

America's Forgotten Victory!

# KOREA VETERANS

## The Graybeards



Official Publication of

**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

Vol. 31, No. 4

July - August 2017





# The Graybeards

Official Publication of  
**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

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



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### Awards Committee

Robert Fitts (see Directors)

See detailed list of committees at [WWW.KWVA.ORG](http://WWW.KWVA.ORG)



# From the President

Tom Stevens

You've read previously of a change in the KWVA By-laws which opened the door to KATUSAs (Korean Augmentation to the United States Army) to become regular members of KWVA. In addition to having served as a KATUSA, the individual must have also become a citizen of the United States. I am happy to announce that Mr. Jong K. Song is, to my knowledge, the first to take advantage of that change in our By-laws.

Mr. Song first became aware of the By-law change in April, 2017 through a mentor and life member, Jack Hayne, who read about it in *The Graybeards*. Mr. Song became a naturalized citizen of the USA in 1973.

I welcome Mr. Song into our membership and look forward to other KATUSAs becoming dedicated KWVA members.



Jong Song, 2nd from left, ready to go on patrol



Jong Song at "Home sweet home"

Jong Song, far left, with officers and KATUSAs, 57th FA Bn., U.S. 7th Inf. Div.



memorabilia for her.

"As a member of KWVA my first priority is to recruit more KATUSAs. I consider it my duty to use my time in this manner, under the guidance of our Membership Chairman, Eddie Bell. I also plan to be in touch with the Korean Community throughout the tri-state area

of New Jersey, New York and Connecticut.

"I remember well the Korean War Memorial dedication ceremony in July, 1995. I also plan to attend the Veterans Day ceremony this fall when KWVA will be the host Veteran Service Organization."

Please turn to **PRESIDENT** on page 6

"A granddaughter, Hana, who values her Korean heritage, as a sixth grader took up a research project to study the Korean War. In the process she actually visited Washington, D.C., where she was amazed by the Korean War Memorial and the foot soldier statues which reminded her of her grandfather. As a memento I gifted her a plaque, a granite block used at the memorial, which had been given to me on my 70th birthday. Becoming a member of KWVA is an appropriate

## 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



**COVER:** Dillon Prus, displaying the grave marker of his great uncle, is proof that with young people like him around the history of the Korean War will not be forgotten. (See the story on p. 14.)



28



49



52



73

# CONTENTS

## Business

From the President .....	3
From the Secretary .....	7
From the Executive Director .....	10
Thanks for Supporting The Graybeards and the KWVA ....	10
Rules of Decorum and Debate .....	11
Call for Elections .....	12
Call for Board Meeting and Annual Membership Meeting 2017 .....	13
Official Membership Application Form .....	71
Application for Korea Revisit & PCFY Tours .....	78

## Features & Articles

In Search of the Chosin.....	14
A treasure trove of stories .....	15
Where was I on July 27, 1953? .....	70

## Departments

The Editor's Desk .....	9
Reunion Calendar 2017.....	11
The Poet's Corner .....	25
Tell America .....	28
Chapter & Department News .....	32
Feedback/Return Fire .....	58
Welcome Aboard .....	74
Humor in Korea .....	74
Last Call .....	75

## News & Notes

Military Exchange Online Shopping .....	13
Another view and clarification of the future of the KWVA.....	16
In Memory of 56 KIAs—and Eddie Ko .....	17
Korean War Veterans Association Reunion: Events .....	18
Korean War Veterans Association Reunion: Registration ..	20
It's your Choice .....	21
From 'ditch' to 'rich' – at least in terms of freedom: Korea to the U.S. ....	22
Paying respect to Piper .....	24
Korean War MIAs Recently Identified .....	25
The 2017 KWVA Fundraiser .....	26
Announcing the 2017 recipients of the AVKF scholarships ....	30
The Burial of Cpl Robert E. Myers .....	48
Memorial Day 2017 .....	52
Haben sie eine auskunft herum Herbert Volker? .....	57
KWVA honored with plaque .....	73
Hometown Friends Meet at the 38th Parallel .....	73
A New Movie Documents America's Search for MIAs .....	75



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(In case we have any questions about your order)

\*Officially licensed Military Service patches are sold separately from the jackets. © ICM 2017 MA1JKT-GRB-0717



I welcome Mr. Song into our membership and look forward to other KATUSAs becoming dedicated KWVA members.

As mentioned in my previous message, Memorial Day, 2017 was my first as your KWVA president. It was an experience my wife Barbara and I will never forget. The evening before Memorial Day we attended the Memorial Day concert on the lawn of the capitol. It was a most inspiring concert.

Memorial Day began with an early morning boarding of an Army bus at Ft. Meyers for a short ride to the entrance of Arlington National Cemetery & Amphitheater, where we went through security screening. After finding our place in the amphitheater, I was invited to witness the president placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Don Loudon and I walked to the location as instructed and watched the auspicious ritual. It was an honor and a privilege to be present for such a meaningful occasion.

When the ceremony in the amphitheater ended, General Pyo Se Woo (Defense Attaché, Embassy of the ROK), his assistant, Colonel Lee Kang Wook, and I had the honor of placing a KWVA wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Following that I participated in the annual Memorial Day parade. The day ended with a ceremony at the Korean War Memorial, which had been expertly organized by Executive Director Jim Fisher. It was a full day.

On June 16th Pastor Soo and Elder Kim of the Sae Eden Presbyterian Church, Seoul, Korea were in Houston to place a wreath at a war memorial in honor of Korean War veterans. The next day they held a banquet in honor of Korean War veterans. Over 400 Korean War and Defense veterans, primarily from Texas, were in attendance.

It was the eleventh year that the Sae Eden church has honored Korean War and Defense veterans. The banquet was quite successful.

Your KWVA Board of Directors &

Officers met the entire day of June 24th. The two new Directors, Wilfred Lack and Eddie Bell, were present. We are losing Roy Aldridge from the Board, as he did not run for re-election. Two other gentlemen, Tim Whitmore and Tom McHugh, ran successfully for their second consecutive terms on the Board. We are fortunate to have such an able and productive Board.

After considerable discussion a number of decisions were made which hopefully will make KWVA an even better and stronger organization. For more details, I encourage you to read the minutes of the Board meeting when they appear in *The Graybeards*.

June 25th brought an impressive ceremony at the Korean War Memorial commemorating the 67th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. The ceremony ended with the reading of the names of the fallen from all UN countries who participated in the Korean War. A representative from each of the countries participated in this most moving gesture.

I was back in Washington D.C. for a June 30th visit by the President of South Korea, President Moon Jae-in, to the Korean War Memorial. He was accompanied by Vice President of the United States Mike Pence. I was privileged to participate in a ceremonial placement of a KWVA wreath, while President Moon and V.P. Pence respectively placed individual wreaths at our Memorial. Honors of such magnitude are rare in one's lifetime.

I told V.P. Pence that this was an occasion about which I would tell my kids and grandkids. He replied, "I will also tell my kids and grandkids of meeting you while representing all Korean War veterans." He personally thanked the Korean War and Defense veterans who were present. I forward his thanks to every Korean War and Defense veteran.

To quote him: "Thank you to all who fought to protect freedom and liberty during the Korean War. We are forever grateful."

Finally, Professor Jongwoo Han spent the week of June 5th in Overland Park, KS, conducting interviews of Korean War veterans. Seventeen interviews were conducted during the week, which included a visit to the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, MO. These interviews are conducted in a professional manner for the purpose of preserving the "Legacy of the Korean War." I encourage any Korean War veteran who has the opportunity to take advantage of it to enlighten future generations about what we did and how South Korea, the United States, and the world are the benefactors of that effort.

There are many more facets of Professor Han's "Korean War Legacy Foundation." Please go to his website, [www.kwvm.org](http://www.kwvm.org), for more details.

Thanks for your time,

Tom Stevens, President,  
Korean War Veterans  
Association, Inc.

## **WANTED: KWVA NATIONAL SECRETARY**

Some of the skills &/or qualifications required:

- Computer literacy
- Well organized
- Available to attend board and membership meetings
- Must be a member in good standing or willing to become a member of KWVA
- Active Associate Members will be considered

Contact Tom Stevens, 913 449-7990 or Jim Fisher, 703 740-7596





# From the Secretary

*NOTE: The Secretary position is currently vacant. But, if we did have a Secretary, this is what his/her column would include:*

## Digital Memorial

Please take a moment and visit the main page of our website, [www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org), and scroll to the bottom. You'll find a link titled Korea War Veterans Digital Memorial (KWVDM). Click on it, and you will be introduced to a first-of-its-kind video project permanently preserving unedited, first-hand memories, experiences, and artifacts of Korea War and Korea Defense Service veterans for future generations. This site uses modern video technology to fulfill one of our organization's core objectives, to preserve our legacy.

Dr. Jangwoo Han, adjunct professor at Syracuse University, the founder of KWVDM, has amassed over 500 video interviews to date. Recently, he was in Massachusetts interviewing members of Chapter #299, Korea Veterans of America, as well as Korea War veteran Joseph Dunford Sr., father of Marine Corps General Joseph Francis Dunford Jr., 19th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Korean War veterans or family members wishing to take part in the digital memorial can contact Jongwoo Han, project coordinator, at 315-443-5856 or [jonghan@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:jonghan@maxwell.syr.edu).

## New Jersey Steps Up

Tom McHugh, KWVA board member, and past commander of the Department of New Jersey, is spearheading an effort to bring long overdue recognition to past, present, and future Korea Defense Service veterans who are indeed the future of the KWVA. Tom is currently raising funds and working with officials in Atlantic City to erect a Korea Defense Service Memorial (KDSM) on the Boardwalk. The monument will utilize the same design and measurements as the KDSM erected last fall in the Charlestown Navy Yard in Massachusetts.

That memorial, the first of its kind in the nation, was the concept of 2nd Vice President Jeff Brodeur. It took over two years of effort, working with Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Service, Francisco Urena, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and numerous political, architectural, and community authorities to bring the project to fruition.

Check out the videos of the dedication at [www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org). Scroll down to Charlestown Korea Defense Service Memorial Dedication. Anyone wishing to contribute to the New Jersey Korea Defense Service Memorial should contact Tom McHugh at 908-852-1964 or [tmmchugh@msn.com](mailto:tmmchugh@msn.com).

## Drop a Dime

House Congressional Resolution #52 (H.Con.Res.52) is making its way through Congress. This federal bill seeks to honor all who made the ultimate sacrifice in Korea since the armistice was signed on July 28, 1954. That includes 1,243

Americans and 2,500 ROKs.

The Resolution describes itself as: "Expressing the sense of Congress that an appropriate site in the Memorial Amphitheater in Arlington National Cemetery should be provided for a memorial marker to honor the memory of those who have been awarded or are eligible for the Korean Defense Service Medal who are missing in action, are unaccounted for, or died in-theater."

The bill was introduced by Congressman William Keating, MA 9th District. No taxpayer funds will be used to construct the memorial, whose design can be viewed on our website, [www.KWVA.org](http://www.KWVA.org) website. Please call your Congressional Representative at 202-224-3121 and ask him/her to Co-sponsor H.Con.Res.52.

## Commitment 2018

Our organization is only as strong as the commitment of our members to get involved and contribute time and energy to bring it to its full potential. We joined the KWVA for the brotherhood and comradeship that few outside the military will ever know. We stood ready to give our lives for one another and now we must be willing to give our time and energy to one another by running for office in the KWVA.

It's not too early to think about pulling together a bio for submission to the Election Committee for any of the open positions: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and four directors. Talk to present and past officers, board members, and appointees to see how you as a person can contribute to the KWVA, and then run for office.

## Responsibility

There is no way to get around filling out forms. The case in point is the "Chapter Election Report" (SPM Form 4.7-3) and the "Department Election Report" (SPM Form 4.8-3) Go to [www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org) and you'll find a link to each of the forms right there on the front page. How easy is that?

Remember, it is the responsibility of each chapter and department to submit these forms. In the end, it is your data base, and it is only as good as you keep it.

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ A~Vet Emblem Supply

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# 65TH ANNIVERSARIES KOREAN WAR REVISIT KOREA TOURS



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*June 2017 Revisit Pre-tour Attendees (l to r) Charlie Whittwer-USMC 3/7, LaMoyne Baer-USA 555th Fld Arty & Royce Williams-USN a Mig killer off the USS Orskany!*

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## It's been a real nice clambake<sup>®</sup>

So sang the cast in the 1945 Broadway hit musical "Carousel." To paraphrase them, my editorial span has "been a real nice career break." This edition marks the end of my 13th full year as editor. That's 78 issues. I am settling into the job.

I've been doing some reflecting on my time as editor and the changes in the magazine. And, I have recognized one significant regret. I will start with the changes.

First, I give Jerry Wadley, our publisher, some major kudos. Jerry is responsible for the layout of the magazine, and he does a masterful job. We have been working as a team for many years on numerous publications, and his patience with me is remarkable. Together we apply our individual services' mottoes, his the U.S. Coast Guard and mine the U.S. Marine Corps, to our work: *Semper Paratus* ("Always Prepared") and *Semper Fidelis* ("Always Faithful").

The changes for the most part have been subtle. For example, you may notice that the "Feedback" section has become longer. That is simply because members send in shorter stories than they used to, so they fit better into a designated section. That in turn generates more "feedback," which helps steer the conversation. I am fine with that, and I hope the trend continues.

The "Recon" feature has all but disappeared. We get fewer "looking for" requests nowadays, so we have incorporated them into "Feedback." The same holds true for errata. I would like to think that the staff (that's me) makes fewer errors than ever, but deep in my heart I know that's not true. So, in what passes for journalism in today's world, we simply bury them in other sections where they are more applicable, e.g., "Chapters" or "Feedback." (And you wonder why "Feedback" is growing?)

Another change is the noticeably shorter length of the "Reunions" list. That is due no doubt to the relentless aging process affecting our members. We just don't get around much anymore—at least as much

## I've been doing some reflecting on my time as editor and the changes in the magazine. And, I have recognized one significant regret.

as we used to. Hopefully that section will not disappear altogether.

Okay, enough about changes. Here's my regret.

Over the years I have met a lot of fine people through my editing position. Unfortunately, all too often our conversations have been over the phone, through email, or via Skype. (Just kidding about that last part. I can't even spell Skype.) I consider many of you friends, even though we have never met in person. I wish I had more "up close and personal" conversations. They are more interesting.

Yeah, over the years I have attended meetings of a couple chapters to explain the publishing process. And I had occasional meetings with local KWVA members when I lived in Connecticut and/or South Carolina. Recently I learned that is not enough.

In the past couple months I have had the opportunity to meet members in person with whom I had had only email or phone contact previously. For example, I had lunch a short while ago with John Quinn of Ch. 259 at one of my favorite restaurants, Sharkey's, in Venice, FL. A few weeks later I dined with "Skip" Hannon of Ch. 175 and his wife Pat at a fine seafood restaurant in Bradenton Beach, FL. Both events made me wish I had met more of you in person in the past thirteen years.

Actually, that is not a new feeling. I realized it big time this past April at the Korean War Historical Seminar I mentioned in the May-June issue. There I met some of the finest people ever: MOH

recipient Ron Rosser, Monika and Tim Stoy, David Mills, Arden Rowley, Mary Ingman, the daughter of MOH recipient Einar Ingman, Doug Dillard...the list goes on. Granted, they were all gathered in one place. It is not always easy to visit individually with members scattered across the U.S. But, the experiences made me realize how important personal contacts can be.

So, I hereby declare myself available when feasible for chapter meetings, lunches, dinners, bar mitzvahs, clambakes... wherever, as Peter, Paul and Mary sang in their hit "The Wedding Song," "two or more of you are gathered in his name...."

Finally, I ask a favor. (This is not a sales pitch.) As you know, my most recent book, "Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A mystery of the Korean War," is now available, but still in ebook format only. The publisher has to sell 500 copies before it is converted to a regular "hold in your" hands" book. For all I know we might have reached that threshold by now. The author is always the last to know. Anyway....

If any of you belong to other associations, e.g., 7th Inf. Div., 24th Inf. Div., Jewish War Veterans, 2d Inf. Div. et al, would you contact the editors of your individual publications and ask them to do a review of the book? I have done so, but my rate of success regarding returned communications has not been spectacular. I'd like to let other veterans know about the book's existence.

Thank you—and I will see you at the next clambake.

### Editor's office hours

**Editor Sharp's office hours, such as they are, are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, Monday-Friday. He is not an employee of the KWVA, so his hours vary.**





## From the Executive Director

James R. Fisher



The summer of 2017 has been an extremely busy time for the KWVA. Your association continues to gain more notoriety and recognition. This is due to the continued selfless service and willingness of our members to keep the legacy of the Korean War alive.

The Tell America Program continues to make great strides in the local school districts of chapters that have established programs. I encourage chapters that don't have programs to establish one. It is a wonderful experience and the students highly respect our Korean War veterans after they hear their remarks. For further information, please contact Mr. A.J. Key at 817-472-7743 or [alveskey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alveskey@sbcglobal.net).

Korean War veterans were honored at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on June 30th with a visit from the new President of the Republic of Korea, Moon Jae-in, and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence. Moon shares a special relationship with the Marine Corps and Joint Chiefs Chairman/former USMC commandant Gen. Joseph Dunford and Vice President Pence.

Dunford's father, then-20-year-old Joseph F. Dunford Sr., fought with the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, in the brutal sub-zero 1950 battles against the Chinese around the Chosin Reservoir in what is now North Korea. Moon's parents were among about 100,000 refugees who were evacuated from the area to the south as the Marines fought their way to the sea at Hungnam in what became known as the "Christmas Cargo" campaign, or the "Miracle of Christmas." Vice President Pence's father served in the Korean War as an artillery officer.

Director Paul Cunningham, Chairman of the 2017 Veterans Day Committee, has done a marvelous job of planning and

**Director Paul Cunningham, Chairman of the 2017 Veterans Day Committee, has done a marvelous job of planning and organizing the special events that will take place in Washington, D.C. on November 10th and 11th, 2017. A block of rooms has been reserved...**

organizing the special events that will take place in Washington, D.C. on November 10th and 11th, 2017. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Sheraton Pentagon City, 900 S. Orme St. Arlington, VA. The room rate is \$129.00/night plus taxes.

If you wish to extend your stay in Washington, these group rates will be honored from November 8th to 14th. Each attendee is responsible for making their own reservation. To make your reservation call 1-800-325-3535 and let them know you are with the Korean War Veterans group. It will be necessary to check in Friday, as we'll need to have an early departure for Arlington on Saturday morning.

The KWVA Annual Membership meeting is scheduled for October 4 -8, 2017 at the Sheraton Waterside Hotel, located at 777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510-2102.

If you do not have an email account, please call 1-800-325-3535 and ask for Korean War Veterans Association. Rate will be \$104.00 a night plus tax. Rates are also available (3) days pre and post, subject to availability.

James R. Fisher, National Executive Director  
[jfisher@hrmgrou.net](mailto:jfisher@hrmgrou.net)

## Thanks for Supporting *The Graybeards* and the KWVA

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](mailto: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.

CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION	CONTRIBUTOR	LOCATION
<b>GRAYBEARDS DONATIONS</b>			
George W. Zimmerman	MN	Nonmember Sales (4)	
<b>KWVA DONATIONS</b>		IMO Paul J. Giovinazzo	
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Kenneth A. Tashiro	HI	Nonmember Sales	
IMO Chaplain Felthoelter		IMO Joseph Verdi	

# Reunion Calendar: 2017

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.

## SEPTEMBER

**Together We Served (TWS)** All Service Reunion, 5-7 Sept., New Orleans, LA, Hilton Riverside. Diane Short, 888 398-3262, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/679326885428384/> or admin@togetherweserved.com

**8th Cavalry Regiment/10th Infantry Division Basic Trainees**, 8-10 Sept., specifically Fort Riley Basic Training Companies HHC 1 Bn., 85th Inf and 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, Shawnee Mission, KS, 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.

**4th Fighter/Interceptor Wing**, 334th, 335th, & 336th FIS and support personnel (all years), 9-13 Sept, Goldsboro, NC. Includes Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Iran, & Afghanistan. Carlo J. Romano, 11721 Auta Ln., Silver Spring, MD 20902, 301-593-2266.

**630th Engineer L.E.Co.**, 10-13 Sept., Branson, MO, Nranson's Best Motel. Gerald Clemoms, 256-757-2090 or C. Viehland, 636-390-3307.

**84th & 62nd Engineers (Korea)**, 11-14 Sept., Branson, MO. Carol Nelson, 39 Myrtle Ave., Warwick, RI 02886, 401-738-0693, cen21225@verizon.com

**G-3-1 (Bloody George)**, Korea, 11-14 Sept., Dana Point, CA. Bob Camarillo, 805-377-7840, retiredx2@sbcglobal.net or Bob Harbula, 412-462-853

**24th Inf. Div. Assn.**, 11-15 Sept., Savannah, GA. George Vlasic, 910-287-5618, geonanvlasic@atmc.net

**Second (Indianhead) Division**, 13-17 Sept., Arlington, VA, Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, Arlington, VA. Anyone who ever served in the 2nd Infantry Division and guests are welcome. Bob Haynes (Monday through Friday), 224-225-1202, 2idahq@comcast.net. Register online for reunion activities at [www.afr-reg.com/2IDA2017](http://www.afr-reg.com/2IDA2017)

**USS Hornet (CV-8, CV/CVA/CVS-12)**. All ship's officers, air groups, crew, Marines, and families welcomed, Kansas City, MO, 13-17 Sept., Hilton Kansas City Airport Hotel. Sandy Burket, PO Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com. Website, <http://www.usshornetassn.com/>, USS Hornet Museum: <http://www.uss-hornet.org/>.

**West Coast Drill Instructor Assn.**, SgtMaj Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Chapter, 14-17 Sept., MCRD, San Diego, CA. Gregg Stoner, 619-884-9047, greggstoner22@aol.com or CWO3 Chip Dykes 760-908-2322. More info can be found at <http://www.westcoastdi.org>

**44th Engineers Bn. Assn. (Broken Hearts)**, 20-22 Sept., Branson, MO, Grand Plaza Hotel. Dave Clasby, 314-837-0996, dncclasby@att.net or Ken Jobe, 757-428-0328, kejj425@aol.com. There will be a welcome reception on Sept. 20 at 5 p.m. (no charge) and a banquet, show, and dinner on Friday, 6-10 p.m. All "Brokenhearts" are welcome.

**International Airborne Historical Seminar**, 27-30 Sept., Hilton Springfield Hotel, Springfield, VA/Arlington National Cemetery. Tim/Monika Stoy, tim-moni15@yahoo.com

**36th Squadron**, 100th anniversary, 28 Sept. -1 Oct., Osan AFB, Korea.

## OCTOBER

**25th Infantry Division Assn.**, 2-8 Oct., Oklahoma City, OK. Sarah Krause, PO Box 7, Flourtown, PA 19031, Fax: 215-248-5250; TropicLtn@aol.com or [www.25thida.org](http://www.25thida.org)

**Korean War Historical Seminar**, 11-14 Oct., Springfield, VA, Hilton Springfield Hotel. Tim or Monika Stoy, Timmoni15@yahoo.com.

# KWVA Annual Membership Meeting Rules of Decorum and Debate

(Based on Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 10th Edition)

1. A voting member must obtain the floor and be recognized by the presiding officer, stating his position and name before addressing the assembly.
2. The voting member is to stand when addressing the assembly, and if the member makes a motion, that member has the first right to speak to the motion.
3. Voting members must be courteous and never attack or question the motives of other members.
4. Discussion shall be focused on the matter or idea in question, and not on personalities.
5. Voting members are limited to ten minutes on each subject during discussion, and may speak the second time only if all other voting members who wish to speak have spoken on the pending motion.
6. A voting member may speak more than twice if the assembly grants additional time, by a majority vote of the voting members present.
7. The Chair may recognize non-voting members attending the meeting only after voting members have completed their discussion on the pending motion.
8. The Chair may call for voting by a show of hands, or a voice yea or nay or standing vote. A secret ballot vote may be called for by a request of one-fifth (1/5) of the voting members present.
9. The above rules may be amended, suspended, or rescinded by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of at least a quorum of the voting members present

## Disclaimer

Neither *The Graybeards* editor nor the KWVA is responsible for misinformation, discrepancies, or embellishments, intentional or unintentional, that may be contained in communications in any form that appear in *The Graybeards*.

We do not have staff to fact check all material that is sent to us. We depend on the honesty and integrity of those who submit material for publication, and on the expertise of our members and readers to correct misstatements or misinformation, whether intentional or not.

## 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



# Call for Elections

The membership is hereby notified that elections will be held in the spring of 2018 for the following National Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. (KWVA) positions: President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President, to serve from June 25, 2018 - June 25, 2020; and four (4) Directors to serve from June 25, 2018 - June 25, 2021.

Any regular members in good standing of the KWVA seeking to run for the aforementioned offices shall make their intentions known to the Chairman of the Elections Committee, Tim Whitmore, in writing, using the format below. All applications and documents must be received by the Election Committee Chairman no later than December 15, 2017.

## Requirements:

Applicants must:

- Present proof of service by submitting a signed Official KWVA Membership Application Form (found on the KWVA website or in *The Graybeards* magazine) showing eligible service years.

- Submit a copy of his/her Form DD214 for verification by the Election Committee. The copy of the form DD214 may be redacted selectively by blackout/whiteout to remove information not related to the information required by the KWVA.

If you need a copy of your Form DD214, go to the National Archives website at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

- Submit a current photograph, suitable for publication in *The Graybeards*, where the candidate is clearly the focus of the picture.

- Submit a letter, signed and dated, limited to approximately one (1) page, including the following:

- Your intent to run for an office and the office sought.
- A summary of your qualifications for this office, stating any experience that will be of benefit to the Association.
- A statement that you will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and that you understand that two (2) unexcused absences could be used for your removal from office.



## We Want You!

- A statement that your dues are current through the complete term of the office you are seeking. NOTE: Payment of delinquent dues shall not be retroactive for purposes of establishing eligibility to run for office within the Association.
- A statement releasing all submitted documents/material for verification by the Election Committee.
- Your current mailing address, telephone number, and KWVA membership number and email address if available.
- Alternate email address and alternate phone number, if available.

Send the above items by "USPS Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested," or "USPS Express Mail, Return Receipt Requested," to the Election Committee Chairman, to arrive no later than December 15, 2017.

**NOTE:** Scanned documents sent via email

are not an acceptable alternative and will be automatically deleted.

Address application packages to L.T. Whitmore, Elections Committee Chairman, 5625 Canterbury Lane, Suffolk, VA 23435-1605.

For sample letters, refer to previous issues of *The Graybeards*, e.g., Jan/Feb 2016, 2015. If you do not have access to hard copies, go to [www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org), scroll down the left side, and click on *The Graybeards, Online archives of Past Issues*.

Address any questions you may have to the Election Committee Chairman at: (757) 483-9784; email: [TWhit35@gmail.com](mailto:TWhit35@gmail.com)

## The six-step KWVA election process follows:

1. The Elections Committee certifies the candidates who are qualified to stand for office.
2. The declarations and pictures of certified candidates are then sent to the editor of *The Graybeards* for publication in the January-February 2018 edition. The ballots are also published in that edition.
3. Members cast their ballots by May 10, 2018 and mail them to the KWVA-approved CPA printed on the front of the ballot.
4. The CPA verifies the eligibility of members to vote in the election, counts their ballots, and reports the results via certified tally sheets to the Election Committee.
5. The results reported by the CPA are verified by the Election Committee.
6. Copies of the completed and verified tally sheets are sent by certified mail to each of the Board Members and to each of the candidates for office, regardless of whether they were elected or not.

## No wonder the cops shot him!

This caption appeared in an internet Associated Press article on July 8, 2017: "A SWAT team vehicle is parked near a Wells Fargo Bank in Marietta, Ga., northwest of Atlanta, Friday, July 7, 2017. Several heavily armed police officers converged on the bank after reports of a man claiming to have a bomb with possible hostages inside."

The suspect had a bomb with possible hostages inside? That must have been bigger than the MOAB (Mother Of All Bombs) the Air Force dropped in Afghanistan a while back. No wonder they shot him.

**NEWS RELEASE: June 5, 2017**

## Call for Board Meeting and Annual General Membership Meeting 2017

The Board meeting is called for Thursday, October 5, 2017 from 0800 until 1600. The Annual General Membership Meeting is called for Friday, October 6, 2017 from 0900 until 1200. The meetings will take place at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, 777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510 and continue with recesses through the completion of all business properly brought before it.

Members with items proposed for the meeting must insure that they reach Lew Ewing, Association Secretary, not later than September 5, 2017.

To make a reservation:

Hotel Reservations: 1-800-325-3535

The hotel's online address is <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/KWVA2017>

You must mention Korea War Veterans Association to get the special KWVA Convention rate.

### Agenda

- Call to Order
- To the Colors/Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation
- Administrative Announcements
- Adopt Agenda
- Adopt KWVA Annual Membership Meeting Rules of Decorum & Debate
- Roll Call and Introductions/Recognition of New Officers/Directors
- Annual Treasurer's Report
- Approval of Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes of the June 24, 2017 Meeting
- Old Business
- New Business
- Reports from Select Committees
- For the Good of the Order
- Motion to Adjourn
- Benediction
- Salute to the Colors

## Military Exchange Online Shopping

EXCHANGE MEDIA CONTACT: CHRIS WARD  
– wardchr@aafes.com

### Veterans Can Visit VetVerify.org for Exchange Online Shopping Authentication

DALLAS – As the Department of Defense's military exchange services prepare to welcome potentially 13 million honorably discharged Veterans back to their military families this coming Veterans Day, VetVerify.org has launched to confirm eligibility to receive a lifelong military exchange online shopping.

