

*America's Forgotten Victory!*

# The Graybeards

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

VOL. 10, No. 3

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1996



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## CONTENTS

AMERICA'S FORGOTTEN VICTORY!

# KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

THE GRAYBEARDS VOL. 10, No. 3— JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1996



## FEATURES

4

Died in  
Vain

6

The Bronze  
Star Story

12

A Prayer for  
the New  
Year

14

Remember  
the  
"Mosquitos"

15

Richard T.  
Shea, Jr.

20

They've  
seen a lot,  
and there's  
more to see

29

Looking  
Back  
on 1995

30

Going  
"Public"  
on The  
Korean  
War

32

U.S.  
Airforce In  
The Korean  
War – Did it  
Participate?

37

Healing  
Arrives  
After  
Forty-Three  
Years

18

TAPS  
A HOLDING  
ACTION

39

SHUP'S  
SONG

40

Looking  
Back on  
July 27,  
1995

42

Army  
Diary

52

Why Did  
They Fight?

55

This is the  
News

58

A Korean  
Twilight

## ABOUT THE COVER ON PAGE 15

## DEPARTMENTS

### 2 Officers, Directors & Committees

3 President's Message

41 Letters

5 Campfire

48 My Turn — Members Soundoff

9 Official Announcements

49 Searching For

20 News Clips

50 Reunions

21 Chapter Affairs

56 Veterans Services



# The Graybeards

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of the Korean War*

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## President's Message

During the past month I have received "contentious" letters and phone calls about my "quote", published in the 27 November - 3 December 1995 issue of the *Stars and Stripes*, concerning the awarding of Bronze Star Medals for Meritorious Service to Korean War holders of the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) and Combat Medic Badge (CMB). As quoted, the above award "Is at the bottom of my list of KWVA Legislative Programs."

The above quote is true, but needs clarification. There are more important legislative objectives that must be addressed by the KWVA, than "just" who should be awarded the Bronze Star Medal. The issues associated with the Medal are long term, very complex and fragmented with many diverse points of view.

An example of the issues involved is a letter from the Department of the Army on page 16 of this issue.

Another example is the "eligibility" of Korean War Navy/Marine veterans involved in ground/surface combat, but are not entitled to the CIB/CMB. What about Korean veterans who served in frontline combat action, i.e. Tankers, Artillerymen, Navy Corpsmen, Forward Observers, Aerial Combatants, etc.?

Should Vietnam War veterans who received the CIB/CMB also be awarded a Bronze Star? Is the Navy Combat Action Ribbon awarded to Vietnam Navy/Marine ground/surface combatants equivalent to the CIB/CMB? Does the Air Force have similar awards?

On a side note, the VFW and American Legion are against awarding the Bronze Star to Korean War holders of the CIB/CMB according to the *Stars and Stripes* article. The above are just some of the controversial issues that must be addressed and resolved before any action is taken. Therefore, "no" actions seeking award of the Bronze Star will be "sanctioned" or undertaken by the KWVA until approved by the Executive Council and voted on by the membership. Hence the reasoning for my statement.

In order to avert similar problems, I am reiterating my priorities for the KWVA Legislative Program, subject to change/approval by the Council:

1. Joint actions with veteran organizations to ensure military/veteran benefits are not further reduced/eroded.
2. Resolution of Korean War POW/MIA Issues (see page 17).
3. Development of a Korean War Memorial Library/Museum.
4. Construction of the "Wall of Honor" adjunct to the Korean War Veterans Memorial to memorialize Korean War KIA/MIAs.
5. Support the McNulty Bill (HR 4459) to "retroactively award the "Navy Combat Action Ribbon" to Korean/WWII Navy and Marine veterans who participate in ground or surface combat".
6. Congressional approval for a Korean War Armistice Ribbon for all who served in Korea since 1955.
7. Issuance of U.S. Postage Stamps commemorating the 45th and 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice.
8. Develop criteria as to who merits the Bronze Star Medal besides holders of the CIB, and CMB. Then press for awarding by Congressional action or Executive Order, if membership approved.

The success of the aforementioned Legislative Pro-

gram will be totally dependent upon the "cooperative" support of the State Departments, Chapters and membership as expressed in my November/December *Graybeards* Message. "National cannot do it alone." We need Departmental and Chapter Legislative Affairs Officers. Information to implement the program will be disseminated as "plans of action" evolve from the Legislative Action Committee, Chaired by Mr. Tom Maines. A meeting of the Legislative Action Committee is scheduled for January 1996, in Washington, D.C.

A note of caution must be noted. Implementation of the Legislative Program will be very slow and difficult. Not only because of the current political climate and turmoil in Washington DC generated by the upcoming '96 elections, but also the raising of funds for the Wall of Honor and Library/Museum. Patience and flexibility will be required if we are to achieve our objectives, but we will succeed.

I am pleased to announce we now have 108 Chapters and over 10,500 active members as of the end of 1995. Kudos to the members who so diligently worked to achieve those milestones. Let us set goals for a 25 percent increase in State Departments, Chapters and membership for the coming year.

Also a special thanks must be given to KWVA Legislative Affairs Advisor, John Kenney and his associates by all Korean War veterans. His determined leadership and untiring efforts walking the halls of Congress achieved the enactment and signing of Public Law 104-19. This allows the President to issue an annual Proclamation, designating July 27 as "National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day," through the year 2003, without Congressional approval.

In closing, I again strongly urge all "qualified" members to consider running for the 1996 KWVA elections. National Offices and Directorships open for election were announced by the "Call For Election" letter on page 3 of the 1995 November/December *Graybeards*. Please note the requirements and date for submission of your candidacy.

Nick

### KWVA Executive Committee

## Mid-Winter Meeting

February 10-11, 1996

Mark Adams Hotel  
2900 Bryer Park Drive  
Houston, TX

1-800-436-2326

*All Members Welcome*

# Died in Vain

By Jacques K. Doyle

In June of 1950 the North Korean Army invaded South Korea. The Republic of South Korea did not have the military means to combat this aggressive action. The U.N. Security Council reacted as best they could and the U.S. sent four under strength, partially trained, infantry divisions to try and slow down the Communist Advances. The heroic retreat and delaying actions of these forces allowed the United Nations Forces to recover and attain military strength.

The new U.N. forces quickly crushed the North Korean Forces. The Chinese had "Big Brother" ties with N.K. and advised the U.N. not to cross the 38th parallel. The U.N. Forces drove the defeated N.K. Army all the way to the Yalu River. Late October 1950 the Chinese Forces came to the aid of the North Koreans. The massive intervention by the CCF from November 1950 to February 1951 drove the U.N. forces back across the 38th and recaptured Seoul. Massive military aid, especially by the United States drove the CCF and N.K. troops back across the 38th in a series of operations called Strangle, Detonate, Piledrive, Commando, Nomad and Polar. Casualties were heavy on both sides, especially during April, May, and June of 1951.

The military lines stabilized starting late November 1951 and both sides formed strong MLR, main lines of resistance. The Communist dug massive tunnel complexes. Their artillery and mortars were dug in and they could move men and materials without detection. The U.N. side had heavy sandbagged trenches and bunkers, barb wire and mine fields. Fields of fire were well established by both sides. Between the two strong MLRs were a series of occupied outposts and then about 1,500 yards of low hills that were used for patrols, listening posts and sites for ambush patrols. The static war had started.

The static war meant that any large ground offensive was out of the question. There was very little to gain and a lot to lose. The Chinese had "Won" their war. They had pushed the communist enemy out of North Korea, they had rescued their little brother and they knew that they could not be defeated. The U.N. and Washington decided the War was not going to be escalated so the Chinese knew that their mainland was "off limits" and any further military actions would be limited. They also knew that they could not "Win" the war anymore. The UN forces were far too strong and had control of the sea and sky.

The U.N. Forces had also "Won" their war. The Communist had been pushed back over the 38th and the World knew that aggression would not be tolerated. To quote General Maxwell D. Taylor, Chief of Staff, "The American Soldier, with his Korean and U.N. Allies ... defeated the communist aggressor and stabilized the battle front largely above the 38th parallel."

Unfortunately our military did not know how to handle a static war, they did not know how to "defend and wait," they had to be aggressive, they were trained to fight and could not see any options but to do what Armies do. There are no promotions and no glory if you just defend and limit your actions to patrols. There are only Hawks in the military, doves are not tolerated. The military genius and common sense stopped in November

1951. The military leaders could not see the big picture. Our dead and wounded, approximately 21,329 killed and 52,384 wounded up to November 1951 could be justified.

The Air War naturally should have been continued, we had control of the seas and sky. The bombing of hydroelectric plants, oil refineries, supplies, and troops would certainly put pressure on the "Peace Talks" at Panmunjom.

Why did the military decide to continue ground offensives against a well fortified enemy? The Military decided to occupy the outpost between the two MLRs. This aggressive action in "No Mans Land" put our troops at a great disadvantage. Our supply lines were longer, our defensive positions were poorer, we were farther from our own artillery, closer to the enemies guns, farther from medical aid and trying to move under the observation of the enemy. The hills we took had no military value except as outposts. Outposts that the Communists made no move to occupy. Ahead of our MLR we already occupied fortified outposts for about 1000 yards, the new hills that the military decided to "occupy" were up to 1500 yards further into "No Mans Land." Two of the most distance hills were "Baldy" and beyond it "Pork Chop," both of these little hills (266 and 255 meters) were right up against the Chinese fortified hills. The Chinese did not seriously stop our efforts to occupy the ridges leading up to Baldy, their Military Leaders knew this was not a serious Military threat. Our leaders then decided to attack the Chinese Hill behind Baldy. Just a small action mainly to see if the Chinese would fight back. There was no effort to occupy "Chinese Baldy," we couldn't even if they wanted us to. It was just a little probe. The two attacking platoons only had 5 dead and 32 wounded. What was the purpose of this little action? I am sure the ten parents that lost their sons would be interested. Two soldiers lost arms or legs and one was blind. There was no damage to the well dug in enemy, no prisoners taken and an estimated 10 Chinese casualties. I do not know if this insignificant action was reported to the "Peace Talks" but it certainly would not encourage the Communist to make peace.

The American Military continued to be aggressive. They decided to occupy both "Baldy" and "Pork Chop" in spite of their position right under the enemies guns and observation. This decision turned out to be a military disaster. These two little hills were right up against the Chinese MLR.

There were many other "Little Aggressive Actions" up and down the U.N. MLR that ended up killing 12,300 men and wounding 50,900 more. 36.5% of our dead and 49% of our wounded came during the static war. The only reason for all these dead and wounded was that our Military did not know how to "fight" a war that they could not win. They had to do something, after all we had a lot of men and guns, we could not just defend and wait to see if the Chinese would try and attack our strong defense line. The misguided direction came from Lt. General Van Fleet who said on 30 Sept. 51, "A sit-down army is subject to collapse at the first sign of an enemy effort ... As commander of the Eighth Army, I could not allow my forces to become soft and dormant." Van Fleet had a lot of faith in the American soldier, if he wasn't getting killed he would get soft? I wonder if the 24,600 parents who lost their sons would feel that at least their boys weren't getting "soft and dormant."

*Continued on page 19*



# Campfire



AMOS T. CAMP, EDITOR

## Americanism on the Cheap

In recent years I have come to see being a "good American" takes a lot of doing. At the time of the Korean War I went into the service, almost without thinking. It just seemed the right thing to do. Since that fateful year 1950, my agenda has been about getting ahead, raising a family, running a business and paying little attention to the needs and wants of the rest of the world. The truth is, I have been living and benefiting from the American Way of life on the cheap! I assumed my service during the war was all that was required of me. Now I realize being a "good American" must be a life long pursuit.

Let me explain where I am coming from and hopefully you will see some merit in this sudden awakening about being a "good American." Where I grew up "going to church" was a way of life. This experience was an important source of inspiration like doing "the right thing." You may remember some of those attributes of those days like "hard work," "sacrifice," "respect for others," "fair play," "love one another," "honesty in our dealings," — all to make it better for ourselves, our country, our posterity. A case can be made that the historic bedrock source of Americanism comes from people who took their religion seriously and risked coming to these shores to practice it, free from governmental interference.

Stories about American families in other years tells of immigrant parents working two jobs. Their motivation was to provide an education for their children guaranteeing them a better life. We are those children! When war came, they answered the call. They were willing to risk their own lives to assure a better one, not only for themselves, but for others.

The result of their labors and sacrifice produced a generation of Americans whose material needs exceed any who ever trod this earth! Most of us have more money, more leisure, nicer homes, late model cars, vacations, guaranteed government entitlements and much more. In spite of what you may read or hear, this imperfect world is better than ever before for most Americans. Just ask the people from all those former colonies like India, Burma, Indo China, Malaysia, Philippines, Africa, the Middle East and on and on. Unfortunately, we are losing the spirit of America! We want the fruits of Americanism on the cheap!

I hope the Spirit of America has not been lost in all of this — A nation founded on sacrifice and hard work. It seems our prosperity has only made us "angry" at just about everything and everybody. We want ours and "the Hell" with the rest. Does this prick your conscience as it does mine? Are we not taking seriously enough the values of another day that made America the greatest country in the world? Or, do we want our Americanism on the cheap!

A few illustrations of what I am talking about. A recent column by Molly Ivins of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* illustrates some problems in America. She

quotes from the November issue of *The Washington Monthly*, "Du Pont Co. was fined \$115 million for concealing evidence in a 1993 trial involving one of its fungicides. 'Put in layman's terms,' the judge wrote, 'Du Pont cheated, and it cheated consciously, deliberately and with purpose.'" "Maytag agreed to pay \$16.5 million to almost 800 workers for breaking a promise not to close a plant near Washington, D.C."

She goes on, "If there were a three-strikes-and-you're-out law on corporations (a Mokhiber proposal), most of the Pentagon's major contractors would no longer be eligible to bid on government contracts — and their executives would be in the clink. On the fraud front for defense contractors, we find General Electric leading with 15 cases of fraud; Boeing, four; Grumman, five; Honeywell, three; Hughes Aircraft, nine; Martin Marietta, five; McDonnell Douglas, four; Northrop, four; Raytheon, four; Rockwell, four; Teledyne, five; Texas Instruments, three; and United Technologies, three (research by the Project on Government Oversight)." The people who exposed these fraudulent activities, in my judgment represent good Americans. It probably took a lot of guts as well.

My purpose is not to bad mouth everything and everybody. It is to suggest many problems facing this country stem from a desire to have our Americanism on the Cheap! We find it inconvenient, boring or a waste of time to really take time studying the important issues before the country. Furthermore, failure to participate with others in informed debate leaves policy makers in the dark as to what we really think. Our democracy has a real problem when only around 50% of those eligible to vote do so on election day.

Then many seem content with name calling; satisfied with 30-second sound bites for news; happy others bear the burden of citizenship; unwilling to sacrifice time or treasure should the need arise. Yes, life is short and we have personal interests, but will America continue to be great, if we ignore the needs of others? Can democracy flourish under these conditions? Was it wrong to go to Korea, or now Bosnia because these countries needed help?

This is a Presidential election year. Citizens will judge the fitness of their present government and if found wanting, elect another. This is democracy in action. Every election must be considered an important act of citizenship. It is a time to take stock and give serious consideration to the direction we want our country to take. Our leaders must know the collective will of the electorate by our level of participation. Whatever the outcome, as Americans, we have a duty to monitor as well as support our government as good citizens. To me, this means we must not take our Americanism on the cheap. We must commit ourselves to being active and aggressive in our citizenship. We must return to the values we shared when we became veterans of the Korean War.

I am sure you saw the stirring affirmation on our National Korean War Memorial — Freedom is not Free." It is a reminder that our work as veterans of the Korean War are not over. We owe those who made the ultimate sacrifice in that war more than lip service. If we are to remain a great country standing for freedom for all, we must not accept our Americanism on the Cheap. As President John Kennedy exhorted, we should be willing to "bear any burden, make any sacrifice in the cause of freedom." The last time I made that sort of sacrifice was 45 years ago. You and I must do better.

Amos T. Camp, Editor

# The Bronze Star Story

by Blaine P. Friedlander

This is a report to those who responded to my article in the November-December issue of *The Graybeards* and interested members. I have received over 150 responses to my request for comments about the issue of the Bronze Star. With only eight exceptions, all sensed something wrong in respect to awarding these medals. The response form letter from the Army Awards Branch somehow didn't add up. The Korean War veteran, like his World War II counterpart, understood the Bronze Star Medal was earned, but not delivered. This confirmed my own feeling about it, so I decided to get to the bottom of the matter. It has been a revelation.

There were students of the medal issue such as Pete Susko, New York; Miguel Bach, New York, (who actually set forth the strategy we now follow in the *Graybeards* in the April 1994 issue at page 19); Carroll G. Everist, Kansas, (who has opened the door to the Pentagon); Gene McClure, Texas; and John W. Sonley, Illinois, are among those who have continued their quest for medal justice.

Miguel pointed out in the June, 1994 issue of *Graybeards* the Army's letter opposing the issuance of the Bronze Star Medal and written by LTC Patricia A. Sigle appears identical to those signed by COL Glassner, MAJ Dagnes, and the Army's Congressional Liaison. These letters are incorrect on their face. In the last few days the Army made a correction to the obvious error in their letter after it was pointed out to them by my letter. The correction is superficial and probably incorrect. Substituting 1945 instead of 1947 so they can continue to use the name of General George Marshall as Chief of Staff. This is improper. General Marshall retired in November of 1945. I challenge them to produce the document written by General Marshall in 1945 to which they refer. Obviously, this doesn't settle the matter, but indicates an effort to justify the errors involved in this issue since 1947. I believe this is a form of stonewalling.

I am able to include only a bare bones summary of my research because of space limitations.

## The First Crisis

The United States was attempting to put an army together in 1940 when it was clear we would be at war sometime in 1942. In the summer of 1941, Congress extended the time of service of the early draftees. Morale plummeted. There were reports of signs painted on barracks reading "OHIO." (Over the Hill In October). *Life* magazine printed an article about the complaints of the treatment of the draftees and the National Guard. The article dealt unkindly with the manner in which the officer corps was running the Army.

Pursuant to an agreement with a national newspaper, the paper had a World War I veteran and star reporter survey the Army. If the *Life* article was correct the paper would not

print the story, but if *Life* was in error, the story would be run. The 200-page critique was never printed. (I have located a copy of the critique).

