was around, many times we would go into bookstores and he would look into the military section. He would find photos he took that were credited "US Army" photograph. That really got his Irish up!

While he turned over all of his work to the US Army, from the Korean War to the Vietnam War, he would write captions on the photographs he shot. So did many other photographers. When LIFE magazine, Stars And Stripes, and others would get photographs from the US Army, Pentagon, and other sources, they often did not give the photographers proper credit. That is not right. Just ask any combat photographer. But, it is how they gave credit out.

He did NOT work at any time in his career for LIFE magazine. Maybe it is an oversight or incorrect information, but it is 100% factual. This misconception should be corrected. My father was always very proud to have been the third

American soldier to reach the Yalu River. He talked about that at nearly every reunion and to anyone who would listen to his many Korean War accomplishments. But this one was the one of which he was most proud.

He suffered frostbite, a shattered back, and loss of hearing in the "Conflict." He served there from 1950-1953. He went back years later to photograph the UN Truce Talks at the DMZ in Panmunjom. Last year, he went back there and on Veterans Day was awarded "The Ambassador for Peace" medal in Pusan.

My father shot thousands of photos in all three wars and was quite possibly the ONLY combat photographer to photograph those three wars. Many others fought in all three wars, but to the best of my knowledge no one covered all three as a combat photographer.

The photo of him photographing the two soldiers is very famous and has been featured in a Korean War documentary as the opening photograph. Nearby are the photos my father shot of the two soldiers. If you look at where my father was positioned to the right of the soldiers, there can be no question about who shot that photo—none. The photographs were featured in his 363-page Korean War work entitled: "Two Cameras, Three Wars, Korean War Edition," which was published in 2014. The last chapter of his book, which is named "YALU RIVER," has 7 pages containing 7 photos, as well as many captions.

Here is the text "YALU RIVER" chapter from the book:

YALU RIVER

Two enlisted men of the 7th Signal Company gaze across the cold, frozen Yalu River at the mountains of Manchuria and the small village just below. Cpl. Murphy, a photo lab technician, and Cpl. Wilfred Hunkins, a combat photographer, were among the first GIs to reach the border town of Hyesanjin. Cpt. John Murphy is a lab technician and Cpt. Wilfred Hunkins (San Francisco, Cal.) is a combat still photographer with the unit.

A bridge set aflame by the Air Force burns. The only signs of humanity were two Chinese Soldiers walking on the northern banks of the river in Manchuria, at the edge of the village.

The 17th Infantry Regiment of the 7th Infantry Division was the first and only American combat unit to reach the Manchurian border. To the left of the GIs smoke can be seen rising from a wooden bridge that leads into Manchuria. The temple on the left was not damaged at all by air or ground fire.

Walking on the ice and snow, near the edge of the river and passing the hamlet, were two well clad Chinese soldiers, to protect them from the severe cold. Other people were seen at the time.

Cpl. Hunkins was in the group of the first ten American soldiers to reach the border.



Two enlisted men of the 7th Signal Company gaze across the cold, frozen Yalu River at the mountains of Manchuria and the small village just below. Cpl. Murphy, a photo lab technician, and Cpl. Wilfred Hunkins, a combat photographer, were among the first GIs to reach the border town of Hyesanjin. Cpt. John Murphy is a lab technician and Cpt. Wilfred Hunkins (San Francisco, Cal.) is a combat still photographer with the unit.

21 Nov. 1950

Yalu REACHING RIVER

The first two Americans to reach the Manchurian border and the Yalu River stop to relax and have their photograph taken. CPL. Mayford J. Gardner (L) from Royal Oak, Michigan and PFC Tommie L. Robinson of Las Cruces, New Mexico.

The "point men" for the advance were alert in the final drive, watching out for snipers, enemy activity or mines. Freezing as they



The first two Americans to reach the Manchurian border and the Yalu River stop to relax and have their photograph taken. CPL. Mayford J. Gardner (L) from Royal Oak, Michigan and PFC Tommie L. Robinson of Las Cruces, New Mexico.

were, they were happy to be the first to the river.

Both are with the 17th Infantry Regiment.

21 November 1950

REACHING Yalu RIVER - 1ST 2 GIs TO RIVER - The first three men to reach the border of the Yalu River, at Hyeonjin, Korea, pause to rest during their advance against the communist forces. L-R Sgt. Peter Ruplenas (South Boston, Mass) still photographer ASGD to the 7th Infantry Division; Cpl. Mayford Gardner (Royal Oak, MI); and PFC Tommie Robinson (Las Cruces, NM). Gardner and Robinson were point men with the 7th Inf. Div. and led them first. Photo by Hunkins.