Veterans may log onto VetVerify.org, which will use information from DoD's Defense Manpower Data Center's records and inform them of their ability to access this new benefit. If a Veteran's record has character of service data and that data meets the criteria for the online benefit, the Veteran will be verified to shop.

Then, beginning on Nov. 11, the Veteran can log onto to the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy Exchange websites at [shopmyexchange.com](http://shopmyexchange.com), [shopcgx.com](http://shopcgx.com), [mymcx.com](http://mymcx.com) and [mynavyexchange.com](http://mynavyexchange.com) for tax-free shopping. If a Veteran's information is incomplete, VetVerify.org will provide guidance on next steps.

Extending online shopping privileges to all honorably discharged Veterans will directly improve family and support programs for Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard members as well as their families. Increased sales and earnings as a result of Veterans online shopping benefit have the potential to generate tens of millions of dollars in additional dividends to Quality-of-Life programs.

These funds decrease taxpayers' burden to support services and programs on military installations around the world. The Army & Air Force Exchange Service, Coast Guard Exchange, Marine Corps Exchange, and Navy Exchange currently provide more than \$300 million in support for military Quality-of-Life programs annually.

## Holiday stories wanted

Last year we solicited stories for a special holiday section in our Nov/Dec issue. We had a pretty good response, and a lot of stories were held over for the Nov/Dec 2017 issue. Let's build our inventory again this year.

Please send any **new** stories, photos, and art work describing anything memorable, special, or routine that occurred involving you, your unit, your friends...on the major year-end holidays, e.g., Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah, New Year's Day, Boxer Day...

The material can relate to war time or peacetime. Hopefully we will get enough stories, photos, and art work to fill another issue.

Send your **new** stories and photos to Arthur G. Sharp, *The Graybeards* Holiday Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.





# In Search of the Chosin

By Dillon Prus

I found it in a dusty used bookstore in Portland, Oregon. I had come all this way during my furlough to the United States from Thailand, where my parents are missionaries, to find an out-of-print book written by a veteran of the Korean War that chronicled Dog Company, 10th Combat Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, during the battle of the Chosin Reservoir. Its text revealed no new clues, until I reached the last-page list of the surviving members of the company. My next step became evident.

Two of the only living survivors had since passed away, but the final soldier listed remained elusive to locate, adding another year to my search. I finally found the 85-year-old man at his home in South Dakota. Now only a phone call away, I hoped to talk to one of the “Chosin Few.”

He could have known my great uncle, Bernard Beemon, from LaPorte, Indiana, who paid the ultimate price in an icy hell called the Chosin Reservoir in Korea on the night of November 28, 1950. Thus my quest could soon come to an end surrounding the death of this 21-year-old boy who fought as a man.

I picked up the phone and dialed the man’s number.

“Hello,” he answered.

“I’m searching for information concerning a relative of mine who fought with Dog Company at the Chosin. Do you have a few minutes to talk about your experience with the company?”

He paused. “Yeah...I have a few minutes.” He didn’t sound too pleased.

The interview continued, but when prompted about details of the battle, he suddenly seemed rigid and avoided direct answers to questions. He didn’t know Bernard because he had only joined the week before they had been sent to the reservoir, soon to be ambushed and overrun.

In the end, I learned nothing new, but thanked the soldier for his time, “Although a lot of people call the Korean War the ‘Forgotten War,’ I haven’t for-



**Dillon Prus, displaying the grave marker of his great uncle, is proof that with young people like him around the history of the Korean War will not be forgotten.**

gotten what you and your company did in that peninsula, fighting for the freedom of the Korean people against the oppression of Communist rule.”

Another long pause, then...“Well I guess I haven’t either.”

After all the effort I had put in over the course of two years, had my quest just ended in failure? I still didn’t know any more about my hero than I did to begin with.

In the months since that phone call, I’ve realized that my efforts were not in vain; in this single phone call, my perception about the sagacity brought by maturity had changed forever. Coming into the interview, I thought that the many years of real-life pain, forgiveness, and reconciliation that had passed over time would somehow wipe away the painful memories the soldier had. However, this couldn’t have been farther from the truth.

I could hear over the phone in the veteran’s shaky voice anger, regret, guilt, and fear accumulated over sixty years. Why would this old timer just clam up over the phone when a stranger who happened to care so much about him and his forgotten-by-the-rest-of-the-world unit calls him to ask a few questions?

Possibly he had been plagued by phone interviews about his company’s actions before, so his skepticism may have been understandable. My second

thought was worse. Had I hurt the man? Did our conversation bring back memories that had been deliberately buried in the reservoir to be dug up every day?

My third thought, in retrospect, was that I wish I had the guts to confront the old soldier about the grace and freedom that comes with the acknowledgement and reconciliation of pain. If he had been my peer, I think I would have.

During my research, I found that many veterans deferred the praise of heroism. Instead, they said the real heroes were the men that are still buried in ice. My thoughts go out to the families of those killed in action at the Chosin... lives forever changed by this tragedy.

Reach Dillon Prus at: <https://www.archives.gov/files/research/military/korean-war/casualty-lists/in-alpha.pdf>

## Notes:

1) *This personal narrative was written by Mr. Prus when he was a senior in high school. He will be entering Clark University, Worcester, MA this semester. His interest in the Korean War and quest for knowledge offers proof that young people do care about the war and the people who fought it. In that respect, his goal lines up with the KWVA’s: to keep the memory of the Korean War and the men and women who served in it alive.*

*We wish Dillon Prus good luck at Clark University and in his future endeavors.*

2) *Here is the entry for Mr. Prus’s great uncle:*

## U.S. Military Fatal Casualties – Korean War

Name	BEEMON BERNARD A
Service	ARMY
Rank	PVT
Birthdate	1929
City:	LA PORTE
State:	INDIANA
Death Date	1950-11-28
Remains Recovered	Y

3) *The period in which Bernard Beemon was killed was devastating for 3d Inf. Div. troops in general. Take a look at <http://www.stewart.army.mil/docs/FallenHerosKW.pdf> to get an idea.*

# A treasure trove of stories

*Sometimes an editor gets lucky. I did when a gentleman named Robert C. Mackowiak contacted me not too long ago with an offer I could not refuse: the chance to share some of his stories with you. I'll let him explain.*

.....

Last night I was talking with my wife about a WWII history magazine that my mother always subscribes me to. She asked why, as I focus my interests on the Korean War. I said, "Well, there aren't really many Korean War magazines out there, with the exception of *The Graybeards*."

But I think we were thinking of strictly educational types of magazines vs. *The Graybeards* which includes that, along with newsletters, etc. I joked with her saying maybe I'd have to start one for Korea. But that got me thinking. Why not just contribute to the *Graybeards*? I think I would really enjoy it and it would be a great way to reach out to the Korean War vets community.

What I do for a hobby is collect and research items from Korea. I've begun writing narratives that I am slowly 'publishing' to my website. I like this platform because I can edit at any time, as I find new information, make corrections, you know.

But I have been trying to find other ways to reach out - not just to spread the stories I've found, but to find new sources of information, veterans who were there, knew someone, remembers anything, or even says 'no, it didn't happen like that!' So I thought *The Graybeards* might be a great place to try to add my stories and photos and anything else.

Robert C. Mackowiak, Korean War Collector & Researcher, Industrial Designer & Model Maker, 860-933-9791, captainofthe7th@yahoo.com.

**QUIZ:**  
**Who was**  
**Rick Casares?**  
**Answer on p. 75**

His website, <http://www.rcmcollection.com/koreanwar>, is replete with stories that will be of interest to our readers. We will present them over a series of issues. Let's start with Jimmie L. Rogers, First Lieutenant, 529th Petrol Co. And, if anyone has information that might be of help to Mr. Mackowiak, send it to him.

Lt. Rogers began his military service in March 1947 when he enlisted in the Navy reserves. He stayed in the Navy until November 16, 1948 and the next day joined the Army National Guard with the hopes of getting into the aviation field. His first assignment was with the 154th Fighter Squadron. By August 1949, however, he was dropped from the rolls and re-assigned. He had previously worked as a medical technician with the Public Health Service for two years and as a recruit was assigned as a Medical Technician with the Arkansas National Guard's 39th Division.

On April 6, 1951 Jimmie was called up for active duty and left the National Guard for the Regular Army. After attending medical leadership school at Fort Sam Houston, Cpl. Rogers departed for the Far East on Christmas Eve 1951. Despite his experience in the medical field, he was initially assigned as a cook to the 529th Petrol Company, 3d Division. This company received and stored class III supplies and distributed them to units under command of I and X Corps. (Class III supplies

include fuels, lubricants, hydraulic and insulating oils, preservatives, coolants, de-icer and antifreeze, coal and more—the supplies that keep an army moving forward.)

The 529th established and operated sixteen supply points across Korea. Because of the unit's close vicinity to the front, the 529th often prepared its own defenses against hostile actions, a task which the unit was neither equipped nor organized to perform. When it became impossible to transport supplies by rail and road to the forward combat elements, the company could air drop supplies to units in remote areas.

After Rogers returned home from the war on March 27, 1953, he continued his career in the Army reserves and Arkansas National Guard, completing Officer Candidate School. After a branch reassignment in February 1958, he served with D Company, 212th Signal Battalion.

Lt. Rogers briefly trained as a helicopter pilot, fulfilling his interest in flying. Thanks to his son, I was able to acquire this group of photos to preserve his story.



Jimmie L. Rogers enjoys chow time



Jimmie L. Rogers and an unidentified buddy



Mortar inspector Jimmie L. Rogers and buddy

Duffel bag and helmet: is Jimmie Rogers moving out?





# Another view and clarification of the future of

## Give up on the KWVA? I think not!

*"The KWVA is not a 'Last Man Standing' organization."*

Most everyone would agree that dialogue is a good thing, especially if there is a difference of opinion on significant issues. This article is written at the suggestion of President Stevens. It is appreciated, since my viewpoint is diametrically opposed to his previous message.

The idea that the KWVA is going to fail in the future is both pessimistic and misguided.

Two years ago General Walter Sharp came to our Board meeting and stated he was forming a new KDVA organization for defense veterans. At that time he was told specifically that we represent both War Veterans and Defense Veterans. Obviously he cared little about any of our comments as he pressed ahead with his agenda.

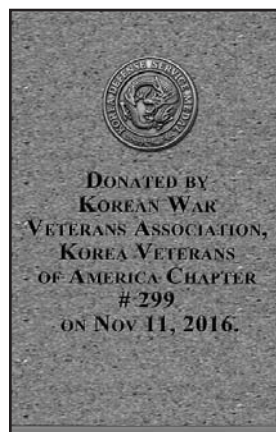
As background information for this dialogue, Chapter 299 was the last standing chapter of the original Korea Defense Veterans of America (KDVA) and was invited into the KWVA so the KWVA would not be a last man standing organization. However, the KWVA, led by Gen. Sharp, has confused many members. This is a clarification.

Sharp's organization, according to its bylaws, has the HQ in Korea and is based on prior rank held in the military. The rank requirement described in their layout excludes enlisted men and NCOs from being Board members. Even officers of low rank are excluded from their Board. This is not a VSO (Veterans Service Organization); it's a flag officers club.

By comparison, current KWVA 2nd Vice President Jeff Brodeur, founder of the Korea Defense Veterans of America Chapter 299, which had over 400 members at the time, merged into the KWVA. He has been active for decades. Jeff was a driving force behind the Korea Defense Medal. Norman Tredway of New Jersey spearheaded the movement.



Above, Korean Defense Veterans memorial. At right, back of memorial



**Chapter 299 has pushed successfully several state bills and has spearheaded the dedication of the first memorial marker in Massachusetts, the MA State Korean War Memorial.**

Jeff got the first KDVA Chapter and Department started. Chapter 299 has pushed successfully several state bills and has spearheaded the dedication of the first memorial marker in Massachusetts, the MA State Korean War Memorial. Without a doubt he, along with Chapter 299 membership, is now, and will continue to be, a big part of the future of the KWVA.

The recent Korea Defense Memorial Marker dedicated at the Massachusetts State Memorial honors all Defense Veterans who have died in Korea since the cease fire. I am proud to say that the KWVA Department of New Jersey has been authorized to dedicate the second Korea Defense Memorial Marker. It will be dedicated at the NJ State Korean War Memorial, on the Boardwalk, in Atlantic City NJ. The present target date is Veterans Day of this year.

In addition, a committee has been working on getting approval for a monument honoring Korea Defense Veterans to be dedicated in Arlington National Cemetery. It has not been getting the support required within the KWVA, which is needed for a final push. I ask each member reading this message to ask their local Congressional Representative to Co-Sign the bill H.Con.R 52. All efforts will be appreciated.

The future of the KWVA does not lie with saying another organization is our future. Anyone talking like that should not run for a leadership position in the KWVA. Our future lies with investing money in recruitment for growth, dedicating the Korea Defense Memorial Markers, advertising our accomplishments, using Facebook and other electronic contact systems, etc., to tell Defense Veterans what we are doing... If we feel that we cannot change our direction because we are getting too old, or believe the KWVA lacks the commitment to grow, then it is time to step aside and elect a Defense Veteran as our next President. These actions will bring in Defense Veterans as members and the KWVA future will stabilize and begin to grow again.

We might be getting older, but we did not want a "Last man standing" KWVA in the 1980s and we still do not want it. There is no doubt that General Sharp's KDVA will certainly cause just such a result. Support for them cannot ever be considered as good for the KWVA.

Make no mistake: NO KWVA board members should ever serve on the board of the new organization. It is counterpro-

ductive and links a true VSO (KWVA) with what General Sharp himself characterized as a social and charitable organization. Chapters should have members attend the October Membership Meeting in Norfolk, VA. Speak up. Participate. Your silence will be mistaken as acceptance.

We all agree that because of age, the Korean War Veterans Association is losing older members. But, let's not forget that our current and growing population of Korea Defense veterans will, over the next 5 to 10 years, stabilize, and propel us to perhaps 5,000 to 8,000 members. That is no small accomplishment. Keep in mind, many of the Division Associations have memberships of only 2,000-5,000 members, and are not Federally Chartered, as is the KWVA.

No one knows where General Sharp's KDVA, with American and ROK members, politicians, civic and social leaders, is heading, nor if anyone will ever join based on the criteria of excluding many members from ever serving on their board. We, the Korean War Veterans Association, already have reached out to Korean Defense Veterans and have a high percentage currently serving as Board members and committee appointees.

Many states around the country have the Korean Defense Medal on state license plates because of KWVA Chapter 299 members (the original KDVA). There are markers and memorials located throughout the nation recognizing Korea Defense Veterans sacrifices because of KWVA Chapter 299 members.

As far as the KWVA goes, it will be business as usual for many years to come. We encourage all our members to continue to build the KWVA by recruiting even more Korea Defense Veterans to ensure that our legacy grows and prospers.

I again thank President Tom Stevens for the opportunity to submit a different perspective and open a dialogue that ensures the KWVA is well and not even close to extinction. Always Remember: "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE."

Thomas McHugh, Director, tmmchugh@msn.com

# In memory of 56 KIAs—and Eddie Ko

We have an impressive monument in Hillsborough County, FL that honors the 56 service members from the county who were killed in action in the Korean War. The total included 42 U.S. Army, 7 U.S. Air Force, 6 U.S. Marine Corps, and 1 U.S. Navy.

The county spent about \$100,000 for the memorial, which is in Ch. 175's (Lt Baldomero Lopez MOH) area. Sadly, the chapter's chairman, Eddie Ko, died suddenly on 2 April 2017. He was a Korean national during the war and an orphan. Eddie attached himself to a U.S. Marine Corps unit and then immigrated to the United States in the mid-1950s. He lived in New Jersey and became a successful businessman. Eventually he moved to Florida.

I came in contact with Eddie when he hosted a Ch. 175 meeting at his golf course in Wesley Chapel, just north of Tampa, in Pasco County. After Ch. 175 rejected the first proposal for the monument, the Korean community

stepped up and developed a design that was ultimately constructed by a Korean contractor.

The memorial lists the names of the 56 local men who lost their lives in Korea. To maintain it, plaques are sold. Some of them list the veterans of the Korean War; others are dedicated to those veterans who have more recently preceded us in passing.

We are grateful that the memorial was substantially completed prior to Mr. Ko's untimely passing. We will never forget him, the 56 service members who are listed on the memorial, or those Korean War veterans among us who are still keeping awareness of the Korean War alive.

Albert McAdoo, 7506 S Mascotte St., Tampa FL 33616



The Hillsborough County, FL Korean War Memorial



Some of the names on the Hillsborough County Memorial





# Korean War Veterans Association Reunion

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, 777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510

## Schedule of Events

October 4 – 8, 2017

### Wednesday, October 4

Time	Event/Location
8:00a – 4:00p	KWVA Board Members/Officers Arrive Hotel
12:00p – 8:00p	Registration Desk Open, Lobby
6:30p – 8:30p	Welcome Reception, Monticello Room

### Thursday, October 5

8:00a – 11:00a	KWVA Summer Board Meeting, Brandon A & B
9:00a – 5:00p	Registration Desk Open, Lobby
11:30a – 4:00p	<b>Tour:</b> US Naval Facility - Norfolk
10:00a – 6:00p	Hospitality Room Open, Monticello Room

### Friday, October 6

9:00a – 5:00p	Registration Desk Open, Lobby
9:00a – 11:00p	KWVA Annual Membership Meeting Providence Ballroom 3rd Floor
1:00p – 4:00p	<b>Tour:</b> –Nauticus Museum & USS Battleship Wisconsin, Nauticus
1:00p – 9:00p	Hospitality Room Open, Monticello Room
1:00p – 5:00p	Korean War Veteran Interviews, Westover Room 4th Floor

### Saturday, October 7

9:00a – 11:00a	Korean War Veteran Interviews Westover Room 4th Floor
10:30a – 3:00p	<b>Tour:</b> Victory Rover Harbor Cruise Hampton Roads Harbor <b>Tour:</b> General Douglas McArthur Memorial Wreath Presentation, McArthur Memorial
4:00p – 5:00p	Registration Desk Open, Lobby
11:00p – 5:00p	Hospitality Room Open, Monticello Room
6:30p – 10:00p	Reception and Banquet Providence Ballroom 3rd Floor

### Sunday, October 8

8:00a – 9:30a	Memorial Service and Farewell Brunch .....
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**Shuttle Bus** – Available to transport visitors of the Sheraton to downtown locations, the Mall and the AMTRAK Station

*Note: Members driving their car subject to special parking discount*

**Self Parking:** Dominion Parking lot - \$8.00 a day

**Valet Parking:** Sheraton Waterside Hotel with a handicapped placard or license plate - \$8.00 a day.

**Valet Parking:** Sheraton Waterside hotel with **no handicapped** placard or license plate - \$24.00 a day

**Registration Desk:** Main lobby upon arrival

**Vendor Tables and Exhibits:** Located in and around the hospitality room located on the Lobby Floor.

## Tour Descriptions

### Norfolk Naval Base

Thursday, October 05, 2017; 11:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Board the motor coach with your tour guide and depart for the Norfolk Naval Base, where you'll first enjoy lunch at one of the officer's clubs. Then, tour the base, which is part of Naval Station Norfolk - the largest naval



installation in the world. Home port to 59 ships, ranging in size from aircraft carriers to submarines, 18 aircraft squadrons and headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet, this naval complex occupies over 8,000 acres of land and is home to more than 70,000 military personnel. A Navy personnel will board the coach and take you past the 14 piers, through the Naval Air Station, and the historic homes built for the 1907 Jamestown Exposition on "Admiral's Row" which now house the flag officers.

Next enjoy a stop at Doumar's, home of the world's first ice cream cone machine. Abe Doumar created the first ice cream cone at the World's Fair of 1904 in St. Louis. It was so successful that he designed a four-iron waffle machine that he launched during the Jamestown Exposition of 1907. Today, the family business still bakes cones on the original cone machine. While at Doumar's, guests will be given an introduction and history and everyone will be treated to an ice cream and cone!

**PRICE:** \$52 PER PERSON, INCLUSIVE. LUNCH AND ICE CREAM TREAT INCLUDED.

### Tour: Nauticus Museum and USS Wisconsin

Friday, October 06, 2017; 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Board the motor coach and learn about Norfolk's colorful history of over three centuries as you ride through the lovely historic district and restored areas. View the stately homes along the Hague, old St. Paul's Church, the



Moses Myers House, the Chrysler Museum of Art, MacArthur Memorial, the historic Freemason District, Nauticus, a maritime center, the Battleship Wisconsin, the restored waterfront area, as well as many other points of interest. Downtown Norfolk has undergone a complete transformation in the last decade and features the beautifully renovated Town Point Park with the Armed Forces memorial, a beautiful \$34million cruise terminal, waterfront condos and state of the art shopping area.

Next visit Nauticus, a unique and thriving campus of visitor attractions that explores the economic, naval, and natural powers of the sea. Features here include a series of interactive exhibits, 3D, high-def films in the 250-person theater, and aquariums of marine life. Also housed here is the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, one of ten museums officially operated by the U.S. Navy. Highlights of the naval battles and exhibits of detailed ship models, artwork, and memorabilia are showcased throughout.



A true highlight of any visit to Nauticus is a self-guided tour of the Battleship Wisconsin, one of the famous Iowa-class ships. This great ship saw action in WWII, the Korean War and most recently in the Persian Gulf War. The Wisconsin is permanently berthed beside Nauticus where it is accessed by a connecting walkway. Explore the main deck and recently opened portions of the interior to learn about this famous ship, those who fought and

served on board and the role that this mighty warship has played in the defense of our nation.

**PRICE:** \$36 PER PERSON, INCLUSIVE.

## Victory Rover Harbor Cruise & MacArthur Memorial

**Saturday, October 07, 2017; 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM**

Embark on a cruise on the Victory Rover through the bustling Hampton Roads Harbor, one of the largest in the world. Enjoy fascinating and entertaining commentary during the two-hour excursion aboard this naval

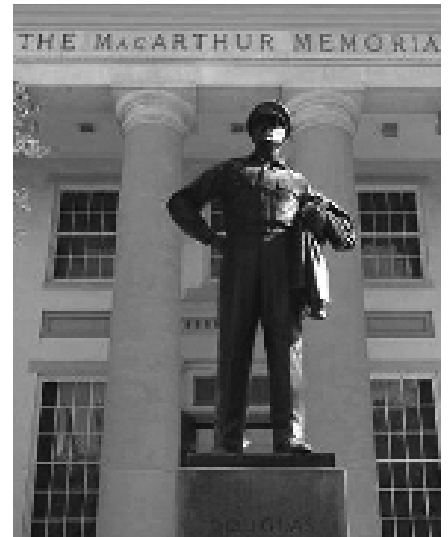


themed vessel. Take in the sights of aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines, guided cruisers and all of the other ships that form the world's most powerful armada. Enjoy a boxed lunch on board.

Next visit the MacArthur Memorial for a glimpse into our country's history. Here you will view the outstanding collection housed in Norfolk's historic city hall which trace the life and achievements of five-star General Douglas MacArthur. You will also have the opportunity to view the short film which chronicles the General's life. The General and Mrs. MacArthur are entombed in the rotunda of the memorial. Nine separate galleries arranged in two levels circle the rotunda and tell the story of General MacArthur and the millions of American men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces from the Civil War through the Korean War. A gift shop with unique memorabilia is located on the premises.

**PRICE:** \$65 PER PERSON, INCLUSIVE. BOXED LUNCH INCLUDED

Package Price Includes: Motor coach transportation, Phillips DMC guide service, admissions as listed, meals as listed, taxes and meal gratuities. Gratuities for tour guide and driver are not included, and are at the discretion of the individual.





**Registration Form**  
**KWVA 2017 Annual Membership Meeting October 4 – 8, 2017**  
 Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, 777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510-2102

Print this registration form, fill in and mail it with your check or Money Order made payable to KWVA Inc. to:  
**The Korean War Veterans Assn., Inc. - P.O. Box 407 - Charleston, IL 61920-0407**  
 Questions? Call Sheila at the KWVA Membership Office: 217-346-4414

**Note:** To secure your place at the annual meeting, mail-in registration is due by Sept. 22, 2017. Any Registrations mailed after Sept. 18, might not be received in time. Walk-in Registrations will be accepted during the convention, but we cannot guarantee availability at Events, Tours or Banquet if capacity is reached.

Date	Activity	Cost/person	# people	Total
Wed 4 Oct	Arrival – Registration opens at NOON All Attendees (Members, Spouses and Guests) Must Pay Registration Fee Registration/Information Desk ~ 12:00 pm until 6:00 pm	All Attendees: \$30.00/each	x	= \$
Wed 4 Oct	Welcome Reception ~ 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm			
Thr 5 Oct	Board of Directors Meeting ~ 9:00 am until 11:00 am Registration/Information Desk ~ 9:00 am until 5:00 pm Hospitality Room ~ 10:00 am until 6:00 pm			
Thr 5 Oct	Tour – US Naval Facility-Norfolk ~ 11:30 am until 4:00 pm	\$52.00	x	= \$
Fri 6 Oct	Annual Membership Meeting ~ 9:00 am until 11:00 am Registration/Information Desk ~ 9:00 am until 5:00 pm Korean War Veteran Interviews ~ 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm Hospitality Room ~ 1:00 pm until 9:00 pm (Free Time)			
Fri 6 Oct	Tour – Nauticus Museum & USS Battleship Wisconsin 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm	\$36.00	X	= \$
Sat 7 Oct	Korean War Veteran Interviews ~ 9:00 am until 11:00 am Hospitality Room ~ 11:00 am until 5:00 pm Registration/Information Desk ~ 4:00 pm until 5:00 pm			
Sat 7 Oct	Tour – Victory Rover Harbor Cruise... AND General Douglas MacArthur Memorial Wreath Presentation 10:30 am until 3:00 pm (Box Lunch Included)	\$65.00	X	= \$
Sat 7 Oct	Reception/Banquet ~ 6:30 pm until 10:00 pm Providence Ballroom	Chicken: \$35.00 Beef: \$35.00	x x	= \$ = \$
Sun 8 Oct	Memorial Service and Farewell Brunch ~ 8:00 am until 9:30 am	\$25.00	x	= \$

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please print your name as you want it on your badge.

FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ LAST \_\_\_\_\_ NICKNAME \_\_\_\_\_

KWVA MEMBER # \_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER # \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, ST, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PH. # \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Disability/Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

There will be a \$25 charge for returned checks.  
 (Note: Hotel reservations or cancellations are to be made direct with the hotel.)  
 (Rev. 1 – 3/17/2017)

Some members have expressed concerns about the viability of the VA's CHOICE program. Here is the latest information right from the source's mouth, the VA.

## About The Choice Program

If you are already enrolled in VA health care, the Choice Program allows you to receive health care within your community. Using this program does NOT impact your existing VA health care, or any other VA benefit.

On April 19, 2017, President Trump signed a law that removes the August 7, 2017, expiration date and allows VA to utilize funding dedicated to the Veterans Choice Program (VCP) until it is exhausted. The VCP is a critical program that increases access to care for Veterans by authorizing millions of appointments for Veterans in the community.

A top priority for VA is making sure that Veterans have access to high quality care when and where they need it. One way VA accomplishes this priority is by using VA's community care network. The Veterans Choice Program (VCP), one pathway among several for accessing the community care network, is being used at an increased rate. As a result, VA is providing its medical facilities with the flexibility needed to optimize resources locally for VA community care. Veterans that need community care will continue to be able to receive it.

## Optimizing Use of Available Funds

There are two accounts to pay for VA community care—one can only be used to pay for VCP and the other for what is known as traditional VA community care. In the first quarter of FY2017, VA observed a more than 30 percent increase from the same period in FY 2016 in the number of VCP authorizations. At the same time, VA has observed a decrease in authorizations for traditional VA community care. As a result, VA is adjusting its processes to accommodate shifts in demand from these accounts.

VA staff will continue to send eligible Veterans to the VCP. This includes those Veterans eligible for VCP based on residence (40 miles from their residence to the closest VA medical facility), wait times (30 days from the clinically indicat-

# It's your CHOICE

ed date), or other criteria (such as special criteria for residents of Alaska, Hawaii and New Hampshire). Veterans not eligible for VCP can receive community care through the traditional community care program when care is not available in the VA.

Optimizing the use of available VA community care in this way ensures that Veterans continue to receive the care they need when and where they need it.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Has the Veterans Choice Program (VCP) ended?

No, the VCP has not ended, as it was established by law in 2014 and funded by an appropriation by Congress. Because VCP has a limited amount of funds appropriated to it, VA is working internally and with Congress to ensure Veterans continue to receive the care they need through VA's community care network.

### 2. Who will be able to use the Veterans Choice Program?

VA will continue to send Veterans with eligibility for VCP as identified in the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act to the VCP contractors. This includes those Veterans eligible based on residence (40 miles from their residence to the closest VA medical facility), wait times (30 days from the clinically indicated date), or other criteria (such as special criteria for residents of Alaska, Hawaii and New Hampshire).

### 3. Why is there more than one account to pay for VA community care?

Federal law requires VA to have multiple accounts for VA community care, to include the additional account for the

Veterans Choice Program. The law also prohibits VA from moving money between these accounts. This accounting structure creates barriers to VA using VA community care fund in the most optimized way.