On September 30, 1941, having studied the report, Marshall wrote: "Soldiers will tolerate almost anything in an officer except unfairness and ignorance. They are quick to detect either."

This is the problem with the Sigle/Glassner letters. Most of those who received the letter from COL Glassner or LTC Sigle did not believe the Army's explanation. Louis Ross, Arizona put it best in his letter, "I thought you would have some interest in this letter from COL Craig H. Glassner. Do you agree with this letter? I don't." Compare the Glassner letter on page 16 with my research.

This 1941 crises led to a re-examination of the Army's policies, and changes were rapidly made. General Marshall and his aides understood that the draftee was better educated than any soldier to that point, and was to be considered a citizen soldier — more citizen than soldier. The National Guardsmen were older than the draftee, married with children and a job. This person had serious problems with \$21 a month, which had to be addressed. The Army had real problems with the fact that the troops were not very tolerant of the "old army ways." Their dissatisfaction was expressed in letters to Gen. Marshall, the President and the Congress. General Marshall initiated the first of 200 studies of the G.I. in order to systematically resolve this first crisis.

One of the problems presented from 1940 to 1942 was a fear among the brass that the American soldier would not fight. The reference to the casualties referred to in the Glassner letter (paragraph 3) is out of context. The fact is that early during World War II, General Marshall realized the casualty ratio fell heavily upon the Infantry, and further, polls revealed and requests for transfers showed the G.I. did not want to serve in the Infantry. The Bronze Star Medal, and a raise in pay were two ways to raise the moral and interest in the "Queen of Battle." The Sigle/Glassner letter is just plain wrong.

In October 1943, the pay raise was ready and announced as the CIB and the Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB). It was not until June 30, 1944, that Congress passed the pay raise of \$10 dollars a month for the CIB and CMB, and \$5 dollars a month for the EIB.

On February 4, 1944, President Roosevelt, by executive order set the Bronze Star Medal on its way. There was no connection between the Bronze Star Medal on one hand, and the CIB and CMB on the other.

The Army Regulation AR 600-45 was published between February 18 and March 9, 1944, depending on which document you possess. There was nothing in the regulation relating to the CIB or CMB. General Marshall wrote to Eisenhower, MacArthur, and Harmon telling them to get the medals out. Eisenhower actually had preprinted citations under his signature, and had his trusted aide, MG Everett Hughes traveling and handing out citations by filling in the blanks. It is only natural that some (not all) COs taking a military short cut and cite those who held the CIB or CMB as qualified for the BSM. There is no other explanation for there are no cited regulations when the war ended in 1945.

## The Second Crisis

Before World War II ended, the dislike between the EM and officers was still festering, to a point where it was the subject of long letters between Generals Marshall and Eisenhower. General Eisenhower actually wrote a letter demanding his top officers pay more attention to the gripes of the men, and to ride the trains and talk to the troops.

The second crisis hit as World War II was ending and the older veterans took to writing again, trying to get out of the Army



## ***"Soldiers will tolerate almost anything in an officer except unfairness and ignorance. They are quick to detect either."***

to get a job. This caused serious heartburn for the top brass, and became a critical problem after September 2, 1945. As the boys in service joined the many expanding veterans groups, they found – as have I in 1995 – that the military awards system was corrupt and unfair. Once again, pen met paper and the brass had to deal with this problem. One small part was the Bronze Star Medal. The cry was for parity – those who received the BSM and the CIB and CMB caused those who had the CIB and CMB to complain.

In November 1945, General Marshall resigned as Chief-of-Staff, and General Eisenhower took his place. In 1946, Ambassador Marshall was in China. In 1947, Secretary of State Marshall was not in the Army in 1947 as the Sigle letter stated.

### **Enter General Bull**

Harold R. "Pink" Bull was a little known, but highly effective officer. In 1941, he was a Lt. Col. working as a trouble shooter for General Marshall. At the end of the war, he was G-3 on General Eisenhower's SHAEF staff and was a Major General. At the end of December, 1945, he was CO of all European Forces. In 1946 or 1947 he was named President, War Department Decorations Board.

In July, 1947, General Bull wrote a 26-page report titled, "Future Decorations Policies." He mentioned the Sloan report. Apparently, the Army was concerned over its policies. General Bull blistered the past policies and referred to the Bronze Star as being issued after delay, ill-defined criteria, misunderstood by commanders, and consequent misuse. He also said no officer should be given an award if it is not available to the enlisted man. He opposed quota systems (I have received the name of one veteran who was involved in the quota system). He called World War II practices of the Bronze Star, "corrupt." **General Bull then suggested the Bronze Star be awarded in the future for stamina and achievement and suggested the time of three months "under the guns" as the sole criteria for the BSM in the future.**

On July 9, MG W. S. Paul, Director of Personnel and Administration agreed with General Bull, and cited General Marshall's intention that the Bronze Star Medal be one of achievement.

Be clear that during June 26, 1947 through March 9, 1948, the buck slips indicate that both General Eisenhower and General Omar Bradley (who became Chief of Staff on January 1, 1948), participated in this discussion.

*And be very clear that General Marshall did not participate in so far as can be determined by the written record. And understand that neither the CIB nor the CMB were mentioned in the nearly fifty pages I have in my possession.*

While the War Department Decorations Board worked on the Future Decorations Policy, apparently the Adjutant General's Office (AGO) was exercising damage control. Between March 9, 1944 and December 31, 1946, there were ten changes to AR 600-45, most not having anything to do with the Bronze Star Medal. Apparently during this period, the criteria for awarding the BSM was (a) that on or after December 7, 1941, (b) serving in any capacity within or with the Army of the United States distinguishes himself with (c) heroic or

(d) meritorious (e) achievement or (f) service is to be cited. As one may conclude, this was to be broadly and liberally interpreted.

It is also clear that the CIB which is awarded for (1) Exemplary conduct in action against the enemy, or (2) by Satisfactory performance of duty in action against the enemy in a major operation as determined and announced by the Theater Commander. Circular 269 announced the Badge on October 27, 1943, but the money was not appropriated until June 30, 1944. On January 1, 1944, the CIB and EIB were made retroactive to December 6, 1941. It is easy to understand that the criteria for the combat badge meets the criteria for the Bronze Star.

Nothing changed during World War II. However, Change No. 11, of AR 600-45 (March 4, 1947) changed the regulation to the World War II requirement by eliminating (b), (d), (e) and (f), and substituting "distinguish themselves by heroism in combat against the armed enemy." This is quite a change after the fact.

Two years after World War II ended, the criteria for the award of a Bronze Star changed. The confusion apparently was so great, that in August, 1947, another change of criteria took place. For the first time the CIB and the CMB were mentioned as criteria for the award of a BSM. As I read the AR 600-45, Change 12 limited the CIB to those whose CIB was for exemplary conduct. Those who were not supplied with an order, had no way of checking. This change required that the CO be aware of the combat action. Two years after the war? I am sure every man in combat kept a notebook of his combat activities. Apparently, for the first time the soldier had to apply. A cut off date of September 2, 1945 was instituted. This is where the confusion crept in, and I believe this is the corruption that Gen. Bull referred to.

The War Department Decorations Board finished this phase in 1948 and put a Restricted classification on the records I have copied. No soldier would know of their work. The AGO did not broadcast its 1947 changes, and who, but the regular army or reserves would know of this action. My research indicates that only the regular army actually filed applications before the cut off date.

In Korea, one – and perhaps, the only division commander put his troops in for the BSM upon the award of a CIB and CMB badge. Most Korean War veterans were unaware of the confusion. The Army's claim is they are bound by the regulations. The correct theory is not found in the regulations, but in simple fairness. According to General Bull and General Paul seemingly state General Marshall wanted those who stayed the course in combat (for three months) be awarded the Bronze Star.

We are now approaching the President of the United States and the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff to effect the changes that are needed to see that the combat veterans of all services are properly recognized. We need your support. We have made great strides since December 1, and we will report our progress in March. We had over 150 letters in the last issue. If you support this enterprise, let me hear from you.

Blaine P. Friedlander  
2341 Dale Drive  
Falls Church, VA 22043-3019

**This is not the end of the story. Stay tuned! BPF**

# Official Announcements

## SOME SPECIAL NOTES REGARDING MEMBERSHIP

One of the most frequent membership inquiries concerns membership cards. A durable, white plastic membership card is issued when you join. When you opt to become a life member, a gold plastic membership card is issued to replace the regular membership card. Membership cards are not issued each time you pay your membership dues.

On the first line of the mailing label used to mail this issue (and every issue for that matter), you will find your membership number. The number which follows your membership number indicates the date on which your dues will be due. Forming the habit of checking this dues date and mailing your dues promptly, will save the organization considerable money by not having to mail you a dues reminder.

As mentioned in the article which immediately follows this one, KWVA is in the process of converting all membership dues to begin January 1st of each year. Please check this dues payment schedule to determine the proper dues amount to get your dues in compliance with this schedule. Considerable changes have occurred within our membership records this year.

Our first project was to convert the computer data base into a program more flexible and one which would accommodate our anticipated growth. This was done and required considerable work to get things where we wanted them.

Prefixes were then assigned to all membership numbers which indicate the type of membership, i.e., POW's, Life Members, Charter Members, Regular Members, Associate Members, etc.

All departments and chapters have been provided a list of the members in their state so they might identify the members in their department/state. Upon return of the marked lists, we are coding a special identification number on the individual member's record. This will enable us to print lists for the departments/states which will not contain superfluous information.

The information on the military units in which our members have served were made more consistent and as a consequence more retrievable. This will enable us to print lists by units at a future date. We do not have the unit information for a lot of our members. At some future date, we will attempt to gather more of this information. This has not been a high priority, but is something that we wish to have correct in our records.

Many changes have also been made with respect to recording dues payments - these changes allow double checking with respect to receipt of payments and will allow us to track all payments from the date a member joins.

Quarterly dues billings and reminders have been mailed to all affected members. These reminders have encouraged the members to help us get the dues on a calendar year schedule. We are happy to say that many have complied. This good response will enable us to make the transition to calendar year payments a little more smoothly.

We are currently instituting a new procedure for the issuance of new membership and life membership cards. This should enable us to cut in half the length of time

required for a member to receive a membership card. Membership cards in the future will reflect the month and year.

*Nick Pappas*

## DUES REMINDER!!

When your dues expired (or will expire) is reflected on the mailing label on the front of this magazine. Following is an explanation of the label:

(A) R011111 (B) 04/26/96 (C) 22222

(D) JOHN WM. SMITH

1443 WILLIAMSBURG STREET  
WILLIAMSBURG, OK 22203-4501

(A) = Membership number

(B) = Dues date when dues are due. Mr. Smith's dues are due April 26, 1996.

(C) = Zip code information for use by the post office.

(D) = Member's name and address.

Beginning in January of this year, dues are due and payable as of the 1st of January of each year. To get your dues on the calendar year schedule, you will need to submit \$1.25 for each month (or part of a month) to January 1, 1997. For example, Mr. Smith would pay \$1.25 for each of the months of April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December (9 months) for a total of \$11.25.

This schedule will help you determine the amount of dues you should submit to pay your dues until January 1, 1997:

Dues are due in January, 1996: \$15.00

Dues are due in February, 1996: \$13.75

Dues are due in March, 1996: \$12.50

Dues are due in April, 1996: \$11.25

Dues are due in May, 1996: \$10.00

Dues are due in June, 1996: \$8.75

Dues are due in July, 1996: \$7.50

Dues are due in August, 1996: \$6.25

Dues are due in September, 1996: \$5.00

Dues are due in October, 1996: \$3.75

Dues are due in November, 1996: \$2.50

Dues are due in December, 1996: \$1.25

If you feel that your mailing label does not reflect your proper dues date, please drop us a note with an explanation and a copy of the front and back of the check in question. Please mail all dues payments or inquiries to: KWVA, PO Box 10806, Arlington, Virginia 22210.

If you have questions regarding your membership or dues, please call 1-800-378-7888. The office is in operation Monday through Friday from 8:30 until 4:00 (Eastern Time). The office is closed on all government holidays. Occasionally, there are errands to be run, so if you do not receive an answer, call back later or the next day."

## Quartermaster Offers New Books

"The Korean War (Reflections Of A Young Platoon Leader" by D. Howard Matthis (\$15.95).

"The Three Day Promise (A Korean Soldier's Memoir" by Donald K. Chung, M.D. (\$20.00)

"Ches's Story (One Boy's Long Journey From War to Peace" by Link White (\$16.95).

Add \$3.00 S&H to cost of each book.

Order from:

Treasurer, John Maison  
P.O. Box 1839 Fairview Heights, IL 62208



## MINUTES KWVA COUNCIL MEETING

**October 14-15, 1995**

The October 14, 1995, meeting was held in the Truman Library's Seminar Room. Council members present were: Nicholas J. Pappas, President; Tom Clawson, 1st Vice President; John P. Maison, Treasurer; Dorothy "Dot" Schilling; Emmett Benjamin; Bill Van Ort; P.G. "Bob" Morga; Andrew J. Lynch; Maurice R. "Dick" Wainwright; Dick Adams, Past President; Jerry Bey; Harley J. Coon; Kenneth B. Cook; and Oreste "Rusty" Tramonte. Not present were L. "Scooter" Burke, Edward Grygier, Richard Danielsen and Harry Wallace.

Other KWVA members attending were Ken McCully, Creed N. Baker, Larry Dickerson, Hugh DeWitt, Paul A. Wolfgeher, John Golden, Thomas Chilcott, Hansel C. Hall, Peggy Van Ort, Joe Donlon, Dean Wren, Nancy Comperchio, Paul Edwards, Nathan A. Riley, and Dave De Pew.

### PROPOSAL

Pappas asked group to begin the meeting by considering the Truman Library paper dealing with proposal of suggested goals, collaboration, identification, and acquisition of materials for a KWVA proposed museum to prepare for meeting with Larry Hackman from the Truman Library, for the afternoon session. Some concerns raised were: What is range of documentation? Are items being loaned or given? What is the Library's mission? What kind of items would be acceptable? How much space—a room? a separate building? Would it be a tax-free corporation? Who will go out and raise the funds? How much money would be needed? Would it include foreign nations? Where would the items be stored? Do they have storage space here? Who will collect the items? Would Washington, DC be a better place for museum?

Noted that Truman Library is federally funded under the National Archives System. Setting up a nonprofit corporation requires paperwork, different forms to proceed, and there are time limitations for getting paperwork in. Expertise would be needed, i.e., CPA, lawyer well versed in tax laws. All money has to be accounted for must be used only for the purpose for which the funds were raised.

### ROK MEDAL SALES REPORT (ADAMS)

The Korean government offered a medal to Korean vets but the governments of Canada and United States turned it down. Recently Medals of America send a copy of it. Do we want to go back and research this and make them available to our members? Benjamin moved Maison research this new medal. Motion passed. One opposed. John will proceed. Pappas cautioned members not to try to sell any of these medals until information obtained. He also reported that 10,000 flyers printed with membership applications have all been given out and another 5,000 have printed. These will be distributed to Chapters by the Treasurer.

### PUBLICITY REPORT (DE PEW)

Mr. De Pew handed out copies of his report. He then went through each item.

#### Project Status Report — October 14, 1995

1. Contract with Nancy Monson to supply PR help—**Completed**.
2. Establish national "800" number for inquiries—**Completed**
3. Centralize news media contacts—**Completed**
4. Commemorative knife program—**Scratched**
5. National recruiting brochure—**Completed**
6. National magazine advertisement—**Completed**  
*Action Required:* Project now on hold until budget reinstated.
7. Newspaper "fillers"—**Completed**
8. Video on Korean War—**In Work**
9. Essay contest—**No action to date**

10. Mailing of recruiting brochures—**Unknown**
11. Prepare recruiting posters—**In work**
12. Selection of KWVA National Spokesperson **Incomplete**
13. Plan post-dedication program—**No action yet**  
*Action Required:* Future programs will require discussions with the Council to determine what additional publicity is possible.
14. Chapter "HOW TO" publicity kits—**In work**  
Meeting interrupted for members take a tour of Truman Library and Museum and Wreath Laying Ceremony at President Truman's Gravesite.

### MILITARY SHOP CLAIM

After a discussion about possible options in dealing with this claim, Van Ort recommended Maison handle it. A Roll Call Vote taken. Failed. Benjamin moved letter be sent stating organization would not pay \$1800 but will let him keep merchandise. Carried.

### Larry Hackman, Director of the Truman Library

Mr. Hackman introduced Ray Geselbracht, the Supervising Archivist of Truman Library. Hackman explained focus of Truman Library, similar to other presidential libraries, is high policy, decision-making documentation that relates to events during the Truman administration. Generally they don't look for documentation that goes below the assistant secretary level. The criterion for materials the Truman Library staff take are materials that contribute substantially to education or substantially to research. They ordinarily only take things if they are unique. Virtually all the money that is paying for the museum renovation is coming from private sector through fund raising.

Hackman advised the organization to do a survey to identify what items the members would have. Benjamin then presented Hackman with a letter written by Douglas McArthur to Eva Lyon dated September 7, 1950. Her son was one of the first casualties in the Korean War.

Mr. Hackman suggested the organization determine their mission, then set some goals and objectives. He thought the idea of a committee was a good one. They could sit around a table and go over some options one by one and see where they lead. This would be a useful next step. Other discussions were entered into.

Edwards, KWVA historian, shared his concern about the passage of time—veterans growing older, items of historical value decaying. To be done in the next four years or could be too late for many items.

### PUBLICITY REPORT Continued:

15. Series of announcement releases on KWVA College Grants—**Prepared and sent** to appropriate hometown newspapers of each of the recipients in coordination with Van Ort.
16. Announcement on '96 Reunion—**Prepared**
17. Solicitation of members of "sister" veteran's groups—**No action**
18. Recruiting new members—**In action**
19. Collecting Dedication publicity—**Completed**  
"TELL AMERICA" PROGRAM OUTLINE (DePew)  
De Pew presented a four-part outline:  
I. Essay Contest for grade and/or high schools  
II. Lecture series to be given by chapter members at local upper grade schools. Prepared a booklet titled "A Brief Account of the Korean War" to be used as a handout. Suggested teachers be encouraged to provide an essay test later to assure children read booklet. After discussion Benjamin moved adoption of book as official KWVA handout for school children. Voted down.  
III. Statewide recognition program.  
IV. Smithsonian Institution exhibition

### NEW CHAPTER

Lynch announced new chapter, in Pennsylvania, the Yung Dung Po Chapter. Coon started off with two chapters in Ohio. Since August 6 last year have grown to 11 chapters. Just added chapter with 38 members. Pappas announced Association has gone over 100 chapter mark.