Sgt. Peter Ruplenas takes photo of CPL. Gardener and PFC Robinson

21 Nov 1950

Yalu River - shot after the 17th RCT, 7th Infantry Division secured the town of HYSEN-JIN in North Korea, the "brass" arrived for a formal picture. Looking, not out over the banks of the river towards Manchuria, but facing the combat troops in Korea that secured the town, the leaders relax as they thought this would expedite final victory. (L to R) Brig. Gen. Homer Kiefer, CG 7th Div. Artillery; Brig. Gen. Henry I. Hodes, Asst. CG X Corps; Maj. Gen. Edward M. Almond, CG X Corps; Maj. Gen. David G. Barr, CG 7th Infantry Division and Col. Herbert B. Powell, whose 17th RCT men were the first Americans to reach the Manchurian border.



Brig. Gen. Homer Kiefer, CG 7th Div. Artillery; Brig. Gen. Henry I. Hodes, Asst. CG X Corps; Maj. Gen. Edward M. Almond, CG X Corps; Maj. Gen. David G. Barr, CG 7th Infantry Division and Col. Herbert B. Powell (L-R), whose 17th RCT men were the first Americans to reach the Manchurian border

When Colonel Powell reached the river he said "The hell with the gooks" and spit in the river. Then he proceeded to urinate in the river in disrespect. I followed him, as any good soldier would.

21 November 1950



A handwritten note from Sgt. Ruplenas wondering who took the photo of him taking the photo



Cpl. Murphy, Cpl. Hunkins, and Sgt. Ruplenas (L-R) at Yalu River



A Yalu River road

[Peter "Rupy" Rupenas], the 3rd American to reach the banks of the Yalu river in North Korea, poses on the Korean side of the river as

abandoned houses in Manchuria, China show in background. I was a still and cinematographer with the 7th Signal Company. [I] followed two 17th regiment point men to the frozen Yalu River and photographed their trip. Much later, after everything was secured, the civilian news media arrived to conduct interviews and pose GIs on the banks.

I thank you for doing a fine job with this magazine. I also thank you in advance for correcting this and giving my father the proper credit he deserves. God Bless you.

Giovanni Beadman, giovannibeadman@gmail.com

(NOTE: Giovanni Beadman is the writer's online pseudonym. We have not published his real name.)

Still can't get a medal—or an answer

In your November-December *Graybeards* on page 70 you had an article "Don't Mix Up Medals," in which you stated that the "Ambassador for Peace Medal was now available to all."

I wrote to the nearest Korean Embassy in Chicago for an application and never got a reply. Is there another source I can write to?

Calvin T. Harwick, 4929 32nd Ave., NW
Rochester, MN 55901, 507-289-3564

EDITOR'S NOTE: There are sources galore on the internet that include applications for the Ambassador for Peace Medal. Enter "Ambassador for Peace Medal application form in the search box. Several items will pop up. One of them may be helpful. Also, our KWVA Secretary might have some ideas. Contact him at his address on p.2.

The crafty POWs in Compound 76

In his March-April 2016 article, "Captive Memories," p. 48, Richard J. Connors spoke about the prison camps on Kojedo Island. What he said is all true. Here is a little more to add to the story.

I was a corporal in Item Co., 9th Regt., 2d Inf. Div. In the spring of 1952, General Dodd was captured by North Korean and Chinese communist prisoners and held hostage. Item Co. was loaded onto trucks, taken to a railhead, and put on a train. The train took us to Pusan, where we were embarked on boats, along with a tank company and paratroopers, for Kojedo.

When we arrived there, we were sent immediately to Compound 76 to reinforce the MPs. Armed with .30 caliber machine guns and BARs, we surrounded the compound. General Charles Colson was sent to Kojedo to take command.

The negotiations with the prisoners went on with no end in sight. Along with our duties, we had honey bucket details. We did not know at the time that the Chinese and the North Koreans got rid of their dead by cutting them up, putting them in the honey buckets, along with their human waste, and dumping them into the sea.

The Chinese and North Koreans held kangaroo courts at night on a platform with backdrops so we could not see them. But, we sure could hear them; the screams were piercing.

WWII had ended only five years earlier, so many of the Chinese and North Koreans remembered how the Americans

freed their country. Consequently, when the communist Chinese and North Koreans found any of their own who cared about the Americans and United Nations they tried them in their kangaroo courts and executed them as traitors.

We were ashamed at the time not only that communist prisoners captured our general, but that Chinese and North Korean officers and noncommissioned officers surrendered deliberately on the battlefield to the United Nations troops and fooled our intelligence personnel. Subsequently, they were sent to our prison compounds, where they took control.

The prisoners in the compounds on Kojedo Island were always well informed by the coded songs and chants. The prisoners had to give drops of blood every so often, and they used the blood to make their flags, armbands, and stars. The prisoners were very crafty.

They:

- made knives and bayonets by using the commercial cans that the food came in
- employed rocks to fold and pound the cans into shape and sharpen them
- used broom and mop handles to make spears and cut wood into 4-6 inch lengths for dagger handles
- used cooking and heating fuel to make grenades and Molotov cocktails.

When we heard General Colson was being replaced by Brigadier General Haydon Boatner our morale shot sky high. The prisoners in the compounds were dumbfounded by all the cheering and whistling because they did not know what was happening. That made us so happy.