### 4. What is VA's solution for addressing multiple funding mechanisms?

VA and Congress are and will continue to be partners as VA continues to define and build an integrated healthcare network, including a community care program that is simple to understand, easy to administer and meeting the needs of Veterans and their families, community providers, and VA staff. This will include streamlining the funding on VA community care into one account or ensuring flexibility between accounts.

VA is currently working with Congress on as they evaluate and review VA's requested legislation.

### 5. What options does a VA medical facility have to purchase community care for Veterans?

VA medical facility staff should consider the Veteran's eligibility for VCP when reviewing options for community care. If the Veteran is eligible based on residence (40 miles from their residence to the closest VA medical facility), wait times (30 days from the clinically indicated date), or other criteria (such as special criteria for residents of Alaska, Hawaii and New Hampshire) they should continue to be sent to VCP community care providers. If the Veteran does not have one of these eligibilities, the facility should consider all available options in purchasing care based on local facility funding while ensuring seamless care for the Veteran.

###

([https://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/documents/Fact\\_Sheet\\_External\\_FY2017\\_CC\\_Funding\\_508.pdf](https://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/documents/Fact_Sheet_External_FY2017_CC_Funding_508.pdf))

*NOTE: More than 1.6 million veterans have received care through the Choice program, according to the VA. During the 2016 fiscal year alone, the VA issued 2 million authorizations for veterans to use Choice, a fivefold increase over the year prior. In the first quarter of 2017, authorizations for Choice increased 30%.*



# From 'ditch' to 'rich'— at least in terms of freedom:

In 1950, when the Korean War began, I was stationed at Fort Sheridan, IL (where I had been since 1949) in the 728th MPBN, A Company. It wasn't long before the whole company, myself included, was on its way to Korea.

We arrived at Kimpo Airport that October and joined the other troops in battle against the North Korean soldiers, pushing them northward towards the Manchurian border. About November, the Chinese joined the North Koreans and we began a full retreat south toward Seoul.

Along the way, we encountered a small Korean boy about 4 or 5 years old. He was crying, dirty, and lying unclothed in a ditch. We stopped, picked him up, put him in a duffle bag, placed him in the back of a 2-1/2-ton truck, and continued to Seoul.

This young lad stayed with us under the care of the 728th MP A Company in the mess hall. Years later, he retired from the U.S. Army as a LtCol. Fast forward to 2015.

While I was reading VFW Magazine one day I noticed the 728th A Company was holding a reunion in June 2015. I called the contact person for information. We talked for a while and he asked me whatever happened to that little boy who we found so many years ago. I told the gentleman that I had always wondered what had happened to him.

The gentleman asked me if I had any pictures of the boy. If I did, he said, please bring them to the gathering. That "young boy," a bit older now, would be there. What a surprise.

Here is his story.

*Richard Barham, 3177 Ohara Dr., New Port Richey, FL 34655, 727-372-9999, ARBarham1@verizon.net.*

*Note: Several of the photos were contributed by Alexander Atheras. They are used here to represent the many "Pete Smiths" rescued by U.S. service members in Korea.*

## Pete Smith – Proud producer of our John L. Hennessy Coins

**Adopted by soldiers — Now 61, Smith reunites with his '200 fathers'**

*By Larry Gierer Posted on Sat, Jun. 23, 2007*

The soldier had his daily orders. To not carry them out meant possible demotion. Or worse, being sent to bed without supper. It was 1950 when then 4-year-old Pete Smith joined the 728th Military Police Battalion.

He wasn't Pete Smith then, just a naked, nameless child found alone in a ditch near Seoul, South Korea, by U.S. soldiers. He possibly had been separated from a family among hordes of North Korean refugees headed south.

"I was picked up by military police, and became their most precious possession," Smith said.

For more than four years during the Korean War, he lived in a tent with soldiers from A Company, being kept a secret from commanding officers who might have frowned on the situation.

He would eventually be adopted by one soldier and taken to America, where he would excel in sports and his studies, join the



**Paul Smith, in company with his family, holds award**

Army and eventually retire as a lieutenant colonel. Earlier this week, members of the 728th held a reunion in Columbus. Among those gathered was Smith.

"I remember that if I was good, I was promoted; if I was bad, I was demoted," he said, sitting in a hospitality room at the Holiday Inn-Airport North. "I once reached the proud status of second lieutenant, but it was short-lived."

His main duty was to get educated. "The soldiers gave me a dictionary, one dirt black from usage. I had to learn a certain number of words every day," he said.

Later, when he came to the United States, teachers were amazed at how many English words he knew. Having been raised in an Army tent, he said, laughing, "I knew a lot of four-letter words."

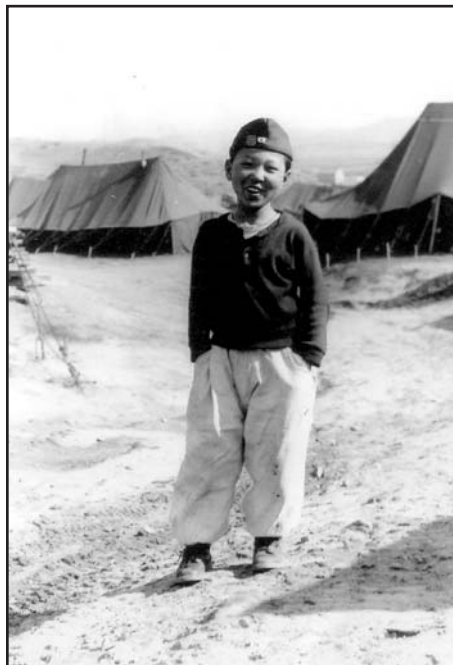
He also had to learn the nation's states, plus the names of every U.S. president. "The soldiers quizzed me. It was great home-schooling." Smith, as usual, was glad to see old friends this week. The reunions have been going on since 1994, but only recently did he get involved.

Robert Jean, 70, is a retired truck driver living in Marshfield, Mo. A battalion member, he was hosting a reunion in Springfield, Mo., when he got a telephone call from Branson, Mo. Smith was on the other end. "He asked me if he could attend the reunion. He said his name was Pete Smith. Jean asked if he was in the 728th. Smith said he wasn't, but 'I was a part of it.'" Jean called another member, Aubrey Smith, and asked if he knew a Pete Smith. He didn't, but he did know a Pete—a boy he helped care for during the war.

Aubrey Smith, 78, lives in Locust Grove, Ga. Last year he retired as a salesman for Smith & Wesson. He was a pistol judge in the 1996 U.S. Olympics in Atlanta. A Louisiana native, he lied about his age and enlisted when he was 15 in 1945. "They wouldn't have cared," he said of the government. "They needed bodies."

He has fond memories of his Korean-born friend. "I was not an MP myself," said Aubrey Smith, who rotated out of Korea in 1953. "I was a mess hall sergeant. Whomever had that role was in charge of Pete. When the soldiers first found Pete, we thought he was dead. Everyone just fell in love with him."

# : Korea to the U.S.



**Kim, Battery D398AAA's house boy**

There was an attempt to place the boy in a home. "We couldn't put him out on the street. The orphanages had more than they could handle and not nearly enough food to feed those they had," he said. "They figured he'd be better off with us. That's OK. We didn't want to get rid of him anyway."

"Even to this day I am fascinated by the affinity for children that American soldiers display in times of war," Pete Smith said. "They have a lot of compassion, especially when it comes to children. I've seen hungry

soldiers give the last piece of candy out of their pack to a child. I think the child, for a brief moment, helps him forget the war, the misery and the hardship of his environment. For a brief time, he can think of home of his own child and his family."

And in his case, an American soldier became his family. It was after Aubrey Smith left Korea that a supply sergeant, John Wesley Smith, a man who had earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart during World War II, took the lead in caring for the boy in the Yong-Dong Po area where the camp was located. He put the boy in a Korean public school. Later, he would call his wife, Thelma, and ask her if he could bring home a son. "One day, he asked me if I wanted to come home with him," Pete Smith said.

Before they left for California in August 1955, soldiers raised \$650 for his college education. This was at a time soldiers made less than \$70 a month, Jean said. The boy's first sight of America was San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. "I was in the cockpit with the pilot as we flew into Travis Air Field," Pete Smith said. He was the only child the Smiths would have. "They were the sun and the moon to me," he said. The family lived in Arroyo Grande, Calif., a small farming community.

On Dec. 15, 1961, in San Luis Obispo, Calif., he took the oath to become a U.S. citizen. "I became one with America," Smith said.

An Eagle Scout, he would become student body president, go to Chapman College to get a degree, then use an ROTC scholarship to get a master's in psychology. As a sol-

dier, he would serve three tours in Korea, once as the assistant chief of staff comptroller for the 18th Medical Command. He is proud of the economic power that his homeland has become, emerging from its war-torn scars and "dead bodies lying in the street," he said, remembering images from his childhood.

"My father said that whatever task I was undertaking, give my best and see it through to completion, and that's what I've tried to do," he said. Now living in San Antonio, he has a company that makes military and patriotic coins.

"I retired in 1992 and have had several businesses. They all failed," he said, "until this one."

Both of his parents died in the 1980s, but he still has plenty of family, many of whom he visited with here. "In a way, I've had more than 200 fathers," he said.

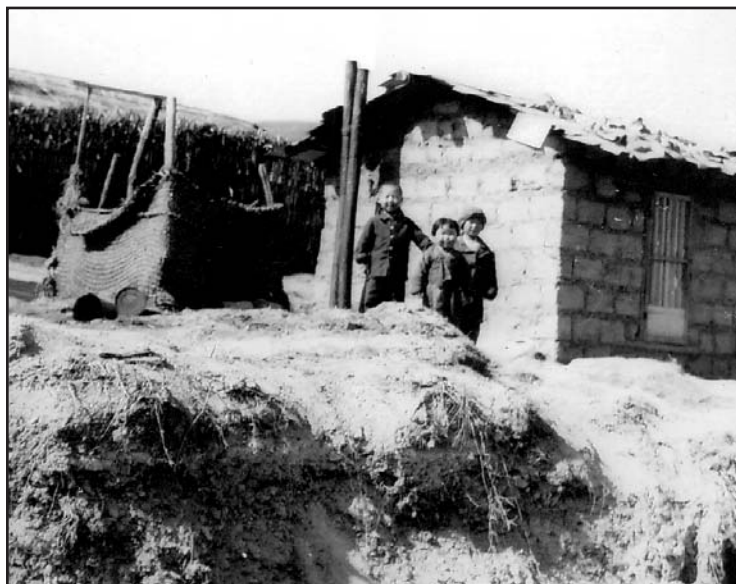
The article above appeared on the Hennessy website on March 3, 2013.

NOTE: The John L. Hennessy Award is presented by the Hennessy Travelers Association, which acts as an advisory group of travelers from industry to develop techniques, management skills, advise and mentor Armed Forces food and beverage professionals.... Through this professional partnership we enhance operations and enhance industry employment opportunities for these Armed Forces members upon their completion of military service. (See <http://www.hennessyaward.org/Pages/John%20L%20Hennessy%20Awards%20Home%20Page.htm>)

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TO BE CONTINUED...

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**Left, Two Korean children by D398AAA mess hall (note the outhouse on the left)**

**Below, Two Korean children on a ridge**





# Paying respect to Piper

**W**alter F. Piper is home! The DPAA (Department of POW/MIS Accounting) announced on June 9, 2017 that it has identified the remains of U.S. Army Pvt. Walter F. Piper. According to the DPAA's report:

Army Pvt. Walter F. Piper, 21, of Williamstown, New Jersey, [was] buried June 17 in his hometown. In February 1951, Piper was a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, supporting Republic of Korea Army attacks against units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in the village of Hoengsong, an area known as the Central Corridor in South Korea. After enduring sustained enemy attacks, the American units withdrew to Wonju, South Korea. It was during this withdrawal that Piper was reported missing, as of Feb. 13, 1951.

On Dec. 26, 1951, Piper's name appeared on a list provided by the CPVF and Korean People's Army (KPA) of allied service members who died while in their custody. Two returning American prisoners of war reported that Piper had died while a prisoner at the Suan Prisoner of War Camp Complex in North Korea. Based on this information, the Army declared him deceased as of June 18,

1951.

Twelve members of Ch. 54, Thomas W. Daley Jr., attended the funeral. Commander Andy Jackson said, "Those attending the services were quite impressed with our blue jackets. At the end of the cemetery service people came up to our members, shook their hands, and thanked us for our service." He added that about 300 people attended, and local television carried coverage of the burial.

Carol Comegno, a reporter for the Record Searchlight, based in Redding, CA, wrote an extensive article about Piper's return in which she gave a great deal of credit to Ralph Delaney for his efforts to make sure it happened. She began her article, titled "Korean War POW remains identified, coming home to South Jersey," with the story of Delaney's role in the search:

**"MONROE TWP.** — A Korean War veteran who came home has lived up to the U.S. Marine Corps motto even for a schoolmate in the Army who never came home from the same war.

For 21 years, Ralph Delaney has been Semper Fidelis — Latin for "Always Faithful" — in his quest to help identify and bring home the remains of a fellow Glassboro High School graduate and veteran who was captured by North Korea

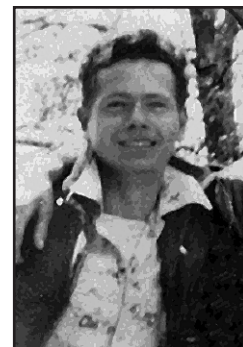
during the Korean War and died in captivity as a POW 66 years ago this month."

She explained Delaney's motive later in the article **Walter F. Piper** in his words: "I

never expected to get that phone call that he was found and identified, but I pursued this because I went to school with his younger brother Joe and had met Walter through school," said the 84-year-old Delaney, who graduated in 1951 and lives in Williamstown where the Pipers also resided.

As she revealed "Delaney's commitment began in 1996 when he visited the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., noticed there was no picture of Piper in the electronic honor roll of veterans of the war and visited Piper's elderly mother back home to get one." In fact, she concluded, if it hadn't been for Delaney's efforts Piper might not have been identified.

"Delaney asked Piper's mother Alice to give a DNA sample, but she revealed she was a stepmother, so her DNA could



The empty chair by Walter F. Piper's grave



Honor Detail transports Walter F. Piper's remains to final resting place

never be a match. His biological mother had died when he was a child and his father and two of Piper's brothers already had died. Alice Piper died in 2003.

So Delaney tracked down Piper's oldest and only living brother Charles, who had been estranged from the family for years but was living in Hurffville. Charles gladly gave a DNA sample to the defense department, the veteran said. Charles has since passed away.

"I was blown away that they actually found most of Walter's body skeleton," said Delaney, who served later than Piper during the Korean War as a platoon sergeant with the 1st battalion of the 1st Regiment, 1st Marine Division."

Fortunately everything worked out and DPAA was able to identify Piper. What was that Shakespeare said about "a band of brothers?" Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines... in the final analysis, they all work together for the benefit of one another. That is what happened in Walter Piper's case—and another Korean War veteran came home.

*Read the entire article online at <https://www.redding.com/story/news/local/2017/06/02/korean-war-pow-remains-identified-coming-home-south-jersey/360646001/>*

# The Poet's Corner

## Independence Day

**The flags are flying everywhere, downtown there's a parade  
And everywhere you look you see our colors on display  
Old veterans marching down the street are met with loud applause  
Those men who many years before, sent to defend our cause**

**When twilight fills the evening sky we'll walk down to the park  
That's where the celebration starts as soon as it gets dark  
The fireworks sparkle brightly, and the children dance with glee  
There's pride in this great nation shown on every face you see.**

**The band will play and folks will sing our anthem reverently  
Those veterans, at attention stand, as proud as proud can be  
And on this grand occasion every heart will beat with pride  
Knowing that our land is just and God is on our side.**

*Dillon W. Staas, Jr., Company Clerk, 8055 M\*A\*S\*H\*,  
Korea, 8/50-8/51, 2636 Debbie Dr., Lima, OH 45807*

## Korean War MIAs Recently Identified

**Pfc. Albert E. Atkins**, Co. E, 2nd Bn., 187th Airborne Inf. Regt., 187th Airborne RCT, 5/23/1951, SK

**Cpl. Edward L. Borders**, Dog Bty., 82nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Bn. (Automatic Weapons), 2nd Inf. Div., 2/13/1951, NK

**Sgt. 1st Class Max E. Harris**, Co. L, 3rd Bn., 31st Inf. Regt., 7th Inf. Div. 12/12/1950, NK

**Pfc. Charlie H. Hill**, Bty. D, 15th Anti-aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Self-propelled Bn., 7th Inf. Div., 12/2/1950, NK

**M/Sgt. George R. Housekeeper**, Co. L, 3rd Bn., 31st Inf. Regt., 7th Inf. Div., 12/12/1950, NK

**Cpl. Glen E. Kritzwiser**, Bty. C, 15th Field Artillery Bn., 2nd Inf. Div., 2/13/1951, NK

**Cpl. John Lane**, Headquarters Co., 2nd Bn., 19th Inf. Regt., 24th Inf. Div., 7/31/1950, SK

**Cpl. Thomas H. Mullins**, Co. L, 3rd Bn., 8th Cavalry Regt., 1st Cavalry Div., 11/2/1950, NK

**Cpl. Frank L. Sandoval**, Bty. A, 15th Field Artillery Bn., 2nd Inf. Div., 2/13/1951, NK



**Cpl. Richard J. Seadore**, Co. D, 1st Bn., 5th Cavalry Regt., 1st Cavalry Div., 12/14/1950, SK

**Cpl. Clarence R. Skates**, Headquarters Co. 1st Bn., 9th Inf. Regt., 2nd Inf. Div., 11/30/1950, NK

**Cpl. Leslie R. Sutton**, Battery C, 99th FA Bn., 8th Cav. Regt., 1st Cav. Div., 11/2/1950 NK



[ **Note:** Photo of Leslie R. Sutton updates his entry in the May/June 2017 issue, p. 24.]



\$\$\$\$

# 2017 FUNDRAISER

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## LAST CHANCE - LAST CHANCE

FIVE PRIZES WIN \$1,500 OR \$1,000

ACT NOW—— LAST CHANCE SEPTEMBER 15TH

**WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT - IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ANY USE FOR A GREAT ALL CASH PRIZE, THEN DISREGARD THIS MESSAGE.**

As we reach the end of the entry period, we still need your support for the 2017 Fundraiser. The odds of winning are much higher than winning any state lottery and every dollar helps the KWVA. The money goes to support our great Graybeards Magazine, our badly needed recruiting effort, and the continuous operating costs.

In addition, a committee is continuing its efforts to have a monument erected in the Arlington National Cemetery (Ref: H.Con.R 52). It will honor all defense veterans who have been killed in Korea since the cease fire took effect on July 27, 1953.

The cost has already been authorized and budgeted.

Now we need the approval from the Arlington Cemetery Administrators. Please help by asking your Congressional Representative to co-sign the resolution ASAP.

Please consider purchasing another ticket to help us reach the goal of \$70,000. It cannot happen without membership support. I want to again THANK all the members who have helped. It is greatly appreciated.

Always Remember: "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE"

Thomas McHugh, Director, Chairman,  
Fund Raiser Committee

George Bruzgis, Director,  
Fund Raiser Committee Member



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*Photo from Drone*

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- 2 – 13 Dec Vietnam Holiday Tour Post: 13 – 18 Dec Laos & Cambodia
- Highlite Tour: 27 Jan – 8 Feb '18 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tet Offensive & Hue City—1968 Host: Col "Chuck" Meadows USMC(Ret) G/2/5—Hue
- 19 – 26 Mar '18 Iwo Jima-Guam 73rd Anniversary Reunion of Honor
- 1 – 13 Apr '18 50th Anniversary of the Siege of Khe Sanh Combat Base Operations Pegasus & Scotland I-Corps – 1968
- 28 Apr – 11 May '18 50th Anniversary 1968 "Saigon to the DMZ"
- 19 – 28 May '18 100th Anniversary of WW I Battlefields – 1918 "Yanks in the Fray!"
- 27 May – 9 Jun '18 74th Anniversary of D-Day, WWI, Battle of the Bulge & Paris
- 2 – 9 Jun '18 74th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris
- Jul '18 Russia 75th Anniversary of Battle of Kursk, Moscow & Stalingrad
- Jul '18 Imperial China Beijing, Xian (Terra Cotta Soldiers) & Shanghai

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# 2017 FUNDRAISER



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KWVA Coins - \$20  
Bulk Sales 25/50 Available

Winners to be drawn at October banquet 2017.  
Donation \$20 for each ticket. To enter this fundraiser,  
complete the attached form. Winners will be  
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Deadline for ticket donations is Sept 15, 2017

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You need not tear the page out of the Graybeards magazine. You may copy the page and send tickets  
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# The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

# Tell America

## 55 – NASSAU COUNTY #1 [NY]

Buddy Epstein spent a day at the Weber Middle School in Port Washington, NY. He gave a history lesson and his personal story of his time in Korea during the war.

Robert O'Brien, 408 5th Ave., Cedarhurst, NY 11516



Buddy Epstein of Ch. 55 with Weber Middle School students

## 60 – ADIRONDACK [NY]

The Tell America program continues to be a significant activity for us. This school year we had the honor and privilege to present our program at four high schools in our area of upstate New York. Students at the schools in Galway, Ballston Spa, Fort Edward, and Saratoga Springs were courteous, attentive, and appreciative audiences

We followed a consistent format in

our presentations. Chairman Bruce Blackie welcomed the students, introduced the chapter members, and briefly described the national mood and environment that contributed to the description of the Korean War as the "Forgotten War." Commander Roger Calkins followed with a brief account of the war, using projected materials to discuss its various phases, from the Pusan Perimeter



The TA team of Ch. 60: Roger Calkins, Paul O'Keefe, Gene Slavin, Ed Bushey, Bill Reid, Bob Garland, and Bruce Blackie (L-R) Photo by Mark Bolles



At Ch. 60 presentation: Will Navin, student, Marion Crandall, Bruce Blackie, Roger Calkins, Gene Slavin, Bill Reid and Hunter Choy (Front row, L-R); Louise Finan, Lois Miner, Mary Kuelzow, Bob Garland, Paul O'Keefe, and Ed Bushey (Seated, L-R) The two students will be attending West Point.

to the final cease fire MLR.

The purpose of this introduction was to provide the background and environment for the main body and the purpose of our program. Our team related their personal experiences during the Korean War. Army combat veteran and chapter chaplain Paul O'Keefe described the grim realities and discomforts endured by himself and his fellow soldiers in battle. Paul had never fired even a BB gun before his induction into the Army.

Ed Bushey recounted his 1st Cavalry Division combat experiences from the Pusan Perimeter to the Yalu River. Ed was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device in September, 1950, for his heroic action near Taegu. Paratrooper Bob Garland told of his jump experiences with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team and also the put-down of the POW camp revolt on Koje-do Island.

Treasurer Gene Slavin, a Navy veteran who served aboard the destroyer John R Pierce (DD753), told of destroying trains along the east coast of North Korea and of

taking fire from North Korean shore batteries that wounded thirteen crew members and severely damaged the ship.

Air Force grounds crewman Bill Reid told of the challenges involved with the maintenance, repair, and patching of B-26 Marauder light bombers to keep them in action over the Korean Peninsula.

Another key component of our programs is the ample time allocated to a question and answer session with the students. We are continuously impressed by the thoughtfulness and insight they express. This year the students were very much aware of the current tensions on the Korean peninsula and the provocative actions of North Korea. We were often asked about our thoughts on this issue.

After the formal session, we had the opportunity to mix informally with individual and small student groups to discuss a wide variety of their personal questions and concerns. We have a small display of memorabilia and artifacts that

always draws their interest. The courtesy and respect they express is deeply appreciated by all.

Time is taking its toll on our pool of presenters, but we are still making

plans and looking forward to a Tell America program for the 2017-2018 school year.

Carol Waldron, CWald36709@aol.com

## 267 - GENERAL VAN FLEET [FL]

Members made two visits in May. The first was on May 13th to the Bucholz High School Junior Air force ROTC Cadets commanded by Colonel Jim Roberts and Chief Master Sergeant Rick Price. We spoke to 5 classes, around 100 students, and were very well received.

We showed a new video provided by Colonel Roberts called "Why did America Fight the Korean War?" This is a much more modern version than "Freedom is not Free," but we show this also when time permits. The students asked many questions during the end session and we gave them several handouts.

Five members went out on this visit: Colonel Jake Feaster, who showed slides of his time in Korea with the 92nd US Armored Artillery Battalion [SP], Lieutenant Norm Tankersley, Sergeant First Class Terry Fitzpatrick, Private Ron Carbaugh, and Staff Sergeant Don Sherry. Lieutenant Tankersley was the event coordinator.

The second visit was on May 20th to the Gainesville High School Junior Naval ROTC Cadets, commanded by Major Dennis Wait, USMC. We went

early and participated in both Reveille and in Retreat Ceremonies with the cadets. We spoke to five consecutive classes. The final class hosted two other classes invited by Major Wait.

We estimated that we spoke to around 140 students that day. Again, we were well received with "Why did America Fight the Korean War?" The students asked many questions during the end session and we gave them lots of handouts.

Five members also went out to this event: Lieutenant Norm Tankersley, Sergeant First Class Terry Fitzpatrick, Staff Sergeant Carl Covey, Private Ron Carbaugh, and Staff Sergeant Don Sherry. Lieutenant Tankersley was the event coordinator.

There was a great deal of interest at both visits, with the present state of unrest between the United States, our friends, the Republic of South Korea, and the unstable communist regime of North Korea.

Don Sherry, 9511 SW 56th Pl., Gainesville, FL 32608, dpskwa@yahoo.com



Jake Feaster of Ch. 267 addresses Air Force ROTC cadets



Don Sherry, Terry Fitzpatrick, Col. Jim Roberts, Jake Feaster, Norm Tankersley, and Ron Carbaugh (L-R) at Ch. 267 presentation



Presenters from Ch. 267, Ron Carbaugh, Terry Fitzpatrick, Norm Tankersley, Jake Feaster, and Don Sherry (L-R) at Bucholz High School

## 311 - H. EDWARD REEVES [AZ]

We presented a program to six history classes at the Chino Valley High School in Chino Valley, AZ. Chuck Stohr, P.O. Box 12492, Prescott, AZ 86304



Presenters from Ch. 311: Moderator Chuck Stohr, Bob Reynolds, Gerald Ginnelly, Commander John McKinney, and George Thyden (L-R)



# Announcing the 2017 recipients of the AVKF scholarships

This is the fourth year that, through the generous support of the American Veterans of Korea Foundation (AVKF), chaired by its founder, the Honorable Kim Jung Hoon, ten of our most deserving young students were selected to receive a \$2,000 scholarship each to advance their education at the school of their choice for the 2017-18 academic school year.

To quote Rep. Kim, “the AVKF Scholarship program was established in order to commemorate the noble sacrifice and honor of the American veterans of the Korean War.” We thank Rep. Kim who, in addition to serving as Chairman of the AVKF, is also a very prominent member of the Republic of Korea National Assembly.

With only a short window of time to work with this year, the number of applicants was down from the past two years. However, the Selection Committee, comprising Lew Ewing, Chairman Narce Caliva, and Jim Markley, received applications from outstanding students located throughout the United States.

The recipients were recognized on July 27, 2017 at the Annual Korean War Armistice Ceremony commemorating the 64th signing of the Korean War Armistice at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D. C.

The recipients are:

## Haley Rene Blanchard

Haley will be entering her sophomore year at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations. Upon graduating in 2020 she would like to join a non-profit organization such as Children's Health Care or the A21 Campaign to promote, build, maintain and manage their reputation to the public. Primarily, she seeks to use her degree to help others and bring glory to God.

She is a member of Alpha Omicron Pi and a leader with Freshly Ministries on her college campus. Throughout her academic studies, she has maintained a 4.0

grade point average. In her free time, she enjoys playing the guitar, spending time with family, painting, and journaling. Haley is the granddaughter of Korean War veteran Robert Charles Barfield.

## Benjamin Harold Blanks

Ben is a first year student at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC, where he will be seeking a degree in Sociology/Criminology with a minor in Neuroscience. His ultimate goal is to attend law school and eventually work for the Behavioral Analysis Unit, or for the Crimes Against Children Unit at the FBI.

He is a 2017 highest honors graduate of Southside Christian School in Greenville, SC, where he was a member of the National Honor Society and the Beta Club with a grade point average of 4.28. Ben received numerous awards and recognitions for his achievements in high school, including the Daughters of the American Revolution Citizenship award and the South Carolina Distinguished High School Student award. He also was recognized with the prestigious Excellence in English Language Arts Award.

Athletically, Ben was a five-year letterman in cross-country, with four years as team captain, and a three-year letterman in track. He received the Scholar Athlete award and was a member of the Academic Athletic Team of the Year. Ben is very proud to be the grandson of Korean War veteran M. Harold Lipscomb.

## Samuel Ryan Bonorden

Samuel is a rising sophomore at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX, where he is seeking a degree in Mechanical Engineering. As a member of the Honors College, he has achieved a 3.9 overall GPA and has been named to the President's List and Dean's List.

Samuel is an Eagle Scout with bronze and gold palms, a member of the Order of the Arrow, and is currently an adult member of the Boy Scouts of America as an Assistant Scoutmaster. He is also a lifetime member of the National Eagle Scout

Association. Samuel has participated in numerous service and community projects at Florida Sea Base and Philmont Scout Camp.