### REFERENDA

Pappas gave preliminary figures on the Referenda concerning the Wall of Honor/Reunion Date. Twenty-six chapters responded. Will continue to accept these. Keeping a list of names of each chapter and individual members as they come in.

### FRIEDLANDER HEARING

A call by Secretary Trumante for Friedlander or his representative made. Seeing no one, Pappas continued Hearing. He explained Friedlander although in receipt of faxes, has refused letters sent by certified mail. Additionally, Friedlander had further communicated to his local Postmaster, by letter dated September 6, 1995, that he will not accept any communications from Pappas. Van Ort moved that in view of the fact Friedlander, has decided not to attend the meeting nor accepted invitation for a hearing, the Executive Council uphold President's action to relieve him as KWVA Legislative Affairs Officer. Seconded by Coon.

After discussion, Coon amended the motion by adding the 6 September 1995 letter to Postmaster be attached to minutes to show that he (Friedlander) did refuse documentation. Benjamin seconded amendment.

*Continued on page 10*

# Moving?

Please notify  
*Graybeards*  
of your change  
of address.



KWVA, PO Box 10806, Arlington, VA 22210  
Attn: Membership Secretary

## OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Minutes from page 9

Mr. Friedlander has threatened law suit. A question was raised about the organization's directors' and officers' liability policy by Director Bey. Maison explained that it is a \$1 million policy that covers everyone at this table for liability, theft, slander, or everyone than handles money. John will provide a copy to anyone who would like to have one. The association has had this policy for about 5 years. This policy also covers *The Graybeards* as a rider attached to the policy, it's a comprehensive policy—see the By laws, Article III, Section 8 which should be self-explanatory. Roll call vote for above motion was taken: 11 yes, 0 no. Matter concerning Friedlander was declared closed.

### ADVISORY BOARD LETTER

Board has shipped the following: 12,000 logo pins; 12,000 programs with the supplement; and 12,000 passports. It has been recommended that we sell them as a package for \$10.00, with \$1 to come back to us for the Park Service. Pappas proposes that they be given to chapters as fund raisers. Let chapters sell for \$5 or whatever they decide. Chapters will then send \$1 per sale to John Maison, Treasurer, and chapter will keep the rest of the money. John will put \$1 into special account called Memorial Account. This will be advertised in *The Graybeards*.

Suggested that money be sent to General Richard G. Stillwell Korean War Memorial Foundation. President Pappas indicated the Association Treasurer will escrow the aforementioned funds in the Memorial Account until such a time as the Executive Council decides what to do with those funds.

### Midwinter Meeting

Proposal received from Secretary Jerry Weber of the Lone Star Chapter to hold the Midwinter Executive Council Meeting in Houston either at the Adams Mark or Marriott Hotel in February. The Adams Mark will have a reception on Friday evening if we stay there. The hotels are located in downtown Houston. Pappas recommended that we have Mid-Winter Meeting in Houston on February 9-11. Coon moved the mid-winter meetings be February 9-11, 1996, in Houston, Texas. Approved.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial picture for the period January 1 - Sept 30 1995 is basically in good shape, with only line items overrun in the following areas: data processing double amount budgeted for 1995; telephone service 35% over budget due to 1995 Reunion conference calls and additional calls for merchandise to quartermaster.

Quartermaster sales 133% over last year due to success in Washington DC and also advertising in *The Graybeard's* as well as adding several new items to the inventory which are selling well. Profits from quartermaster sales are covering a lot of expenses.

Revenue is as follows: Dues ahead of budget through September with expected additional revenue of \$15,000 for balance of this year. Other income well below budget as there were several line items overstated due to not having any past history to go by such as donations which have not reached anywhere near the budgeted amounts. *The Graybeards* ads have not been as much as expected.

The bottom line at this date, is we are now approximately \$10,000 in the hole due to the above reasons but expect we would show a new profit at the end of this fiscal year except for the 1995 Reunion losses. This issue sparked a great deal of discussion.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1995

Present: Dick Adams, Andrew Lynch, Ken Cook, Emmett Benjamin, Bill Van Ort, Dorothy "Dot" Schilling, John Maison, Nick Pappas, Tom Clawson, "Rusty" Tramonte, Bob Morga, Dick Wainwright, and Harley Coon. Not present were Scooter Burke, Dick Daniels, Ed Grygier, Jerry Bey and Harry Wallace.

### TREASURER'S REPORT CONTINUED

The 1995 Reunion is expected to show a loss of around 25-30 thousand dollars. Details of financial part of Reunion not discussed without final audit of records. A faxed letter from Stan Myrda of accounting firm read. As noted, a lot of unanswered questions need to be addressed. Until audit report completed, confirmation of 1995 profits or loss (due to the heavy losses of the Reunion) cannot be made. Alternatives were suggested. None recommended for implementation.

After discussion about coin sales, Adams moved to change price of coins to one for \$40 and two for \$50. Amended motion to read one for \$30 and two for \$50. Amendment carried. After discussion about what to do with the weapons, Ort moved the organization divest itself of all military weapons we have. Approved. Maison will get the information, descriptions, etc. and get bids from Benjamin and two others and go with the best bid.

### MEMORIAL DEDICATION GRANITE MEMENTO REPORT

Clawson went over report. Indicated we didn't get sales anticipated. At this point we have a net loss of \$8,032.40. Need to sell two hundred pieces to break even.

Maison moved we take money allocated for video program to pay

Rebco, Inc. and Cold Springs Granite Co. for the granite stones—the \$17,405.00 owed. Motion carried. One abstention. It was felt this should go before body for a vote. Coon moved to let stand until the February Board meeting and see where financial conditions are at that point. Carried.

### REGIONAL DIRECTORATE DISCUSSION

Pappas has corresponded with Ed Magill who indicated we cannot make a region until we change bylaws; it cannot be done internally, and must be done with approval of body. Pappas to appoint committee to look into resolution and have it ready for February meetings to present to members in July.

Pappas asked Benjamin to chair committee. He will pick committee members and bring recommendations to February meetings. Emmett will send the committee's resolution to Lynch, who chairs Resolutions Committee. Noted that Bey is chair of the By-Laws Committee.

### COLLEGE EDUCATION REPORT

Van Ort indicated ten grants given to winners announced in *The Graybeards*. Indicated he was made aware that Sam Sung America, Inc. had made a donation of \$5 million for Korean War Veterans for scholarships for their families. He has attempted to get information about this to see if this organization could qualify for any of the funds. He read the letter he wrote to Sam Sung America, Inc. on August 25, 1995. After some inquiries, he found \$5 million had already been given to the American Legion of Indianapolis, Indiana, on July 26, 1995. Copies of the draft of the "Korean War Veterans College Education Foundation, Inc.—Constitution and By Laws" sent to educational committee. Shared desire to have Board make a commitment to bring amount available for this program to \$20,000 for 1996. As a result, motion made by Morga that organization give Van Ort \$5,000 to cover cost of brochures needed to send to corporations for donations for this scholarship. After further discussion, Morga withdrew motion. It was clarified that associate members are not eligible for grants. However, children of members, adopted children, or marriage partners are eligible. Those descendants listed above continue to be eligible two years after death of veteran.

Van Ort moved body go on record as supporting endeavors to obtain a 501(c3) as a college education foundation. Coon moved to amend motion by adding "or other alternatives." Amendment carried as did original motion.

Van Ort moved Board support level of \$20,000 for next year. Motion voted down 7 to 3. Moved by Coon we support Scholarship Fund with the previously \$1 per member, with an additional amount of money so determined so we can raise it at a later date but on a basis of \$1 per member. After further discussions, Harley clarified motion to read we give \$1 per membership to educational fund plus any other monies, if available, up to \$20,000, for 1996. Carried. Motion made that Bill Van Ort be commended for his hard work on the program. Carried. Clawson made motion a granite piece be given to Bill and each member of the committee in appreciation for their efforts. Carried.

### REBATE PROGRAM

Committee composed of Tramonte, Van Ort, and Robert Wacker. Van Ort read cover letter for report. Copies of forms and instruction sheet distributed. It was clarified members be counted only in home state. Van Ort has prepared an article for next *Graybeards* that deals with the rebate program.

### LEGISLATIVE REPORT

President Pappas met with KWVA members to formulate a Legislative Action Committee in Washington, D.C. He discussed the Korean Armistice Ribbon and VFW change in membership. He also spoke of the Wall of Honor and the requirements to build it. He indicated support for the McNulty Bill for the Navy Combat Action Ribbon for WWII and Korean War Veterans. Also, a member of the Legislative Action Committee will represent the KWVA on the Military Coalition in Washington.

There was some discussion about the absence of the chaplain and Judge Advocate and why don't they attend the Board meetings. Andrew Lynch made a motion that the Judge Advocate be advised that a room would be available for him at all annual meetings and conferences. After some discussion this motion was withdrawn.

It was suggested that the Council think about the possibility of paying his airfare due to the services he had performed for the group. Harley Coon made a motion to reimburse him for his necessary expenses. Motion did not get a second.

Meeting adjourned for lunch.

### ELECTION REPORT

Wainwright is trying to increase voting of members. The Committee recommended that ballots be sent out in bulk mailing in an effort to encourage people to vote. Cost of bulk mailing would \$3700. After discussing costs and what can be done to encourage more members to participate in the election of officers, it was agreed Candidates resumes should be again included in the May/June issue of *The Graybeards* when the ballots are sent out. Furthermore the Executive Council should

*Continued on page 12*



## Agenda for the February 10-11, 1996 Council Meeting

### Friday, 9 February 1996

Happy Hour (Hosted by  
Lone Star Chapter) 6:00-8:00

### Saturday, 10 February 1996

Opening Ceremonies/Introductions 9:00-9:30  
Fall Council Meeting Minutes 9:30-9:45  
FY - 95 Financial Report (Mason) 9:45-10:45  
Break 10:45-11:00  
1995 Reunion Report (Maison) 11:00-11:45  
Lunch 11:45-13:00  
FY - 96 Budget (Maison/Clawson) 13:00-14:00  
Jeffery's Issue (Gryger) 14:00-14:15  
Chapter Membership Resolution  
(Lone Star Chapter) 14:15-15:00  
Break 15:00-15:15  
Legislative Committee Report  
(Maines or Pappas) 15:15-16:00  
VA Service Officer Report (Reiner) 16:00-16:30  
Veterans Day Ceremony at  
Memorial, D.C. 16:30-16:45

### Sunday, 11 February 1996.

Opening Ceremonies 9:00-9:15  
Women's Auxiliary Resolution (Lynch) 9:15-10:00  
Regional Directorship Committee  
Report (Benjamin) 10:00-10:15

1996 Reunion Report (Mason) 10:15-10:45  
Break 10:45-11:00  
1997/1998 Reunion 11:00-11:30  
Election Committee Report  
(Wainwright) 11:30-11:45  
Lunch 11:45-13:00  
College Education Report (Van Ort) 13:00-14:00  
Membership Committee Report  
(Pappas) 14:00-14:15  
Public Relations Report (Depew) 14:15-14:30  
Granite Wall Memento Sales  
(Clawson) 14:30-15:00  
KWVA Rebate Program (Pappas) 15:00-15:15  
Break 15:15-15:30  
Change Date of Reunion (Pappas) 15:30-16:00  
Med - Script Report (Maison) 16:00-16:30  
Poster Sales 16:30-16:45

*Agenda subject to change.*

**Treasurer Maison has made reservations at the Adams Mark Hotel, 2900 Briar Park, Houston, Texas; Phone 1-800-436-2326. Hotel does not have its own shuttle. There is an Airport Express from the Airport to the Hotel.**



## College Educational News

*by Bill Van Ort, Chairman  
College Educational Committee*



### GRANT APPLICATION TIME

The College Educational Committee of the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. is again announcing that College Grants-in-aid are now available to all current paid-up members and their families.

Applicants applying for the educational grant must be a Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. member, member's spouse, son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, great grandson or great granddaughter, either a direct descendent or by marriage or adoption. (Sorry, Honorary or Associate members of the KWVA, Inc., are not included in this program at the present time).

The committee will be awarding several \$2,000.00 grants in 1996. As the program progresses, and there are additional sponsors, more grants will be awarded. Applications requested will be processed for the 1996-97 school year.

To apply for an application packet, contact:  
College Educational Committee  
Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.  
c/o 8968 Thomas Drive\*  
Woodbury, MN 55125-7602

All applications must be completed and returned by 1 April 1996. (\*Note change of address).

Donations to the College Educational Committee are now being accepted from individuals, Chapters and Corporate Sponsors. Send checks to the above address for proper credit to your account. Checks will then be sent to the treasurer for deposit to the College Grant Program.

Members of the College Educational Committee are: Chairman William H. "Bill" Van Ort, Director; Emmett Benjamin, Director; Lloyd "Scooter" Burke, Director; Hansel Hall, former Director and Thomas Chilcott.

*" . . . for the Children of our Sacrifice . . . "*

## OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

### Minutes from page 10

stimulate State Departments/Chapters in respective areas to encourage members to vote. Wainwright suggested Amos Camp put "don't forget to vote" on every other page in *The Graybeards* with the ballot. Wainwright will send Camp a letter.

#### I WAS THERE

Before Wainwright left home he received almost 50 letters including one from Belgium. There was a mistake in his street address as well as zip code and phone number. Plans a correction in November/December *Graybeards*. If letter returned, please resubmit it. Dick then indicated to Pappas that Belgium wants a charter.

#### 1996 REUNION STATUS

Cook was unable to attend the last meeting so Maison reported on upcoming reunion. Reported they had good meetings and good committees set up. Registrations are already coming in and as of last Friday 176 rooms have been sold. One hundred and seventy-three rooms are at the Adam's Mark Hotel and three are at the Holiday Inn.

Executive Council will meet on July 24 and 25; 26 general business meeting, 27 memorial service and banquet, with check out on the 28th. The Adams Mark Hotel is on Fourth and Chestnut in St. Louis, MO. Officers and directors need to register. John has five hotels in a five block area. Rooms are regularly \$109 and we get them for \$85. The chapters from Missouri and Illinois will host the hospitality room.

Several activities scheduled including five tours of city, three casino excursions, a ladies' luncheon on Thursday in the hotel, two shopping trips for ladies, plus several other activities in the works. Coon recommended that organization sell advertisement space in *The Graybeards*.

Schilling mentioned how much she appreciated the presentation of the POWs and how much it had meant to her and what an impact it had made on those who heard them. They will keep that in mind for the workshops.

We still do not have a keynote speaker. We are considering Jimmy

Stewart. Other celebrities suggested were James Garner, Bob Hope (he is unavailable), Hershel Gobel (Asst. Secretary of Department of Veterans Affairs), Margaret Truman, and Bob Newhart.

We will have a membership list from Nancy Monson at the reunion. It was reaffirmed that the associate members coming only for the general meeting would not have to pay a registration fee.

The laws of Missouri prevent us from having a raffle so in lieu of we will have tickets that indicate they are a donation. A 1996 Chevrolet Cavalier will be given to the person with the winning ticket. Tickets will sell for \$5. The individual does not have to be present to win. Persons from New York, Pennsylvania, or New York will pick car up in home state. Plan is to print 5,000 tickets. John will have tickets by next week. They will be sent to chapters with a letter. An incentive included is that they will retain 10% of the money, but the tickets must be purchased by the treasurer in order to be eligible for the rebate.

#### MEMBERSHIP REPORT/DISCUSSIONS

Pappas reported the following statistic: total membership 11,472.

Coon pointed out that the bylaws state "Gold Star mothers" and "Gold Star wives" but nothing said about fathers. Moved that wording be changed to indicate a Gold Star Family includes mother, father, or a family member (brother or sister) but not beyond that. Harley will send recommendation to Bey, By-Law Committee chairperson.

The question of quarterly payment for dues of those desiring to be life members as stated in bylaws should be enforced. John will handle each case on an individual basis until such time as the bylaws are changed. Bylaws provide one and a half years for full payment to be made.

Anyone not a member of the national organization must be classified by the Chapter as an Associate Member with no voting rights in the Chapter, State Department of National Organization. This reflects a change in the Bylaws that was made in July by the membership. Schilling asked if it was possible to obtain a delinquent list and John indicated yes, such a list can be obtained. Meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

### CHAPTER FUND RAISING PROGRAM

## KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

To KWVA Members:

The KWVA has received a large shipment of Memorabilia from the Korean War Memorial Advisory Board. National is making the Memorabilia available at no cost to Chapters as a fund raising program except for shipping costs. One dollar (\$1.00) of each sale must be returned to the National Treasurer to be accounted/deposited in a Special Account, marked Memorial Maintenance/Modification Fund. The funds are to be turned over to the appropriate authorities as recommended by the Advisory Board for maintenance, and if ever appropriate, modification of the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

Items and suggested prices are as follows:

- PIN (Official Logo)
- PATCH (Official Logo)
- DECALS (set, forward and reverse (Official Logo)
- Program w/Supplement
- Passport

Note: National recommends selling all of the above as a "package deal" for \$5.00. However, pricing is within the purview of the Chapter concerned. Contact the KWVA Quartermaster at 1-800-603-6555 for details. Individual member may buy the package (\$5.00) direct from the Quartermaster, plus shipping costs.

## A Prayer for the New Year

*Gracious God, Lord of the passing years,  
Thank You for all your bountiful blessings  
which fill our memory storehouses of the past  
and make us confident to face this coming year.*

*Forgive us our sins, both of omission and  
commission,  
Cleanse our hearts of selfishness and greed,  
Inspire us to live up to our highest ideals,  
Fortify us to perform the courageous deeds  
of peace.*

*Help us to be more understanding and patient,  
While we bequeath to youth the values we held,  
those moral standards we esteemed and upheld,  
the personal sacrifices we felt to be worthwhile.*

*All of this and more we ask in the Name of God,  
who gives to us grace and strength to live  
each day of 1996 as it unfolds. Amen.*

— Frank Greipp  
National Chaplain, KWVA



## RESOLUTION

President, KWVA  
Nicholas J. Pappas  
209 Country Club Dr.  
Rehoboth Beach, De. 19971

Dear Nick,

As I understand the National's position on an Auxiliary for Women relatives of Korean War Veterans Association, they recognize them as associate members.