Finally, we entered compound 76 in a diamond formation, led by a tank. We fixed bayonets and wore gas masks. The MPs guarded the gates while our four platoons separated the prisoners into smaller groups of two or three hundred and led them to their new compounds.

When the prisoners were all secured and the MPs had control of the compounds, we prepared to leave. That is when we found

maps depicting where the prisoners were to place the artillery to defend the island.

After we got all our gear together we were put on trucks. When we got to the harbor we boarded the boat and headed for Pusan. Trucks waiting for us when we landed transported us to the railhead. The train we got on was just as bad as the one that took us to Pusan. When we got there we headed back to our outfit. And that's the rest of the story.

Ralph A. Calabrese, 97 Clark St.
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Remembering Christmas Hill

I received the March-April issue of The Graybeards which featured an article on p. 59 re the final month of the Korean War. I happened to be caught in that Chinese offensive.

My outfit was the 45th Division, 180th Inf. Regt., Love Company. Late on July 1st, a very dark evening, I jumped from a deuce-and-a-half. I almost wet my pants as searchlights came on beside us and our rocket launchers fired about twenty rounds. That really put some fear into me.



Sandbag Castle at Christmas Hill



Lots of light at Christmas Hill



Ralph A. Calabrese
M2 Carbine with Infrared Scope and
Battery Fed for Night.

I was assigned a bunker overlooking the enemy. In the morning I decided to fire my weapon at a tree. That evening I went

outside to stretch my legs. I hit the dirt; tracers from the enemy had the bunker zeroed in. I learned my lesson fast.



Members of Love Co., 180th Regt., 45th Inf. Div. at Sandbag Castle



Don Allen in Korea



KMAG patch

After the cease fire was signed, I was transferred to the 180 Service Company. When the 45th Division rotated back to the USA I was assigned to KMAG (Korean Military Advisory Group to the Republic of Korea) at Kwang Ju South Korea Infantry School. Wow! What an assignment.

We had about eight Quonset huts, houseboys to make beds, shine boots...whatever...and waitresses to bring meals to tables.



Captured Chinese weapons in Korea: 122mm (L), 76mm

I ended my tour and rotated home in August 1954.

I still have flashbacks and nightmares of Christmas Hill.

Don Allen, 35 Highbury Rd., Cheswick, PA 15024,
412-828-6299 (H), 412-418-5195 (C)
daa111@comcast.net

Tap, push, pull, aim, fire

Re Jan/Feb 2016, The BAR Model 1918 A1, p. 64

The proper way to fix a malfunction with a BAR is to tap the magazine up into the receiver, then push, pull, aim, fire. Please correct the sequence.

A good BAR man could fire one round at a time by removing the bipods, which will make the weapon more movable.

Tom O'Halloran, 1st Tank Bn., 1st Mar. Div.

Korea 1952-53, P. O. Box 69, Phelps, WI 54554

EDITOR'S NOTE: I had written in that article that I could not remember the correct sequence for clearing a BAR jam. Not that it mattered to me: I was an FDC specialist in an 81mm mortar platoon, so I never had occasion to carry a BAR, other than for training purposes. But, like all Marines, we were trained to fire everything from a pea shooter to an atomic cannon. (Okay, a slight exaggeration there.) And, as my platoon commander was fond of saying, the way to get rid of the major malfunction with a BAR when I was firing one was to take it out of my hands.

Blondie in Japanese?

The "Members in the News" letter from Don Dust, p. 54, Jan/Feb 2016, prompted me to write to you. The Blondie cartoon featured is really nice. Somewhere in my dresser, buried under 64 years of who knows what, I have a Japanese comic book I brought home in 1952. It is a Blondie comic book written entirely in Japanese. The comic book is longer in width than length.

I don't know where or how I required it. I kept it because I was surprised when I came across it. I couldn't believe the Japanese somehow read comic books, let alone an American one.

Donald W. Killmeyer, 2850 Middletown Rd.,
Pittsburgh, PA 15204

Until they all come home

I share my opinion with those whose loved one's body "has not come home," because it may help some people to accept that

fact. I don't believe that the bones of the missing man need to be physically transported from their grave in another land to one in the U.S. in order to "come home." My belief is that the soul of the missing man does not reside in those bones. It left the body when the body died and is already "home."

When we lived in Africa, we had an annual Easter sunrise service in the cemetery where African Christians and several missionaries were buried. Our leader closed the short service with the words, "You are seeking Jesus of Nazareth, he who was crucified. He has arisen, he is not here."

We saw quite clearly that he indeed was not there. Nor were any of the other people who were buried there. Kitundu, Msengi, Jean...not there. Their bodies may have been buried there, but they were not there.

I must make it abundantly clear that I fully respect the opinion of those who believe that the bones should be reburied in order for them to come home. I'm merely making it clear what I believe and hope my belief will be respected, too.

J. Birney Dibble, M.D., W 4290 Jene Rd.
Eau Claire WI

POWs riot somewhere near Seoul

The article "Captive Memories," March/April 2016, p. 48, brought back memories of an incident involving a POW camp somewhere near Seoul housing North Korean POWs.