This summer, he is returning to Philmont for a two-week, 89-mile trek through the mountains of New Mexico. During the summers, he is self-employed in lawn service. Samuel is the oldest of five boys and works hard to set a good example for his younger brothers. He is a serious student and hopes to pursue a career in the automotive industry. Samuel is the grandson of William J. Joslyn, a Korean War veteran.

## Natalie Claire Bourgoin

Natalie is a 2017 graduate of Orangewood Christian School, Maitland, FL, where she obtained a GPA of 4.0. This fall she will enroll at Palm Beach Atlantic University, West Palm Beach, FL, where she will seek a degree in Biology with a minor in Art. One of her favorite hobbies is painting.

Natalie also chose a minor in art because “painting makes me feel alive.” She tends to pour her emotions into her pieces. She hopes that she can use them to make a difference in her community.

She also enjoys traveling, playing soccer, playing lacrosse, writing poems and learning science. She chose biology for a major because she takes interest in studying how living things operate, and she believes there are millions of things waiting to be discovered. Natalie is the granddaughter of Korean War veteran Robert L. Wichterman.

## Troy Cronin Clark

Troy is a 21-year-old rising senior at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, with a 3.95 GPA while working to earn his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Accounting, along with a CPA certification. He expects to graduate in the fall of 2018.

Troy recently attended a conference for Cherry Bekaert, LLP in Miami, which was one of the most exciting experiences of his life. The firm has offered him an



**Haley  
Blanchard**



**Benjamin  
Blanks**



**Samuel  
Bonorden**



**Natalie  
Bourgoin**



**Troy  
Clark**



**Julia  
Lanctot**



**Katharine  
Lawrence**



**Andrea  
Rohrbacher**



**Megan  
Tucker**



**Alexander  
Weishan**

internship for the summer of 2018 and Troy cannot express how great he feels about his future. He is ambitious and optimistic. He wants to start his career in public accounting and create opportunities for himself from there.

Growing up in a military family and living in different places across the world taught him valuable lessons and skills that he employs every day. He is one of five children, including his twin brother, which has instilled both competition and camaraderie. He has many hobbies, including playing sports, learning music, and reading. No matter what he is doing, his one goal is to continue to grow and learn. Troy is the grandson of John F. Dorgan, a Korean War veteran.

### **Julia Dorothy Lanctot**

Julia is a recent graduate of Timberlane Regional High School in Plaistow, NH, with a 3.8 GPA. She is a New Hampshire Scholar as well as a member of the National Honor Society. She also has been inducted into English, Science, Rho Kappa (Historical), French and Drama Honor Societies.

During her four years in high school she was active in Student Council as well as Project Hope and was very active in the Timberlane Players, their theater group. Julia was an avid field hockey player for four years in high school and served as captain of the team during her senior year. She was named as a Division 1 all-state player as well as a member of the all-academic team. Her high school team was the state of New Hampshire Division 1 State Champions in her senior year.

Julia's future goals include going to Colby-Sawyer College in New London, NH to major in Environmental Studies. She also is looking forward to playing on the Colby-Sawyer field hockey team. Julia's grandfather, Clifford G. Olson, Jr., a Korean War veteran, was thrilled to learn that the AVKF makes this scholarship program available to descendants of Korean War veterans.

### **Katharine Della Lawrence**

Katharine is an incoming freshman at Indiana University at Bloomington, IN, where she is seeking a degree in East

Asian Languages and Cultures with a concentration in both Japanese and Korean, then seeking a career as a translator and interpreter. She is proud to see her Korean War veteran grandfather, Fred Boehle, a member of the 11th Engineer Battalion, march in the Veterans Day parade year after year.

Katharine graduated from Notre Dame Preparatory School this year with a GPA of 4.3. She received highest academic honors all four years of high school and was a member of the National Honor Society. She received the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen award and was named a Varsity Scholar Athlete.

### **Andrea Rohrbacher**

Andrea grew up in Palatine, IL, and graduated high school in 2005. She spent the following year serving the Homes of Hope ministry in Mexico, which builds homes for impoverished families. Andrea returned to the Chicago area and graduated from Dominican University in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in

Please turn to **SCHOLARSHIPS** on page 47



## CID 84 Dissolves

It is with some sadness that I have to report the official dissolution of the Iron Triangle Chapter 84 of the KWVA in Salem, Oregon. We were down to ten or fewer members attending our meetings due to, for the most part, health related issues. The membership thought it best to dissolve as they could not produce any nominees for officers other than our stalwart Secretary/Treasurer.

The members were encouraged to join the Oregon Trail chapter, which meets in Portland. The small treasury was distributed according to our by-laws and Oregon law: donations were made to three homes for veterans in Oregon.

This chapter had a good run of 23 years and was instrumental in getting significant recognition for Korean War veterans in Oregon, including a beautiful Korean War memorial on the grounds of the State of Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs. (A photo of that memorial was on the back cover of the 2017 January/February issue of *The Graybeards*.)

The members of Chapter 84 regularly attended both Korean War commemorations as well as veterans' commemorations generally. Our members were honored just this past weekend by the Korean Church of Salem, which has hosted a very touching (and delicious) annual event for Korean War veterans.

The Korean people in the U.S. have made up for the lack of respect shown our veterans upon their return from the war, similar to what happened to those serving in foreign wars up until the First Gulf War. Our chapter members have been honored also by Oregon school districts, including a very important annual Veterans Day program by McNary High School students and I do mean "by the students" in Salem.

I am sorry to have turned the light out on my watch, but this is the unfortunate trend for war veterans groups. The Grand Army of the Republic (Union side, Civil War) also had to eventually close down.

*Paul Sundermier, Immediate Past-President*

## 13 BILL CARR #1 [DE]

Recently we donated \$1,000 and helped open the new Veterans Resource Center (VSR) at Delaware Technical Community College (DEL TECH) in Georgetown, DE. "Del Tech" offers a variety of veteran friendly services and assists students to achieve their educational goals.

The VSR will host guest speakers and student veteran programs, such as financial education, tutoring, career workshops and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) seminars. It also will provide a meeting space for veterans to study, relax, and engage with fellow veterans, as well as a place which will offer support and networking for the entire campus veteran community.

"Del Tech" is in the top 15% of all colleges, universities, and

trade schools that embrace military students and dedicates resources to ensure their success in the classroom and after graduation.

Jack McGinley, [jomcginl@aol.com](mailto:jomcginl@aol.com)



John J. "Jack" McGinley, Ch. 13 president, Norma and Captain Tom Terrell (ret.) at the VSR opening ceremony



Jack McGinley and Sgt. Maj. Walt Koopman, (ret) of Ch. 13 performing the "Empty Table & Chair" ceremony at the Del Tech ceremony

## 19 GEN. RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

In the past month we have had three significant events occur. On 27 May the family of our deceased past President, Robert (Bob) McCubbins, held a memorial lunch for the chapter in recognition of their father's devotion to our success.

The following Saturday, 3 June, members attended a funeral service for our deceased past Secretary/Treasurer James (Jim) Conway. Bob and Jim were dedicated longtime members. Jim was the correspondent from our chapter to *The Graybeards* for many years. His funeral was conducted by our Chaplain William Stubba. Jim was afforded full military honors.

Several Korean professionals offer their services to our members and, in some cases, their families. One of these firms, LG Hausys America, extended an offer to three of our members to

remodel their kitchens as thanks for our services during the war.

One of our members, Henry Taylor and his wife Ann had new countertops installed in their kitchen. They were very impressed with the quality of the work.



JR AF ROTC cadets from Sequoyah High School of Woodstock, GA at Ch. 19 meeting



Mr. Tae Kung An, Henry Taylor of Ch. 19, Ann Taylor and Mr. JooWeon Kim (L-R) in the Taylor's kitchen, Mr. An and Mr. Kim are officers of LG Hausys of America.



Ch. 19 member Henry Taylor's new kitchen

On a much lighter note, at our June 6th meeting the JR AF ROTC cadets from Sequoyah High School of Woodstock, GA posted and retired the colors. They are under the direction of LtCol (ret.) Ronald Whittle, an Air Force veteran of 27 years and a pilot during the Afghanistan War, in which he had over 400 hours of combat flying.

Urban Rump, 234 Orchards Cir., Woodstock, GA 30188, 678-402-1251, [ugrcr@comcast.net](mailto:ugrcr@comcast.net)

## 56 SANTA PAULA [CA]

Members attended a luncheon at the Korean Consul General's home in Los Angeles for veterans who served in Korea. Consul General Key Cheol Lee presented Ambassador for Peace Medals to many of our members.

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



Master of Ceremonies Steve Cho (C) speaks as Korean Consul General Key Cheol Lee (L) looks on



Some of the veterans at Los Angeles luncheon attended by Ch. 56 veterans

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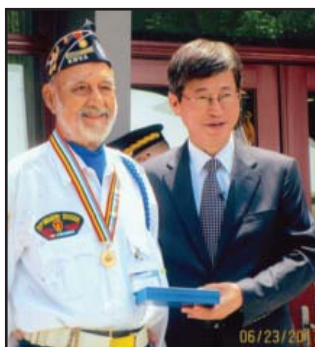




Manuel Adame and Benjamin Espinoza (Rear, L-R) and David Lopez (Front-L) of Ch. 56 meet with Col. Seo of the Korean Veterans of Los Angeles



Bob Castillo & friend and Alice & Jesus Rodriguez (R-L) at Los Angeles event attended by Ch. 56 members



Above left, Key Cheol Lee presents Ambassador for Peace Medal to Ch. 56 Commander David Lopez (L). Above right, Benjamin Espinoza (L) of Ch. 56 receives Ambassador for Peace Medal from Key Cheol Lee



Guests and dignitaries at Los Angeles gathering

## 138 AKRON REGIONAL [OH]

We installed new officers: Christine Bean, Secretary; Bob Britt, trustee; Al Leyerle, trustee; John Messi, trustee; Wayne Vetter, treasurer; Harvey Thorla, President; Joe Eafrazi, 1st Vice President; Max Bowers; 2nd Vice President.

Carl Thornton, [carlthornton972@gmail.com](mailto:carlthornton972@gmail.com)



New officers of Ch. 138: Christine Bean, Bob Britt, Al Leyerle, Wayne Vetter, Harvey Thorla, Max Bowers, and John Messi (L-R)



Three members of Ch. 138 at swearing in ceremony

## 170 TAEJON [NJ]

On a beautiful April 28th morning we honored our deceased commanders. Members and wives gathered at the George Washington Cemetery, Paramus, NJ grave of our founder, Walter Bray, a three-time Purple Heart recipient and former POW. The ceremony included the Pledge of Allegiance, the placement of flowers on graves, Taps, and a short oration by Commander Kenneth Green, titled "Who was Walter Bray?"



Walter was born in 1930. He grew up during the “Great Depression” and joined the Army at age 17. He served in Japan and South Korea, to which he returned when the war broke out on June 25, 1950. He was engaged with the 24th Division in the fighting in the Taejon area, where the overwhelming North Korean forces captured him.



Commander Kenneth Green of Ch. 170 (C) reads a short history of Walter Bray's heroism



Taejon chapter members honor Walter Bray



A plaque denotes the gravesite of Ch. 170 founder Walter Bray



Walter Amos, Robert Domanski, Thomas Boyle, Fosco Oliveti, and Kenneth Green (L-R) at Walter Bray commemoration



Sr. Vice Commander Robert O'Toole of Ch. 170 and his wife Young-Ok honor Walter Bray

He endured a brutal forced march to Prison Camp 5, near the Yalu River. Walter survived 33 months of the worst treatment imaginable. He was released after the armistice was implemented, returned home, married, raised a family—and founded our chapter in the early 1990s.

Walter encouraged attendance at our meetings and urged members to march in parades to foster the idea that the Korean War would not be the “Forgotten War.” Walter Bray, a true hero of the Korean War, passed away on April 29, 1998. Commander Green noted in his remarks, “I’m proud to report that our members continue to follow the wishes of our heroic former commander Walter Bray.”

Commander Green thanked everyone for attending, then led the audience in a heartfelt rendition of “God Bless America.”

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

## 172 HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

The months of May and June are always busy months for us. Our Rose of Sharon Scholarship Fund Drives were held on May 13th and 20th and brought in a new record donation total of \$4,599.25. Twenty-three members volunteered for this project, which helped fund ten scholarship awards.

At our annual spring banquet we celebrated our 18th birthday



anniversary with 105 members and guests in attendance. We were happy to have Howard Camp, Secretary/Treasurer of the State of Ohio KWVA Association, as our speaker. We concluded the program with a commemoration service for our 43 departed members.

Larry Monday, 18861 SR 568, Findlay, OH 45840,  
419-387-7532 or 419-306-4954, [Monday19@aol.com](mailto:Monday19@aol.com)



President Ron Dutton of Ch. 172 presides over spring banquet



Howard Camp speaks at Ch. 172 banquet



Proud grandfathers and mother of Ch. 172 Rose of Sharon scholarship awardees Bob Perkins and Gene Margraf (Front, L-R); Al Linhart, Don VanRenterghem, Jim Munger, Jim Roberts, and Kim Turley (Back, L-R)



Bob Perkins, Phil Bresler, Charles Giles, and Jack Veit of Ch. 172 (L-R)

Ken Wynkoop, Bob Morrison, Sam Ellis, and Jim Iler of Ch. 172 (L-R)



Don VanRenterghem, Ray Jameson, and Ron Dutton of Ch. 172 (L-R)

Don VanRenterghem, Paul McDaniel, Jim Salisbury, and Cliff Biddinger of Ch. 172 (L-R)



## 175 LT BALDOMERO LOPEZ (MOH) [FL]

### Speaker Bob Silmser

On May 6, 2017, at the regularly scheduled meeting, Bob Silmser spoke on behalf of the Hillsborough County Veterans Memorial Park about his avocation of restoring paintings of Medal of Honor winners and upgrading their frames and supporting documentation. These restored paintings will hang in the new resource center under construction at the park.



**LEFT:** President Edward Epps of Ch. 175 welcomes guests to June 24th program.

**BELOW:** Salute to the Fallen rifle salute and Taps at Ch. 175's June 24th event



He presented an updated selection and stated that he needed funds to finish the entire lot. A resolution was voted on to give Mr. Silmsen a donation from the chapter.



Bob Silmsen displays MOH photos

MOH recipient James H. Howard photo shown by Bob Silmsen at Ch. 175 meeting



### Marty Sullivan receives high school diploma after 64 years

On May 19, 2017, member Marty Sullivan received his high school diploma, 64 years late, from Newsome High School, Lithia, Florida. When he was 17, Marty quit high school at the end of his sophomore year. In 1953, when his class graduated, he was serving as a fire control technician aboard the USS Strong off Japan and Korea.

Chapter members, members of the Hillsborough County Veterans Council, and friends of all ages applauded Marty's graduation. It is estimated that a crowd of 1,000+ stood and cheered as Marty received his diploma.

There appeared in the May 19, 2017 edition of the Tampa Bay Times a detailed article about Marty. The article, written by Anastasia Dawson, Marty Sullivan of Ch. 175 displays diploma titled "A Grad's Salute," which explains why he waited 64 years. Unfortunately, we cannot reprint it here due to copyright laws.



A well-earned cake in honor of Ch. 175 member Marty Sullivan

### Remembering the Forgotten War

On June 24, 2017, Korean veterans, guests, and friends gathered at Hillsborough Veterans Memorial Park in Tampa to "Remember the Forgotten War." The program was jointly sponsored by the Hillsborough County Veterans Council, Hillsborough Veterans Memorial Park Committee, us, and the Korean Association of West Florida.

The honor guard was furnished by American Legion Post 5, Tampa. Members welcomed guests and participated in the program. Guest speakers were Col Chan Gun Lee, ROK Army senior representative to Central Command, MacDill AFB, and Mr. Don Yo Shin, past president, Korean Association of West Florida.

The program ended with a rifle salute and taps, honoring the fallen, provided by the Marine Corps League, Riverview, FL.

Edward M. Epps, 107 Morrow Cir.  
Brandon, FL 33510

## 202 ORANGE COUNTY [NY]

We commemorated the 67th anniversary of the onset of the Korean War and the 64th anniversary the July 27, 2017 armistice. The event was held on June 25, 2017 in Middletown, NY. It was emceed by Jim Scali. President John Stellingwerf offered welcoming remarks.

The program featured an introduction of special guests by Dr. Hubert Lee. They included Judge Frank LaBuda; Senator John Banacic; Hon. KwonYoung Hae, former Defense Secretary of ROK; Assemblyman Karl Brabenec; Mayor Joe DeStaphano; General Consul Kim Kihwan, from the Korean Embassy; and County Executive Steve Neuhaus.

The ceremony included dinner and entertainment. As Hubert Lee notes to all veterans, "Nam Chun Cho," i.e., God Bless You. (See his tribute to veterans below.)

Hubert Lee, drhl@frontier.com, 718-721-1244 (Home),  
646-621-0605 (cell)

### DEAR OUR HEROES!

In the calm morning, on June 25th, 1950, the specter of communism and a murderous invasion from the North Korea haunted the morning



calm country.

For the great cause of freedom, peace, you shed blood, sweat and tears that soaked the rivers of Nakdong & Imgin, and that spread on the streets after streets, hills after hills, mountains over mountains.

The torch of freedom you highly lifted on the soil of Korean Peninsula found the right cause for

A flower of democracy and today's economic prosperity to be fully blossoming, turning

The forgotten war into the victorious and honorable one.

Your heroic sacrifice for freedom & security made South Korea rise like a phoenix from

The ashes of the bloody battlefield.

Dear our beloved veterans!

Thanks to your noble sacrifice, the forgotten war transformed the deserted South Korea into a sparkling

City on the sunny hill on earth.

We Koreans are honored to spread the grace the Lord gave us around the world, and determined

To carry high the torch of freedom you ignited 67 years ago.

Your salvation, love, and compassion for Korean people, home and abroad, will forever be in our deep

heart.

Let God bless veterans, alive and in Heaven! God bless Korea and America!

Oh, precious freedom and democracy FOREVER & FOREVER.

## 222 DON C. FAITH (MOH) [TX]

We held a fundraiser at the Fort Hood Main PX (Post Exchange) on May 13th.

Homer M. Garza, 500 Saunooke St., Harker Heights, TX 76548, 254-554-4026, 254-220-7892, [GHomerM@gmail.com](mailto:GHomerM@gmail.com)



George Belk, Roy Lytle, Raymond Soto, Donald Stephens, and Homer Garza (L-R) participate in Ch. 222 event at Fort Hood PX



James R. Rominger of Ch. 222 raises funds

Fermin R. Cantu (L) and Rush Leonard of Ch. 222 at fundraiser



## 251 SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

We conducted a Rose of Sharon Drive at Pat's Food Store, Freeland, MI.

As we do every year we presented scholarships to members' grandchildren who attend Michigan colleges. We wish them all



Richard Carpenter and Jack Leaman of Ch. 251 accept donations during Rose of Sharon Drive

success in their advanced studies. This year we awarded six \$700 scholarships.

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



Michelle Herring, Richard Hunter, David Lazarz, and Ch. 251 Commander Richard Haney (L-R) at scholarship ceremony



Frederick Bauer, Fred Bauer, and Richard Haney (L-R) at Ch. 251 presentation

Michael Murphy, displaying scholarship check presented by Ch. 251, Richard Ruyts, and Richard Haney



A smiling Jeanine Brownlie, Jim Brownlie, and Richard Haney at Ch. 251 event



## 267 GENERAL VAN FLEET [FL]

We held our annual fundraiser on Armed Forces Day, May 20, 2017 at seven local Publix Markets in the Gainesville area and one in Newberry, SC. Seven teams solicited funds again this year with the Rose of Sharon flowers. Volunteers included Ron Carbaugh, Mike McCadden, Ruth Link, Hank "Sarge" McQuinn, Don Sherry, Terry Fitzpatrick, Charles Woodward, Eddie Thomas, Norm Tankersley, Ken Sassaman, Gary Giles, Jack Harris, Emory Gouge, Betty Means, and James DeGregory. We took in \$4,285.60.

Ron Carbaugh again was the event coordinator. He visited all the Publix stores and got the managers' permission for our teams to solicit in front of their stores. He also passed out supplies for each team: a map of Korea, signs for their tables, donation jars, military giveaways, such as pens and pencils, bumper stickers, etc., and, finally, the Rose of Sharon flowers we order from Maryland Chapter 33.

We donate most of this money every year to:

- American Legion Post 16, which is our home
- The local Veterans Regional Medical Center serving North Florida and South Georgia
- The Fisher House at the VA Hospital
- Phone cards for service members and for patients at local Veterans Hospital
- Bridge Scholarships for GI Bill Veterans at Santa Fe College



Matthew Wright, Earnest Jones, and Richard Haney (L-R) at Ch. 251 gathering

Ken Heck, Megan Schofield, Ch. 251 scholarship recipient, and Richard Haney (L-R)





(Dick Davis)

- American Legion's Girls and Boys State programs
- American Legion Auxiliary Buckets of supplies for the homeless veterans
- Legion Rider's "Wreaths Across America" program
- Vets Space for homeless veterans
- Maintain Korean War Memorial on Archer Road in Gainesville
- Supplies for Honor and Color Guards, Rifle Squad, Bugle for veterans' funerals.
- K-9 Service Dogs Memorial Fund in Gainesville, FL
- Purple Heart Society Local Chapter
- Gold Star Mothers North Central Florida Chapter
- Donations to needy veterans with our members, then other area veterans



Don Sherry (L) and Charles Woodward of Ch. 267 raise funds



"Sarge" McQuinn of Ch. 267 covers Rose of Sharon outpost

We offer special thanks to Publix Markets for their support over the years.

Don Sherry, 9511 SW 56th Pl., Gainesville, FL 32608,  
[dpskvva@yahoo.com](mailto:dpskvva@yahoo.com)

## 297 PLATEAU [TN]

### Korean vets announce scholarship winners

The winners of the 2017 Korean War Veterans Association

Scholarships were announced at graduation recently. Winners were Courtney Turner, Stone Memorial High School, who plans on attending the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, studying veterinary medicine; Das'n Fant, Cumberland County High School, who plans to attend Maryville College to study biology and exercise science; and Anthony Alegria, Stone Mountain High School. He will attend Trevecca Nazarene University, studying religion and the bible. Each student was awarded \$1,000!

We held fundraisers in Fairfield Glade, TN at a pancake breakfast celebrating Memorial Day and at a Food City Grocery Store.



Gene Stone of Ch. 297 raises funds at pancake breakfast



Cameron Sexton speaks at Ch. 297 meeting as Pete Staab, Gene Stone, and Bob Gruber look on



Bill Ward administers oath of office to Senior Vice Cmdr. Dick Malsack and Cmdr. Gene Stone

In other news Tennessee State Representative Cameron Sexton spoke to us about state matters at a recent meeting, Cumberland County Veterans Service Officer Bill Ward administered the oath of office to Senior Vice Cmdr. Dick Malsack and Cmdr. Gene Stone, and we welcomed a new member, Jack Fogel, with an Ambassador for Peace Medal.

Dick Malsack, PIO, 931-707-7292, kaslam2001@yahoo.com



Gene Stone welcomes new Ch. 297 member Jack Fogel

## 299 KOREA VETERANS OF AMERICA [MA]

Tony Williams, of Seoul, Korea, and Ian Blissett, of New Zealand, were at the Republic of Korea Ministry of Patriot and Veterans Affairs Commonwealth Korean War Veterans "Thank You" Banquet in Seoul, Korea. Mr. Blissett served in the 8th Army during the Korean War; Mr. Williams currently serves in 8th Army.

Tony Williams,  
twilliams01@hotmail.com



Ian Blisset (L) and Tony Williams in Seoul, Korea

### 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**



## 306 WEST MICHIGAN [MI]

We sponsor ice cream socials at the Grand Rapids, Michigan, Home for Veterans from April through September. The vets at the home really appreciate the ice cream and conversation.

Doug Voss, Sr. Vice President, dwv123@aol.com



Volunteers from Ch. 306 at June ice cream social: Dale Moes, Charlie Beedon, Mike VanDyke, and Rod Chapman (L-R)

## 313 SHENANDOAH [VA]

Col. Bill Weber visited us in May. We invited him to our meeting to show us how we could raise funds for the Wall of Remembrance—and we presented him a check from our chapter to support his initiative.



Commander Lew Ewing of Ch. 313 introduces Col Weber at May meeting



Col. Weber addressing Ch. 313 members regarding fundraising to support the WOR



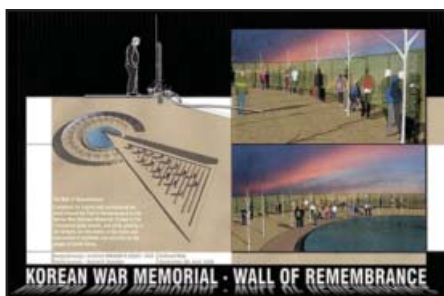
Lew Ewing presents check to Col. Weber



Annelie and Bill Weber at Ch. 313's May meeting



We hope more KWVA chapters will invite him or a Foundation Board member to their meetings to motivate KWVA members to help raise funds for this Wall.



A sketch of the Wall of Remembrance

### TOV "Honor Flight" DC Bus Trip

On Sunday, April 23, the Top of Virginia (TOV) Honor Flight organization treated a group of World War II and Korean War veterans to a full day of great fellowship, good food, and entertainment when they provided two motor coaches from the Schrock's Tour and Charter Company to transport them to Washington D.C. to tour the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam Memorials.

They did a drive-by of the Marine Corps Memorial, a stop at the U. S. Air Force Memorial, and a visit to the Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery, where they viewed the Changing of the Guard ceremony.

Our friends at the Republic of Korea Embassy sponsored one of the coaches for the tour. When they arrived at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the "Honor Flight" Group was met by Lt. Col Lee and Lt. Col Kim, Deputy Defense Attaches from the

Embassy of Korean. Lt. Col Lee, Lt. Col Kim, and Lew Ewing participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the Korean Veterans War Memorial.

After this ceremony, many veterans visited the Vietnam and Lincoln Memorials nearby. On the way to the Air Force Memorial, we drove past the Iwo Jima Memorial and part of the beautiful Arlington Ceremony. The Air Force Memorial, which is located on a high elevation that overlooks the Pentagon and Washington D.C., is a very impressive sight with its three spirals that shoot upward to the stars.

By 1 pm, we arrived at the marble amphitheater adjacent to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers before seeing more of the cemetery via bus. During the next 80 minutes, the group watched the Changing of the Guard before leaving for Winchester.

On our return, we were given additional treats, an individual large envelope from local school children filled with thank you letters for the veterans' service, and an Honor Flight Challenge Coin.

Upon arrival at the American Legion, we were greeted by the local citizens and a local band playing the bagpipes. There we had a delicious dinner awaiting us. It couldn't have been a better day for the veterans who participated in the "Honor Flight."

*Submitted by Charles Hoak and Lew Ewing.*

### ROK President Moon and VP Mike Pence Visit

On May 4, a dedication ceremony was conducted at the "Chosin Few" Battle Monument.

Five members, Lew Ewing, Chaplain Jack Keep, "Chosin Few" survivor Harold Miller, Narce Caliva, and Charles Hoak attended. (See the story and photos elsewhere in this issue.)

Josh Morimoto, 410-371-2216 (Cell)

[Joshindel@comcast.net](mailto:Joshindel@comcast.net)

## 314 WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA [NC]

We purchased and donated two picnic tables for the veterans at the Veterans Restoration Quarters (VRQ) in Asheville. The tables are for the park by the river behind the VRQ.

Louise Weber and Glenn Richardson delivered the tables and received a tour of the grounds from Reverend Rick Schilling, Ministry Development Officer.



Rick Schilling (L) thanks Glenn Richardson, Laddie McMillan, and Louise Weber of Ch. 314 for their donation

We have decided as a chapter project to refurbish two rooms there.

Incidentally, there was a misidentification in our March/April 2017 news. The member in the picture holding the Korean flag should have been identified as was Hilliard Staton. Also, the organizer of the Blue Ridge Honor Flight is actually Jeff Miller (the gentleman in the red shirt).

Louise Weber, [llweberan@aol.com](mailto:llweberan@aol.com)

## 317 SGT. BILLY FREEMAN [GA]

We received this letter of thanks for donating copies of "Korea Reborn" to 21 "Rose City" schools a few years ago. In addition we donated books to the Rome-Floyd County Library, the Chamber of Commerce, Rome-Floyd County Fire Department, Young Marines of Greater Rome, and the Marine Corps League.

April 21, 2014

Mr. Charles W. Patterson  
Commander, Chapter 317 KWVA  
545 North Avery Road NW  
Rome, Georgia 30165

Dear Mr. Patterson:

It was an honor and privilege to meet you today. Thank you very much for providing Rome City Schools with Korea Reborn, A Grateful Nation to distribute to each of our schools.

As superintendent, I concur that is vitally important that our boys and girls learn about the tremendous sacrifice that was made by our troops in Korea and why it was critically important that our Nation contain the communist threat. It is a war that should never be forgotten. Because of soldiers like you, Koreans today continue to prosper and live in a free, democratic society.

On a personal note, my maternal grandfather served in the United States Air Force (USAF) from 1944-1964; my father in the USAF from 1954-1974; all three of my brothers served, and I, too, am a veteran of the USAF (1984-1988). I am proud of my family's service and am appreciative of all the men and women in our country who have ever served this great Nation.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey B. Bearden  
Superintendent

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

## 319 LAWTON [OK]

We held our first golf tournament. After all expenses we were able to generate a little over \$5,000, which we distributed to organizations in Lawton. One of those organizations was the Veterans Welcoming Center, located at Lawton's municipal airport.