I wish to petition National to recognize on the same level as does the VFW and the American Legion; an Auxiliary for the Women relatives of all members of the KWVA. I have the permission of the Commander of our local Central New York Chapter and also the permission of the President of New York Department of the KWVA to pursue this I am requesting your permission to formally organize an Auxiliary for all Women who's relatives served in Korea. I hope our Auxiliary in Central New York will be designated as Chapter Number One. Our ladies are presently drawing up By-Laws using the VFW and the American Legion By-Laws as a guide. I am the President of our KWVA of Central New York's Auxiliary and with the National's recognition officially, we can and will have the KWVA Auxiliary recognized on all levels as the VFW and the American Legion.

I feel that with the prestigious recognition from National, the membership of the KWVA will grow to the levels that the other Nationally recognized service organizations have grown to and possibly exceed them in spirit and enthusiasm.

Consideration should be given to the yearly dues and set to the amount that would not preclude any lady from joining the chapter where her relative is a member.

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration and I sincerely trust that in the not to distant future that our Auxiliary will be at the National Convention as an equal partner in preserving the memory of all who served in War and the uneasy cease fire that still prevails in Korea.

Barbara Cooper, President KWVA Auxiliary; Central New York Chapter  
8911 Ladd Drive  
Bridgeport, New York 13030  
Phone-315-633-9773

cc/ Commander Ed M. Onarski  
119 Woodside Lane  
Liverpool, NY 13090  
President Don Cofsky Dept. NY - KWVA  
36 Telegate Glen  
Fairport, NY 14450

The above Resolutions are Agenda Items for the 1996 Mid-Winter Council Meeting



KOREAN WAR VETERANS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.  
TEXAS LONE STAR CHAPTER  
P.O. BOX 80605  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77280-0605  
(713) 462-4001

## RESOLUTION

Mr. Nick Pappas, President  
Korean War Veterans Association  
209 Country Club Drive  
Rehoboth Beach, De. 19971

Subject: General Membership Meeting July 27, 1995.  
Chapter Membership Requirements Resolution

Dear President Pappas

The Board of Directors of the Texas Lone Star Chapter at it's November 3, 1995 meeting discussed at length this resolution adopted at the General Meeting. In all candor, we believe this action was ill advised and went beyond the bounds as regards edicts from the National Association concerning actions prerogatives, policies and voting eligibility as regards individual chapter business.

As regards those matters that are in the domain of National Association business ( voting for National Officers and Directors, National Association membership eligibility and the like ), we do not question that those are National Association issues and require National Association membership to participate. However, we do not agree or accept that the National Association has the authority to dictate to any local chapter the policies, voting eligibility as concerns local Chapter affairs. Member of our chapter who belong to the National Association of course have the right to participate fully in and are bound by the policies and by-laws of the National Association as regards National Association affairs. But we do not accept the premise that our chapter members who do not belong to the National Association can not have full chapter regular membership privileges and participate fully in local chapter business.

The Board has instructed me to advise you in writing of our position. Respectfully we request that our position be made known to all KWVA Officers and Directors.

We are proud of the KWVA, We are proud of our chapter - it's growth, commitment, activities and focus. Nothing should deter the focus and programs of either the National Association or the committed and dynamic local chapter such as the TEXAS LONE STAR CHAPTER.

We respectfully look forward to your response.

Lee Rogers  
Chairman of the Board  
TEXAS LONE STAR CHAPTER  
KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

### 1996 CONVENTION

St. Louis, Missouri

#### PRELIMINARY EVENTS JULY 22-28, 1996

CONVENTION HOTEL IS THE ADAMS MARK.  
MOST OTHER HOTELS ARE WITHIN  
THREE BLOCKS OF HOTEL.  
**SEE REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 61**

#### MONDAY, JULY 22, 1996

9 AM REGISTRATION  
6:30-9:30 PM CASINO QUEEN CRUISE

#### TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1996

9 AM REGISTRATION  
9 AM BUSCH BREWERY & FOREST  
PARK TOUR  
5 PM ALTON BELLE RIVERBOAT CRUISE  
7:30PM NATIONAL/DEPARTMENT/CHAPTER  
PRESIDENT'S MEETING

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 1996

9 AM REGISTRATION  
8AM-5PM EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
9 AM ST. LOUIS TOUR  
5 PM ALTON RIVERBOAT CRUISE

#### THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1996

8AM-5PM EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
9AM REGISTRATION  
9AM BOTANICAL GARDENS TOUR  
12 NOON ADMIRAL RIVERBOAT CRUISE  
11AM-3:30PM WOMEN'S AUXILIARY LUNCHEON,  
FASHION SHOW & CATHEDRAL  
TOUR  
5:30PM FAIRMOUNT RACE TRACK  
5PM ALTON RIVERBOAT CRUISE

#### FRIDAY, JULY 26, 1996

9AM-4PM GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING  
1996 ELECTION RESULTS  
10AM-2PM AUXILIARY SHOPPING SPREE

#### SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1996

10AM MEMORIAL SERVICES  
4:30-5:30PM PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION  
6:00PM BANQUET

#### SUNDAY, JULY 28, 1996

8AM-11AM FAREWELL BREAKFAST  
9AM BRANSON, MO TOUR  
OVERNIGHT TRIP

**NOTES:** HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN  
TUES-FRI NIGHTS 5-11PM  
QUARTERMASTER ROOM OPEN  
TUES-FRI 9AM-7PM  
QUARTERMASTER ROOM OPEN  
SAT 12 NOON-4PM

*[Any changes or additions to the events will be published in future issues of **The Graybeards**.]*



## Remember the "Mosquitos"

by Paul M. Edwards, KWVA Historian

In studying the Korean War one is quickly impressed with the variety of units involved in this conflict. The more one learns about the contributions of infantry divisions of the army and marines, the role of the navy and the newly formed United States Air Force, the more obvious it becomes that many specialized units were involved in successfully fighting this war.

One such unit came into existence because of a gap which existed between methods and weapons remaining from World War II and the first effects of the jet age, and all the technology that implies. One need was for a quicker and more efficient method of air target identification. The battlefields of Korea were fluid, and troop disposition information was both scarce and constantly in change. Hunting for targets was difficult for the newly operational jets because of their speed, and the flight time imposed by fuel limitations. The highly successful air controllers of World War II, working out of radio-equipped jeeps, were limited in their range of operations and unable to keep up with the changing nature of what was once considered "the front line."

What was needed was a new system. The answer was conceived by Lt. Colonel Stanley P. Latiolas, Fifth Air Force Operations Office. The plan was for a slower plane to spot targets, and then call in the jets and direct them while on target. The mission was born on 9 July 1950, just two weeks after the communist aggression against South Korea.

Captain Frank G. Mitchell flew the first such mission, in L-5s, and were successful in spotting and leading jets into an attack on advancing tanks and troops. On the 10th they were again able to spot and lead the attack on North Korean troops and tanks.

Lt. Colonel Merrill H. Carlton was given command of an embryo unit which he identified as the "Mosquitos" and he and seven officers, three enlisted men, and their limited equipment set up shop at Taejon airstrip. During that first month they flew 269 sorties and logged 670 hours over the front. So successful was the concept that it grew to include the 6147th, 6148th, 6149th Tactical Control Squadrons (Air) and the 6150th Tactical Control Squadron (Grd) as well as the supporting squadrons, 6147th Maintenance and Supply, 6147th Air Base, and 6147th Medical. The L-5s were soon replaced with T-6s.

Mosquito pilots and observers spent more than 90 percent of their combat hours over target areas where they were the first on target and last to leave. Their mission was complex: to spot and mark for fighter-bombers, direct field artillery and naval gunfire, control air drops, provide reconnaissance, aid in evacuations, and to provide the voice for psychological warfare sweeps. In accomplishing this mission they combined the personnel of many units, including front line infantry and artillery observers, naval gunfire specialists and far east air force liaisons.

The mission of this unique outfit, as well as many of the stories of those involved, is well presented in W. M. Cleveland's *MOSQUITOS IN KOREA*, published by the Mosquito Association in 1991.



# RICHARD T. SHEA, JR.

Pork Chop had, for several months, been the scene of bitter fighting. A coordinated attack which came during a heavy rainstorm late on the evening of July 6 was, according to a 7th Division summary of operations, "the largest display of enemy force against the division since it assumed sector responsibility." The brunt of the attack fell upon Company A, 17th Infantry Regiment commanded by Captain William S. Roberts of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Dick Shea was Roberts executive officer.

Lieutenant Shea was making his rounds, supervising the reinforcement of defensive positions when the enemy attacked. The U.S. forces in the battle position were greatly outnumbered and, in the first awful moments of the attack, it seemed they would surely be overwhelmed.

Since his direction of the fortification had provided him with intimate knowledge of the terrain, Shea sped toward the area most threatened by the enemy attack and voluntarily organized and led a counterattack. As the night wore on, the enemy was continually reinforced and time after time suicidal attacks against the Company A positions on Pork Chop were carried out. Through all of these onslaughts Shea moved among the men encouraging them, calling the fight, deploying small groups to meet each situation as it developed.

During close hand-to-hand fighting in the trenches, Lieutenant Shea killed two CCF soldiers with his knife and then pressed forward with a handful of men when the enemy tried to withdraw. From the positions he seized in this savage counterattack he directed fire on the enemy all night, helped hurl back numerous attacks while inflicting heavy losses among the enemy infantry. These positions were held all night and the young officer organized and led additional assaults on the morning of July 7 to add new and vital positions to the company sector.

On the afternoon of July 7, Company G, 17th Infantry moving to Pork Chop to aid the defence of the hill, came under extremely heavy artillery fire. Many men were killed and the company became badly disorganized. Rounding up as many survivors as he could find, Dick Shea took them in tow, combined them with what was left of his own battered command and then, with a group of twenty men, he again charged the enemy. This was but the first of several attacks he organized and led in the course of the afternoon. He was wounded in the face by small-arm fire but continued to rally and lead his men.

On one occasion when the assaulting element was pinned down by machine-gun fire he personally rushed the emplacement and took it under fire with his carbine and with hand grenades. In this foray he knocked out the gun and killed three of the enemy.

During the night, the second straight night of fighting without letup, he coordinated the sectors holding action. At about nine o'clock on the morning of July 8, a warning came down to the sector that the enemy was assembling for another massive attack. Shea immediately moved out to check each position to see that his men were ready to repel the intruders.

The CCF attack came shortly after three in the afternoon and Shea and his battered band were waiting for them. The West Point cross-country champion was wounded again but he continued to lead his men, staving off an attack which by brute force alone should have prevailed.

When he had an opportunity to obtain more ammunition for his men, Shea once more made the rounds, talked encouragingly with the bone-weary soldiers, and got them ready to launch a counterattack.

"Okay," he told them, "It's time - lets go!" They jumped out of their trench with Shea in the lead. Then they waded into the Chinese infantry. Shea moved out so fast he was, one man later said, "almost a one-man assault." He was again wounded but he wouldn't go down.

Captain Roberts, who witnessed the action, has described the conclusion of the nightmarish three day fight. "Dick Shea continued to fight with courage I have never seen displayed by any man. He continued fighting and gaining terrain.

But now enemy reinforcements came on the scene in overwhelming numbers and terse postscript to the action at Pork Chop on July 8, 1953 — "Lieutenant Shea was last seen in close hand-to-hand combat with the enemy."

After five days of bitter fighting for the hill, mass predominated by Pork Chop it was decided that the outpost had lost its tactical value and the order was given to withdraw on the morning of July 11.

*\*His son, Richard T. Shea III, was born on July 10, 1953, two days after Shea's death in Korea.*

## Editors Note:

The above story of Lt. Richard T. Shea, Jr. is an example of the heroic actions of so many who served in the combat areas during the war. It also reflects the heroism of the men who responded to the leadership of officers like Lt. Shea. The tragedy of the war is discussed in an article beginning on page 4 of this issue of *The Graybeards*. Whether the actions were warranted or not is left for historians of the future to determine. Whatever the verdict, the heroism of the troops who fought this war will long live in the minds and hearts of those who have known war and the acts of courage and sacrifice made on those far off battlefields.

## About the Cover

Troops of the 23rd Infantry observe parachute drop of supplies from Air Force "Flying Boxcars" into the Chipyong-ni perimeter in mid-February 1950. The low flying aircraft were subjected to constant enemy small arms fire when entering or leaving the drop zone. The photo was shot by Sherman Pratt, whose story about the air war in Korea is found on pages 32 and 33.

Official form letter response to all inquiries whether sent to the  
President, Congress or Department of the Army —



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. TOTAL ARMY PERSONNEL COMMAND  
ALEXANDRIA, VA  
22332-0471



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

November 13, 1995

Military Awards Branch

Mr. Orville Dean  
Route 5, Box 208  
Hiawatha, Kansas 66434

Dear Mr. Dean:

Thank you for your recent letter to President Clinton concerning the award of the Bronze Star Medal (BSM) to Korean War veterans who received the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB).

We respect the feelings that combat veterans of the Korean War should receive the same treatment as that accorded to combat veterans of World War II. However, there were special circumstances surrounding the decision to award the BSM to soldiers who earned the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) and Combat Medical Badge (CMB) during World War II that did not exist in subsequent conflicts. The BSM was established in February 1944 and was in existence for less than half of the war's combat period. Many soldiers who served well and faithfully for sustained periods of heavy combat were not recognized for their special contributions, either because they died or were seriously injured early in the war, or because the BSM was a new decoration that was not fully understood and utilized by field commanders. As is the case with all new awards, it normally takes a year or two before the decoration is consistently and equitably implemented on a worldwide basis.

At the conclusion of World War II, a study revealed that the soldiers who had suffered the most casualties and endured the longest combat had received the fewest number of awards. These were the Army infantryman and his accompanying medical aidman. In the opinion of General George C. Marshall, the Army Chief of Staff in 1947, the fairest and most equitable way to alleviate the problem was to authorize a special award of the BSM to any soldier who was cited for exemplary conduct in ground combat. The citation could be in the form of a citation in orders, a certificate, or orders awarding either the CIB or CMB.

The situation described above did not exist during the Korean War. The BSM was available for award during the entire period of hostilities, and standard procedures were in effect for commanders to promptly and properly recognize deserving soldiers who distinguished themselves by meritorious service, meritorious achievement, or heroism in combat. These procedures permitted written recommendations for award of the BSM to be submitted by anyone having knowledge of a soldier's accomplishments anytime prior to August 1957. This afforded ample time and opportunity for submission and processing of an appropriate award recommendation for deserving soldiers, to include award of the BSM.

We hope that veterans of the Korean War can understand that there never was any intention to discriminate against infantrymen and medical aidmen who served in Korea. The decision to authorize a special award of the BSM to selected World War II veterans was made in 1947 based on the unique circumstances at that time. Since these or similar circumstances did not exist after that time, it would be inappropriate for the Army to now consider awarding the BSM to all soldiers who earned the CIB or CMB since 1945.

This determination in no way detracts from the outstanding record of accomplishments of all combat veterans of the Korean War who served under the most trying of circumstances during a difficult time in our Nation's history.

Sincerely,

Craig H. Glassner  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Chief, Personnel Service  
Support Division



## New Initiative to Account for Our MIAs in North Korea

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
December 23, 1995

Dear Mr. Pappas:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning an issue of high priority to the Clinton Administration and me personally: achieving the fullest possible accounting for our missing-in-action in Korea.

As you indicated in your letter, when I met earlier this year with representatives from a number of different veterans and family groups, I stated that the Administration would use the soon to be opened liaison office in Pyongyang as a new channel in which to discuss POW-MIA issues with North Korea.

Unfortunately, unanticipated delays by North Korea have prevented the opening of this liaison office. In view of the current uncertainty surrounding the opening of this office, I agree with your basic point that a different mechanism should be established to seek progress on this issue.

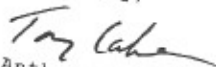
The Department of Defense has been authorized to invite a North Korean delegation to the CILHI laboratory in Hawaii in order to improve North Korean knowledge about various technical aspects involved in the recovery of remains. While this visit has been envisioned for some time, the scope of the proposed mission will be broadened to include policy issues. Specifically, the letter of invitation to the North Koreans will advise them that Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Jim Wold will be their host in Honolulu and will be prepared to discuss both issues and all policy matters relating to the MIA issue.

If the North Koreans accept the invitation, Mr. Wold will seek to impress upon them the humanitarian nature of this issue and emphasize our desire to achieve progress quickly.

Given the North's previous history of delay on this issue, it is difficult to assess whether this new initiative will bear fruit. But as someone who strongly supports President Clinton's goal of achieving the fullest possible accounting, I believe that the United States has everything to gain, and nothing to lose, by making this new offer.

I will, of course, keep you informed about the North Korean response.

Sincerely,



Anthony Lake  
Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

A meeting was held in Hawaii with the North Korean delegation from January 10 to 13, 1996. The U.S. was willing to pay \$1 million to recover 162 sets of remains, but the North Koreans demanded \$4 million. The talks deadlocked over the money issue and were broken off. North Korea has now announced it will dissolve an excavation team accusing Washington of not paying enough for the task.