When the war officially ended, I was serving as SgtMajor of the 45th Infantry Div. Artillery. The division broke up and I went to Seoul, where I was working as Chief Clerk in Army G-1.



Quonset huts at
Koje-Do



Compound at Koje-Do



Prisoners line up at Koje-Do

One evening I was told to get dressed and check out my carbine. Several of us were trucked out to a POW camp where there had been a break-out. Prisoners had rushed the fences, carrying with them blankets, mattresses, and anything to soften the blow when they hit the fence and scrambled up over each other.

When we arrived, the lights were on, the air was pungent with tear gas, and the interior of the camp was littered with bedding and clothing along the fences. Not a POW could be seen. The next morning I was put in charge of a few enlisted men and we were told to go into the camp, get some of the prisoners out of the Quonset huts, and clean up the mess scattered around the camp.

We were given no ammunition, so we fixed bayonets and entered the camp with some apprehension. At the first hut where I knocked, a prisoner came out and in broken English explained he was a good guy and didn't leave the camp. I suggested that he might not have been able to get over the fence.

All went well and we got the area cleaned up. I assumed that the thinking of the higher-ups was that if we shot someone there would be lots of propaganda generated, but if we were killed it would not be that big a deal. I am not sure of the date, maybe 1953-54.

Garold D. Logsdon, SFC RA 17241172,
aalogsdon@aol.com

NOTE: The nearby photos are not connected directly to this POW-related article. They were taken at Koje-Do and have been in our archives awaiting publication.

Combat, hell: pay your taxes

We asked in the March-April 2016 edition whether anyone had



Prisoners look through fence at Koje-Do

dealings, good or bad, with tax authorities while on active duty during the Korean War. (See "Combat, hell: pay your taxes," p. 62.) Richard P. Miller did. As he wrote:

I received the nearby withholding statement while serving with the U.S. Air Force at Hamilton AFB, Hamilton, CA. And, in April 1952 I received a notice from the IRS that I owed it \$1.40.

I sent the \$1.40 to the IRS. I did not receive any more correspondence from that agency.

I was stationed at the Hamilton Air Force Base from February 1951 to July 1952. Then, I was assigned to the Yuma County Airport, Yuma, AZ.

Richard P. Miller, 6020 O St., Apt. 102
St. Paul, NE 68873

Form W-2 (Rev. July 1951) U. S. Treasury Department Internal Revenue Service		WITHHOLDING STATEMENT--1951 Wages Paid and Income and F.I.C.A. Taxes Withheld		EMPLOYER'S COPY (DUPLICATED)
EMPLOYEE TO WHOM PAID (Print name, full address, and Social Security account number)				
AP17302017	PVT	374	78 SUPPLY SQUADRON	
MILLER, RICHARD P.		N460		
For Period 1 Jan 51 31 Dec 51				
FEDERAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS ACT Total F.I.C.A. wages (before pay- roll deductions) paid in 1951		INFORMATION FOR INCOME TAX RETURN Total wages (before payroll de- ductions) paid in 1951		
None		None		
None		None		
EMPLOYER BY WHOM PAID (Name, address, and Identification number)		KEEP THIS COPY FOR YOUR OWN RECORD		
L. H. REYS, MAJ. USAF S/N 225-314 ACCOUNTING & DISBURSING OFFICER HAMILTON AFB, HAMILTON, CALIF		*If your wages were subject to F.I.C.A. taxes, but are not shown, your F.I.C.A. wages are the same as wages shown under "INFORMATION FOR INCOME TAX RE- TURN," but not more than \$1,600.		

Dear Mr. Miller: Greetings from the IRS

Get along, little doggie—but to where?

When I was attached to the USA 25 INFD 35 INF, I was in the 62nd Counterfire Platoon. The First Sergeant had a small dog. We didn't know where he got the animal, but we all played with it.

It was a happy little dog, but after we came off a hill one day we learned that it had died. We were all very upset, but we still had to do our jobs.

No one knew where the dog was buried, because it was believed that the Koreans would have wanted to eat it.

Harry E. Starkey, 36 Sherwood Forest Way
Hartly, DE 19953

Only an editor would notice a missing period (grammatically speaking, that is)

I was editor of the 303rd Bomb Group Association's "Hells Angels Newsletter" from 1998 to 2007 when the WWII Association decided to deactivate due to old age. You deserve praise for the 70 issues you edited.

My effort produced 40 issues of our quarterly 20-page publication and I know the blood pressure surges, sweat, and tears that go into editing every issue to serve our veterans.

I noticed that there was no period ending the closing sentence of your Editor's Desk page, which is as it should be. The end is not in sight.

Eddie Deerfield, LtCol, U.S. Army (ret.),
WWII/Korean War veteran, ed303fsra@aol.com

More like a millimeter a day

One of my specialties [as a surgeon] was nerve continuity restoration (usually suturing cut nerves, often wrist nerves from attempted suicide). I figured on a millimeter a day of growth of the proximal live nerve down through the myelin sheath to replace the dead nerve.