When soldiers arrive they are welcomed at the lounge and refreshments are given to them, as are other incidentals they may need while waiting for transportation to their unit. This year we donated \$500.



President Aaron Boone of Ch. 319, 4th from left, and Veterans Welcoming Center Director H. Whetstone, to his right, display check

Edward L. Mayfield (L), O.C. Williams (back) and Aaron Boone of Ch. 319 present check to Compassionate Friends representative.



We also presented a \$250 check to the Compassionate Friends, an organization for the homeless veterans. Among the other recipients of our largesse were \$2,400 for Hungry Hearts, \$350 to GiddyUp-n-Go, a special needs organization, and \$1,000 to the Lawton public schools, which uses the money for needy students.

We hope to have another golf tournament in September of 2017.

Bud Arenz, 2807 NW Lynn Cir., Lawton, OK 73507-1133, 580-512-7282, [opastien@fidnet.com](mailto:opastien@fidnet.com)

## 327 GEN. JOHN H. MICHAELIS [PA]

For more than five years now, four veterans organizations have been using the very pleasant surroundings of the Oak Leaf Manor Adult Care Center for their monthly meeting. Not only do they not charge us a fee, they even provide a nice meal.

To show our gratitude for their hospitality, President Paul Cunningham approached the leaders of the Vietnam Veterans, the Navy Club, and the Merchant Marines and proposed the idea that we put on a Pig Roast for the residents and staff of this care facil-



ity. Another main objective was to interact with residents to give them some contact with those other than their daily care givers.

The idea was met with enthusiasm by the other VSOs and endorsed by the owners. Since there were two facilities located about five miles apart, this necessitated having two pig roasts. The first was held on June 7th. The day was a bit on the cool side, which affected adversely the attendance of residents and guests. Nevertheless, it was appreciated by all and considered a success.

Weather for the second roast one week later (Flag Day) was perfect. We had an excellent turnout and, as the nearby photos attest, everyone had a great time.



Chief roaster Paul Cunningham of Ch. 327



Chef Jason prepares the first slice at Ch. 327 dinner

Subsequent to the initial planning session, we learned that this privately held facility would be changing hands. For a more durable honor, we arranged for the Commissioners of Lancaster County to present a letter of recognition to Lynette Trout, President of Oak Leaf Manor, citing her extensive support for veterans these many years. In addition, we made Lynette an honorary member of our organization. The other VSOs made similar recognition.

Working with our buddies in the other VSOs was most enjoyable. Hopefully, it may provide the impetus for other joint ventures in furthering veterans' causes.

Paul H. Cunningham, [pcunningham1841@verizon.net](mailto:pcunningham1841@verizon.net)

VP Kelley of Ch. 327 receives hug from Lynette Trout



## 329 TIBOR RUBIN (MOH) [NV]

### Las Vegas veterans announce fund raising drive for construction of Korean War Veterans Memorial at Southern Nevada Memorial Cemetery

Las Vegas, Nevada—Chapter 329 announces a fund raising drive for the final push to fund the construction of the Korean War Veterans Memorial. The Memorial, which will include a dedicated monument, will be built on the grounds of the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City, Nevada.



Chris Naylor, Superintendent of Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Chuck Johnson, Commander and Fidel Diaz, Treasurer from KWVA Chapter 329 (L-R), locating the future site of Korean War Veterans Memorial

"I've been told by the cemetery superintendent that buses of visitors arrive each week asking for the Korean War monument. All other service organizations are represented with a monument at the VA Cemetery. Our chapter felt it was time to build a memorial for those from the State of Nevada who paid the ultimate price to defend the country of South Korea," Commander Johnson said.

The memorial will be dedicated to the men and women of the United States and South Korea militaries who fought and died in the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. Both militaries served side by side in South Korea by land, sea and air. The number of troops that served in South Korea was estimated at 1,789,000.



Overview of Ch. 329's memorial

"There is a great call and interest in Las Vegas and from visitors from around the world to have a place to pay their respects to a fallen loved one. The monument will be a physical place for the bereaved to find solace," founding chapter member Fidel Diaz said. The memorial monument will list the names of the 37 Nevada soldiers who lost their lives in South Korea.

On June 20, 2017, the chapter presented the memorial and monument application and building plans to the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery Advisory Committee and is awaiting their review and approval. Chris Naylor, Cemetery Superintendent said, "I am glad that the chapter is submitting a proposal for a Korean War memorial to be built at the cemetery. I know that there are many who will visit the memorial to honor the Korean War Veterans." If approved, the state veterans' cemetery will be donating the land within the cemetery's Memorial Garden on which the memorial will be built.

The seed money for the design and build budget was donated by the Las Vegas Korean community, many KWVA supporters and chapter members. Representing the Las Vegas Korean community, WiJo Kang, Ph.D., stated the Korean



Korean Community Fund Raiser in Korea Town with KWVA Chapter 329 Board of Directors, 3-22-17

community was, "...endlessly grateful to the United States of America, and especially to the Korean War Veterans."

The Korean community was one of the first groups to step forward in providing the funds to get the memorial project off the ground and through the design stage. The community began donating to the memorial fund at the end of 2016 and most recently held a community fund raiser in Korea Town in March 2017, donating over \$16,000 in six months.

The budget for the memorial and monument is estimated at \$30,000, which includes the design, permits, construction build, dedication monument and perpetual maintenance and preservation. The design work and drawings were generously donated by Lage Design, Inc., of Henderson, NV. The King David Memorial Chapel and Cemetery located in Las Vegas supported the memorial by significantly discounting the manufacturing of the memorial monument and benches. We anticipate that the construction will be completed by October 2017 and officially dedicated by November 2017.

The KWVA chapter is requesting donations for the construction. If you wish to contribute please send your check or money order made out to KWVA Chapter 329, to the attention of: Chuck Johnson, Commander, Tibor Rubin (MOH) Chapter 329, 1948 Barranca Drive, Henderson, NV, 89074-1014.

For more information call Commander Johnson at (702) 270-6602 or send email to: [KWVA.LasVegas.Chapter.329@gmail.com](mailto:KWVA.LasVegas.Chapter.329@gmail.com).

## CA/HAWAII/NEW MEXICO

Members of Ch. 56, Ventura County [CA] and Ch. 282, Maui No Ka Oi, Hawaii met in May for the second straight year at the California Hotel in Las Vegas, NV. MOH recipient Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura (MOH) of Ch. 82, New Mexico, which is named after him, was a guest at the gathering.

Commander David Lopez of Ch. 56 noted, "I believe this will be our last reunion. I hope that there will be another, though, as we enjoy seeing other veterans."

David Lopez, 3850 W 180th Pl., Torrance, CA 90504, 310-323-8481, [LopezPitts9@aol.com](mailto:LopezPitts9@aol.com)



California, Hawaii, and New Mexico attendees at Las Vegas





"Hershey" Miyamura (2nd from left) and fellow veterans in Las Vegas



**LEFT:** Mitch (L) and Min socialize in Las Vegas

**BELOW:** Rudy Garcia, David Lopez, MOH recipient Hiroshi Miyamura (L-R) in Las Vegas



"Best Helper" Aki of Hawaii in Las Vegas

## DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

The department held its annual convention on April 29th in Port St. Lucie. Chapter 106, Treasure Coast, was the sponsor. Port St. Lucie addressed the attendees.

The program was chaired by DoF President Maxine Parker, whose bio appears on page 47.

Lois DeBlasio, 352 NW Shoreview Dr.  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986.

Chapter 106's Memorial depicted on cover of DoF's convention booklet



**BELOW:** Outgoing president of DoF addresses audience; newly elected president Marcel Cartagena, to her right, takes notes



### Chapter 106 Board of Directors



Harold Treiber, USAF  
Commander



Joe Wilcox, US ARMY  
Vice Commander



Louis DeBlasio,  
US NAVY - 2nd Vice



Charles LoMonaco,  
US NAVY - Secretary



Joe Muscarella, USAF  
Treasurer



Robert Leon, USMC  
Quarter Master



John Holdorf,  
US ARMY - Chaplain



Art Nelson, USMC  
Judge Advocate

## Maxine McCartney Parker, DoF President



Maxine McCartney Parker, Sp-4, Women's Army Corp (WAC), August 1952-1955

I am honored to have served Department of Florida Korean War Veterans as their first female President. I joined in 2001 and became Chapter 188's secretary, worked my way through each office before spending two years as their Commander.

I was born and raised in a small railroad town, Grafton, WV. As a child I played with my Dad's WW1 Army uniform. He fought in Europe and would sing Lili Marleen to me. I heard him tell about General Patton and how men would follow him into battle. Upon graduation from high school I decided to follow my Father's footsteps.

Basic training was two months and consisted of two weeks combat training living in tents, sleeping bags and make shift out-houses in the woods. It rained, was damp and got mighty cold in October at Fort Lee, VA. Training exercises consisted of tear gas, wearing gas mask, crawling on our bellies in the mud under barbed wire, running with full back packs and gear through hills and valleys and crossing rivers (both day and night). We had to qualify on the rifle range and learned how to break down, clean and reassemble our M-1s.

Upon graduation from clerical school I received a set of orders to 8th Army Headquarters, Camp Zama, Japan. I was assigned to Sea and Air Transportation and processed for a Secret Security Clearance. I was the only female in an office of high ranking officers waiting to rotate back to the US. I logged in, processed and became a document courier for ship and aircraft cargo, troop movements and their destination.

I am thankful for the three years of active duty and the benefits. I was able to attend college on the GI Bill and earned a BS degree. I have purchased three houses using my VA Certificate. Also, I have received medical care at various Veteran's Clinics and Hospitals.

My DD-214 reveals I am authorized: Korean Svc Medal, UN Svc Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and National Defense Service Medal. Additionally, I am most grateful for recognition by the Republic of Korea and the return visit trip to South Korea in 2010. During the five days in South Korea we visited the National Cemetery, and a reenactment of the Inchon Landing. We shared a bus ride to the DMZ with female high school students whom I still exchange e-mails. Since English is their second language it was easy and interesting sharing with them our experiences during the Korean War. From the visit we all learned what a grateful Nation South Korea is and how much their people love the United States for helping save them from Communism. I am proud to have had a small part in serving my Country.

Maxine Parker's bio and photo



Commander Harold Trieber of Ch. 106 cuts cake at DoF meeting

Mayor Gregory Oravec of Port St. Lucie addresses DoF members



## SCHOLARSHIPS from page 31

Chemistry, including studying abroad conducting research in sustainable agriculture at the University of Havana in Cuba.

After college, Andrea undertook an internship, where she set a precedent as the company's first intern to merit her name on a patent for research and development contributions to environmentally-friendly mosquito pesticide synergists. She then took a position in the Environment, Health, and Safety Department at a Fortune 500 pharmaceutical company.

In this position, her chemistry data was used to make multi-million dollar engineering decisions to protect the environment from pharmaceutical manufacturing contamination. The position also granted her opportunities to travel, and in just a few years she had visited over fifteen countries in Europe. She recently moved from the Chicago area to the Los Angeles area to begin work on her Ph.D.

in Chemistry at the University of California-Irvine. Andrea is the granddaughter of Alan M. Nicolay, a Korean War veteran.

### Megan Lynn Tucker

Megan grew up in Santa Cruz, CA and is currently a second year student at Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR, pursuing a double major in Physics and Mathematics with a minor in Writing. She is a member of the Oregon State University Triathlon Team and the Sigma Pi Sigma Honor Society for Physics majors. She hopes to complete her degree in 2020 and wishes to pursue a doctorate in physics after which she would like to work on clean energy and nuclear fusion. Megan is the granddaughter of Korean War veteran Eldon J. Tucker.

### Alexander C. Weishan

Alex is a native of San Diego, CA, where he graduated from San Diego United Serra High School with a 4.45

GPA. He is an Honors student, AP Scholar, and an outstanding student all around. He served on the school year-book staff for three years as Senior Copy Editor.

Alex is an avid tennis player and served two years as captain of the Varsity Tennis Team. He was named team MVP for two years. He was named by the *San Diego Union Tribune* All-Academic Team in 2016 and 2017. Alex was the recipient of the Serra High School "Coach's Award" for his tennis participation and leadership.

He dedicates his community service to helping upcoming junior tennis players in the community, volunteering over 500 hours in that capacity. Alex's hero is his 87-year-old grandfather, Bob Weishan, a proud Marine and Korean War veteran.

Alex is honored to be attending the University of Notre Dame in the fall of 2017, where he plans to major in History.



Arlington National Cemetery: 27 October 2015

# The Burial of Cpl Robert E Meyers



Cpl Robert E. Meyers

*NOTE: This story appeared originally in the April 2016 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion Association Newsletter. It has been edited slightly to fit our format.*

I write at this time to tell of a most memorable and awarding experience of the past three days: the burial of the remains of Corporal Robert E. Meyers at Arlington National Cemetery, almost 65 years after he died in a Chinese Communist prison camp during the Korean War. I am going to preface that experience by telling you a story.

The story began on 25 June 1950, the day the North Korean Communist Army attacked South Korea in an act of aggression. I was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, and was a member of the 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion of the 2d Infantry Division. Almost immediately, the 2d Division was alerted for shipment to Korea to help the other Divisions, which had been sent there from Japan, to stop the advance of the North Korean Army.

As we prepared for overseas shipment we were issued a new weapon, the 3.5" Rocket launcher (bazooka), which was capable of destroying any existing armor in the world. The first contingent of the 2d Division, including the 3rd Battalion

of the 9th Infantry Regiment, a battery of the 82d AAA Battalion, Company A (my and Robert Meyers' company) of the 2d Engineers, and other associated units left the Port of Tacoma on 17 July.

There was no way to train on this new weapon, except for aiming and simulated firing on the deck of the ship as we sailed to Korea. The first contingent of the 2d Division arrived at Pusan, South Korea on 31 July. I was assigned as my platoon leader, Lieutenant Reed's, jeep driver.

Within a few days (early August) Task Force Bradley was formed, which was made up of those first 2d Division units to arrive in Korea, and was committed to combat at Pohang Dong on the west coast of Korea to stop the North Koreans from advancing in that area. It was Company A's responsibility to defend the Yonil Airfield (K3).

As other units of the 2d Division arrived in Korea, Task Force Bradley was disbanded and its units joined the rest of the division, which was deployed into the lines along the Naktong River, which was the western boundary of the fighting front. By this time the North Korean forces had pushed our forces into an area of about a 50-mile radius around Pusan, known as the Pusan Perimeter. By the end of August the 2d Division was completely deployed. The 2d Engineer Battalion was providing engineer support for the division.

In late August the North Korean army

launched an attack across the Naktong and advanced to the village of Yongsan. The action that ensued became known as the Battle of the Naktong Bulge. During this action one of the battalions of the 9th Infantry Regiment was decimated and the 2d Engineer Battalion was deployed into the lines at Yongsan on 31 August.

On the morning of 1 September the order was given to our forces in the Yongsan area to attack in an effort to drive the North Koreans back to the Naktong. The 2d Engineers advanced through Yongsan, driving the Communist forces out.

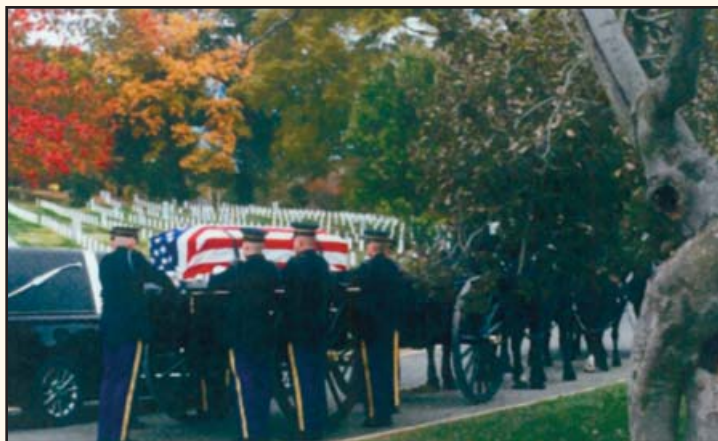
On the morning of 2 September an armored officer, who had deployed his tanks forward of the lines, came to Company A area and asked if we had that new weapon that could knock out any tank. He said there were several T-34 tanks that were raising hell with his armor, having the capability of knocking out any of our armor.

Our platoon leader handed a 3.5" Rocket Launcher and a 5-round pack of rockets to PFC Leslie Burris and told him to select someone as his ammo bearer and loader. He chose PFC Robert E. Meyers, a foxhole buddy of his, for the job.

The bazooka team got into my jeep and we followed the armor officer forward to the area of concern. The team went forward with the armor officer, where he pointed out the location of the T-34 tanks. PFC Burris prepared the

By Arden A. Rowley, Major USA (Ret)





## Sights at Robert Meyers' Interment

bazooka for loading, placing it on his right shoulder. PFC Meyers loaded a round into the weapon and tapped Burris on the helmet; indicating to him that the weapon was ready to fire and was clear of the weapon's back blast.

Burris fired the weapon. The rocket passed over the tank. Burris adjusted his sight. Meyers loaded another round.

Burris fired and destroyed the tank. Within the next half hour Burris and Meyers destroyed two more T-34 tanks. It is very likely that the bazooka team's action ended the threat of the North Koreans taking Yongsan back, then advancing toward Pusan.

I returned Burris and Meyers to our company area, where an AP correspon-

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**Robert's casket was open with a dress blue uniform with his name tag and medals on it and his corporal rank insignia lying therein. (Robert was promoted posthumously.) His remains were wrapped in a blanket under a covering beneath his uniform. It was a very inspiring sight.**

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dent had gotten wind of the team's exploits and took photos of them, which were published in newspapers.

During the ensuing action that day PFC Burris was wounded and evacuated eventually to the U.S. PFC Meyers remained with Company A as our forces broke out of the Pusan Perimeter after the successful amphibious landing of U.S. forces at Inchon on September 15. By the end of September, our U.S. and South Korean forces had driven the North Korean Army out of South Korea.

Our forces, which now included troops from a few other nations, then invaded North Korea for two purposes: to complete the destruction of the North Korean Army and to unify Korea into one country.

Into October and November our forces advanced into the far north of Korea and there was talk of being "home by Christmas." The weather was getting progressively colder and during the last 5 days of November temperatures plummeted from 0 degrees to -45 degrees. It was a real challenge to fight under those circumstances.

By late November 300,000 Chinese Communist troops had crossed the Yalu River into Korea and an entirely "new war" begun. Our forces were caught "off guard" and completely overwhelmed by the number of enemy forces. The 2d Engineers were committed as infantry once again and tenaciously defended division headquarters on three small hills.

By 30 November the situation was very grave. On the night of the 30th, Lt Col Zacharie ordered equipment to be disabled and the battalion colors burned. On that night, and December 1st, some 330 engineers were taken prisoners of war with a like number killed or wounded. I and PFC Meyers were among those who became POWs.

We marched 24 nights in the bitter cold and arrived at our first POW camp on Christmas Day. During the next two and half weeks, some 250 men died of disease and malnutrition. Meyers and I survived to march to our next POW camp (Camp 5 at Pyoktong, North Korea) in late January 1951. Conditions there remained deplorable and in the



next four months another 1,600 men died.

I didn't see Meyers until soon after we arrived at Camp 5. Then I didn't see him anymore. Later I discovered that he died in early February. It was all we could do to bury those hundreds who died in frozen ground. I went on several burial details, perhaps even on the one when Meyers was buried.

When the armistice was signed on 27 July 1953, ending the fighting, there were two provisions of it which were important to those who died and to us who had survived. One was that all prisoners would be repatriated to their side. I was repatriated on 18 August 1953. The other provision was that each side would send to the other side all remains of those who had died that could be found.

Therefore, during Operation Glory in 1954, hundreds of remains of U.S. POWs were given to our side; 500 were from Camp 5. Those who could be identified were given to respective families to bury as they saw fit. Those who could not be identified were buried at the National Cemetery Hawaii (the Punchbowl). During the next 61 years



efforts have been made to identify remains that were buried in Hawaii.

I have associated with Les Burris many times through the past years at military reunions. In mid-September 2015 I received a phone call from him. He said, "Arden, they've identified Bob Meyers' remains and he is going to be buried at Arlington Cemetery on October 26th." I asked if he was going to attend. He said that his health may not allow it.

I told him I would be going and hoped to see him there. Les gave me Meyers' sister's name and phone number. I called

Shelva Moats and told her the account that I have related here and that I would be at Robert's burial.

I arrived in Washington DC on October 24th and obtained lodging at Andrews Air Force Base. The next day I went to Robert's viewing at the Murphy Funeral Home in Arlington, Virginia with some friends of mine, Monica and Curtis Cash, from North Carolina, who provided me with transportation.

Robert's casket was open with a dress blue uniform with his name tag and medals on it and his corporal rank insignia lying therein. (Robert was promoted posthumously.) His remains were wrapped in a blanket under a covering beneath his uniform. It was a very inspiring sight.

The next morning, Monday, October 26th, about 20 of Robert's family, a few Korean War 2d Engineer Battalion veterans (including Les Burris), and two NCO representatives from the current 2d Engineer Battalion, stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, were present as Robert's casket was moved by hearse to a point near the burial site.

His casket was then placed on a caisson and pulled by horses to the burial site. Present were a color guard, a firing squad, a 40-piece band, and a platoon of 50 soldiers with rifles, all in dress blue uniforms. My friends told me they had been to several burials at Arlington, but had never seen such a large contingent of soldiers as at this one for Corporal Robert E. Meyers.

Robert's casket was moved to the burial site and the ceremony took place with the firing of a 21-gun salute, remarks about Robert's service by a lady LtCol, the folding of the U.S. flag, which covered the casket, by the casket bearers, and the presentation of that flag to Robert's sister, Shelva.

A luncheon was then held at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington, VA for those who attended Robert's burial, where much visiting took place and where I had the opportunity to share, with the group, the above story.

Arden A. Rowley, 1041 E 9th Dr., Mesa, AZ 85204, 480-964-9444, Cell 480-220-0066, rowleyxpowk@juno.com

## In honor of Arlington

I wrote this poem in 2014 in honor of Memorial Day. The "Old Guard" referred to is the oldest active regiment in the U. S. Army, the 3rd Infantry Regiment. They have the sacred duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington, as well as other duties.

### Arlington

By Bob Barfield

*What a solemn sight to see  
So many crosses row by row  
Because of them we all are free  
Heroes lie in the ground below*

*Unearthly quiet, the only sound  
That breaks the stillness of the day  
Taps resound through this hallowed ground  
For a soldier died today*

*The Old Guard walks the Unknown's Tomb  
Throughout the day and night  
Though weather fair or dark storms gloom  
They keep the tomb in sight*

*The caisson rolls, the horses proud  
Of the burden that they tow  
A casket covered by a shroud  
For a soldier died you know*

*A father sobs, a mother weeps  
A flag clutched to her breast  
A hero to his country  
Their soldier's laid to rest*

*So many men have gone before  
And now at last we pray  
No more to hear the sounds of war  
Just rest, till judgment day*

Reach Bob Barfield at [rnj187@yahoo.com](mailto:rnj187@yahoo.com)

## Most successful parachute jumps in history

The parachute assaults at Sukch'on, Sunch'on, and Munsan-ni are considered to be the most successful combat airborne operations of regimental size or larger in history.



# MEMORIAL DAY 2017

Many KWVA members attended Memorial Day festivities in Washington D.C this year. The parade and associated ceremonies were long, but energizing, for members and spectators alike. And, if you want to watch the parade, go to [http://us1.my-proxy.com/index.php?q=09ja2tytk5Wvrq9lsdrZ2t\\_L2JLJp6Rnrpnfx86p37CI3H2JaKKMubTV2Q](http://us1.my-proxy.com/index.php?q=09ja2tytk5Wvrq9lsdrZ2t_L2JLJp6Rnrpnfx86p37CI3H2JaKKMubTV2Q).

## 25 – GREATER CHICAGO [IL]

We had a great turnout for the Chicago Memorial Day Parade. The contingent included Illinois State Commander Joe Henmueller.



Commander Charles Simokaitis, holding "Old Glory," Vince Salamone, with MIA flag, and Color Guards Ed Bojan and Ed Krohn lead Ch. 25 in Chicago parade



Don Glasell, Ed Bojan, Ed Krohn, Rich Agemura, Vince Salamone, Charles Simokaitis, Norm and Denyse Sachman, Joe DiFranco, and Steve Weber represent Ch. 25 at Chicago Memorial Day parade



Ch. 25 banner bearers Don Glasell, Joe DiFranco, Joe Henmueller, and Steve Weber at Chicago parade



Joe Henmueller (L) and Charles Simokaitis check Ch. 25's banner

Vince Salamone (L) and Charles Simokaitis prepare to step off at Chicago event



Jung Changwon, Korean Consul in Chicago, meets with Ch. 25 members prior to parade



This annual event, usually held on the last Saturday in May, is one of the largest attractions honoring the country's war dead and all veterans. Our members are proud to participate in this event and are fortunate to negotiate a far forward position among the hundreds of younger and more physically capable parade marchers. There are only a few of us still able to march the mile down State Street.



Rich Agemura of Ch. 25 prepares to start Chicago parade route

Tony Bezouska, former Ch. 25 marcher, enjoys the trolley ride







**Charles Simokaitis (L) and Don Glasell check Ch. 25 attendance at Chicago parade**

The spectators always show their appreciation by cheering and saluting us "Forgotten War" veterans. For those unable to march, the Troop Trolley follows the banner marchers.

Charles Simokaitis, 1211 Potter Rd., Park Ridge, IL 60068

## 112 – LAKE ERIE [OH]

We participated in the City of Euclid's Memorial Day Parade. Boy Scout Troop 161 of Euclid provided the Color Guard. Member John Prizzi's grandson is a member of the troop.

Most of us rode in four members' cars, led by Chris Yanacos's Korean War-era Jeep.

We lined up at our Korean Memorial, which was erected in the city's Memorial Park in time for Memorial Day 2016.

Steve Szekely, 216-381-9080, [sxdszek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sxdszek@sbcglobal.net)

**Chris Yanacos's Jeep that led Ch. 112's contingent in Euclid, OH parade**



**Color Guard provided by Boy Scout Troop 161 for Ch. 112**



**Marchers from Ch. 112 at their Memorial: Steve Szekely, Dick Doremus, John Prizzi, Bob Brice, Peter Greene, Tom Mazzolini, and John Bindas, Jr. (L-R)**

## 170 – TAEJON [NJ]

Sixteen members participated in the ceremony in front of the Korean War Monument in Saddle Brook, NJ, which was erected in June 2000. Commander Kenneth Green welcomed the crowd to the event to honor the men and women of the military who gave their all for their country.



**Kenneth Green, Pasquale Candela, Perry Georgison, Thomas Boyle, and William Burns (L-R) of Ch. 170 prepare for Memorial Day parade**



**Lineup of dignitaries at Ch. 170 Memorial Day ceremony: Commander Kenneth Green is 3rd from right**

**Color Guard members of Ch. 170 await start of Memorial Day parade**



**Alexander Atheras, Erwin Burkert, and Joseph Louis (L-R) of Ch. 170 at Memorial Day observance**

The program began at 12:30 p.m. on a beautiful warm day as Adjutant Perry Georgison gave the command to post the Colors. That was followed by a salute as the U.S. flag was lowered to half-staff by Erwin Burkert.

Chaplain Thomas Boyle said the opening prayer and led a moment of silence, which was followed by a poem he wrote. Commander Green introduced the main speaker, Saddle Brook Mayor Robert White, who





**Thomas Boyle, Ch. 170 chaplain, opens Memorial Day ceremony**

praised our chapter for its patriotism and delivered a talk on the sacrifice of our military and the real heroes who gave their lives for our country in all wars.

Other dignitaries in attendance included New Jersey State Senator Robert Gordon, Saddle Brook Chief of Police Chief Robert Kugler, VFW Saddle Brook Commander

Raymond Hesseran, Korean Methodist Church Elder Kyu Ho Park, and many others.

Five wreaths were placed at the monument by VFW Chapter 3484, American Legion Post 415, Saddle Brook Council, Korean Methodist Church of Paramus, NJ, and us. The "Taps" bugler was Anthony Halko Jr.

Commander Green gave the closing remarks and thanked everyone for attending. Adjutant Georgison gave the order to retire the Colors and the long parade began. Following that we enjoyed refreshments at the VFW building. Many of our members are also VFW members.

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

## 172 – HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]



**Mrs. Jim (Georgia) Salisbury and Kim Turley wave flags for Ch. 172 Memorial Day group**

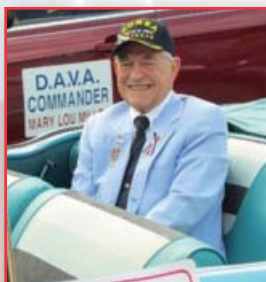
We also had the honor of being part of the Findlay/Hancock County Memorial Day festivities by participating in the Bridge Ceremony, as well as having three convertibles carrying our members during the parade.