# TAPS



Name	Dept/Chap	Died	Hometown	Service
Phyllis Berry	Ohio Valley	5/94	Cambridge, OH	Hus'd Merle Berry 15 Inf, 3rd Inf Div 402nd Mil Govt, Co Army
Robert Henry	Ohio Valley	4/94	Belmont, OH	Mother-Albert Marty KIA 24Div
Linford Slutz	Ohio Valley	8/95	Senecaville, OH	NCB 98th FMF WWII
Stella Fitzgerald	Ohio Valley	10/95	Sardis, OH	7th Regt, 31st Div
Clayton Moeller	Santa Clara	1/96	San Jose, CA	Navy, Attcd 4th Marines WWII
Ronald T. Paul	Bayonne, NJ	8/95	Woodbridge, NJ	NG ART, SPT 8 Regt 1st Cav
Robert F. Pratt	E. Long Island	5/95	East Hampton, LI	Air Force
Charles H. Bell		5/95		45th Div
Donald J. Taylor	E. Long Island	7/95	Southampton, LI	8th Cav, 1st Div
Charles Osborn	E. Long Island	2/94	East Hampton, LI	Germany 50-53
Thomas Galgano	Finger Lakes #1	1/95	Seneca Falls, NY	Korea 52-54
Michael J. Marchek	Finger Lakes #1	12/95	Waterloo, NY	CO D Co., 21st Regt 24th DIV
Murry E. Nicholson	(Gene)	9/16	Iowa City, IA	25th Divarty, 90th FAB
Delbert Gates		12/95?	Shreveport, LA	NAVY- USS Missouri
Richard I. McBride, Jr		12/95	La Jolla, CA	
Joseph J. DeBenedetto	TX Lone Star	5/95	Houston, TX	
(AKA Jerry Dale)				
John E. Kolber	Osan	12/95	Maple Shade, NJ	U.S. Navy
Russell H. Conant		8/94	Middleboro, MA	Reported by Lillian Porter, sister
Henry Martinez		11/95	Aptos, CA	
Holt T. Gibson		4/95	Jacumba, CA	Rep'd by Wreatha Gibson, wife

The next TAPS notice will be published in the July-August issue of *Graybeards* (See Notice Reporting format below)

## A HOLDING ACTION

Inspecting my M-1 minutes before my first fire fight, I wondered the same old question: would I be able to use it. Marksmanship on the firing range is one ball of wax, firing for effect is another. Canvas targets don't scream when hit. Or flop around like landed fish. I worried. Not about the Commies whom we could see clearly no more than a thousand yards away, massing for a charge. I worried about myself, and what kind of soldier I'd make. I knew or thought I knew - all that was needed about PVA methods. They'd run at us by the hundreds, and we'd cut them down by the thousands. It is a fact that people who have never been in combat are too ignorant to be frightened. What I didn't know enough about was what lay inside, really inside of me. The Chinese blew a bugle and beat drums. They were coming.

In the seconds we had left before it all hit the fan, Sgt. Davis made a speech. He was an old guy, maybe twenty-eight. A professional left over from World War Two. A guy earning a living. He said to us: "A lot of you men have never killed no one before. You may have problems with your weapons. You know, pulling the trigger. I will be walking around while we are engaged with the gooks. If I see any man who is not firing his weapon, I will shoot his motherin' head off."

We spent a very emotional half-hour or so with the Commies before they broke off. We lost six KIA's and a body count turned up thirty of them. Sgt. Davis was relieved. "It's a good thing I didn't have to kill none of you guys," he said.

Richard B. Koiner  
AFPS, Korea 1951-1953

## DEATH NOTICE OF A MEMBER OF KWVA

The following notice is submitted for publication:

Name of deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Date of death \_\_\_\_\_

Department/Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Home of record \_\_\_\_\_

Army ☐ - Navy ☐ - Marine Corps ☐ - Air Force ☐ - Coast Guard ☐ -

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Unit of service during Korean War \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Editor, The Graybeards  
P.O. Box 10806  
Arlington, VA 22210

NOTE: TAPS notices will be published in the *January-February* and the *July-August* issue of *Graybeards* each year.



## *Died in Vain from page 4*

The problem was that Van Fleet and his entire tribe of brass only knew about "Victory and Defeat" they were not allowed to conduct an all out offensive by either the UN or Washington so they did the best they could and conducted their little war taking useless real estate and played soldier, at the cost thousands of American lives.

The height of stupidity came in January 1953, Operation "Smack." The military made another gross error, outside of the operation itself, they invited the press to the "experiment" because it promised to be of interest. The 7th division, the lambs being prepared, issued a three colored, 6 page document on the "Scenario." The bombing and artillery preparation started January 20th and the well rehearsed infantry assault on January 25th. The expenditures in ammunition was: 224,000 pounds of bombs, 12,000 rounds of artillery, 100,000 rounds of .50 caliber, 2,000 rounds of 90mm and 4,500 rounds of mortar fire. The infantry used 50,000 rounds of small arms ammunition and threw 650 hand grenades. The assaulting platoons had 77 casualties. Not a dent was made in the Chinese position, there was no damage to their well dug in fortification, no prisoners were taken and it was "estimated" the Chinese had around 50 casualties. The Chinese had used a fraction of their ordnance and inflicted far greater losses. It was clearly a Chinese victory. This little exercise was typical of the games the

military was playing with American lives and money, but fortunately the press was invited. The public now knew that the casualties and the millions of dollars being spent per day was not "winning" any war. It was not under any stretch of the imagination helping the peace talks. The peace talks lasted from July 10, 1951 to July 27, 1953 so the killing of American men and the millions of dollars spent per day did not encourage the Communist to stop the "War" they could not lose. The question after the "Smack" fiasco should have been, not why did it fail but why did we do it at all? Why were we occupying hills that had no value? Why were we losing so many men in a ground war that had no purpose except to keep the men from getting soft? If we had only kept up the air war that was having a effect on the Industries of North Korea and used the bombs on better targets that the "deep, protected bunkers" on the MLR, maybe peace would have come a year earlier.

A big break came for the UN Forces on February 11, 1953. General Maxwell Taylor took over from Van Fleet and his hawks. The Old Baldy and Pork Chop area was still being fought over causing thousands of casualties. In March of 1953 the 7th division had over 300 casualties in just two days of fighting. General Taylor visited the area and called off any further attacks, the area was "not essential to the defense of the sector." It was never essential but just

some useless real estate that our frustrated Military wanted to play games on.

Max Hastings in his book "The Korean War" states that Old Baldy and Pork Chop the hill it over looked had "no unique strategic significance."

So why look back on mistakes that happened 50 years ago? Well, maybe Fort Benning and West Point can add courses "Static War Tactics 101," "Avoiding useless Aggression 102," or "Doves can get promotions too 103." Let us make an attempt to learn by our mistakes and avoid repeating them. ■

### References:

*Died in Vain*, by Jacques K. Doyle

*The Korean War*, by Max Hastings, Simon and Schuster 1987

*Truce Tent and Fighting Front*, by W.G. Hermes, Office of the Chief of Military History USA 1966

*Korea 1950 - 1953* by J. Miller, O.J. Carroll, M.E. Tackey, Office of the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army

*War in Korea 1950 - 1953*, VFW June 1993

*Pork Chop Hill* by S.L.A. Marshall, G3 East, Army Chief Historian 1958

# Airborne Drop During the Korean War



Photo by Sherman Pratt

### They've seen a lot, and there's more to see

By Charles Hearn

When I turned 65 this year, I officially became a senior citizen.

A senior citizen is a person who was here before the pill and the population explosion, before television, penicillin, polio shots, antibiotics and Frisbees.

We were here before frozen foods, nylon, Xerox, radar, fluorescent lights, credit cards and ballpoint pens.

For us time-sharing meant togetherness. A chip was a fragment of wood, hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word.

Hot water came from a kettle on a stove. We were here before plastic, 40-hour work weeks and the minimum wage. We got married first, then lived together. Closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of." Little girls wore Peter Pan collars, boys didn't wear long hair and earrings. We were here before cup-sizing for bras and cleavage was what butchers used meat cleavers for.

We were here before Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Batman and Robin, Snoopy, McDonalds and Jack-In-The-Box. Before vitamin pills, disposable diapers and instant coffee.

In our day, grass was for mowing, Coke was a refreshing drink, pot was what we cooked potatoes in.

If we were asked to explain NFL, GTE, ATT, CIA, NL, AL NLRB we would have said, "alphabet-soup."

Yes, we are today's senior citizens, a hardy bunch, when you think of how our world has changed, of all the adjustments we have had to make. Therefore, we deserve our pensions, social security and Medicare, along with a little respect.

The word senior used to mean wiser, in Latin. Some persons now translate it to mean on the shelf, out of it, unproductive, etc. I feel that as I become older, I am more distinctly individual. Inner needs do not change, they get written larger, they develop. I can see where I aged twice, once in the lives of my parents, then in my own life.

Aging to me, has been a process. A process in which my perceptions have sharpened, I have become more prudent and confident. Through experience, my judgment is finer, along with compassion, self-control, understanding and seasoned humor. I make good use of my physical abilities, grateful for what I have left.

We senior citizens have heard many times "it was their time, or, their time was up," words of that nature. Does that mean that when we are born into the world, only so much time accompanies us? That we

have just so much time to spend? Is that what is meant by, "their time is up?"

If there are an unknown amount of hours that come into the world with us, we should spend them wisely, for they are gone all too soon.

For those of us who have reached the 65 mark, we've already spent 567,840 hours. For each year thereafter, we can add another 8,736 hours. Since time doesn't do much, except pass, we need to learn to use these hours well. All of us are guilty of saying "I wish I could find the time," or "I will do it when I find the time." With the 168 hours in each week we've wasted an awful lot of our 567,840 hours.

I think that from now on, I am going to be more aware of the wonderful gift that has been given to us. There are 47 fragile organs, 200 miles of blood vessels, 12 million complex chemical reactions that happen every second.

The body is a wonderful piece of machinery. I promise that from this day on, I will appropriately use the 100,000 miles of nerve fibers in my brain. I will use my remaining time more wisely.

Yes, I am a senior citizen, have patience with me. I'm not perfect but God isn't finished with me yet.

*Charles Hearn is a behavioral scientist in private practice in Santa Monica and a KWVA member.*

### Korean War

It may have been forgotten but it was important.

The Korean conflict lacked the redemptive glory of World War II, the high tragedy of Vietnam. It was the in-between war, fought in cold misery and concluded in something less than sparking victory. Among its less appealing features were the spectacle of "brainwashed" G.I.s denouncing their country the sacking of legendary Gen. Douglas MacArthur for insubordination, and, after seesaw offensives and counter-offensives, more than 54,000 U.S. dead.

Now the country is remembering the Forgotten War. The therapy for our national amnesia is the Korean War Veterans Memorial that was unveiled Thursday in Washington. Nineteen stainless steel fighting men

on a winter patrol — the memorial's centerpiece — lead viewers down a trail of recollection. Let's move out.

Remember, North Korea's invasion of South Korea in June 1950 marked the first post-World War II attempt by a communist state to conquer a sovereign country by arms. Had Harry Truman abandoned the South other Marxist tyrants might have sped Kim Il-Sung, with awful consequences for world peace. Soldiers like the memorial's 19 quite possibly prevented World War II by confronting the aggressors.

Remember, too, that a fledgling organization called the U.N. proved its mettle in the mountainous Asian icebox. With the Soviets sulking in boycott, the United Nations Security Council passed a war resolution against the invaders. Though the United States and South Korea provided 90 percent of the troops, 15 other nations chipped in soldiers; still others sent doctors.

Remember that American military leadership was superb. With an outgunned U.N. force pushed almost into the Sea of Japan, and "Pusan" threatening to become a synonym of Dunkirk, MacArthur launched a brilliant amphibious assault at Inchon that routed the North Koreans. When the Red Chinese entered the fray, Matthew Ridgway jeaped to his crumbling front ended "bugout fever," and turned back the seemingly innumerable enemy.

Remember that valor imbued all ranks. If war is hell, at the Chosin Reservoir it froze over. In 30-below weather, 16,000 U.S. Marines and 4,000 other troops stood off 120,000 Chinese for 14 days. When the smoke cleared, 40,000 enemy lay dead and the defenders had collected 17 Medals of Honor. The record stands.

So, incidentally, does a free and prosperous South Korea. In any consideration of the Forgotten War that is the key point to remember.

Excerpts from an editorial from the Star Beacon of Astabula, Ohio, July 29, 1995.

## Chapter Affairs

### Oregon Trail Chapter

#### Oregon KWVA Authorized Group Plates

Oregon Department of Motor Vehicle offices are now accepting applications for group license plates which bear the message, KOREAN WAR VETERAN 1950-53, according to Don Barton, Secretary.

Those interested may obtain the plates at any time, whether or not their current registration is expiring. If registration is expiring, a \$5 charge will be added to the normal registration fee. If not expiring, the charge is \$8.50, and the new registration will have the same expiration date as the one being replaced.

Transactions may be initiated at any DMV office. Applications will be processed and plates mailed by DMV's main office in Salem.

While it is not necessary to prove you are a Korean War veteran, you must sign a certification that the information you provide is true and correct.

After DMV's administrative costs are covered, proceeds from the sale of the plates will accrue to the Chapter and be used for the funding of the Oregon Korean War Memorial currently under development.

Individuals interested in additional information regarding the Korean War Veterans Association, the planned memorial or the special vehicle plates may contact Don Barton at 8316 North Lombard #449, Portland, Oregon 97203. Mr. Barton may be reached by telephone at (503) 289-7360.

### NATIONAL KWVA REHABILITATION FLOWER PROGRAM

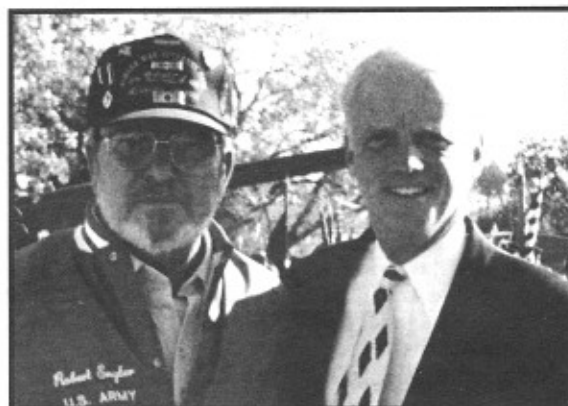
#### TO ORDER FLOWERS FOR YOUR CHAPTER PROGRAMS:

1. ORDERS ARE TO BE MADE IN BOXES OF 1,000 PER BOX. YOU MAY ORDER AS MUCH AS YOU NEED.
2. THE COST IS \$100.00 PER BOX TO COVER ALL ORDERS, PLUS SHIPPING CHARGE OF \$5.00 PER ORDER.
3. ALL ORDERS ARE TO BE MADE THROUGH KWVA NATIONAL CHAIRMAN ROBERT J. WACKER, 634 COLFAX AVENUE, KENILWORTH, N.J. 07033-2052 AND CHECKS MADE OUT TO THE KWVA.
4. OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED BY HELPING THE LIVING VETERANS, WIDOWS AND CHILDREN.
5. PLEASE BE ADVISED, THE FLOWERS MAY BE USED AT ANYTIME YOUR GROUP DESIRES. A SUGGESTED PERIOD IS TO START AT THE END OF JUNE AND CONTINUE TO THE END OF JULY. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, WE WILL NOT BE CREATING ANY PROBLEMS WITH OTHER VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS WITH SIMILAR PROGRAMS. AT THAT TIME, IT ALSO HAS A DEFINITE SIGNIFICANCE WITH THE DATES.

### Oklahoma Chapter



Oklahoma Veterans Day Ceremony at the 45th Division Museum in Oklahoma City, November 10, 1995. Guest speaker was Governor Frank Keating who is a big support of veterans and there programs.



On November 11 a service was held at the state capitol and in the evening a parade in north Oklahoma City put on by the Elks Lodge. Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating and DWVA member Robert Engler on November 11 at a service were well attended.

### Nassau County Chapter #1



G. Stamburger, L. Trope, J. Carco, W. Valgas, S. Weiss, T. Riley, C. Scriva, E. Fenton, J. Scior, G. Dormody, K. Downs, H. Nowicki at Veterans Day Parade, Eisenhower Park, Nassau County, NY.



# Northeast PA Chapter

## Gold Star Wife Seeks Information

I am writing this letter on behalf of one of the Gold Star Wives in my Chapter area.

Her name Jane and she has been looking for someone who might have known her husband or was with him at the time he was reported as missing in action, she has been searching for many years.

His name and all the information we have is as follows: Sgt. Robert S. Weaver, RA 23746198 "C" Company 32nd Infantry, 7th Inf Div, he was on Baldy when reported missing which was on March 25th 1953, and on March 26th 1954 he was declared as dead. Bob was a radio man for a Lt. Price, and his squad leader was a Sgt. Swanig, all of whom were reported missing on Baldy - we know Lt. Price was also lost in the battle - we don't know about Sgt. Swanig.

Bob's Dog Tags and a couple of personal items were sent home but not his body.

In July when we went to Washington for the Dedication one of our people on the bus got lost and while looking for him as fate would have it right outside Jane's window of the bus was a sign with a brother and sister of Lt. Price and they were looking for someone who might have been with him on Baldy. We found out that Lt. Price's body was never returned home either. There Company Commander was a Lt. Buck who was wounded.

Jane and Lt. Price's family deserve an answer, all they were told was that Lt. Buck's records were transferred out of the Regiment, and efforts to find Bob and Lt. Price after the battle was to no avail.

Anyone that might be able to help Jane or knew Bob in the 7th Div., can write her. She would appreciate any information she can get.

Jane Conlogue, RD 1 Box 32, Pleasant Mt, PA, 18453.

Angelo Quadarella  
Pres. Northeast PA Chapter



New KWVA Director, Dorothy "Dot" Schilling on the left and 1st Vice President Tom Clawson take time out from the October Executive Council meeting at Independence, MO.

# Department of Delaware

## Ambitious Plans for 1996

The Department, along with our two chapters are certainly thankful for the support we are experiencing this year from Community Leaders and private business owners such as Mr. Gene Ring, of the Dover Farmers Market, who graciously donated space to our Dept. and Chapters so that we could operate at the NASCAR Races, at Dover Downs both in June and the September Races. This permits us to sell our Blue Buddy Poppys, and our Raffle tickets on both dates. Our new Trailer looked great with the Flags blowing in the wind, and we signed up some new members from other States.

Department officers are acquiring information for trips to the following locations for this year. Korean War Memorial, Wash DC, with a dinner stop included; West Point U.S. Military Academy, with a lunch and guided tour; U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD; US Marine Corps, Museum, at Quantico, VA, which houses one Bldg. dedicated to the Korean War; U.S. Navy Submarine Base, New London CT; U.S. Army Proving Grounds at Aberdeen, MD with lunch.

Along with the above mentioned trips, a guided tour of Dover, Air Force Base, and its Museum will be in the works for the upcoming year, and a chance for our members to board a C-5 Type Aircraft.

As of this writing, our Dept. and Chapters have been invited to the upcoming May 5th, 1996 Dover Air Force Base Air Show along with our new Trailer. There will be a multitude of military aircraft on display, both in static mode and in the air demonstrating Americas Armed Forces air supremacy.