Judging from your time of your recovery, it sounds like this is what you got, not the miniscule growth you quoted!

Birney Dibble, jbirneydibble5@gmail.com

Editor's Note: Dr. Dibble's observation may be true. Perhaps my neurosurgeon did say one millimeter a day, and my hearing is fading at one 1,000th of a decibel a day, so I misheard him. Either way, restoration is slow, but steady.

Late caption

This caption arrived too late for the Ch 299 photo that appeared on the upper left corner of p. 44, March-April 2016 edition. Here are the names: Virtues Tarbassian, Ed Kelly, Massachusetts Veterans Services Secretary Francisco Urena, KWVA Past National Director Jeff Brodeur, Tom Daley, Joe Kenick, Ed Kelly Jr., Ed McCabe (standing, L-R). Sitting, Jim Kennedy.

Jeff Brodeur, 48 Square Rigger Ln.
Hyannis, MA 02601

Making the Honor Flight worthwhile

Bob Hall went on an Honor Flight recently. His trip resulted in this exchange of emails:

To the Faculty and Students:

I was a member of the recent Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. When we were half way back from Baltimore, each veteran was handed a packet of poignant letters from students around the state [of Washington]. Some were from your school.

I want to thank all who sent those cards. The vets were touched and there was hardly a dry eye among us. It was a heartwarming and unforgettable gesture on the part of all involved. Thank you so much.

I'm a former teacher at Forks High School by the way.

Semper fi,

Bob Hall, Bellingham
rdhall1925@yahoo.com

Here is the response:

Thank you Mr. Hall.

When Kathy Belisle of Puget Sound Honor Flight came to us and explained what they do, we were immediately on board. It was with great pride that our students wrote those letters of thanks. They understand how much you sacrificed to serve our country.

I can speak on behalf of all of us; it was an honor to write them.

Regards,

Bunky Janovich, Office Manager
Gig Harbor High School, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

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

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



Last Call

All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

ALABAMA

DAVID C. ATKINSON JR.
EDWARD C. BALTZ
JOHN D. BATES
ABRAHAM BENEFIELD
JIMMY LEE COOK
EMILE A. 'TONY' DUTHU

ARIZONA

DR. WALTER N. DUFFETT
BILLY R. ELLIS
VERNON H. GERDES
ROYCE H. 'ROY' HEUN
JOHN D. O'LEARY
CLYDE H. QUEEN SR.
GEORGE I. SCHLOTTERBECK

ARKANSAS

JESSIE L. CASEY

CALIFORNIA

DR. ROBERT J. DEITZ
ROBERT GAYTON
MICHAEL C. KVIDERA
EDWIN J. MARKS
EMERY VLACH
HAROLD WESTMAN

CONNECTICUT

JOHN B. SCALZO
HAROLD S. TRUESDALE

DELAWARE

ROBERT ALLEN
ROBERT N. BALDWIN
MAURICE C. BARNES
CHARLES E. BENNETT
JOSEPH MONGELLI
JOHN W. THOMAS JR.

FLORIDA

MIKE ADESSO
HECTOR A. CAFFERATA JR.
NELSON W. GIORGI
GORDON D. GIRARD
BETTY E. GLOVER
WILLIAM B. HARLAN
WILLIAM G. HAWKINS
MARY A. HILDEBRAND
PAUL KAUFMAN
JAMES J. KRUEGER
SAM P. LEANZA
EARL D. LOCHNER SR.
MURRAY D. MCMAHON
ROBERT MEYER
JOHN A. NOLTING
DONALD J. PAKELTIS
JAMES W. RALSTON
GRADY E. REICHARD
FRANK R. SPEER
JOHN J. VINSKI
STANLEY ZIMMERMAN