Larry Monday, 18861 SR 568, Findlay, OH 45840, 419-387-7532 or 419-306-4954, Monday19@aol.com

**Cliff Peterson and Honorary member Barb Smith (Standing); Jack Veit (Seated, front) and Jim Iler and Bob Perkins (Seated, back) with Ch. 172 contingent**



**Bob Zellers of Ch. 172 at Memorial Day Parade**



**Ken Wynkoop of Ch. 172 participates in Memorial Day Parade**

## 181 – KANSAS #1 [KS]



Members attended a ceremony at the Overland Park Memorial Wall to observe Memorial Day. Judging by the nearby photos, it was a great instructional day for youngsters.

Don Dyer, ddyer15@everestkc.net

**Erwin Stern of Ch. 181 takes time following the annual Memorial Day ceremonies in Overland Park, KS to tell a young American about the Korean War**



**Another young American learns at the Overland Park, KS Memorial Wall about the Korean War**

## 251 – SAGINAW-FRANKENMUTH [MI]

We participated in a ceremony at Saginaw County Veterans Memorial Plaza that included speeches by local dignitaries and honor guards from several other veterans organizations. Our Korean War Memorial is located on the plaza.

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



**Jacob Klemm of Ch. 251 stands next to the Saginaw County [MI] Korean War Memorial**



## 264 – MOUNT DIABLO [CA]

Members attended a ceremony in Clayton, CA that we co-sponsor annually with VFW chapter 1525. In the 1800s Clayton was the last stop on the Pony Express route. However, its role ended with the advent of the telegraph.

Attendees included a representative of California governor Jerry Gray and several local dignitaries.

We provided free water to attendees at our table.

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



Ch. 264's table and banner at Memorial Day event



The Colors wave proudly at the Clayton, CA ceremony



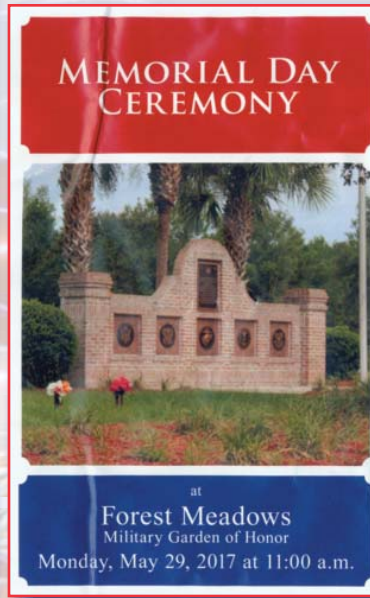
Ken Rishell, Pat Rishell, Stan Grogan, Terry Hooker, John Aritzak, and Kathleen Farley attend Ch. 264 observance



President Ken Rishell of Ch. 264 (L) and other attendees at Memorial Day observance

## 267 – GENERAL VAN FLEET [FL]

The Memorial Day weekend was a busy time for us. We participated in four different patriotic events.



Brochure cover of Ch. 267's May 29th event



Memorial Day and caissons adorn Ch. 267 event pamphlet

Memorial Day and caissons adorn the 136 Alachua County residents who were KIA in these wars. Special thanks to our member, Terry Martin-Back and wife Debra, who own Exit Realty and brought their employees to hang the ribbons, and members Doug Paterson and Carl Covey for helping.

• **Monday, 5/29/17** – We provided a Rifle Squad for the Alachua County Memorial Day Ceremony at Forest Meadows Garden of Honor for area veterans. There were 275 in attendance. The MC was our KWVA and Iwo Jima veteran, Bob Gasche. Congressman Ted Yoho spoke at the event. Our rifle squad volunteers were Eddie Thomas, Charles Woodward, Don Sherry, and NCO Terry Fitzpatrick.

Don Sherry, 352-375-8355, dpskwva@yahoo.com

• **Friday, 5/26/17** – We did the Color Guard for the VA Medical Center in Gainesville, with Tom Weisneski as Director. Clarence Hill, Past National Commander of the American Legion, was the speaker. There were over 100 in attendance. Our Color members were Gerald Zagaiski, Gary Giles, Ron Carbaugh, Eddie Thomas, Ken Sassaman, and NCO Don Sherry.

• **Saturday, 5/27/17** – We did an Honor Guard for the funeral of three indigent Vietnam veterans at Bushnell National Cemetery. Forest Meadows Funeral Home Mgr. Jim Lynch did this so they did not end up in an unmarked grave. Vietnam veterans folded the flag. American Legion Post 16 Riders and the Alachua County Sheriff's Department provided us with an escort to the cemetery. There were 50 patriots in attendance. Our Honor Guard members were Gary Giles, Eddie Thomas, Ken Sassaman, and NCO Ron Carbaugh. Don Sherry played taps.

• **Saturday, 5/27/17** – We hung Yellow Ribbons on the 136 trees surrounding our tribute to Korean and Vietnam Wars on Archer Road in Gainesville. The trees honor



## 317 – SGT. BILLY FREEMAN [GA]

We participated in the Memorial Day Service with American Legion Post 5 at Shannon, GA, which has a unique past. About seventy-one years ago, after the ending of WWII, a small community built around a textile mill in Shannon, GA erected one of the nation's first monuments to their men who did not return home from war. This year's Memorial Day remembrance was well attended by patriots of every age sitting and standing among stately magnolia trees.

Those attending watched the solemn raising of the flag, heard the singing of our National Anthem, and observed a wreath laying by the Shannon Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The keynote address was given by Chaplain Lt. Gen. Billy Brown, who enlisted at the age of 14 in the 5th Infantry Division, served in the Korean War, and now serves in the United States Corps of Chaplains and as a member of the Billy Freeman Korean War Vet Group #317. (See his unique bio below.)



Charles W. Patterson (L) and Robert Sumners of Ch. 317 display WWII flag at Memorial Day ceremony. Sam Huckaby, Tom Jones, and Bill Burchett stand in background



Officers of Ch. 317 and members of Max McAEMAS Scout Master Troop 30, Boy Scouts of America, at Shannon, GA Memorial Day ceremony

Chaplain Brown reminded the crowd of what hometown life was like for the twelve servicemen being remembered and how they achieved the victory which insured American freedom. His speech focused upon the resilience of the American spirit, both in our police, firefighters, first responders, and our present military forces. The retiring of the colors was executed by the Shanklin-Attaway Post 5 Honor Guard. The haunting bugle notes of Taps concluded the program.

We set up on the grounds an outstanding display detailing the events

of the Korean War. Large maps detailed the stages of the war, while members were on hand to answer the public's questions. For these men, the "Forgotten War" is very personal and they make the effort to honor the fallen and to remind Americans of our success in creating a free Republic of South Korea.



Ch. 317 officers at Memorial Day observance: 2nd VP Sam Huckaby, Commander Charles W. Patterson, Secretary/Treasurer Tom Jones, Chaplain Robert Sumners, 1st VP Bill Burchett, and Lt. Gen. Billy Brown (L-R)

As a gentle rain began to fall, the crowd dispersed while holding the program in their hands. In it, the founder of this Memorial Day ceremony—the textile mill owner of 1947—said, "We shall ever cherish their memory in our hearts, and we shall always remember with solemn pride the willingness with which they have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom." Again today, we remembered.

The local Rome News-Tribune covered the event with a well-placed article, "Honoring our heroes," written by Noah Syverson.

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

### Biography

#### LT. GEN. Billy Brown

A native son of Shannon Georgia, Billy Brown, at only 14 years of age, was serving in the 5th Infantry Division. He later became a squad leader in the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, parachuting into Korea when he was only 16 years old. Serving with distinction, he lost eight of his friends in combat. Gen. Brown is a member of two unique groups: the Rakkasans of the Korean War (U.S. Army Paratroopers) and the Veterans of Underage Service. He is active with both Korean War Veterans and the American Legion.

Enlisting in the Army with only an 8th grade education from Model School, he went on to earn his GED while in service. Having seen the need of further education, Brown became a lifelong learner. His education is extensive: Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Theology, Master of Theology, Doctor of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry.

Please turn to **BROWN** on page 69



# Haben sie eine auskunft herum Herbert Volker?

**Okay, loosely translated—very loosely—that means in English, “Do you have any information about Herbert Volker?”**

If you did not understand it, then you might appreciate the difficulty Herbert Volker had understanding English when he was in Korea in 1953.

*(My apologies to true German-speaking readers. The German words I used are about all I can remember from a course I took in college fifty years ago.)*

Anyway, here is a story that came to us from a reader who is trying to help her father. Hopefully we can fill in the blanks.

§ § §

My father, Herbert Volker, was born in 1930 and grew up in Hannover, Germany during WWII. Eventually he served in Korea with the 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division from 1953-1955 on the DMZ. But, we're getting ahead of ourselves.

He and his brother were raised by their mother. They were against Adolf Hitler and all he stood for. The Hitler Youth Group would find my dad and his brother, beat them up, and tell them they better show up to the next meeting and march, but they never went. They always went into hiding.

Hannover was over 90% destroyed by bombs and artillery during WWII, since the central rail station for the German troops came through there. On just one day, October 9, 1943, some 261,000 bombs were dropped on the city by Allied forces. The family survived.

When the American Army 2nd Infantry Division arrived, they finally felt liberated from Hitler's dictatorship. My dad told his mother that if he should ever get to America he was going to enlist in the American Army and pay back the country that helped free them.

Soon after he arrived in America in the latter part of 1952 he signed up. He was to report for duty April 15, 1953, when my dad and mother had to move up their wedding date because just four days later he was to report to camp for basic training and then go off to Korea. As fate would have it, he was assigned to the same division that came to his rescue in Germany, the 2nd Infantry Division, 9th Infantry Regiment.

He arrived in Korea near the beginning of July 1953 in the Kumwha area and the Iron Triangle MLR/DMZ, north of the 38th parallel. It was in the last months before the Armistice was signed that the Chinese made their largest push south since the spring of 1951. My dad remembers the Thai Regiment was attached to his regiment at the MLR.

The worst night of his life was July 17-18, a night he has never forgotten. The Chinese were coming at them by the hundreds, wave after wave, like ants coming out of a hole. He has never known a fear for his life like he did that night. It was either you shoot to kill or be killed.

He got hit in the chest over his heart, right hand, and left leg calf and. His wounds burned like hell and were bleeding badly and he thought for sure he was going to be killed that night or die from the bleeding. He could see other men being hit and injured, but they all kept on fighting. The night seemed to last forever. My dad survived. Today he counts his blessings that he did not see another night like that.

On the morning of the 18th the fighting was finally winding down and the regiment was beginning to be relieved. That's when he went to the sergeant to report he had been injured. An important point to make here is that my dad knew very, very little English. He spoke German. And, since it was so soon after WWII and he was German, there were times he thought he was not treated like the American soldiers. He did not resent it; he understood it.

Dad thinks the sergeant said, “He didn't have time to deal with that.” Again, he understood and never mentioned it again. He took care of the wounds himself. He had only arrived a few days before and did not yet know the men he was fighting with. Many years later his family doctor told him that the shrapnel in his chest must be removed, so it was.

My dad remained on the MLR/DMZ in the Kumwha area throughout his time in Korea, except for one week when he went on a very important trip. It was April 15, 1954, exactly one year after he reported for duty. That is when he went on his first and only R&R. He went to Seoul, Korea to get his United States citizenship. Yes, at that point he had been in Korea longer than he had been in

the United States.

In many respects he was not given the opportunities that the other soldiers were given. He saw a lot of fellow soldiers come and go, but he never left the DMZ. He was always either on guard duty and kept at the readiness for infiltrators or he was put on KP. When the men were going into reserve, he would just be assigned with another group of soldiers coming from another area. There were no R&R or sports or recreation for him.

He was transferred from the 2nd Infantry Division 9th Infantry Regiment to the 7th Infantry Division 32nd Regiment and then later again transferred to the 24th Infantry Division 34th Infantry Regiment and kept at the DMZ. He never questioned his orders. Dad did them to the best of his ability and never complained.

My father was so proud to have been able to give back to the country he now calls his own by choosing to join and fight with the American Army, 2nd Infantry Division, 9th Infantry Regiment, also the 7th and 24th Infantry Divisions.

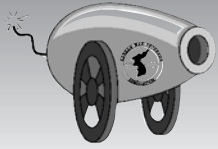
I am so proud of my father, in his strength to survive all odds, having gone through WWII as a teenager and also fighting in the Korean War and always doing the best he could in all his endeavors. He is now 87 years old and I want to help give him the honor he deserves for his service, but I need your help.

We are not looking for medals, like the Purple Heart. We just want to correct the errors in his military record of time spent in Korea. The Army has my father arriving in Korea November 1953 after the Armistice. We have proof that this is wrong. My father was in one of the worst battles that took place during the Korean War, and it has left him scarred for life, scars you can see and ones you cannot.

I ask that you please help my father to correct his military record. If anyone remembers a German in the 9th Infantry Regiment in July 1953 who could not speak English, please contact me. We have one veteran that remembers my dad, but if we can find at least one more it would be of great help. Thank you for your service.

*Monica Volker (daughter of Herbert Volker),  
tis\_us3@msn.com, 262-215-5000. Please  
leave a message.*





# 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 Bando Hotel

Reference: May - June 2017, The Graybeards, page 64, "What He Remembers About Korea," Dominic Curcuro, Washington September 10, 2015.

Mr. Curcuro remembers the tallest building in Seoul during the Korean War was the PX, just a little higher than two stories. According to one source, there were at least five stories in the Bando Hotel. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Embassy\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States,\\_Seoul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Embassy_of_the_United_States,_Seoul))

"When North Korean troops invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, the Korean War began, and the U.S. Embassy in Seoul was evacuated. Seoul was captured by the North Korean forces by the end of June. The chancery (on the 5th floor of Hotel Bando) was retaken September 26 that year, by Easy Company of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, acting as a United Nations force.[1][2] It was lost again to Chinese and North Korean forces in early 1951.

In April 1951, United Nations forces retook Seoul for good. The Korean War ended in July 1953 in stalemate, and the U.S. Embassy was eventually re-opened."

*NOTE: Go to <http://populargusts.blogspot.com/2010/08/bando-hotels-interior.html> for a discussion about the hotel.*

I remember the Bando with seven stories [in 1956-7], although it may have been only six since there was no fourth floor designation. The Koreans were superstitious about the number four [so no fourth floor designation], much as we are about 13, but we do have 13th floor designations in tall buildings. Francesca Rhee, wife of the President, owned the Bando.

*Bernie Thielen, [berniethielen@verizon.net](mailto:berniethielen@verizon.net)*

## Even Orion Howe was not the youngest

The interesting letter in the May-June 2017 issue from Bob Barfield, "There were seventeen-year-old sergeants," p. 60, noted that Orion Howe received the Medal of Honor for actions when he was 14 years old (actually 14 years, 5-1/2 months) during the Civil War. There have been even younger recipients.

Willie Johnston was born in 1850. At age 11 years, 11 months, he was serving as a drummer boy with the 3rd Vermont Infantry where, as reported in the Salem News, "His service in the Seven Day retreat in the Peninsula Campaign was exemplary. Many men dropped their equipment to make a speedy retreat, but Willie didn't; he was the only boy to carry his drum from the battlefield.

Lincoln heard of his action and reportedly proposed the boy be given a medal for his bravery. He received the Medal of Honor at age 13." (*Find more details at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willie\\_Johnston\\_\(Medal\\_of\\_Honor\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willie_Johnston_(Medal_of_Honor))*)

### Citation:

Awarded for actions during the Civil War

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Musician William "Willie" Johnston, United States Army, for gallantry from June 26 to 1 July 1862, while serving with Company D, 3d Vermont Infantry, in action during the Seven Day Battle and the Peninsula Campaign, Virginia.

General Orders: Date of Issue: September 16, 1863

Action Date: June 26 - July 1, 1862

Service: Army

Rank: Musician

Company: Company D

Division: 3d Vermont Infantry

(<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=3208>)

Cabin Boy John Angling (or Anglin) received his medal for actions at age 14 years, 2 months, for "gallantry and skill and for his cool courage while under the fire of the enemy" in 1864 while serving aboard the U.S.S. Pontoosuc during the battle of Fort Fisher and Wilmington. (Read more about him at <http://histclo.com/youth/mil/cou/mil-servus01.html>.)

**Citation:** Served on board the U.S.S. Pontoosuc during the capture of Fort Fisher and Wilmington, 24 December 1864 to 22 January 1865. Carrying out his duties faithfully during this period, C.B. Angling was recommended for gallantry and skill and for his cool courage while under the fire of the enemy throughout these various actions.

Oscar E. Peck served as a Second Class Boy (there really was such a rank) aboard the U.S.S. Varuna, acting as powder boy at age 14 years, 5 months, during the attacks on Forts Jackson and St. Philip. His citation noted, "Peck served gallantly while the Varuna was repeatedly attacked and rammed and finally sunk," while adding that it was "an extremely close-range action."

**Citation:** Peck served as second-class boy on board the Varuna during an attack on Forts Jackson and St. Philip, 24 April 1862. Acting as powder boy of the after rifle, Peck served gallantly while the Varuna was repeatedly attacked and rammed and finally sunk. This was an extremely close-range action and, although badly damaged,

the Varuna delivered shells abaft the Morgan's armor.

There are details and more such stories in my book *Underage and Under Fire; Accounts of the Youngest Americans in Military Service*. (McFarland Publishing) I should mention that I lied about my age and enlisted at age 14 during the Korean War (January 6, 1953).

*Allan C. Stover, 1938 Stafford Ave., The Villages, FL 32162, (352) 430-2305, acstover@yahoo.com*

## How can you not be there if you are there?

In 1969 my brother, Robert Covey, was ordered to report to duty in South Korea. It was the same time that the North Koreans took out one of our ships. He was assigned to the 603rd Direct Air Support Squadron stationed at Osan Air Base, just south of Seoul.

One of his main jobs was to pick out targets for the aircraft to go after. Back then they didn't use aircraft to pick out the targets; the planes were too big. Now they have planes that are small and can take pictures that let the people see what is happening on the ground.

Also, back then they used men on the ground. The pilots and their radio operators drove around in their jeeps, pulling a trailer full of radio equipment behind them. Whenever they found anything, they radioed their information to the guys on the ground ready to fight.



**SSGT Robert R. Covey in his U.S. Air Force days**

Most of the time my brother was there he was stationed on the DMZ. He was stationed over there for one year, and then was sent back home to Lackland AFB in Texas. Yet, according to the U.S. Air Force he was never in Korea. He needs proof that he was there to deal with some medical claims.

Does anybody remember him? He was transferred from 603 Direct Air Spt Sq (PACAF), APO San Francisco 96570 PAS: OPRK2C to 3300 Spt Sq (ATC) Randolph AFB, TX 78148 PAS: RJJCKX on 10 March 1970. His "Authorization For Permanent Change Of Station – Military" was signed by TSGT Kenneth J. Cox, USAF.

If anyone remembers SSGT Robert Covey or has any ideas on how he can prove he was in Korea, contact his brother, Carl Covey, 1137 SE Adams St., High Springs, FL 32643.

## My first chopper ride

On February 3, 1953 my company, A-1-5, went on a raid. The night before, two chaplains, one Catholic and one Protestant, held services. We were in reserve at the time.

We jumped off at first light; the temperature was -3°. I was being trained to be Platoon Radioman, on the books as Platoon Runner. When I joined the company the previous September, my MOS was 0411—Shore Party. Yes, all Marines are basically riflemen.

So, I was on the point with my S/SSgt when I was critically wounded, gunshot, left chest. After I was evacuated to the MLR and treated in a Forward Air Station I was flown back to Surgical

Aid Station on a helicopter in a basket on its skid.

At the Surgical Aid Station they cut off my clothes, gave me blood, shot up my heart with digitalis, and took X-rays. A very nice officer said "Repeat after me" and recited the Act of Contrition." (See below.) When he was done he told me he was the Protestant chaplain. The Catholic chaplain was busy.

While I was thinking about that they put me on a much larger helicopter with my X-rays and flew me to the hospital ship *Repose*, where they rushed me into the operating room. That ended a day in the life of a "Grunt."

P.S. The casualty rate that day was 14 KIAs and 71 WIAs.

*John F. Donovan, 245 Elmwood St., Valley Stream, NY 11581*

**Note:** *The Act of Contrition is a prayer in which Catholics ask God to forgive their sins. They say it in the sacrament of reconciliation, or penance (otherwise known as confession). Saying it was not a good sign for Catholic Marines—or any other service members—who were about to be transported to a hospital ship.*

## Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for  
having offended you, and I detest  
all my sins, because of Your just  
punishments, but most of all because  
they offend You, my God, who are  
all-good and deserving of all my love.  
I firmly resolve, with the help of  
Your grace, to sin no more and to  
avoid the near occasion of sin.

## Operation Clambake

This excerpt from *OUTPOST WAR* U.S. Marines from the Nevada Battles to the Armistice, by Bernard C. Nalty, describes the operation in which John Donovan was wounded.

"The complex operation, named Clambake, required a half-dozen rehearsals, the last on 1 February. Unlike Operation Wakeup in November 1952, which had sought to take prisoners and gather intelligence on the Chinese defenses, planners designed Clambake primarily to kill the enemy and destroy his bunkers and trenches.

"The raid began at first light on 3 February, when three platoons of tanks roared toward the enemy held high ground—Hill 104, Kumgok, and Red Hill—a short distance west of the real objective, Ungok. While the armored vehicles cut loose with 90mm guns and flamethrowers, the 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, added to the realism of the feint by shelling the apparent objective.

"Taking advantage of the diversion, two reinforced platoons from Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines—armed with Bangalore torpedoes to breach barbed wire and flamethrowers, satchel charges, and 3.5-inch rocket launchers to destroy heavier fortifications—stormed Hills 31 and 31A. The tanks taking part in the diversion protected the left flank of the attacking Marines by crossing a frozen paddy to open fire on the trench line connecting Ungok with the hills to the west. The Chinese blazed away at the Marine tanks that either protected the flank from



beyond the rice paddy or accompanied the assault force and succeeded in destroying a flame-throwing M-4 Sherman tank. Supported by air, armor, and artillery, the Marine raiding party prevailed.

“Clambake captured no prisoners but accomplished its main purpose by collapsing bunkers, trenches, and caves, and killing perhaps 390 Chinese before the attackers withdrew. Marine casualties totaled 14 killed and 91 wounded. Operation Clambake demonstrated anew the value of planning and rehearsal, the ability of flame-throwing tanks to discourage Chinese tank-killer teams armed with shoulder-fired rocket launchers, and the importance of coordinating air, artillery, and armor in support of an infantry assault.”

[http://www.koreanwar2.org/kwp2/usmckorea/PDF\\_Monographs/KoreanWar.OutpostWar.pdf](http://www.koreanwar2.org/kwp2/usmckorea/PDF_Monographs/KoreanWar.OutpostWar.pdf)

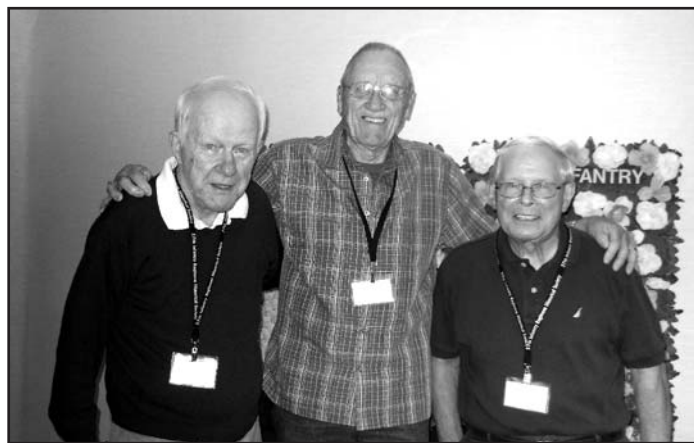
## Update on Paul Myatt

Great job on the Paul Myatt story (“The Martinez/Myatt Mystery,” p. 62, Jan/Feb 2017). Here is an update. I called Jim Kenefick who is, as far as I know, the only officer still living from the Myatt affair. He was the 2nd platoon leader at the time of that engagement.

*(To refresh your memories, here is an excerpt from that article: “Sgt. Myatt was captured by North Korean forces during the Sandbag Castle battle of September 6, 1952. He and Cpl. Benito Martinez were manning a listening post just 35 yards from a permanent North Korean stronghold when their position came under enemy grenade, mortar, and small arms fire.”)*

Paul Myatt received a silver star two weeks before he died in a Nashville VA hospital. He said he would send me a copy of that award.

Jim lives in a senior center in the Boston area. He was an attorney who worked in the Washington D.C. area for many years, so he knew the ropes. That’s how a lot of this came about.



Jim Kenefick, Richard Dahms, and Tim Uchic (L-R) at the 2013 Wolfhound Reunion in Baltimore, MD

I read George Langdale’s book, *Wolfhounds of Sandbag Castle: A 96-Day Defense*, in which I am mentioned. There are some things that are not exactly factual, but after all these years it would not make any difference.

There were three other people on that outpost at the time Myatt was captured. One was killed at the outset. The other two, Lyle E. Rousch and Carroll E. Reiland, somehow escaped. When we located these people some 40 years later, Reiland had passed away. George and I tried to interview Rousch over the phone. All he would say is he did not want to talk about it.

I tried to track him down, but have found no trace of him anywhere. I am not sure if you know that George Langdale died many years ago. Anyway, the story in *The Graybeards* rekindled my memory of the event.

Early that morning, while the engagement was still raging, an officer came by my .50 position and told me to concentrate your fire on the outpost. I looked at him and asked, “Lieutenant, what about our men on the outpost?”

He said, “It’s been overrun. Shoot it up.”

Reluctantly I did just that. For forty some years I was never sure if I hit any of our own men with 50 cal. rounds. After we started our Wolfhound Society, A Co. people assured me that only the enemy were hit.

And who was the officer who gave me that order? None other than Jim Kenefick.

Richard Dahms, [kdahms@new.rr.com](mailto:kdahms@new.rr.com)

## Can anyone verify that James H. Busher was a POW during the Korean War?



For more than 35 years my late husband James H. Busher and I have tried to obtain his military service records. Jim was an Army veteran who served in the 7th Infantry Division, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Fox Company. He served in Japan from 1949 to 1950 before participating in the landing at Incheon.

Every time we submitted a 180 form seeking a copy of his DD-214, we were sent a notice that his records were among those that were burned in the fire in 1973. We have no less than a dozen copies of his discharge, but that was all—until recently. One month ago, I finally received a document verifying one of his injuries in June 1951. That was a result of a paid research source.

Jim often recalled that immediately upon suffering that injury he was among some soldiers left behind and quickly captured by the enemy. He was a POW for a total of 19 days.

Jim had a previous injury on December 2, 1950 during the battle at the Chosin Reservoir, but I have no documentation for that one.



After each of his injuries he was treated at a hospital in Tokyo, Japan. Most of the members of his former unit are now also deceased as far as I know. So, I am reaching out to see if anyone else might remember him and could possibly provide any helpful information.

Jim served as the

KWWA member James Busher

Commander of Northeast New York Chapter 59 for the eight years prior to his death on May 12, 2016. He had also served a two-year term as one of the Directors of the New York State Department of KWVA.

Jim was very involved in local veterans organizations and ceremonies in our city and county. He served on our local committee in Rensselaer County that conducts the monthly "Honor a Deceased Veteran" ceremony. In order to have Jim honored in one of those ceremonies, the county officials insist that I provide proof that he served in Korea and additional proof that he was a Prisoner of War for those 19 days. The report of his injury in June 1951 proves he was in Korea. Now I just need verification that he was a POW.

I am sure that many of you reading this have endured the same problems. It is not only "The Forgotten War" but, because of that fire in 1973, many of you are also "The Forgotten Warriors."

Like many of you, Jim was proud of his military service and I am very proud of him. However, he never liked to talk much about the bad times. He preferred to talk about some of the more amusing events in his year in Japan just before the war.

That is why I am submitting this item for The Graybeards and seeking help. I may be reached by email at jbusbers2@aol.com.

May God Bless all veterans of the Korean War.

*Mrs. James (Marie) Busher*

## One carbine to protect one platoon?

**Editor's Note:** This email was "captured" off the internet. (I was a recipient as well.)

Ian Blessed, New Zealand

I read with interest your article with pictures in the Sept.-Oct. 2016 *Graybeards*. The reason I read it now is that it was sent to my summer house on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts after I left in September 2016.

Here's my story on that bridge.

I was in Korea from March of 1953 to March of 1954. My assignment was a platoon leader in charge of mechanics who repaired Corps of Engineer equipment such as bulldozers, graders, generators. My company was about 5 miles back from the MLR, so we could hear the guns and see the flashes at night, but nothing ever came our way.

After the Armistice in July of 1953, the Army Corps of Engineering had the responsibility to build a tent city for the many thousands of North Korean and Chinese prisoners who didn't want to return to their homeland. They had to be "talked to" for six months.

My platoon's assignment was on the north side of this bridge where we fixed equipment. I saw the prisoners being exchanged and the original house built by the North Koreans for the truce talks. I took pictures of this bridge. Had the truce been broken, this bridge would have been blown up, leaving us stranded with my one carbine to defend the entire platoon.

In 2003, in 2011, and in 2016 I returned to Korea as a guest of the Korean people, each time taking a grandson with me. (I have 13 grandsons!) We were taken to this bridge each time and inside the building where the talks still take place. The height of the

flags was a big thing with the North Koreans, for their flag always had to be higher.

As a further thought the grandson that I took with me in 2011, Quentin Backstrom, got interested in the Army and so took ROTC at Bucknell University, graduating last month. He is now a 2nd Lieutenant at Ft. Rucker in Alabama, in training to be a helicopter pilot and squadron leader.