This year our Dept. and Chapters will participate in the Newark, Delaware Memorial Day Parade and will probably be in the Wilmington Day Parade as well. Plans are presently being formulated.

Our Dept. is now selling our new Korean War Veterans Flag Desk sets for the sum of \$5.00 each. This set includes a base to hold both the American and KWVA Flags, that can be used on desks or on a mantle or book case. These sets can be acquired by calling our Dept. at 302-678-5265.

The Commander of the Department is William T. "Bill" Hancock extended thanks for the dedication and quality time spent by all Dept. and Chapter members who helped make 1995 a successful year.

Some of the highlights of the year included the Memorial Dedication in Washington, D.C., the Veterans Day Parade in New York City and the Christmas Party. The success of the programs and trips not only benefited the members, but let the Officers know how to plan for the new year. The new National Memorial will help tell the truth about what really happened some forty-two to forty-five years ago in the land of the "Morning Calm."

The song, "KOREA, THE FORGOTTEN WAR"  
as sung by Bobby Pender

Available on Cassette Tape from:

Fred M. Lane, Jr.

605 Stoney Creek Cir., Durham, NC 27703

919-596-7480

\$10 per tape - \$2.50 of which is to be donated to KWVA

## New Capital Chapter Meets

The newly created Capitol Chapter held its first regular business meeting at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 10th at the American Legion Post #139 in Arlington, Virginia.

The main item of business was to determine disposition of sizeable quantities of items on hand that were left over from the July 27, 1995 dedication ceremonies. The items include a colorful Dedication Magazine (list price \$2), the Official Program Supplement, shoulder or cap patches, and a lapel or cap pin.

It was decided to pass out the items to Korean Vets at the Korean War Memorial on the Mall when warm weather arrives, or to mail a packet of the items to KWVA members upon request. The items were distributed at the dedication ceremonies in July, but they may be desired by many KWVA members who were unable to attend the dedication.

KWVA members desiring the items can so request of the Capitol Chapter President Jack Murray, 655 South Harrison, Arlington, VA 22204. Orders should include a self addressed, stamped (\$1.24 postage) 8 x 10 envelope. (plus \$1)\*

The officers of the Capitol Chapter are:  
 Jack Murray, 1 Corps Engrs, Pres.  
 Ira Jett, 441st CIC, 1st Vice Pres.  
 Brendon Whelan, Navy, 2nd Vice Pres.  
 Kenneth Booker, Ordnance, Secretary  
 John Capriotti, USAF, Treasurer  
 Walter Dorrem, USAF, MIA/POW Affairs  
 June Springer, CIC, Historian  
 Sherman Pratt, 2nd Div., Director  
 Dr. James Hooper, 2nd Div., Director  
 Harry Clark, 7th Inf, 3rd Div., Director  
 Upton Boivin, 7th Div., Director

The Capitol Chapter invites Korean War Vets in the National Capital area who are KWVA members to join the Chapter. Those interested should contact Pres. Murray at the above address.

\*Total \$2.24 for materials and postage.



Photo by Sherman Pratt

Korean and American veterans, and wife, at the Korean War Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C. on the occasion of the placing of a KWVA wreath on the Memorial on November 11, 1995. The group cited the Oath of Allegiance, stood at attention and saluted during the rendition of taps, and then answered numerous questions from Memorial visitors who witnesses the ceremony.



## Our Last Hoorah

*A memorial for our Korean War Veterans is now in place  
 It's close to the one erected for  
 Our Vietnam Comrades - only ours  
 was dedicated at a later date.*

*But, it doesn't matter say some,  
 that our war was recognized  
 a little late  
 But don't tell that to our comrades  
 that didn't live to see the  
 dedication date.*

*The dedication was beautiful, one  
 we'll never forget  
 Especially seeing old comrades, most  
 of whom were well and fit.  
 I was really proud to see how good  
 these old soldiers behaved  
 Seeing them march down Constitution  
 Avenue as our Country's flag did wave.*

*And although our war stories get bigger  
 as the years start to mount  
 No worry that we brag, it's the good  
 memories of comrades that count.  
 For as we Korean War Veterans start  
 to grow old  
 How else could folks learn of these  
 stories if we veterans had not told.*

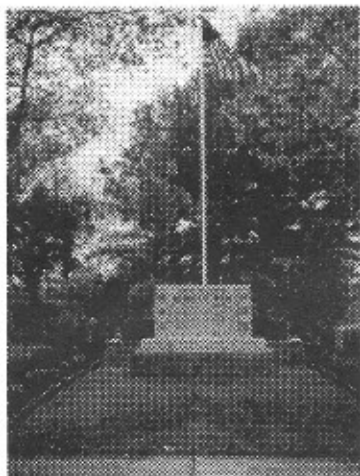
*Now that our memorial is in place and  
 our battle achievements etched in stone  
 We soldiers of the Forgotten War are now  
 content to cross that river from whence  
 no soldier ever returns.*

Joseph A. Langone  
 16829 Acebo Dr.  
 San Diego, CA 92128  
 "B" 21st (TFS)  
 July 27, 1995

## CHAPTER AFFAIRS

### St. Louis Chapter

#### Another Washington Dedicates Korean Veterans Monument



Inspired by the dedication of the national Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, the citizens and dignitaries of Washington, Missouri, dedicated their own Korean War Veterans Memorial on a below-freezing Veterans Day, 1995. The monument is dedicated to all Korean veterans of Washington, northern Franklin and southern Warren Counties.

Sparked by members, Bernie Hillermann, Mayor of Washington, and Bill Miller publisher of the town's newspaper, a committee of Korean veterans launched plans for the memorial early this year. Veterans and citizens responded quickly, contributing more than \$13,500 for the gray granite monument and associated landscaping. The main contribution came from Washington's Masonic Lodge, which paid for the five-foot tall stone and engraving. Local businesses and veterans organizations, including KWVA, contributed to the final cost.

November 11 dawned cold and blustery, with winds up to 20 knots. Even the wind, minor snow and ice conditions, an estimated crowd of 300 attended the program. Following a concert by the Washington Brass Band, representatives of veterans organizations raised the flag on the new flagpole. Mayor Hillermann noted that the citizens of Washington have always answered their country's call, and cited figures confirming that Korea was "the bloodiest war in which Americans have participated." A representative of Congressman Harold Volkmer spoke in place of the Congressman, whose wife was critically ill.

Following unveiling of the monument, an honor roll of nine area war dead was read while members of veterans organizations placed poppies on the monument. One local veteran read a poem dedicated to the dead; a second, wounded in Korea, reminded the audience of "the young men who went when they were called and are now honored for a job well done in a very nasty and forgotten little war, which, like all others before it was hell."

### General Matthew B. Ridgway Chapter

It was raining an even though it was not yet winter, the dampness chilled them to the bone. They walked fast, yet stealthily across the open field. The watered down moon shone briefly on their faces and the flashes of battle made their faces and features stark and grey. It was windy and their ponchos billowed out around them as they had their rifles poised for instant action.

The faces of these young men (who were no longer the carefree boys of just days ago) showed anxiety and weariness, but also fear and determination. They had fought battles and were about to fight more. They were tired, wet, cold, hungry and the only thing on their minds (at that moment in time) was to get the job done and go home.

There they seemed to walk in the eerie wetness of this October evening and despite that they were only statues, these Korean War soldiers: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard were poignantly alive to the men who stared at them in remembrance and sorrow. These watching men had been these G. I.s so many years ago and seeing the bigger than life replicas of themselves brought tears to their eyes.

The no longer young men stood around the Korean Monument in the rain, and remembered. The years of work and toil, and just living, fell from their shoulders and they became those wet military men on that God forsaken field of battle. They remembered not only the terrible trials of the war that they survived, but they remembered the faces of the friends and buddies who did not survive. These moments of precious recollection were private and personal to each man who viewed that awesome, realistic memorial.

Their backs were no longer straight, no were their legs strong and their stomachs hard and lean. Their eyes and hearing were dimmed and fading. But they held their heads high as the tears rolled down their cheeks. They had fought for peace and freedom years ago and they had fought to bring this memorial to the American people to remind them that Korea was still alive in the memories of the ones who God brought home to their loved ones. It is there also for those who died in battle, those who fell in mud holes, frozen mountains, or stinking rice paddies.

Now these "Graybeards" and those who fell so many years ago, can know that they all will rest in peace and will be remembered by everyone. . . . .

C. Jeanne Kean

C. Jeanne Kean is the wife of Ken Kean of the KWVA of Western PA - Matthew B. Ridgway Chapter. She wrote the above story following a visit to the Memorial with members of the Chapter. Ken Kean was with the 35th Regt., 25th Div. 1950-51.



Korean War Veterans of Western Pennsylvania -  
General Matthew B. Ridgway Chapter, October 1995



## Department of Florida

### New officers

**PRESIDENT** - JOHN "JACK" EDWARD  
9330 89th Way N. - Seminole, FL 34647  
**1ST V. PRES.** - AMELIA "AMY" CARAFANO  
1885 Van Allen Circle - Delinono, FL 32738-4314  
**CHAIR-PERSON** - FUND RAISING  
**2ND V. PRES.** - MICHAEL L. DALLETT  
1401 NW 45th St. - Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309-3733  
**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**  
**3RD V. PRES.** - FRED L. SHEARS  
1225 NW 21st St., Apt. 502 - Stuart, FL 34994-9323  
**BYLAWS CHAIRMAN**  
**TREASURER** - GEORGE L. SPITZER  
6028 Dusenbury Rd. - Delray, FL 33484-1550  
**SECRETARY** - KENNETH G. MOLDT  
46 Camino Del Rio - Port St. Lucie, FL 34952-23084  
**PAST PRESIDENT** - EMMITT BENJAMIN  
106 5th Street NE - Havana, FL 32333-1714  
**SENIOR ADVISOR**  
**JUDGE ADV.** - WARREN ZUNDELL, M.D.  
920 Paradiso Ave. - Coral Gables, FL 33146-2057

### CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

**Suncoast Chapter**  
**John "Jack" Edwards**  
813-397-8209  
**Eddie Lyon's Chapter**  
**Joseph D. Firriolo**  
2510 NE 209th Terr., N. Miami Beach, FL 33180-1044  
**Col. Alice Gritsavage Chapter**  
**Dick Merrill**  
P.O. Box 327, Citra, FL 32113-0327  
**Lt. Richard E. Cronan Chapter**  
**Murray Havelin, M.D.**  
7270 Ashford Pl., Ph 405, Delray Beach, FL 33446  
**Treasurer Coast Chapter**  
**Bob McCaffrey**  
2167 SE Sunflower Ave., Port St. Lucie, FL 34952-4859  
**South Dade Chapter**  
**Warren Zundell, M.D.**  
920 Paradiso Ave., Coral Gables, FL 33146-2057

## CHAPTER AFFAIRS

### Executive Council Meets



Pictured above are members at the Executive Council of the Association meeting in Independence, Missouri October 14-15, 1995. The meeting was held at the Truman Library.

### 15th Infantry Reunion



George Pilkington of Cuba, Illinois reports thirty-nine 15th Inf. Korean War vets got together last July in Iowa. Veterans from 16 states were represented.

## SAILORS IN THE SKY

*Memoir of a Navy Aircrewman in the Korean War*

Jack Sauter

312 pages, photographs, map, bibliography, index  
McFarland & Co, Publishers 1995

From the writer who gave you "Remembering That Other War," and "The U.S. Navy In Korea," which appeared in the July/Aug. and Nov/Dec issues of *GREYBEARDS*.

*SAILORS IN THE SKY* is an enlisted man's view of the Korean War. From that first night in boot camp to the thrill of being catapulted from a flat-top off the coast of North Korea, Sauter brings the reader directly into the action with all the intimacy of a first person narrative.

"A story in the genre of *TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST* and *THE SAND PEBBLES*."

—Edward Stafford CMDR USN (ret) author *"THE BIG E."*

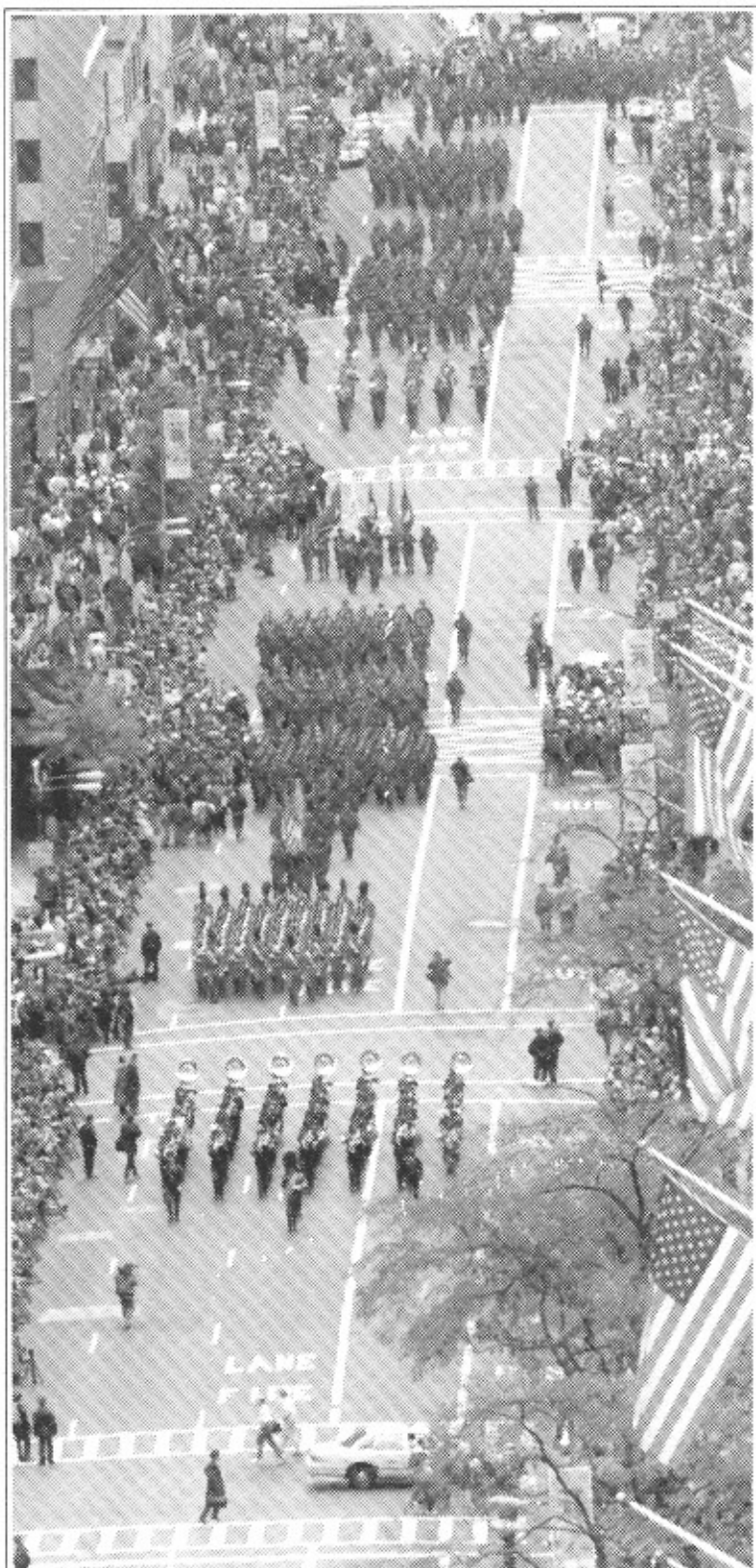
"Veterans will devour all 312 pages in a single bite and then re-read it several times over.

This book will endure." —BRONX-TIMES REPORTER

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# 1995 VETERANS DAY IN NEW YORK CITY BRINGS



Andrea Mohin/The New York Times

Flags wave as Parade marchers go up Fifth Avenue

By **BERNIE HOGANSON**

The celebration in New York City this November 11, 1995 was the biggest Veterans Day Parade that this city has seen since the end of World War II. Thirty-Three thousand proud American warriors marched out of the past and paraded up Fifth Avenue to commemorate the end of World War II. Included among these veterans were the Korean War Veterans represented by the Long Island chapters and a group of approximately 80 members of the Cpl. Kivlehan Chapter of Staten Island. In the reviewing stand was our National President Nick Pappas who gave the marchers a rousing acknowledgement with a "well done," when we marched by him.

Flags flapped from skyscrapers and luxury hotels along the route which was lined with more than 500,000 cheering, flag-waving spectators the likes of which the city hasn't seen in many decades. These people came out to honor those who served in North Africa, Europe, the South Pacific, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and in peacetime as well. A group of dignitaries marched near the head of the line, including Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Gov. George Pataki and developer Donald Trump, the grand marshal who donated \$200,000 toward the march. The parade started at 47th Street and went up Fifth Avenue to 79th Street and then over to Third Avenue.

## ALL VETERAN UNITS REPRESENTED

On this the eleventh day of the eleventh month at the eleventh hour, church bells across the city and the nation began ringing, tolling 50 times to mark the



# RECOGNITION WITH "THE NATIONS PARADE"

## *New York's largest Veterans Day Parade since end of WW II*

years since the end of World War II. In the line of march were 50 Pearl Harbor survivors, many in Hawaiian shirts; Airborne units in berets and camouflage fatigues; former prisoners of war; submariners, Air Force pilots, members of the Women's Army Corps; a large contingent of Filipino survivors of the Bataan Death March; floats remembering field medics and the U.S.O., and everywhere soldiers, sailors and marines in uniforms from long ago, with battle ribbons, medals, service bars and badges.

At noon, cannons set up near the reviewing stand blazed a 21-gun salute. Later a group of F-16 fighter jets and a Stealth bomber swept low over the avenue, giving the crowds a glimpse of terrifying power and speed.