HAWAII

ELGEN K. FUJIMOTO

IDAHO

RAYMOND W. WEST

ILLINOIS

CHARLES F. BEACH
VERNE M. CHRISTIANSON
WILLIAM GENE WILSON

INDIANA

WILLIAM J. BECKER
EDGAR E. DANLEY
EDWARD N. DELUCENAY
WILLIAM H. HAMBROCK
JAMES L. MATTERS
RICHARD E. TURNER

IOWA

EDWIN D. HOGAN
KARNELLA L. 'LYNN' RUNGE

KANSAS

DONALD F. HERNDON
JACK R. KRUMME
ARTHUR R. MACPHERSON
EDWARD H. MARSHALL

KENTUCKY

ROBERT BILZ
RANDALL C. DAY JR.
ROY DURBIN
KENMELVIN E. HAMPTON
ROBERT C. HYNDMAN
DAVID E. LANE
ALWYN B. PERRY

LOUISIANA

SANG MAN KIM
ERVIN LEE STEWART

MAINE

SYLVIA T. HACHEY
MARIE R. HANEY
JOSEPH G. 'JOE' STEARNS

MARYLAND

JOSEPH CARL CORDERY
GARDNER R. LONG
MORRIS S. ROBERTS

MASSACHUSETTS

GERALD G. FERREIRA
ALBERT G. FIORENZA
JOHN I. HIPSON
JOSEPH MOTZI JR.
RICHARD A. WILLIS

MICHIGAN

RUTGERUS M. LOMMERSE
VERN M. MEEUWENBERG
JACK M. WITTER

MINNESOTA

BERNARD O. WEBER

MISSISSIPPI

JOE D. PETTY

MISSOURI

FRANK E. CHASE
GEORGE W. KEIM
WALLACE J. PLANTE
ROBERT L. RIEGER
KENNETH E. STRODER
HENRY L. STROUD
JOHN F. TOTH

MONTANA

FRANK C. CAMPBELL
PATRICIA CHRISTOPHERSON
WALTER R. COLLISON
CLIFFORD L. COTTENGIM
ROBERT W. DETIENNE
DONALD L. HELM

LYLE W. JACOBSON
RALPH L. MORIN
HARRY J. OWENS
EILEEN R. PARR
ORVAN W. SCOTT

NEBRASKA

DALE E. GRIFFITH

NEW JERSEY

ROBERT D. KUTTEROFF
LEONARD SPEIZER
DONALD E. WUSSLER

NEW YORK

WILLIAM H. BOYCE
FRANK S. CANEPA
WALTER DOTY
WILLIAM J. DUCEY
JOHN S. EDWARDS
PETER FANTIGROSSI
RONALD FINE
FREDERICK FRANKHAUSER
ROBERT E. HAAK SR.
CHESTER C. HYL
ANDREW J. LUBA
BERNARD F. MORAN
THOMAS MURRAY
JAMES K. PATRICK
JOHN F. PEDUZZI
LLOYD F. PITMAN
ROBERT J. POLLINO
PATSY RICHARD SARNICOLA

FRANK J. SCALZO
ANTHONY SIMONE

OHIO

GILBERT BERRY
E. RONALD BORAM
ALLEN L. HALL
ROBERT E. JOHNSON
HOWARD M. PETTY
BALLARD C. SHULL
SIDNEY M. SULTZBAUGH

OKLAHOMA

IRA D. KUTCHER
GENE E. MILLER SR.

OREGON

LOUIS J. SCHUSTER

PENNSYLVANIA

JOHN J. PLENSKOFSKI
LESLIE R. SUTTON
CHARLES R. THOMPSON
HENRY J. VANNELLI

RHODE ISLAND

HERBERT J. SOUTHWORTH
STANLEY J. STOWIK

SOUTH CAROLINA

JOSEPH T. GRIFFIN JR.

SOUTH DAKOTA

BERNARD D. FRIEND
LYLE VANNATTA

TENNESSEE

STANLEY R. WHITE

TEXAS

ALBERT L. ANDERSON
RICHARD G. BEARD
EUGENE EDWARD BESSO
RUDY DELEON
LOUIS 'JOE' GRAPPO
ALBERT E. 'GENE' HIGHSMITH
FABIAN E. JENDRUSCH
CLYDE M. MAXWELL JR.
RAYMOND L. MIDKIFF
FLOYD D. 'DOUG' SIZEMORE

VIRGINIA

ROBERT F. PHILLIPS
ERVIN P. SACRA

WASHINGTON

GUNARS KILPE
RICHARD L. KIRK
KERMIT R. PARKER
EVERETT L. WALLACE

WEST VIRGINIA

DONALD L. DOBBINS
MILLARD RONSFORD GOFF
PETER P. RUPLINAS

WISCONSIN

ROBERT DELAURIER
HAROLD A. SIMONS
EUGENE J. VOSBERG

Canadians suffered heavily at the Battle of Kapyong

The Canadian Army's 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Light Infantry found itself under heavy overnight fire on Hill 677 in April 1951. By some accounts, 700 Canadians were facing a vicious assault by 5,000 Chinese and North Korean soldiers.

The Canadians held their position in what has been described as "one of Canada's greatest, yet least known, military achievements."

Ten Canadians lost their lives on Hill 677.

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**



Recon Missions

Working on the definitive book about Hungnam

My grandfather, Colonel Edward H. Forney, USMC, served as the X Corps Deputy Chief of Staff in 1950. He was also the commanding officer of the control group responsible for all aspects of X Corps' evacuation from Hungnam and played a significant role in helping rescue over 92,000 North Korean refugees from the port.

I live in Seoul, Korea, as a freelance writer and am researching/writing a book on my grandfather, his colleague Dr. Bong Hak Hyun (a Korean civil affairs officer who was attached to the X Corps), the Chosin Reservoir campaign, and the Hungnam evacuation.

My grandfather worked closely with Admiral Doyle in coordinating the movement of ships, troops, equipment, and 92,000 refugees. I hope to write the definitive book on the evacuation, so I am looking for more firsthand accounts of the daily operations, both on land and the ships, that can help me depict as accurately as possible what occurred during the 14-day operation.

I'm also trying to tell the story of the Merchant Marines who participated in the operation. I have interviewed three officers who served aboard *Meredith Victory* (the ship that left on the 23rd with a record-breaking 14,000 refugees), and have extensive information (documents, articles, letters, interviews from refugees here in Seoul, etc.) on it.