Today some six years later you can still Google "Quentin Backstrom Korea" and scroll down the Korea Herald newspaper article entitled "Veterans See Fruits of the Sacrifice." There is a picture of Quentin and me.

*Robert T. Hoyt Jr., bob@payusa.com  
Nantucket & Berwyn, Pennsylvania*

## We are Korean veterans too

I would love for you to make it clear that we are Korea veterans too... The KWVA should put out a point of view on Korea Defense Veterans to be recognized as Korean Veterans...period.

On Veterans Day my Post Past Commander was recognizing war veterans. I did not get recognized because she said I was not a Korea Veteran. I told her I was in Korea, and I joined the VFW. Then I asked, "So what do the VFW Letters stand for?"

So could you please cover this issue? I would like to see it on the front cover of our KWVA magazine so it can be put to rest and so we Korea Defense Veterans can get recognized as such.

*Victor M. Zavala, 3924 Seles, Weslaco, TX 78596  
956-463-9818, progresosfczavala@yahoo.com*

**NOTE:** Here are the eligibility requirements for VFW membership, with Korean War service highlighted:

### Eligibility

There are three qualifiers for membership in the VFW, as set out in our By-Laws. An individual must meet all three in order to become a member. They are as follows:

- 1: Citizenship – must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. National.
- 2: Honorable Service – must have served in the Armed Forces of the United States and either received a discharge of Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) or be currently serving.
- 3: Service in a war, campaign, or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters\*. This can be proven by any of the following:
  - An authorized campaign medal (see a full list of qualifying medals and badges)
  - Receipt of Hostile Fire Pay or Imminent Danger Pay (verified by a military pay statement)
  - **Service in Korea for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days**

\*This information is usually available through a veteran's DD-214. If other information is needed or if a veteran's DD-214 is not complete, they can contact the National Personnel Records Center online or at 314-801-0800 to request more information.

*Source: <https://www.vfw.org/eligibility>*

That highlighted entry suggests that the writer is indeed a "Korean Veteran." However, such recognition is not always granted. It is up to individuals to convince folks like the aforementioned Past Commander of exactly what Korean Veteran status is.



If anybody has any comments about Mr. Zavala's predicament, please let us know.

## Dusted, rusted, and busted

During the Korean War the 79th Engineer Construction Battalion built roads. Company B was picked to build the prisoner compound on Cheju-do Island. We were over there a few months when one platoon was scheduled to go to the other side of the island for a specific project. I was with that platoon.

When we finished the project we were scheduled to board an LST and go around the island to pick up the rest of the company and return to Pusan. The weather on the island was dry, and we hadn't had any rain for quite a while. We packed our gear, loaded it on vehicles, and embarked on the LST. I didn't realize it at the time, but I had not secured my rifle adequately, and the dust stirred up by the drought made it a bit messed up.

After we boarded the ship, the lieutenant held an inspection, noticed my dirty rifle, and called for a rifle inspection. The sea was a tad rough. When I asked the First Sergeant why the inspection was being held he told me he had found the rifle and was upset.

I told the sergeant that the rifle was mine and that I would speak to the lieutenant—which I did. He did not change his mind. We underwent the inspection in rocky seas, which was less than pleasant. Some of the troops literally wanted to throw the lieutenant overboard.

As it turned out, rather than going around the island in heavy seas to pick up the rest of the company, we sailed directly to Pusan to meet them there. I wonder how many times that story has been told, and whether people doubt that it happened.

When we arrived in Pusan and reunited, someone notified the Inspector General about the incident. Staff members questioned the troops. In turn, the lieutenant asked me about making a complaint. I told him that he was an officer, and as such he had the right to march us until we fell over. Nevertheless, I feel that common sense should have prevailed.

I didn't tell him that, but only because I didn't think about it at the time.

*Dominic Curcuru Sr., 36 Oxford Dr.  
Washington MO 63090, 636-239-0278*

## Memories of Battery D, 398 AAA

I have enclosed photos of members of Battery D398AAA, Seoul area, January 1952. I was Mess Sergeant of Battery D. I wrote the names of the members on the back of each photograph. (Those that I remember). Also, I have enclosed a photo of Kim, a houseboy, and the other children. (See p. 23)

Most importantly, I enclosed a photo of a 10 Yen bill. I had it when I returned from R&R in Japan or, as we called it, I&I. Before shipping for home I had members of my Battery sign the bill. Many of those members receive The Graybeards and I know they will happy to see their names on that 10 Yen bill. (Some of the names include Pat Spatola, Fred Cole, Fred Ryan, Alex Forst, Ernie Pisani, and Gene Murphy.)

I have also included copies of photos that appeared in the afternoon edition of the New York Journal-American in July 1953.

*Alexander W. Atheras, 244 Hillside Ave.,  
Leonia, NJ 07605, 201-944- 8093*



Alexander Atheras's 10 yen bill



Battery D, 398AA chow line: Mess Sgt. Atheras (L) and Ernie Pisani (R)



Pvt. Emmitt oversees coffee line for Battery D, 398AAA



Two unidentified members of D Battery 398 AAA motor pool and Sgt. Atheras (R)



Battery D 398 AAA cooks, Atheras, Pisani, and Emmett (Center, L-R) and Korean KP personnel



New Yorkers return from battlefield

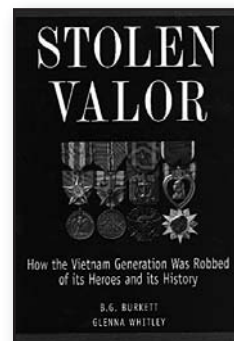
## The “Liars Club in the Sky”

I was discharged after serving three years with the U.S. Army’s 187th Airborne in Korea and Japan. My plans after that involved only making a living. Then, in 1988, I was residing in a large city in Texas. That’s when my plans changed a bit.

I was employed as a salesman for a large paper corporation and making a sales call with one of my distributor salesmen. He asked me about my military service and informed me that he was the president of the local KWVA chapter. He asked me to join. As an inducement he told me that one other member was a veteran of the 187th.

I attended the next meeting and met the gentleman, who I will call “Kirk.” He was wearing his KWVA uniform with ribbons, which included a Silver Star with oak leaf cluster, a Bronze Star with V, a Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, and paratrooper service wings with star (for a combat jump). So let me jump to the point.

Kirk and I became friends and fished together several times. He could tell war stories that made Rambo look like a cub scout. Like many other people I enjoy reading and hearing true war stories. Then he told me his real story.



He was about to be censured by the 187th. He had joined the Air Force at age 17. But, during basic training he went AWOL twice. The second time he was gone for thirty days. He was court-martialed and sentenced to six months in the stockade and given a BCD (bad conduct discharge). I was drawn in by his “wannabe stories.” Hopefully, not a lot of other members are, even though “stolen valor” is not all that uncommon.

There is a good book by B. G. Burkett, “Stolen Valor,” that is filled with fake heroes from the Vietnam War. Hopefully there weren’t enough from the Korean War to fill a book.

Oh, “Kirk” went to the “Liars Club in the Sky” a few years ago. If you have stories about anyone else like him—or any true tales of the Korean War—let’s hear them.

*James W. Belcher, 2103 Charing Cross  
Brunswick, GA 31525, 281-370-5232, 912-574-7393 (cell)*

## Parting shots

I fear that this may be my “swan song,” so I have a couple of parting shots which I offer in order of importance. (See the following thread for an elaboration on Mr. Mixon’s comments.)

1) The issue of the creation of the Korean Defense Veterans Association: it’s a terrible idea. The KWVA is a “Last man” association which has fulfilled its mission. No non-Korean veterans can feel the pain and pride intertwined in an endeavor that they alone endured. The esprit de corps that bound us Korean War veterans together cannot be replicated by some silly notion whose sole purpose is to keep a self-serving association alive. Just let us fade away.

2) I am sure that you have heard from your readers that on p. 3 of the May/June 2017 issue that Chosin was spelled with an “e.” Unforgivable, especially from the KWVA president.



Additionally, I noticed that the monument dedication at Quantico contained the Korean name of Jangjin for the Japanese name of Chosin. I am displeased that the Marine Corps caved to the Koreans who failed to see that is a play on words. It was at the time, and will always be, Chosin.

3) On p. 65 of the same issue, in the article "This strikes an unhappy chord," I suggest that Jesse Wilson may have been looking at Marines, not Soldiers, when he discussed wearing shoulder cords on the left.

The 5th and 6th Marine Regiments wear the French Fourragere, which was awarded for valor in WWI. It is worn on the left shoulder with dress greens.

John Mixon, P. O. Box 80984, Bakersfield, CA 93380

*NOTE: There are almost as many spellings of Chosin as there are "authentic" recipes for SOS. Here is an example from "Down in the weeds: close air support in Korea." DIANE Publishing. ISBN 1428990178. Fighting around the Choshin Reservoir\*... \*This was the Japanese name for the reservoir. American also rendered it as Chosin or Chosen. The proper Korean name is Changjin. Yet, it is spelled Jangjin on the monument. Go figure.*

## It doesn't make any sense

Dear fellow Korean War veterans,

I read your comments in the May-June 2017 *Graybeards* mag, and felt the need to respond. I am a Korean War veteran and a life member of KWVA. I served with the 1st Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment (Commonwealth Division) from 1952 to 1953. We saw action on the Hook, Hills 355 and 187. My battalion was awarded a "Battle Honour" for Hill 355.

We have a Korea Veterans Association in Canada. I belong to Unit 13 in Cambridge, Ontario. We consider our club to be a "Last Man" organization.

I agree with your stance on "Associate" members. I don't agree that anyone who didn't serve in Korea during the war should be considered for membership. I sometimes use the analogy, "Why don't we perpetuate and preserve the "Hong Kong Prisoners of War Association"? The reason is, it doesn't make any sense.

The many service people who served in Korea since the war should be recognized with their own association. They are NOT Korean War veterans! I was very unhappy with the direction taken by the KWVA regarding membership, and have been vociferous on a few occasions.

I am not asking you to do anything, but I agree with you as a fellow dissenter regarding this matter. I would appreciate a response.

In Comradeship,

Gordon L. Bennett CD, 803-190 Cedar St.  
Cambridge, ON. N1S 1W5, [captglbcd@aol.com](mailto:captglbcd@aol.com)

## We are a Korean War organization

Great to hear from you, Gordon. Thanks for your concurrence on KWVA "fading away." Ours is a Korean WAR Veterans Association.

My service in Korea was Jan.-Dec. 1952 with 2nd US

(Indianhead) Infantry Division, as field artillery forward observer and assistant battalion operations officer. After active duty I stayed in the Army Reserve and completed 20 years. I would not trade the experience for anything.

Now enjoying retirement in southern Arizona.

My best wishes to you, comrade in arms,

John Cook, [jwcookjr@gmail.com](mailto:jwcookjr@gmail.com)

## Get your own association

Dear [Mr. Bennett],

*"The many service-people who served in Korea since the War should be recognized with their own association. They are NOT Korean War veterans!"*

First of all, the KWVA is largely composed of Army combat arms pre-armistice veterans. The Marines went their own way with the Chosin Few. While a large number of both War and Defense veterans exist, the KWVA has always focused on the experiences of its majority members. The KWVA attitude has made, I believe, some 90% of war veterans feel unwanted and extending membership to those who did not serve in country gained few members...which I will also address.

It takes roughly 9 men to support 1 on the front line. The motto of the Grand Army of the Republic was "We shared the same canteen," which meant that it did not matter if you were an officer or enlisted man, whether you saw combat firsthand, or did not. Most of the veterans of Korean service served in the rear area where things were not a lot different before or after the armistice. (Note the UN medal was awarded to troops until they left country, the U.S. for a year after the armistice.)

During 1966-68 those who served on the DMZ saw duty much like those who served on the front lines in 50-53. So we need to define the canteen that was drunk from. The Sons of the GAR collapsed because GAR veterans felt that their sons were playing at being Civil War veterans. The Loyal Legion has survived barely by not going that route and was also founded as a post-civil war patriotic organization. So we have various groups of Korean veterans.

Those who served during the war but not in country that may be interested in membership are those who served in Japan, but those are few and never were a source of members. Those outside of that group...not at all. They served during the war but had no involvement in it...no canteen.

Surely those who served on the DMZ during 1966-68 shared a canteen with those who saw front line service during 1950-53, but the leadership and membership of the KWVA so disrespected their service that they are unlikely to join any organization that resembles it. The only hope for continuing a Korean service veteran organization lies with rear area post armistice veterans. In a way they shared a canteen with others who served to keep South Korea from being absorbed by North Korea, so there is a common ground there.

A DMZ veterans organization exists and a Korea Defense Veterans one did also. Neither attracted much membership. The first failed because it only included a small part of those who served. The second went down because it was run as a dictatorship without any voting for leadership. The head appointed all

officers and ran everything personally, and his untimely death ended the organization.

I think what may be the best way to go is to work on founding a new defense veterans organization using all the organizational legacy of the KWVA and merging it with the KDVA. Again, I still feel that this is too little, too late.

Without KWVA funds to jump start the new KDVA it will not happen. There is little interest among defense vets to join in the first place, so a real effort would have to be made to attract them. Without defense members having defense stories in Greybeards it is not going to happen. In other words, we have a major chicken and egg problem.

Without initiatives that appeal to defense vets you are not going to attract members. The "Let's erect a wall with those killed during 1950-53 and exclude those who were killed post armistice" attitude speaks loudly to defense vets. I am not sure that can be overcome.

I continue to believe that KWVA efforts should focus on doing the most good with available funds and the flag will be cased when it can no longer be held aloft.

*John Gavel, thegavel@aol.com*

## Stay or Go? Go

Yes, we are getting down to the time we all will be called home and there are some of us diehards getting up there in age. I think if we have to do so -- GO. It should be ended.

To me the KWVA was just for the vets from Korea, 1950 to 1954. I believe if the Korean Peacekeepers wish to start one of their own, so be it. They should not become part of KWVA, nor should have descendants come in just to keep numbers up.

*Ralph Newcomb, newcombapenut@aol.com*

## Ribbons and medals at the same time?

A few years back you wrote an article concerning "Woody Keeble" and his Medal of Honor recommendation. In the picture of Keeble it shows him wearing "ribbons" and "medals" at the same time. Is this permissible?

If so, it's news to me. In 2008, when Keeble was awarded the Medal of Honor, he was only wearing his medals.

*Bob Barfield, rnj187@yahoo.com*

## The Supposed Atomic Cannon in Korea

I had written about this so-called atomic cannon many years ago regarding whether there really was one in Korea during my time in M Company of the 5th RCT, 24th Inf. Div. Yes, I did see what was called an Atomic Cannon around May of 1951 when we were recovering from the attack of 22 April 1951.

My company moved up at one point to where we were to dig in on a small hill that gave us a view of a wide open "plains" area for miles to the north. We moved in during total dark; about four days of C Rations were brought to the area in the morning. When the sun came up, we finished securing this small hill we were to hold if attacked. At this point, the question kept coming up, "What are we doing here and why?"

At the time I was filling in as a company clerk when not with the 81mm mortars, so most of the time I kind of knew what was

going on. But I think Captain Lincoln did not have any idea. While we were having breakfast, we heard shouting and other noise just at the bottom of the hill. The clamor caused us to look down to see what was taking place. We saw something we had heard about it were now seeing firsthand: two trackers, one on each end of a long carriage, slowly moving up the road to just below our position. The rig remained there to just about when the sun was setting.

The question was whether it was one of those rumored atomic cannons or just a large new type cannon. Those of us on the hill were not allowed to go down and look at this cannon or whatever it was. As soon as the sun had set, this cannon was moved up the road to just a point of our hill. Just the barrel was exposed, facing north.

Now, whoever this unit was, we were never told. And, we were not allowed to talk to anyone associated with the weapon. Later in the night, we were told to move to the reverse side of our position and keep our eyes covered. After that weapon was fired, we understood to keep our eyes covered.

The next night was a repeat of the preceding night. We still did not know just what it was all about. Again we covered our eyes and moved to the reverse side of the hill until we heard the word "clear."

We were wondering just what was going on. On the third night the cannon was set in position to "fire" again. We had learned, that this cannon was firing a shell over 22 miles into North Korea, which was the reason we never heard it hit a target.

Just after the cannon was fired, all hell broke out on the road where the cannon was, just below our positions. The cannon was hit directly with all the incoming shells from the north of us. Yet we did not hear just from where the incoming was coming. While this cannon was now totally a pile of iron lying on its side, not one incoming round landed on, near, or even close to our positions. The other side had some good FOs, as it was pinpoint shooting. We never did find out just where they were.

The strangest thing of this "cannon" is that my C.O. never talked about the incident to anyone. And I was his clerk up to October when I went home. May he R.I.P.

Fast forward to around 1970 or so. While I was on a motorcycle trip I met another biker who was a retired law enforcement officer, as I was. He had been in Korea at the same time I was (1951). I mentioned the large cannon and etc.

He said there were three of the large cannons in the rear at the time I spoke about. He said he was with the unit and the cannons for about two years or so, and revealed that they could just about shoot any kind of "round" a great distance. He only knew of the incident I spoke about.

This should settle the mystery cannons. I spent four days with the so-called "atomic cannon" in Korea after we had crossed the 38th in 1951.

*John Sonley, 490 W Cherrywood Dr.,  
Chandler, AZ 85248, 480-802-5242, Jwscpd38@gmail.com*

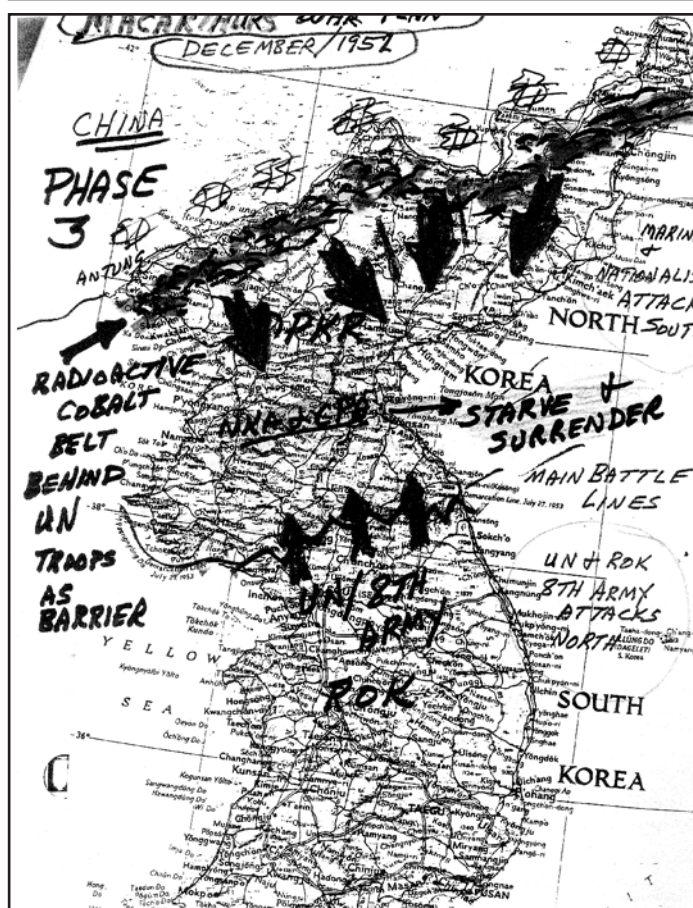
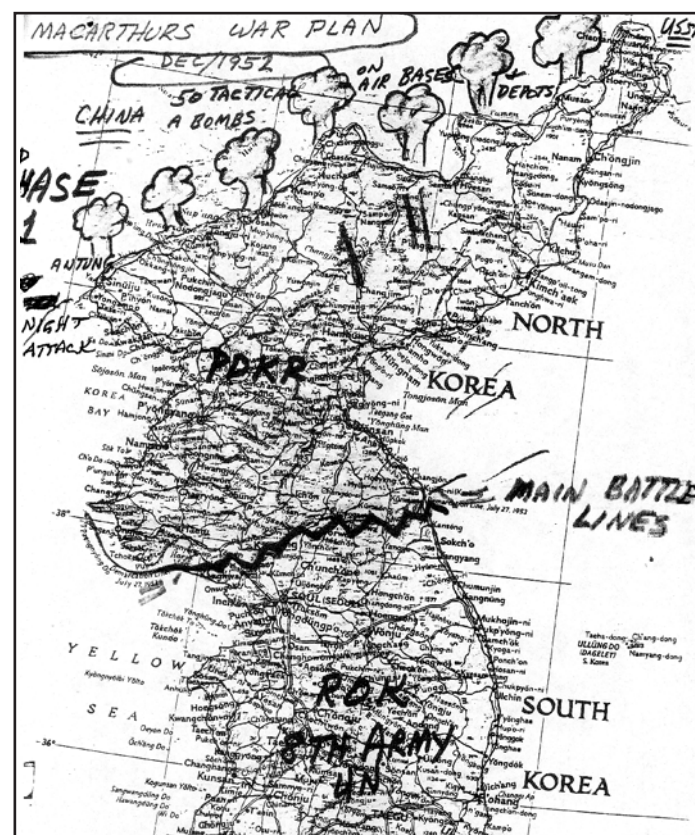
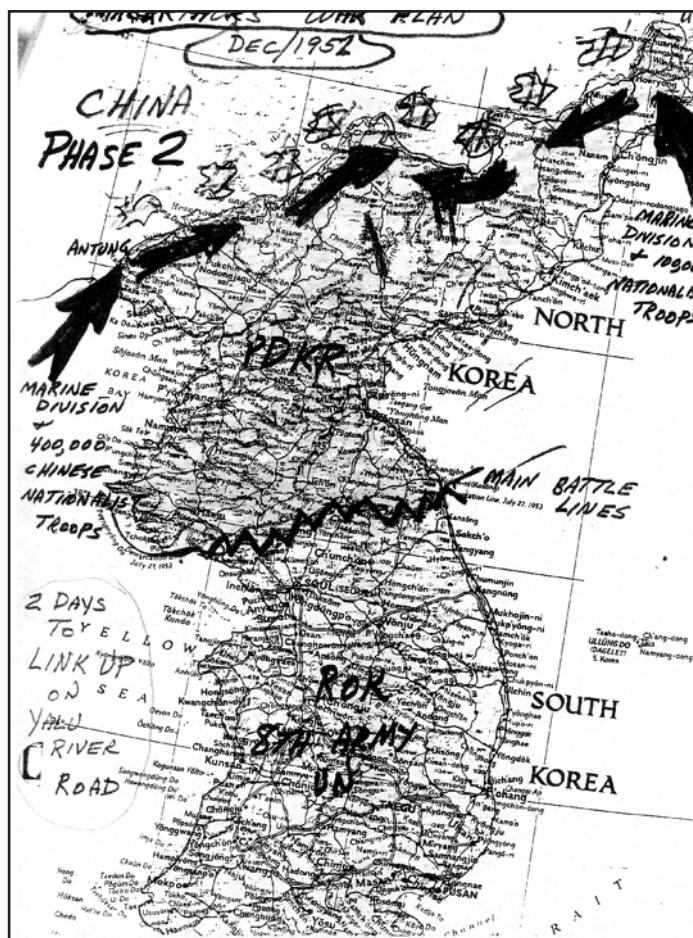
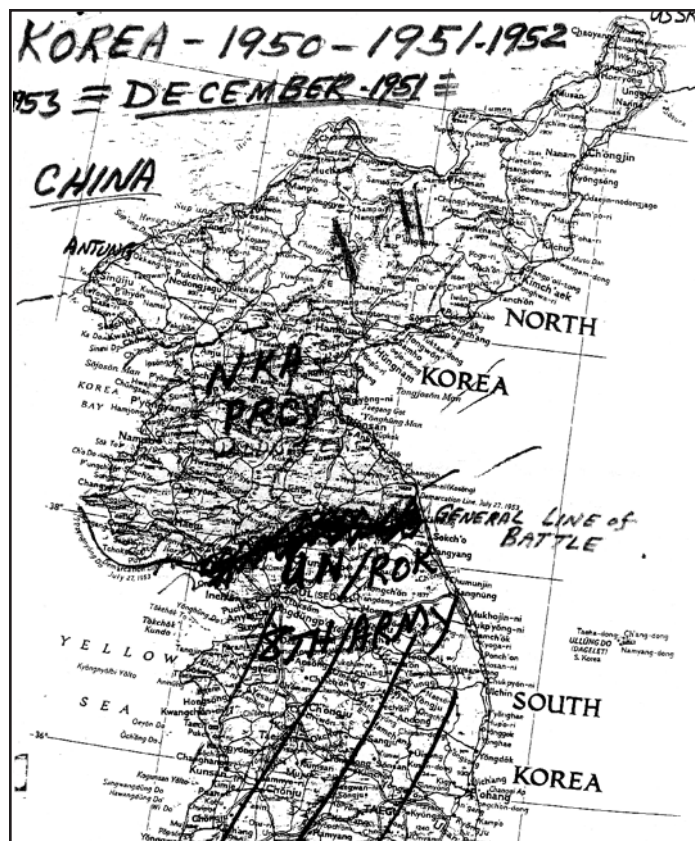
## MacArthur's Battle Plan

Here are sketches outlining General MacArthur's 1950-51 battle plan that included the use of atomic and cobalt bombs, as men-



tioned in Editor Sharp's new book, *Atomic Cannons, Nuclear Weapons, and a mystery of the Korean War*. The sketches, provided by Lee Parks, also include comments regarding the plan.

George L. Parks, 61 Corman Ct., Decatur, IL 62521





MEMO TO PRESIDENT - DECEMBER 1952

**GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR'S  
PLAN TO END KOREAN  
CONFLICT IN 10 DAYS.**

**PHASE 1** - 50 TACTICAL A BOMBS DROPPED AT NIGHT ON MANCHURIAN AIR BASES & MAINTENANCE AREAS FROM ANTUNG TO HUNCHUN NORTH OF YALU RIVER. ENSURING TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF DEPOTS & SUPPORT.

**PHASE 2** - TWO AMPHIBIOUS LANDINGS - FORCE CONSISTS OF 2 MARINE DIVISIONS (US) & 500,000 CHINESE NATIONALIST TROOPS FROM CHIANG KAI SHEK ON FORMOSA.

**PHASE 3** - BELT OF RADIOACTIVE COBALT LAID SOUTH OF YALU RIVER. AMPHIB FORCE 1 - MARINE DIVISION & 100,000 NATIONALIST TROOPS LAND ON WEST COAST AT ANTUNG - DRIVE EAST ON YALU RIVER ROAD.

AMPHIB FORCE 2 - MARINE DIVISION & 100,000 NATIONALIST TROOPS LAND ON EAST COAST AT UNGGI OR NATIN - DRIVE WEST ON YALU RIVER ROAD.

- JOIN UP IN TWO DAYS CUT OFF KOREA -

**COMMENTE VOZZ?**  
ON  
**1952 - GENERAL MACARTHUR**

1. WIND - BELT OF PREVAILING WESTERLIES - RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT HEAVY OVER JAPAN, PACIFIC OCEAN & US. 50 A BOMBS!
2. EFFECT OF 50 A BOMB EXPLOSIONS ON PACIFIC RIM?
3. EFFECT OF 50 A BOMB EXPLOSIONS ON MAJOR ASIAN FAULT LINES?
4. EFFECTS OF RADIOACTIVE COBALT & 50 A BOMBS ON MANCHURIA, KOREA & THE TROOPS & PEOPLE IN THE AREA?
5. CHINA POLICY AT THAT TIME - - - IF YOU LIVE THRU THE BLAST - YOU'RE OK!
6. STARVATION? IN 10 DAYS?
7. JEN HAI ATTACKS?
8. EFFECTS OF 50 A BOMBS DETONATED IN ONE AREA ON EARTH'S CRUST (OR ORBIT)?
9. WORLD PUBLIC OPINION?
10. OPINION OF HISTORY?

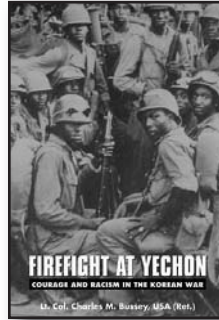
**CHESTY PULLER WASN'T THE ONLY ONE A FEW SANDWICHES SHY OF A PICNIC!**

## Integration in the Korean War

### Did the Battle of Yechon actually happen?

Re "822nd Engineer Aviation Battalion (SCAWAF), All Black Unit, Okinawa (1949 -1950)," p. 60, Jan/Feb 2017.

The story, written by SSG Robert L. Jones regarding SCAR-WAF- 822nd Engineer Aviation Battalion, reminded me of a



book by ex-Tuskegee Airman LtCol. Charles M. Bussey, \*\* titled *Firefight at Yechon*. I thought R. L. Jones might have been connected to the 822nd. I wish I could have written to Mr. Bussey. He was born in 1921, so he might still be alive. I would like to thank him.

\*\*Bussey joined the Tuskegee Airmen, an all-black air unit, which protected Allied bombers on missions over Europe during World War II and over

North Africa, Italy and finally Germany. Bussey later served as an Army officer in the Korean War.

This man's story explains in vivid detail the horrible discrimination he had to contend with. But he was faced with that from the time he was born in, of all the liberal places in the world, Bakersfield, California.

What LtCol Bussey and his men put up with was shameful. But they persevered. I'm reminded of the construction of the Alcan Highway. African-Americans built the southern part. My uncle, who worked on the northern end, had nothing but respect for all of the African-Americans he encountered when the builders of the two sections met.