### RAIN DID NOT DAMPEN THE DAY

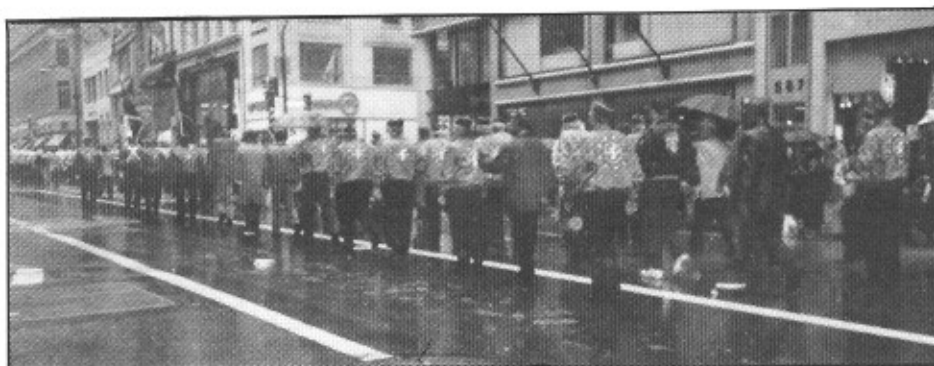
The day was gray and blustery, but not a spoiler even though a light rain prevailed as we marched. An awning of clouds hung over the city and winds that gusted up to 30 miles an hour snapped color-guard flags and carried the Sousa marches, the bagpipe skirls and the mellower cadences of "In the Mood" and "American Patrol" from the Glen Miller Alumni Players and other bands. Over 30 marching bands participated, strategically located to aid in establishing a cadence for the marchers.

On display at this parade were military vehicles including General George Patton's official command car along with convoys on motorized floats of World War II-era Sherman and Patton tanks, artillery pieces, troop carriers and jeeps mounted with machine guns and other units.

As we marched up Fifth Avenue led by two of our National Directors: Ed Grygier and Bob Morga, and our own

Chapter President Joseph Calabria, we were greeted and recognized with our banner by Cardinal O'Connor, archbishop of New York. The Cardinal was a Navy chaplain for 27 years, serving with the Marines in the Korean War and in Vietnam. He retired in 1979 as chief of chaplains with the rank of rear admiral. He dedicated his mass on Veterans Day to all veterans and in his homily stated "Anything I would say on this occasion would be very quickly forgotten without a loss," . . . "But the world, must never forget what our veterans have done. Sometimes, the world would like to forget; sometimes the world has treated our veterans with disinterest or contempt. This must never be permitted." He added "Americans should be thankful and pray for the men and women who sacrificed so much for the country by serving in the armed forces especially during wartime."

The Cpl. Kivlehan chapter has been very involved at this time with their activities—Christmas party—our annual contribution to a local church for the needy—our contribution to the Korean Association on Staten Island—our own memorial—obtaining the support and legislation to rename one of our highways the "Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway" and preparing for our 4th annual Dinner Dance in April, 1996.



Photos by John Everts and Al Fowler





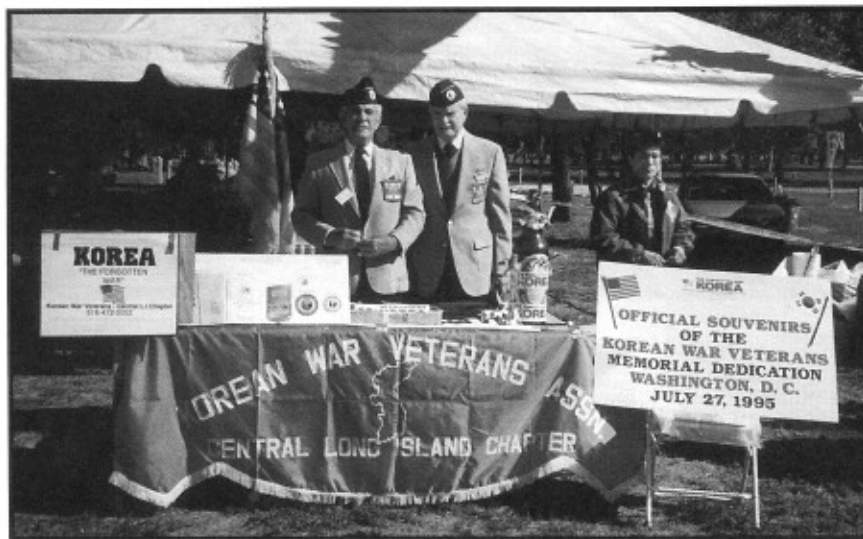
## Robert Wacker Honored

Testimonial Dinner Honors New Jersey State President



The Wacker Family pictured above at the Testimonial Dinner held in Bayonne, New Jersey on November 19, 1995. Honoring Robert Wacker, State President of the Department of New Jersey. Bob was honored for his many years of service to all veterans. The Union County KWVA in the impressive program for the occasion said, "By Your Good Example You Have Inspired Others And Helped Make The Korean War Veterans Association A Better Organization."

## Central Long Island Chapter



On September 24, 1995, the Korean Community Association of Flushing Queens (Noted to be the largest Korean Community in the United States) invited the Central Long Island Chapter to participate in their "Harvest Festival" at Flushing Meadow Park, on the grounds of where the last "Worlds Fair" was held in New York. Pictured above are left to right, President **Bob Morga** and Secretary behind the Chapters display table.

## NORTHEAST NEW YORK CHAPTER

Did you know that there is a Presidential Memorial Certificate to honor the memory of Honorably Discharged deceased veterans?

The certificate can be issued to family or friends upon the veterans death by the VA. Upon request, with documentation, the VA will prepare a certificate with the Presidents signature expressing the country's grateful recognition of the veterans service.

Eligible recipients may apply in person or through the mail, with any VA Regional Office.

Documentation of the Veterans Honorable Military Service should be provided.

For the nearest VA regional Office near your location, call 1-800-827-1000. To contact the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs-you can also call 1-800-275-6553 for additional information.

## The Dutch Nelsen Chapter

Walt Curran advised the husbands and wives to know what to do with their personnel affairs in case the husband dies. Many wives of retiree's are not aware of who to call upon for help. That each Military base has a person to contact to assist the widow with what papers to have ready access to. Or call the local Veterans Affairs Service Office.

"Dutch" Nelsen gave a brief report on what to expect for our memorial dedication next 27 July 1996. That a banquet will follow the ceremony in the evening. Also that he was grateful to all members for naming the Colorado Springs Chapter of the KWVA, the "Dutch" Nelsen Chapter. It is an honor and that all members hold him to such high esteem. Thank you all.

A hat was passed for donations for the memorial fund, and \$166 was collected. The treasurer reported the fund has \$5500 on account now.

Ed Ziegler is President of the Chapter.

Louis A. Schindler  
Secretary

Do you remember the axiom, "Action Speaks Louder than Words"? Yes the KWVA through action in 1995 achieved success with certain issues resolved and programs initiated. This required action by its national officers, directors, staff officers, committee chairs and members, chapters, state department and members. This input continues the strong vitality of a healthy veterans organization - KWVA.

The number one occasion which was the healing balm for many Korean War era veteran was felt during the impact of the Dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial, July 27, 1995 in Washington D.C. There was input by KWVA members from early day planning, fund raising, and committee work. All relating to the completion of the memorial. It became a reality that awesome, hot week in Washington D.C., in which the KWVA followed every footstep and they were there in force to give 100% support. The Korean War Veterans are proud of their memorial and will be forever grateful. That was a goal and now it is a reality.

Secondly the action to maintain strong leadership in the KWVA prevailed. From the president down to committee members working diligently to provide service and to answer questions raised by its members. Yes, this also required action. As members are aware, their organization is also a business and requires financial accountability. This has been accomplished, we are in the black and we will continue to be responsible.

Many programs for the members have been initiated and are operating and would behoove each member to read and digest the written reports and articles that appear in the *Graybeards*. This requires action by you also.

The lifeblood of the KWVA, is the *Graybeards* and you will find that it and its

# Looking Back on 1995

## A Memorable Year



editor are getting the job done. This required action but also the credibility of the written word focusing on the positive attitude. It is a credit to the KWVA. This direction gets results.

*The Graybeards* is also the forum of our future. Please read the editors Campfire Chats. Can't you feel the heartbeat of the KWVA within the covers of each issue? As a vet, please contribute, speak out and support our K-Vet journal. With your input the officers of the KWVA will maintain, improve and recognize the honest feelings of its members.

In the January 1995 issue of the *Graybeards* (page 2) an editorial comment gave the challenge for 1995. The last paragraph said, "There is no other vet organization that duplicates the KWVA and it deserves survival and loyal support by its members in the interests of the too often Forgotten Korean War Veterans."

Members, since January to December 1995, action and teamwork in a positive perspective has turned your KWVA 180 degrees. The KWVA has gained honest support and will survive.

New memberships are on the rise, new chapters and state department are forming up, educational grants have been dispersed, state department rebates to be delegated, current election of officers and directors are forthcoming and the goals and objectives of the KWVA are to be continued. This is healthy.

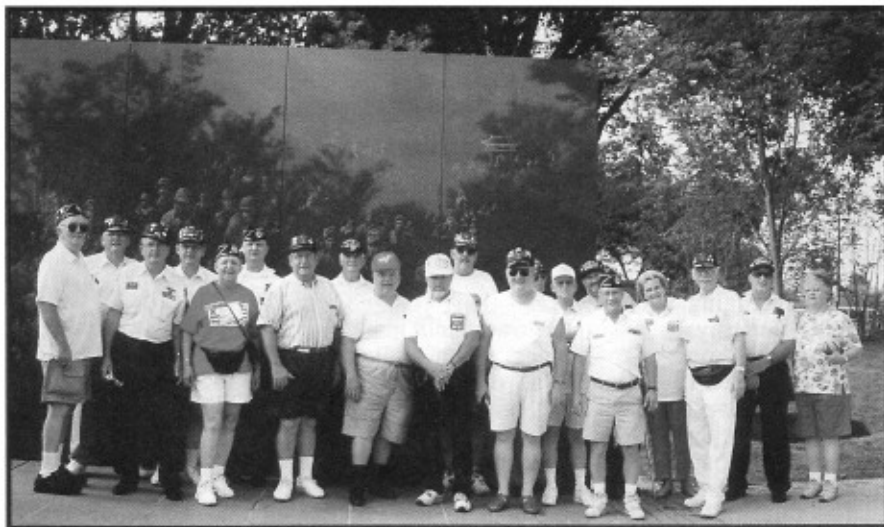
Now is the time for action through involvement at all levels of the KWVA, commitment within KWVA and results of a solid KWVA will continue to be achieved in 1996.

Tom Clawson, 1st Vice President  
953 Gonnar Ave  
West St. Paul, MN 55118

## Western Ohio Chapter Praises Memorial

The Western Ohio Chapter was present for the Dedication - forty men and women strong, complete with Honor Guard to celebrate the momentous occasion. The group chartered a bus and stayed at the Channell Inn and have great pictures and memories to share. They want to share the picture on the right with the readers of *The Graybeards*.

**Western Ohio Chapter  
group gather at the  
lower end of the wall**



# Going "Public" on The Korean War

By Irwin Z. Braun

In the fall of 1994, this writer recognized that there would be a unique opportunity in 1995 to inform the public about the Korean War. That opportunity was the coming dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington on July 27th.

Consequently, I decided to contact public libraries on Long Island (New York) to sponsor programs on the Korean War timed to the coming dedication in Washington. A mailing was sent out to 70 libraries on the Island and I received a response from 12 libraries that they wanted to feature a program on the War. The towns that agreed to sponsor programs included, Great Neck, Port Washington, Roslyn, Merrick, North Merrick, Huntington, South Huntington, Plainview-Old Bethpage, Jericho, Wantagh, Long Beach, and Freeport.

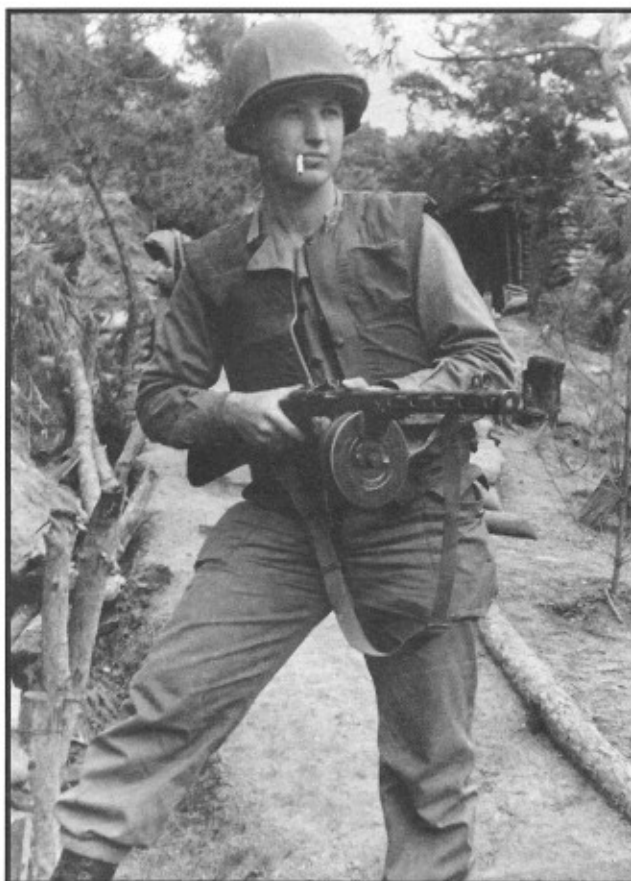
There are a number of reasons why libraries were targeted for this program. The libraries on Long Island are an important part of the cultural life of each community. They sponsor a variety of programs and promote these events to attract a large audience. They publish newsletters that are mailed to everyone in the community promoting their activities, they print flyers, send out news releases to the media including the *New York Times* and *Newsday*. It's also an opportunity to promote related books that they have on their shelves, in this instance about the Korean War.

In putting a program together, I decided the most effective type of talk would be a slide presentation using some of my own photographs taken in 1952 and 1953. I also obtained photos from books like, *"Bayonet: The History of the Seventh Infantry Division in Korea"* and from the National Archives. In my opinion, the visual experience would leave a more lasting impression than words alone and it could always be updated with new material. Using source material from recently published books like John Tolland's *"In Mortal Combat"* and *"Uncertain Partners: Stalin, Mao and The Korean War"* by Sergei Goncharov, John W. Lewis and Xue Litai, a script was written to go along with the slides.

Another reason I decided to compose my own presentation about the Korean War was because many of the current video tapes are outdated in terms of new information and some put a negative spin on the Korean War. I wanted to make three points about the war: First, The Korean War was a testing of American resolve by the Soviet Union in the early days of the cold war. Second, The United States and The United Nations forces would accomplish its original mission—to save South Korea and repel the North Korean Army. Third, the Korean War was one of the bloodiest wars fought in American history and the men who fought distinguished themselves.

While the numbers who attended the lectures were modest—averaging about twenty—they were very successful. A lengthy discussion followed and many veterans added their own experiences. The audience was mainly composed of Korean War vets and people who lived during that era. There were very few young people, no history teachers and in an area with 12 Korean churches, only one Korean-American adult showed up. (Special mailings were sent to Korean Churches).

The Cultural Program Specialist for the Plainview-



**Irwin Z. Braun was an intelligence sergeant with the 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division in 1952 and 1953.**

Old Bethpage Public Library, Aviva Crown, wrote, "Thank you so much for the intelligent, moving program you offered here on Wednesday evening about the Korean War. Aside from the fact that the subject is compelling and needs to be aired, you attracted a segment of the community that rarely comes to Library programs. I'm delighted we were able to do that! I know from the silence that attended your presentation and the applause at the end (rare for a slide/lecture offering), that everyone was as involved and pleased as I was." Scotty Lee, Program coordinator of the Port Washington Library wrote, "Thank you for your well researched slide lecture on the Korean War. It is always a pleasure to see David Douglas Duncan's photographs; they are eloquent in their silence."

The program is being continued in 1996 with presentations at the East Meadow and Baldwin Public Libraries. In addition, there will be presentations at Hofstra University and Queensborough Community College.

In conclusion, the Korean War is not "The Forgotten War" as most of us think. It actually is "THE UNKNOWN WAR" — and the vast majority of Americans would like to leave it that way. It will take a tremendous effort on our part to change the public's knowledge and misconceptions about the War. But it can be done!



## Local Legislators Tour Korean War Memorial



Pictured left to right, George Funderburg, Senator Rhine McClin (seated), Senator Merle Grace Kearns and National Director Harley J. Coon.

Recently, National Director Harley J. Coon, and Korean War Veteran George Funderburg, had the distinct honor of serving as tour guides for two Ohio State Senators at the Dayton, Ohio Memorial dedicated earlier last year. George is a Charter Member and former Vice-President of the Korean Veterans Memorial Board. Harley served as Treasurer of this Board for four and one half years. This was their first tour of the Memorial since its completion. These two Senators sponsored legislation naming Dayton, Ohio as the location sight.

## Northeastern Chapter



A proud group of the Northeastern Chapter of Korean War Vets at the Tallix Foundry at Beacon, NY prior to the shipment of the statues to Washington, D.C.

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## CHAPTER AFFAIRS

## Korean War Veterans Memorial Service Northville, NY



## Hawaii Chapter #1 - 45th Inf Division Assoc. Team Up in Salute to Veterans



L. to R. Robert Fernandez, George Matsunaga and Richard Miyamoto.

Maui Korean War Veterans of the 45th Infantry Division Association, Hawaii Chapter and Korean War Veterans Association, Hawaii Chapter #1, display photos and materials from the dedications of the Hawaii Korean Vietnam Wars Memorials and the National Korean War Memorial. The display was part of "A Salute to Veterans" on Veterans Day, November 11, 1995 at the Kaahumanu Mall in Kahului, Maui, Hawaii.

## Association Seeks Veterans

The Presidential Service Association, a nonprofit organization created to provide a network to construct a history of service, demonstrate the traditions and pride of that service, and furnish scholarships, grants, or crisis funds for U.S. Armed Services Personnel/Veterans who received the Presidential Service Badge & Certificate, for honorable service in the White House. Veterans or, members of Armed Services who received the Presidential Service Badge/Certificate for honorable service in the White House contact our membership office. Presidential Service Association, 163 Linwood St., Lynn, MA 01905-1218 or E-Mail via Internet: PRES SERV@aol.com.

# The U.S. Airforce In The Kor

By Sherman Pratt

Too often it seems, the vital and critical roles of the Air Force and Navy in the Korean War are overlooked. Airmen and Sailors may well be justified in feeling, at times, that their courageous and diligent efforts were never fully appreciated by the troopers on the ground to include the front line infantrymen.