But, another ship that's credited with sailing with 14,000 refugees, *Virginia City Victory*, is what I now call the "mystery ship." Mr. Moore and I have done an exhaustive amount of research on this vessel, but there's no account of its actions at Hungnam - nothing.

I am interested in interviewing anyone who would like to share memories. The operation was a team effort and so many people were involved. Unfortunately, for many of the veterans, their story has yet to be told. I am particularly interested in veterans who evacuated from and/or worked at the port during the 14-day operation: engineers, drivers, logisticians, sailors, merchant marines, aviators...anyone who was part of the team.

I am also interested in stories about the refugees. I have interviewed numerous men and women here in Seoul who escaped from Hungnam in December 1950; their stories are incredible, and they are all extremely grateful for the U.S. military's role in saving them.

Your stories, anecdotes, or any information about your experience at Hungnam – what you observed, your thoughts, etc. – are important in keeping the legacy of one of the largest military/humanitarian operations in U.S. history alive for future generations of Americans and Koreans.

I am grateful for any assistance you can provide.

Ned Forney, USMC, 1985-1990
272 South Plaza Court, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
843-647-0903, heungnam.story@gmail.com

Where was K-54?

K-54, 1953: I am seeking Air Force vets stationed on K-54 in 1953 who can tell me where K-54 was. I was a medic. My job was to corroborate injuries received during service to substantiate medical claims.

Jean P. Lindfors, 541-621-1731,
jp3dotlindfors@embarkmail.com

George A. Morris

My uncle, Sgt. George A. Morris, served in the Korean War from 1950-1953, where he became MIA and declared dead. His remains were never found. He was only 18 years old when he died.

George was a fraternal twin. After he was reported missing, his brother John joined the Army in hopes of finding his brother, but had no luck. He has been searching over 60 years in hopes of finding anything he can about his brother. He had given DNA and reached out to people for help, but nothing has ever come from it.

George served with the 9th Infantry, 2nd Battalion. My family needs to try to get some sort of closure. It's been way too long to hold on to this pain. According to what I have learned, George's convoy was halted by an enemy road block North of Kunuri, North Korea. The troops were ordered to abandon the vehicles and attempt to infiltrate through on foot. He was never located.



His mother was given whatever George Morris they had of his. Unfortunately, she stored it in a basement, which was flooded. That destroyed everything she had left of her son. I hope that someone will see this and maybe we can get some answers and, most importantly, some closure.

Thank you for letting me share my story about my uncle George. Hopefully we can learn something about his death that will bring us that closure.

Lynn Hamilton, 324 Leonia Ave. Apt. 17, Bogota, N.J. 07603, (201) 233-8329 (cell), (201) 343-1132 (home), Lynnhamilton324@gmail.com

Does the Bridge of No Return still look the same?

The nearby photos of the Bridge of No Return (BNR) submitted by Ron Remily were taken in 2003 and 2008. Does anybody have any updated photos for comparison?

Ronald R. Remily, 27301 Meridian St., Hemet, CA 92544, 951-658-8747, RMRemily@yahoo.com

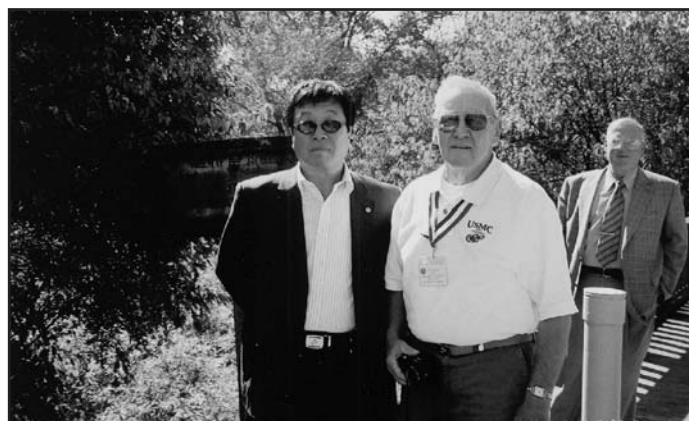


The south end of the BNR in 2003



2003 tour group at south end of the BNR

North Korean guard shack at upper right near the BNR in 2003



Tour driver Bob Maxwell and military escort Col. Alexander (L-R) at south end of the BNR



Guard shack at the north end of the BNR in 2008

Did you train in Camp Breckinridge?

Anne Audette is gathering photos and stories in preparation of a second edition of a book about training at Camp Breckinridge. Some of the items sought are team and company photos, post 101st photos, memoirs, and Life at Camp Breckinridge quarterly publications.

Contact her at 734-467-2205 or vic.and.anne@gmail.com.

666 1954

Is there anybody still around from Plt 666 DKC 7, then Camp Pendleton, Tent Camp 1, then Korea 1952-53, June, 1st Shore Party, H&S Co., Ascom City, Korea? If so, contact Warren Eubanks, 9152 O'Day Dr., Highland, IN 46322, 219-924-6777.