Anyone who wants to know how badly some of the African-American troops were treated in Korea should read *Firefight at Yechon*. Even if readers take it with a grain of salt it will make them stop and think.

Marvin Reed, 2900 Right Hand Canyon Rd., Reno, NV 89510

*Note: There is one school of thought that suggests the Firefight at Yechon never happened. Consider this entry from Wikipedia:*

On July 20, 1950, Bussey was returning to his 77th Engineer Combat Company with mail from the states for one of his platoons, when he came across a dozen "lollygagging" (resting) army truck drivers. Bussey heard fighting in the town ahead, in which Bussey states his company was supposed to provide back up support. He climbed a nearby hill. A kilometer to the rear of the vehicle column he spotted a large body of white-clad Koreans coming toward them. [1][3][4][5][6] Bussey ordered the drivers to unload the two machine guns and ammunition in their trucks and drag them to the top of the hill. [4]

"I watched the group of farmer-soldiers coming ever closer and reckoned that farmers scatter and run if you send a long burst of machine-gun fire over their heads, but soldiers flatten out like quail and await orders from their leader...I sent a burst from the .50 caliber machine gun dangerously close above the heads of the approaching group...True to the form of soldiers, they flattened into the paddy as the bullets flew past them...Bullets raked and chewed them up mercilessly...The advancing column was under tight observation from somewhere on the mountain because large mortar rounds started...overhead. I was nicked by a fragment. The gunner on the .30 caliber



machine gunner was hit badly, and his assistant was killed. The enemy mortar was accurate. The shells were bursting about twenty to forty feet overhead, showering us with shell fragments. And we were now drawing small-arms fire from the rice paddies below...I chopped the North Korean troops to pieces...I was ashamed of the slaughter before me, but this was my job, my duty, and my responsibility. I stayed with it until not one white rag was left intact. [7]"

The enemy unit was destroyed.[4] Bussey's group was given credit for killing 258 enemy soldiers in the battle.[1] A day after United States forces occupied Yechon, an Associated Press reporter filed a story about the entire battle and said it was "the first sizable ground victory in the Korean war".[6]

Bussey stated that he was denied the Medal of Honor in the battle because a racist white officer, Lt. Col. John T. Corley, felt the nation's highest medal for valor should only be awarded to a black man posthumously.[1][4]

Thirty nine years after the conflict, Bussey could not pinpoint the mass grave site of the dead North Korean soldiers and local civilians could not recall anything about the incident. [4][8]

The Washington Post states that "prejudiced Army historians later insisted, against the evidence... [the Battle of Yechon]...never really happened".[9]

Source:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Firefight\\_at\\_Yechon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Firefight_at_Yechon)

### About the Book

*Firefight at Yechon: Courage and Racism in the Korean War.* Charles M. Bussey. 272 pp. Illus., maps, Paperback. May 2002. ISBN 978-0-8032-6201-0 \$19.95

Firefight at Yechon is the harrowing story of Charles M. Bussey, a former Tuskegee airman and one of the first American combatants in the Korean War. He led the Seventy-seventh Engineer Combat Company for 205 days filled with almost continual fighting, during which he and his fellow American soldiers served with distinction. They also felt the effects of racism in the U.S. Army and wartime media, which singled out African American units for blame in the early days of the war.

Firefight at Yechon sets the record straight about the contribution of African Americans in the Korean War. It also paints an unforgettably realistic portrait of the terrifying first days of fighting in 1950, when American soldiers, both black and white, were reeling under the assault of the North Korean People's Army. The Seventy-seventh Engineer Combat Company played an instrumental role in the retaking of Yechon on 20 July, the first major victory for the U.S. Army. The carnage of that fight and the shining courage of his fellow soldiers would never be forgotten by Bussey.

## 13,000 miles in 3 days

Home Again, Home Again

My whirlwind trip is over. I'm back in Seoul.

After traveling nearly 13,000 miles in a 3-day period, it's good to be home! It'll take a while for everything to sink in, but for now I'm just trying to recall the moments that made the trip such a memorable experience:

- talking with President Moon in the quiet and intimate setting of Semper Fidelis Memorial Chapel at the U.S. Marine Corps National Museum and having him thank our family for Col.

Forney's role in saving his parents' lives at the Heungnam Evacuation

- seeing the U.S. Marine Color Guard - hard charging, twenty-something-year-old young men - representing 241 years of Marine Corps history
- meeting the U.S. Marine Corps Commandant, General Robert B. Neller
- giving President Moon my U.S. Marine Corps lapel pin and having him thank me, bow graciously, and then put it on his jacket
- sharing time and stories with Chosin veterans Warren Wiedhahn and Stephen Olmstead
- thanking ROK embassy, Blue House, and Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs officials for inviting me to the ceremony as their guest
- spending time with friends I've known for years: Bob and Joan Lunney, Helen and Brian Bowlin, and Tom Fergusson.

As a U.S. Marine veteran and grandson of Colonel Forney, I was proud and honored to represent my family and the U.S. Marine Corps at an event that paid tribute to Chosin Battle veterans and all those who participated in the Heungnam Evacuation.

The event made headlines around the world and reaffirmed the strong Korean-American alliance forged during the dark, cold winter of 1950.

Semper Fi!

Ned Forney

**Note:** Ned Forney, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps, is a writer living in Seoul, South Korea. He is currently working on a non-fiction book about North Korean refugees rescued from Hungnam, North Korea, during a little-known U.S. humanitarian operation in December of 1950 that was directed by his grandfather, Edward Forney, USMC, who served as the evacuation control officer at Hungnam. Ned has a blog on which he posts many interesting Korean War stories and articles he writes about current affairs. (See <http://nedforney.com/>)

## And the 187th belonged to...

Re: Page 62, "To whom did the 187th belong?" May/June 2017: The first paragraph cites the 187 Airborne Infantry Regiment as part of the 7th Infantry Division. During the Korean War, the 7th Infantry Division consisted of the 17th, 31st, and 32nd Infantry Regiments.

The second paragraph is correct in that the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team (ARCT) was not part of any divisions in Korea. The 187th was part of the 11th Airborne Division. The 187th ARCT was created by adding artillery and other supporting units prior to arriving in Korea.

For general information, the 187th and 188th were Glider Infantry Regiments of the 11th Airborne Division. They became Parachute Infantry Regiments along with their sister regiment 503rd. As a division, they participated in the U.S. return to the Philippines.

I was a member of the 188th from July 1946 to October 1947.

Bud Mitnick, Silver Spring, MD, [bud.mitnick1@gmail.com](mailto:bud.mitnick1@gmail.com)

## To whom did the 187 belong?

There was a question in the "Feedback" section, May/June 2017, p. 62 regarding to whom the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment "belonged." Here is a little background.

The 187 Glider Regiment was one of the three regiments assigned to the 11th Airborne Division through WW2. After WW2 ended the men were all sent to jump school to become PIR (Parachute Infantry Regiment.) While in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan, we were given the name Rakkasan, meaning "falling down umbrella men."

As I recall, the 11th Airborne Division was ordered back to the states while the 6th Division was ordered out of South Korea and colors were retired. The 7th Division then relieved the 11th Division. Relieved and replaced, the 11th Airborne Division returned to the U.S. (In my mind, if the 11th had not been relieved, the North Koreans would not have been able to cross the 38th parallel and start the Korean War.)

Meanwhile in February 1950, the 187th was ordered to Camp Drum, N.Y. for "Operation Swarmer." This would be the first time in history that we would do a heavy drop. We used a C-119 airplane, and dropped 2 1/2 ton trucks, 105 Howitzers, and a 90mm anti-tank gun. It took three one-hundred foot parachutes attached to each one to make it safely to the ground. Needless to say, the brass were very impressed, so impressed, in fact, that we were sent to South Korea for the war.

In July 1950 the 187th landed at Kimpo Air Base and quickly took the high grounds to retake and defend the air-base, which was a major lifeline for supplies. Shortly thereafter we were sent on two combat jumps 40-50 miles behind enemy lines and left to fight our way out.

*(SGM (RET) James E. Bockman, National President  
187th Airborne Inf. Regt. Assn.  
4035 E. Calypso Ave.  
Mesa, AZ 85206, 480-510-0770  
JBoc187@msn.com*

## Great Revisit

Having enjoyed the May-June Issue of *Graybeards* "Revisit Tour: Go," I decided to send in my bit. I was overwhelmed and greatly moved by the entire tour, the people, the treatment, etc. I could go on and on!

Before I returned, I sketched a simple layout of a REMEMBRANCE DISPLAY for my home on a small sheet of paper. The nearby photo depicts it. I get wonderful comments by all who view it!

I and my 42 year old son are the featured players.

*Peter du Fossé, 8803 Gape Wagon Ci.*

*San José, CA 95135, 408-528-8901*



**Peter du Fossé's wall**

---

## BROWN from page 56

After having made a promise to God that if he could survive Korea he would dedicate his life's work to a "God and Country" agenda, Brown returned to Korea in 1978. There, he taught in schools, factories, churches, and military bases, resulting in thousands accepting the Christian faith. He also went to the Philippines and organized a church in a small village in communist guerrillacontrolled country without incurring any harm, while seeing great success among the sugar cane workers and the Philippine Constabulary.

Brown created SAFE PASTURE INTERNATIONAL, Inc. to support his efforts in Jamaica, Haiti, Trinidad and other countries, for taking in medical supplies, building small houses, and preaching and teaching in the churches there. The work of this mission organization continues today. He worked on the Cherokee Indian Reservation in North Carolina, the Pima Reservation in Arizona, and with the Save A Boy Wilderness in NE Georgia.

Because of a shortage in the United States Corps of Chaplains several years ago, Brown volunteered and was commissioned for the Chaplain Service. He served in places of leadership, and was eventually promoted in headquarters to the rank of Lt. General. Brown is currently involved with veteran and military groups.

Gen. Brown's recognitions and awards include military decorations from both the US Army and the Republic of South Korea. He has received letters of appreciation from the Republics of South Korea and the Philippines, Polk County Baptist Association, and Pres. Ronald Reagan. In addition, he was deemed a Personality of the South in both 1979 and 1980.

Brown's passion is to keep his promise to God and Country, and to honor the memory of friends lost at war.



# Where was I on July 27, 1953?

Company C, 17th Inf. Regt., 7th Inf. Div., had executed a night raid on Hasakol, a Chinese held hill in front of Pork Chop on July 4th, 1953 and then counter-attacked Pork Chop on July 9th, as did numerous companies from the 17th and 32nd Regiments between July 6th and July 11th. After some time in the rear getting replacements, etc., we went back up.

I and my 60 mm mortar squad were attached to one of the rifle platoons, and we ended up on Outpost Yoke. Yoke was a small outpost way out in no-man's land. A trench from the MLR provided access and passed through Outpost Uncle to Yoke for a mile or so, I think.

In front of Yoke, about 200 yards out, was a hill occupied by the Chinese. It probably had a number. It showed signs of activity and construction, but nothing was very visible. It was barren because of a lot of shelling from our side.

For some days there had been rumors flying about an imminent cease fire. On the morning of July 27th, we got the word about the cease fire which was to go into effect at 10 p.m. that night. We went on full alert because we couldn't trust the Chinese to honor the coming truce.

Our tanks on the MLR and the artillery units threw an occasional round on the Chinese hills. They were undoubtedly using up ammo so they wouldn't have to carry it back. Their firing continued until 10 p.m. that night. Then every-

thing went silent.

All night long we manned the firing bunkers and trenches because of our distrust of the enemy. At the same time, on a very dark night, we could hear the noises of activities, tools, shovels, etc., on that hill in front of us. Those noises went on all night long. When dawn arrived we were shocked at what came into view.

The Chinese had uncovered trenches that we didn't know were there (they hadn't been visible). There were dozens of Chinese soldiers sitting on the edges of the trenches and standing on the hillside, waving flags and shouting greetings to us.

On the top of the hill, 200 yards or so away, was a white, flower covered, arched trellis. Under the arch was a young oriental lady in a white gown who was also waving a flag. It seemed they had planned for that day for quite some time.

We spent a little time enjoying the scene, waving back, and showing appreciation. It was obvious that they were just as glad the war was over as we were. We spent the next day or two packing and loading up. Then, we made the long trek up the trench into reserve—and a new, safe and relaxing, way of life.

Dan Peters, 419 11th St., Manning IA, 712-655-3041,  
DanLois@mmcts.com

## 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.

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Leatherneck, Magazine of the Marines



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

Send your photos and a short write-up  
to *The Graybeards* editor for publication!

Mail to Art Sharp, Editor, Korean War,  
2473 New Haven Circle  
Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141

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## 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.

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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.

1. Must not be eligible for Regular membership.
2. 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](http://www.kwva.org)

Adopted 10/26/2009, R5 Approved 7/26/2013

# KWVA honored with plaque

Immediately following the reading of names of their fallen and placement of a wreath at the Korean Memorial, Mr. Panos Boutsikaris, representing the Greek Korean Veterans Association, presented our KWVA with a plaque inscribed: "With Honor to the Korean War Veterans Association. Korea 1950-1955. Panhellenic Association of the Korean War."

Accepting the plaque, KWVA Past President Larry Kinard remarked, "It is a true honor for me to accept this plaque on behalf of the Korean War Veterans Association. It is meaningful to me because of my past and continuing association with the Greek people."

"Hearing your emotional statement about your father, who served as a company commander in the infantry in Korea, brings back memories of my time there when my infantry unit was on MLR with

the Greek contingent close by. We knew they were courageous and aggressive fighters and could depend on them to protect our flank.

"We were particularly grateful when together we repulsed several Chinese assaults across the Imjin River. Thank you very much. We will display it in a prominent location in our museum."

Larry then presented Mr. Boutsikaris with a tile of the beautiful Korean War Memorial as, in his words, "a token of our friendship with our Greek brothers in arms."

Note: Past President Kinard remains in contact with a gentleman in Athens whose brother was killed in the Korean War. In his honor, he conducts programs in their schools that are similar to our "Tell America" program.

*Paul H. Cunningham, Director; 717-299-1990, pcunningham1841@verizon.net*



**Panos Boutsikaris (L) presents plaque to Larry Kinard**

The plaque presented by the Greek KWVA to us



## Hometown Friends Meet at the 38th Parallel



**Lloyd Ginder (L) and Henry Brubaker at 38th Parallel**

Several times we were stopped by guards at the DMZ asking for the password to make sure we were who we said we were. Finally, the guards opened the gates and let us continue.

After arriving at the DMZ and talking with the guards there, and seeing that all was secure, we

It was a day we'll not forget. Sgt. Lloyd Ginder and Cpl. Henry Brubaker, who both lived on Grant Street in Manheim, Pennsylvania, had their pictures taken at the Korean 38th Parallel.

I was stationed in Inchon, Lloyd at Yundungpo. After loading our weapons carrier with all the military supplies we thought we needed, we were on our way to the DMZ, with troops traveling this dusty road before us. We were warned to stay on well-traveled roads or trails, as mines were being detonated.

started our journey back to our units. However, after traveling approximately 20 miles and not keeping an eye on our fuel gauge, we realized we were in trouble. Shortly after making our unfortunate discovery, we found that luck was on our side. We came to a UN camp. They not only gave us fuel, but a real good hot meal. They were a great bunch of fellas!

We returned to our units safe and sound. We had finished our duty and were waiting for our return to the United States. That day finally came. As the Inchon



**The 38th Parallel, the focal point of the Korean War**

docks faded in the distance, it gave us a great feeling to know we had served our country and performed our duty. We were on our way home to land in the free, the home of the brave.

It was our privilege to serve the United States of America.

Both Lloyd and I received honorable discharges.

*Henry Brubaker; 1 S Heintzelman St., Manheim, PA 17545, 717-665-7351, Cell: 717-875-1994*





# Welcome Aboard!

## New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

### ARIZONA

R048084 RICHARD H. BOIVIN

### CALIFORNIA

A048026 MARGARET H. BAKER  
R048067 ROBERT S. CORTEL  
A048077 SUNG TAE KIM  
R048051 GERALD R. MARTIN  
LR48096 MORLAND G. MCMANIGAL  
R048022 JERRY A. ROBY  
LR48098 PHILLIP E. STRONG  
R048057 MARSHALL B. VARANO

### CONNECTICUT

R048042 RICHARD A. CURLAND

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R048018 CHARLIE W. MAIN

### FLORIDA

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R048089 STEPHEN G. GREGA  
R048090 ROBERT J. KRUEGER  
R048015 CHARLES E. MATTINGLY  
R048082 MAURICE J. O'CONNOR  
LR48086 MORRIS P. PANCERELLA  
R048055 FRANK PEPINE  
R048047 MURRAY STOLLMAN  
LR48049 FLOYD A. THRASHER  
R048045 JOHN R. 'ROGER' UBAUDI  
A048074 ROGER WILLIAMS

### HAWAII

LR48046 GEORGE SAIKI

### ILLINOIS

R048025 BENJAMIN F. JIMMS  
R048058 JAMES A. 'JIM' MANGAN  
R048056 MICHAEL S. MANGUM  
R048034 DAVID P. WRIGHT

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LR48020 LAWRENCE M. MOUNCE

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R048061 BERNARD A. SMITH  
R048065 PAUL S. WELSH

### MICHIGAN

R048092 JOHN W. HUBERT

### MINNESOTA

LR48070 VERNARD G. PROKOSCH

### MISSOURI

R048068 RICHARD O. DALLAVALLE  
R048019 ARVID L. LINKE

### NEVADA

R048085 GRANT H. BIRMINGHAM  
R048053 BOB R. HEIDERMAN  
LR48028 NILE H. HOLMES  
R048021 MILTON H. MEDEIROS  
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A048075 WILLIE NORWOOD  
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R048060 ELWOOD L. HARRELL  
LR48016 VINCENT P. HARRISON  
R048035 JOSEPH J. MELE  
LR48088 RICHARD K. PEGG  
R048095 LOUIS F. 'LOU' SANTANGELO  
LR48094 WALTER S. WINTERS

### SOUTH CAROLINA

R048064 BILLY R. FALLS  
A048048 DARLENE D. HANSON

### TENNESSEE

R048023 JACK M. FOGEL

### TEXAS

LR48017 EDWINA V. BIVINS  
LR48102 ARTHUR L. BRYAN  
R048100 JOSE L. CARCANO  
A048101 KYONG C. CARCANO  
R048066 JAY L. GRAHAM  
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R048072 ROBERT L. BECKMAN  
LR48036 MARTIN J. CALLAWAY  
R048080 DALBERT H. FLETCHER  
R048091 BERNARD J. SIMONAR

# Humor in Korea

## Then there was Wayman

Wayman was a real swinger, and the ship's favorite cook. He could cook and dance - dance while frying eggs sunny side up, over easy, over medium, or well done with six or eight pans going at the same time - sweating profusely over a very hot oil-burning stove near the Equator. He was meticulously clean. He showered three times a day - once before breakfast, once after lunch, and once before going ashore.

One payday, back in the small, but safe, aft hold and on a stretched blanket, Wayman won all the money shooting dice-craps. With his ill-gotten gain, crisp white uniform and white hat just so, just about an inch above the eyebrow, he bounded down the gangplank on a three-day pass.

Late that evening there was a great commotion on the dock. Wayman caused all the excitement by arriving with three good-looking women sitting on top of the white leather seats of a bright red Cadillac convertible. Everyone went topside to see the spectacle.

Wayman rushed up the gangplank and down the ladder to his locker in the crew's compartment for more of his winnings. He logged in late on the night of his extended liberty.

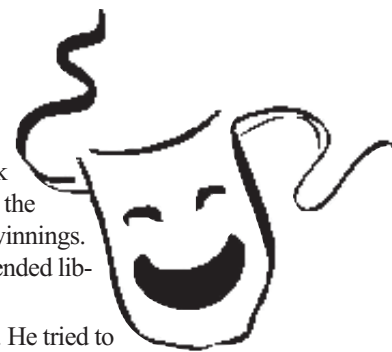
For a month he was broke but happy. He tried to sell his expensive Shaffer Pen and Pencil Set and his gold Gruen watch he had just recently purchased with previous earnings.

Ship cooks have an inglorious and demanding job and receive little recognition for their hard, but important, work.

Wayman was held in high esteem, praised for his daring, and now had endeared himself to the crew in fine style.

Story from my book, Chapter 6, Polynesian Paralysis - A Tugboat Sailor, The Life and Times of Billy Jack McCoy in the Forgotten War. Available on Amazon.

Jack McCoy SK2, 808 Lake View Ct. E Crowley, TX 76036, Jackmccoy31@gmail.com, 405-620-6103 cell



# **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

ALLAN H. BRASSEAL  
BILL GOBER  
JOHN T. MAGAZZU  
OLON R. PATTERSON  
ERIC F. PLUNK

## ARIZONA

NORMAN A. ROSS

## ARKANSAS

DOUGLAS L. VANDEMARK

## CALIFORNIA

MARTIN F. BLESKEY  
RUSSELL W. GROSS  
MICHAEL A. LABRIOLA  
JESS E. SALLEY  
DONALD K. SCORE  
RICHARD G. SILVERIA

## CONNECTICUT

KENNETH L. LORD  
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ROBERT A. CROSSMAN

JOHN M. HORAN

ROBERT N. MCNATT

LESTER J. TROMBLEY

SEN. LEE WEISSENBORN

PAUL W. WELCH

## HAWAII

WILLIAM S. SAKAMOTO

ROBERT G. SUGEL

RAYMOND M. TENDO SR.

## IDAHO

JAMES A. POSTON

## ILLINOIS

ELBERT L. BISHOP

ROY T. 'RABBIT' MILAM

FRED H. 'SKIP' PERRYMAN

DELMAR G. RIESS

FRANKLIN D. R. VICKERS

ARTHUR R. VILLHARD SR.

KEITH K. WIEGMAN

## INDIANA

JACK E. BEATY

WILLIS A. 'BILL' ENSIGN

ARTHUR FLOTOW

HUBERT D. GREGORY

EUGENE NIX

## IOWA

ARTHUR C. LUND

DAVID R. NORTHEY

## KENTUCKY

DAVID S. WHITCOMB

## MAINE

CECILE A. BERUBE

ROGER S. CASEY

BILLY R. MARSHALL

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GILBERT H. MILLER

WILLIAM G. PHILLIPS

CHARLES J. REED JR.

EUGENE W. STEWART

## MASSACHUSETTS

JOHN T. BABCOCK

JOHN M. BISHOP

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## MINNESOTA

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HUGH W. MCELHERAN

MICHAEL PERRY

JOHN A. PFRIENDER

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JAMES STABILE

## NORTH CAROLINA

BILLY R. LINKER

GAILE A. BAKER JR.

EDWIN ROY BROADBENT

EUGENE L. BUDZIS

HAROLD W. LEHMAN

CLAYTON G. STEWART

RALPH D. TABOR

JACK E. VEIT

## OKLAHOMA

JOHN L. BLAIR

DAVID DANIELS JR.

## OREGON

WILLIAM S. HAMILTON

NEIL M. MCCAIN

## PENNSYLVANIA

GLEN D. HOSTETTER

ANDREW OSLINKER

## RHODE ISLAND

EDWARD L. BELBIN

## SOUTH CAROLINA

BILLY A. CARTEE

LOUIS A. PALOMBA

## TENNESSEE

KENNETH W. WRIGHT

## TEXAS

JOHN C. HELM

ROBERT R. MCLAREN

ED WUERMSER

## VIRGINIA

S. KENNETH BOOKER

WILLIAM L. MCCULLOCH

ANTHONY 'TONY' RIZZO

## WASHINGTON

DON BURRIS

RONALD L. PEDERSEN

## WEST VIRGINIA

THOMAS E. TOWNSEND

## WISCONSIN

ROBERT H. SOMMER

## ONTARIO

JAN F. VAN DER RASSEL

## UNKNOWN

DAVID SHARP

## A New Movie Documents America's Search for MIAs

### Lake Arrowhead, Calif; June 16, 2017 Storyteller Original Films

A promise is made to every American sent into combat: You will not be left behind. The United States, the only country that makes this promise, never stops looking for its 82,537 missing military personnel who are still unaccounted for in America's wars beginning with WWII.

Film producer Richard Jellerson of Storyteller Original Films is in production on a documentary entitled, "A Solemn Promise, America's Missing in Action." The film focuses on America's ongoing worldwide efforts to locate, identify and return home each of America's fallen military members to their families for burial with full military honors.

As of June 16, 2017, there were 82,537 U.S. military members missing and still unaccounted for since World War II. Those numbers break down as follows:

World War II: .....73,052

Vietnam War: .....1,608

Korean War:.....7,745

Cold War: .....126

Iraq & Other:.....6

Jellerson's goal is to finish his fund-raising and complete the film for distribution on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, September 15, 2017.

Contact Name: Richard Jellerson, 213-675-0813, richard@storytellerfilms.tv

### Quiz answer:

Rick Casares, who was named to the Tampa Bay Times' All-time Tampa Bay college football second team (1/6/2017, p. 4c) was a standout football player at Thomas Jefferson High School in Tampa and the University of Florida (1951-53). Casares scored the first touchdown of the University of Florida's first bowl game, which it won 14-13 over the Tulsa Golden Hurricane in the January 1, 1953 Gator Bowl.

Casares' college career ended early, after he was drafted for service in the Korean War. After completing his military service, he played for the Chicago Bears from 1955 to 1964.

### Quote...

*"Why should Americans on the DMZ be among the first to die in a second Korean War? Should the North attack the South, could we not honor our treaty obligations with air and naval power off-shore?" ....Pat Buchanan*





## NORFOLK, VA WELCOMES THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION- OCTOBER 4-8, 2017

Nor-Fok or Naw-Fok, no matter how you pronounce it, the experience will always be the same: fun, vibrant entertainment and culture, delicious cuisine and 144 miles of shoreline waiting to be explored.

The military is a huge part of who Norfolk, Virginia is today. Norfolk believes all military veterans are our family, friends and our heart. Norfolk is home to the Atlantic Fleet, the largest and last battleship ever built by the U.S. Navy and the world's largest naval station. We invite all military branches to come back home to Norfolk! You have served for our country, so now let us give you something in return with new friends, adventures and memories.

### THINGS TO DO

Norfolk, Virginia is a vibrant waterfront city full of unique, fun things to do. Check out some of Norfolk's celebrated military attractions and facilities- including the Battleship Wisconsin, Naval Station Norfolk, General Douglas MacArthur Memorial, and the Armed Forces Memorial. Within 12 walkable downtown city blocks, you will find delectable dining, exciting nightlife and entertainment, shopping and a burgeoning art scene. All of this, and much more, awaits your arrival in the heart of the Virginia Waterfront<sup>SM</sup>.

### WEATHER

The month of October is characterized by rapidly falling daily high temperatures, with daily highs decreasing from 75°F to 66°F over the course of the month. The average probability that some form of precipitation in a given day is 36%, with little variation over the course of the month.

## Getting to Norfolk, VA is easy.

### PASSENGER RAIL

- Round trip passenger rail service available to Petersburg, Richmond, Washington DC and cities north all the way up to Boston.
- Passenger train station conveniently located along the Downtown Norfolk waterfront.



### NORFOLK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (ORF)

- Over 200 flights daily
- Norfolk International Airport located just minutes from downtown.
- Available airlines: American Airlines, Delta, Southwest, and United.

Visit [www.visitnorfolktoday.com/transportation](http://www.visitnorfolktoday.com/transportation) for more information.

# FIND YOUR FUN IN NORFOLK!



Download the VisitNorfolk app. Search "VisitNorfolkVA" in the Apple or Android store. Turn on location services for turn-by-turn directions to shops, restaurants and more!

VISIT *Norfolk*

The heart of the Virginia Waterfront.<sup>SM</sup>

Contact us today to book your reunion in Norfolk, VA!

**Melissa Hopper**

232 East Main St. Norfolk, VA 23510 | web: [www.visitnorfolktoday.com](http://www.visitnorfolktoday.com)  
phone: 800.368.3097 | fax: 757.622.3663  
email: [mhopper@visitnorfolktoday.com](mailto:mhopper@visitnorfolktoday.com)





**Sheraton**  
NORFOLK WATERSIDE HOTEL

## The Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel looks forward to welcoming the Korean War Veterans Association!

### **DATES**

October 4th – 8th, 2017 Rates available (3) days pre and post subject to hotel availability

### **BOOKING LINK**

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/KWVA2017> or call 1-800-325-3535 and ask for the Korean War Veterans Association

### **RATES**

Standard room at \$104.00 plus tax, Balcony room at \$114.00 plus tax, Club Level king at \$134.00 plus tax. Choice of two queen size beds or one king size bed, harbor view or city view. Club level rooms include access to complimentary continental breakfast and evening hors d'oeuvres.

### **LOCATION**

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel 777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510 [www.sheraton.com/norfolk](http://www.sheraton.com/norfolk) (757) 622-6664.





# 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.

## 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**

**Visit the Korean War  
Veterans Association Website:  
[www.KWVA.org](http://www.KWVA.org)**

**All Chapter and/or Department news  
for publication in *The Graybeards*  
should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor,  
2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City  
Center, FL 33573 or emailed to:  
[Sharp\\_arthur\\_g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net)**



**Korean War Veterans Association, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920**



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US POSTAGE  
PAID  
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**Address Service Requested**



**Members of Ch. 297 Scholarship Committee, Dick Malsack, Jim Morris, Gene Ferris, Cmdr. Gene Stone, and Chair Person Dale Koestler (L-R) stand behind scholarship recipients Courtney Turner (L) and Das'n Fant.**