Ron Remily, Bob Maxwell, Col. Alexander, Gen. Woodall (R-L), just north of the demarcation that runs through the center of the BNR, in 2008. A North Korean guard shack is behind them on the right.

Now Hear This:

All comments concerning, or contributions for publication in **The Graybeards** should be sent to:

Art Sharp, Editor

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

or emailed to: sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

Everlasting Friendship

51 – RICHLAND COUNTY [OH]

Every once in a while we receive a story that truly epitomizes the close and enduring relationship between South Koreans and Americans. Here is one such story.

We have had a warm, friendly relationship with our small Korean community for many years. This is especially so with the management and workers at the Hyundai-Ideal Electric Company and our honorary Korean-American member, Dr. Jay Haar.

Every Christmas time we have a celebration with our members and families. This includes a fine dinner, a band, some dancing, and a short program. Each year most of the food bill is paid by our Korean friends at Hyundai Ideal. They and their families join us for the evening, and we enjoy and renew our friendships.

The band plays all of the songs of each branch of our military. We stand, sing, and cheer for each song, and our Korean friends reaffirm their appreciation for what our country did to preserve South Korea's freedom.

Some years past, when no one was dancing, my long-time friend Dr. Haar approached me with a suggestion to spice up the evening. In jest, we danced together to encourage others to dance, and to support the fine band. It is now somewhat of a tradition.

We follow this by announcing that this act is an indication of the long-lasting friendship and mutual support our two countries will always have. This admiration

between our two countries is never more evident than during these holiday seasons.

A further strengthening of this friendship occurred when the Koreans noted the aging process was catching up with us Korean veterans and our mates. The president, Justin Lim, and the management of Hyundai-Ideal Electric organized a seminar and dinner for us and our wives.

Dr. Haar, a psychiatrist, gave us a seminar on preparing for some of the important events that will occur as we advance through life. The subjects he covered included the possibility of having to leave our homes, assisted living, hospice, nursing homes, wills, finances, losing a mate, death, and burial. For those who had not already done these, it helped them to better understand what they should do, and how to more easily navigate through the many situations they will encounter.

Again, we were the recipients of their generosity last September. Members and their families were invited to take a tour through the Hyundai-Ideal Electric plant to view its latest expansion and amazing new large equipment. To accommodate all participants, they had three tours. Later, lunch was served, followed by an enlightening film. The afternoon ended with us watching a Korean artist paint in an ancient art form. It was a most enjoyable afternoon.

Our Christmas dinner celebration was on December 3rd last year. More than eighty veterans, Koreans,

and family members enjoyed an exciting evening. As usual, Hyundai-Ideal gave us a large check to help pay for the evening. This evening was a special one, as our short program included two events.

The first was a refreshing/learning talk about the American flag. As the information was given, a member held the large unfurled flag to its full extent. The how and why it came into existence and the meaning of the stars and stripes were reviewed. At the end, we concluded with a salute and the pledge of allegiance to our beautiful flag.

The second part of this event was a duplication of the above, except it was the history and meaning of the design of the Republic of Korea's flag. Our guests were quite pleased, and responded with a group singing their national anthem and a patriotic song.

The program concluded with us presenting two plaques we designed and composed. One is for the Hyundai-Ideal Electric Company's management; the other is for Dr. Haar. This was an expression of our appreciation for the support and wonderful relationship they have nurtured with the KWVA. Great respect has always been displayed by them for the sacrifices our country has made—and is still making today.

The evening concluded with music, some dancing, and a whole bunch of chatter amongst forever friends.

Donald D. DeCenso, 579 Edgewood Rd., Mansfield, OH 44907-1523, 429-756-4924, ddecenso@embarq-mail.com



The ancient printing art demonstrated by Korean (hat) to Ch 51 members



Plant manager of Hyundai-Ideal describes huge 51 tour members; company president Justin Lim



Members of Ch 51 tour group wait for start of



Some of the attendees at Ch 51's Christmas p



Korean artist (on right, wear-



Ch 51 members and their mates at Christmas part



Plaque presented by Don DeCenso to Hyundai-Ideal Company VP Harry Lim



ge piece of equipment to Ch 51 members (R) pays close attention



President Dr. Don DeCenso of Ch 51 reviews history of American flag



Bobby Shirk of Ch 51 presents plaque to Dr. Haar (R)



of tour



Bobby Shirk of Ch 51 explains the design and meaning of the South Korean flag



A close-up of the plaque presented to VP Lim



s party



Hyundai-Ideal Electric Company managers and their families sing in appreciation of Ch 51's flag presentation



The wording on Dr. Haar's plaque

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
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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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RODRIGUEZ LIVE FIRE COMPLEX, Republic of Korea - Marines from Headquarters and Service Company conduct a conditioning hike to acclimatize to the new environment Jan. 18, during their recent deployment to Rodriguez Life Fire Complex in the Republic of Korea. The Marines are from Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, forward deployed in the Pacific.