Nothing, of course, could be farther from the truth. We foot slogging, mud raking, gravel agitating doughboys are ever mindful and endlessly thankful for the never failing assistance and support we received from our brothers and sisters in arms from the other services. We know well how vital to victory are our seamen and "flyboys," as the airmen are sometimes derisively called.

The extraordinary accomplishments of the U. S. Navy in carrying out the brilliantly executed Inchon landings and the Hungnam evacuations that avoided another Dunkirk, are legendary. Still, the Navy's role needs more attention. I tried to throw some help its way in the short period I was editor of the *Graybeards* with the articles on the USS Osborn (p. 23, Oct/94 issue) and the USS Valley Forge (p.30, Jan/95 issue). Editor Camp has done the same with his beautiful color cover of the USS Iowa on the Nov-Dec/95 issue, and the articles "The US Navy in Korea" on page 14, and "Destroyer Sinks Shore Battery" on page 18 of the same issue. For fair balance, however, perhaps it is time we turned the spot light for a bit on the Air Force less one conclude it was not a very prominent player in the Korean War arena.

Of course the Air Force was heavily involved in the fighting, continuously, at great cost and sacrifice, and in crucial and decisive ways. One could start with the opening moments of the struggle, after the North Koreans crossed the 38th and were moving on and beyond Seoul and about to overrun all of South Korea. It was the highly effective interdiction by the immediately available Air Force, and Navy, pilots that slowed the enemy advance enough to allow precious minutes for Lt Col Charles "Brad" Smith to get his troops of the 1st Bn of the 24th Division's 21st Infantry into position at Osan, just below Seoul and far from what was to become the Pusan perimeter.

Although overcast skies prevented much close support on that fateful day the North Koreans overran his position, the air support before and after clearly helped delay the enemy's advance long enough for the rest of the division to be moved from Japan to Korea and set up delaying positions on the peninsula. Without that vital support by the pilots, the communists might have rushed on to Pusan before ground forces could arrive and thus prevent defense efforts from every getting underway. But for that close air support, all of Korea might well be communist to this day.

No doubt many Korean War vets can recall instances of close Air Support that saved their buns. I will cite two instances of close air support of which I have personal knowledge and where I think the support saved the day in battles that if lost would have also dramatically and adversely changed the outcome of the war. These actions especially merit eternal gratitude by us all.

The first was at Kunu-ri on November 30, 1950. The Chinese had just intervened days earlier in what MacArthur called "A whole new war." The Eighth Army was frantically withdrawing to avoid encirclement and probable annihilation. The Second Division had been left behind to



**Dust rises from Air Force bombing and strafing of Chinese North Korea on November 30, 1950 during withdrawal concentration of aircraft at any one time during the Korean**

fight a rear guard action to allow time for the rest of the Army to safely withdraw to around the 38th parallel, and then decide what next to do. The 2nd Division's 9th and 38th Regiments were also on the move out, but were being slaughtered in what was to become known as "the gauntlet" on the Kunu-ri to Sunch'on road to the south.

The 23rd Regiment, the last out unit of the Eighth Army scheduled to leave, remained in blocking positions on the high ground south of Kunu-ri and the Namdae river.

Since the 9th and 38th were in the process of being rendered combat ineffective it was essential that the 23rd, as the last intact unit, remain in position as long as possible, and at least throughout the day. But the on-line 1st battalion had been in a severe firefight at dawn and was under siege and nearly surrounded by thousands of enemy troops to its front and moving steadily around its flanks.

Could the 23rd, and especially its 1st Battalion stay in place long enough to insure the completion of the withdrawal of other forces? As it developed, that depended more than any other single factor on the availability and effectiveness during the day of close air support. The enemy troops in the valley in front were beyond the range of small arms fire, and with darkness could be expected to move in close and fast.

The pilots swung into action. Almost at sunset they were in the skies over the field of battle, relentlessly strafing and bombing the enemy in open rice paddies to the front and flanks of the 23rd. Clay Blair in his "The Forgotten War", put it this way:

# Korean War – Did it Participate?



Photo by Sherm Pratt

troops in valley to the front of 1st Bn/23rd Infantry at Kunu-ri, of Eighth Army. This occasion is said to be the greatest War.

*"That terrible day, Paul Freeman's 23rd, mated with John Keith's 38th FAB, plus some tanks of the 72nd Bn, had been holding Kunu-ri while elements of the 25th Division withdrew through them... Freeman was helped considerably by the FEAF (Far East Air Force) that flew an astonishing 287 close air support missions... attacking the advancing CCF with bombs and napalm and strafing them with machine guns. The airmen claimed to have killed 1,000 CCF men in these attacks."*

The airmen's claims, modestly, were probably understated. But their crucial contribution on that occasion to that battle and the war was not. Without that close support, it is quite doubtful that the 23rd could have remained through the day at that critical location and provided precious hours for the escape of much of the Eighth Army. Had they not done so, the CCF could have rushed onward and probably overtaken the withdrawing vulnerable forces strung out in road columns, and perhaps ended the Korean War then and there. The Air Force and Navy were there, "on the case", and it didn't happen.

Another occasion of vital, and largely overlooked, Air Force help occurred only a couple of months later in mid February at the decisive Chipuyong-ni engagement. It was there that the 23rd Regiment was surrounded in a perimeter, cut off, and under a 3 day and night siege. The nearest friendly forces were the 2nd Division's heavily engaged regiments away to the east at Wonju, and the 1st Cav Divisions famed 5th "Black Knights" Regiment far to the south at Yaju.

The Chipuyong engagement was far from just another confrontation in the Korean War. It was to be a test of enemy will and capability. Its outcome would probably have determined whether the fight would be further prosecuted or abandoned.

Before Chipuyong, the Eighth Army had simply been containing the Chinese in a number of road blocking, see-sawing or "rolling with the punch" operations. No one knew whether the American forces, if they stood their ground, could stand up to the Chinese in an all out confrontation. Plans for the evacuation of the Peninsula if it proved necessary had already been drawn up.

Chipuyong, if defending forces prevailed, could resolve all uncertainties concerning the feared invincibility of the Chinese. It was thus essential that the UN prevail at Chipuyong. As the fighting progressed, the perimeter forces ran dangerously close to exhausting their ammunition, food, and other supplies. Resupply of the cut off force could only be accomplished by air drops which is where the Air Force performed most dramatically.

At the height of the siege, throughout the daylight hours, huge C-119 Flying Boxcars swooped low over the Chipuyong perimeter dropping tons of critically needed supplies. Each time they approached and left the drop zone in the center of the perimeter, barely over the heads of the enemy troops in the surrounding hills, the planes and crews would be peppered with small arms fire from the enemy troops. It was enough to ruin a crewman's day. But still the huge aircraft came on and on, hour after hour dropping the desperately needed supplies.

At night, the Air Force sent over "Firefly" C-47s outfitted to drop large parachute flares to illuminate the battlefield. Then on the last day of the action, with the 23rd's southern sector breached and the counterattacking reserve company hard pressed to recapture lost positions and close the gap in the perimeter, the Air Force fighters arrived loaded with napalm with blazing guns and rocket gifts for the Chinese. These flights dramatically changed the course of events. Blair quotes Regimental CO Paul Freeman as saying, "they (the flares) helped save our soldiers as much as any gadget in the grim business of night fighting" and "(the Flying boxcars) were a Godsend."

Without this vital support at that critical time, it seems highly unlikely that the 23rd could have continued to hold out until the armored link-up column from the 1st Cav arrived. Had the RCT been defeated there would be no proof that UN and American forces could prevail against the Chinese, and evacuation might well have been undertaken as planned.

Close ground support has never been the Air Force's most preferred use of its combat aircraft. Its leaders would rather be attacking rear areas with concentrated supplies, troops, and communication centers where their ordnance is more effective. But the close support provided to ground troops in the Korean War was highly effective, and much appreciated.

Never let it be said that Korean War vets did not recognize the vital role of the Air Force, or that they were not, and are not, deeply grateful for that help. Without it, on the modern battlefield, we could not in most cases punch our way out of the proverbial paper bag.

Sherman Pratt is a historian, author and immediate past editor of *The Graybeards*. He is the author of "Decisive Battles of the Korean War," Vantage Press, New York, NY 1992.



# RARELY DOES SOMEONE



Rarely does someone go  
where no one has gone before.

SIR EDMUND HILLARY

Mt. Everest

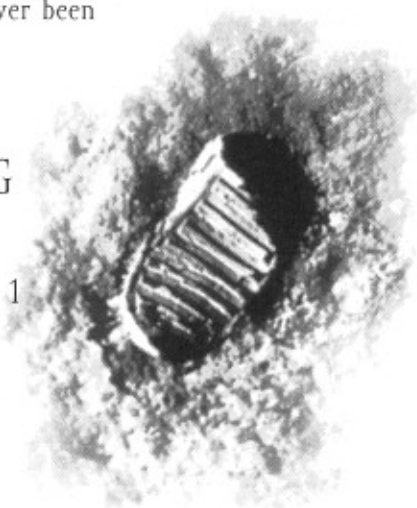
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# Korean Navy Salutes Department of Florida

## Miami Scene of Visit of Three Ships on World Cruise

Miami, an especially The Department of Florida and its members, were honored on October 24, 1995 by an invitation from Mr. Boo-Yul Park, Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Miami. The invitation was to an unprecedented visit by three ships from the Korean Navy.

The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Korean Navy was highlighted by a round-the-world cruise with a dual purpose – to provide the 50th Naval Academy graduates with hands-on experience in globalization and to display a myriad of things that exhibit South Korea's defense industry, folk music, folk food and a total display of Korean culture for the world to see. The Republic of Korea is determined to fulfill its role as a strong leader in the "Pacific Rim" area of the world.

Three ships participated in the exercise: The Chonji, Pusan, and the Chonju. The activity at Miami dockside was centered on the Chonji, commanded by Captain Jae-Sun On. In one large room on the Chonji was an amazing display of model ships of all types along with catalogues, books and pamphlets describing the country and its assets. The myriad guest list was duly impressed by this display and the courtesy shown by the Naval personnel.

Emmett Benjamin, outgoing President of the Department of Florida who coordinated the KWVA invitation with the ROK Consul General, was an honored guest aboard the ship for his efforts in organizing the KWVA in Florida and his fostering of Korean-American relations since 1988. Benjamin has worked closely with the four Consuls General who have been assigned to Miami since that time. The Consuls General have participated in all KWVA fund-raising activities and cultural programs and are anxious to fulfill their mission of looking after the needs of the local Korean communities. In addition, the diplomats promote trade and commerce and an understanding of Korean culture. Some members of the Florida KWVA were treated to a wardroom meeting with Rear Admiral Byung-Doo Chung who commanded the Flotilla. The training, bearing and knowledge of all the officers on the cruise impressed all who came in contact with them.

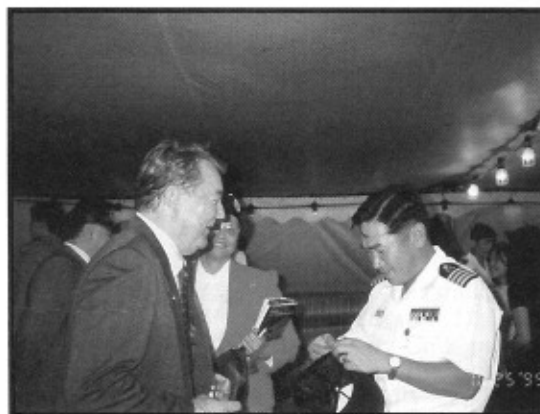
The highlight of the evening was the social activity on the helicopter deck of the Chonji which was covered for the occasion. Food of all types, both Korean and American, was plentiful and a long bar met the needs of the thirsty. The evening was highlighted by Korean cultural presentations of music, the dance and introductions of the various guests from all over the state. Military organizations as well as those in business were well represented. A late evening rain did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the occasion. Another successful chapter was written in relations between the Korean War Veterans Association and a grateful South Korea who salutes those veterans who kept South Korea free.



Aboard the Chinju October 24, 1995 — L-R Captain Yong-Ok Kim, Admiral Byong-Doo Churg, Emmett Benjamin, Mrs. Park, Consul General Boo-Yul Park.



Pictured above are Charlie and Amy Carafano presenting the ship with one of the license plates they designed in Ocala. Charlie was wounded in Korea and he and Amy were the first husband-wife team signed up in the KWVA. They started the Col. Alice Gritsavage Chapter in Ocala and do yeoman's work.



Tom Flynn receiving a ROK Navy cap from the Captain of the Chinju. Tom was part of Task Force Smith and is currently Consul General in Miami to the Republic of Panama.



# Healing Arrives After Forty-Three Years

by Tom Maxwell  
as told to Kristina Lorentzen

As the giant silver bird circled our nation's capital July 27th, shivers of excitement and anticipation gripped my very soul.

"Forty three years ... half a lifetime. Forty three long years and I'm finally here."

Easing back into the plush seat, I let my mind wander back thru those years and the events bring in a me full circle to Washington, D.C.

Clouds slowly lifted over the razor-backed Osan mountains with its torturous roads and steep mountain passes in the "Land of Morning Calm". Sharp staccato sunbursts and deafening mortar fire broke the stillness, as I found myself settling into another day of warfare as a 4.2 mortar gunner with the 32nd, 7th Division of the 8th Army.

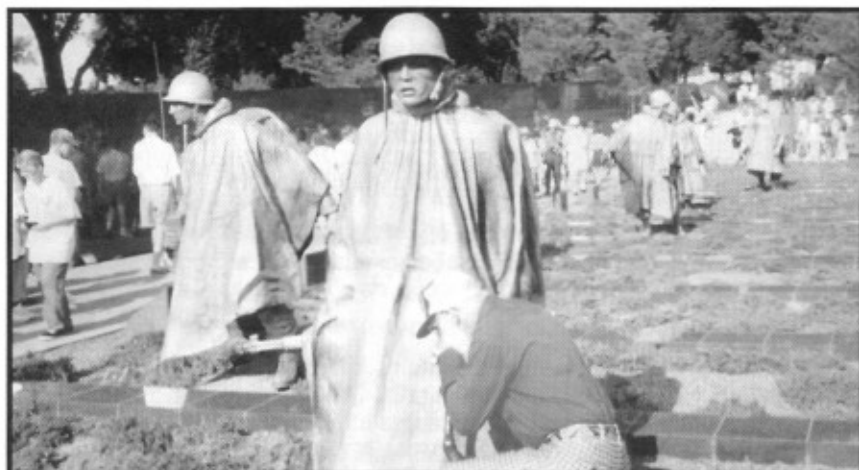
Having my buddy Melvin nearby provided a sense of security while I concentrated on engaging the enemy. Suddenly a maverick mortar shot short and rolled down the hill toward soldiers positioned below. A feared cry followed.

"Live round!"

Without hesitating or weighing the cost, I flung myself over that live mortar. Silence followed. No one moved. I felt suspended in time. After hushed moments passed without an explosion, I accepted the miraculous God had spared my life ... the round failed to fire.

Christmas '52 came and went with only one break in the frontline monotony - and opportunity to tape record a message home to Culver City, California. Jumping at the chance to leave the hellish action, I sang two of my favorite melodies to my anxious parents, Helen Grace and Claude Edwards and brothers Dale and Ben (WWII veterans). They say my tape is the only known tape to survive and surface after all these years. I only remember wanting to assure my family that I remained alive and well.

Back on the front, while defending a country I never knew and a people I'd never met, a shrapnel blast to the head penetrated Melvin's helmet like a knife slicing butter and I lost my beloved comrade. Something snapped inside ... your quiet coun-



Tom Maxwell saying a prayer for God, Country and Buddys that never made it home — Korean War Memorial, July, 1995

try-boy emerged a killing machine devoid of feeling. Smouldering rage coupled with guilt.

"Why not me, Lord? How's come I'm still alive and not Melvin?"

That unmerited debt weighed heavy on this ole soldier, let me tell you.

Memories resurface of my homecoming off the troop ship LENNOX at an isolated Seattle dock. No cheering crowds or booming bands for this fellow. No, I trudged that solitary Seattle hill alone and fell on my face to kiss the ground, thanking the good Lord I'd reached American soil - alive.

Ensuing years found me on life's treadmill striving to erase those ever present tormentors - rage and guilt.

A successful singing career with Washington area Rainer Ramblers brought some relief, as well as marriage to a lovely blonde-haired performer. Sadly enough, attempts to eliminate my twin tormentors only produced reoccurring drinking and disappearing bouts, which in turn brought my marriage to an end.

I tried my hand at construction and mining, yet my tormentors doggedly persisted.

When news of the PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) Program for Vietnam Vets reached the press, I immediately identified with the symptoms.

Speaking to my brothers Ben and Dale I remarked, "Look, these Nam vets get help for their war-related

problems. Why is it that we Korean vets get 'Zilch'? Will we remain forever 'forgotten'?"

"Well, Tom, there's your answer. You've got to start bugging the 'Big Wigs'."

So, I did!

I initiated a letter campaign to every official I could locate addresses from the Pentagon to the President. The end result? General Colin Powell oversaw my admittance as the first Korean Vet to the PTSD Program in '87.

A diagnosis of Meniere's Disease (an inner-ear disorder causing dizziness, ringing of the ears, etc.) followed in '90 with full disability arriving in '92. Still, my tormentors pursued relentlessly.

April, 1992, a fellow soldier and I headed to South Korea to receive special award medals presented by South Korean President Su and the government in appreciation for U.S. involvement in the Korean Conflict.

Secretly hoping for inner peace, I discovered the costly trip ceased to end my nightmares and pain.

When construction news of the upcoming \$18 million dollar, 164 ft. black granite Korean War Memorial began filtering thru issues of "GRAYBEARDS", the official Korean Veterans magazine, my hopes surged.

How I longed to sing the National Anthem at that dedication service. I flooded Washington with offers to express my thanks for having

*Continued on page 38*

## Healing from page 37

served and returning alive. After all the Memorial's Mission Statement read, "ALL VETERANS ARE VIPs".

No response or acknowledgment of my offer ever came. I guess they wanted a celebrity, not a decorated vet.

Not easily deterred, I chartered a flight to D.C. for the July 27th dedication. If Washington wouldn't come to me . . . I'd just go to Washington! My flight put me in D.C. slightly after the official ceremony, so I joined the crowds milling around the awesome nineteen soldiers cast in blazing bronze.

Borders kept the folks from approaching the statues and guards prohibited anyone from touching the life-like images.

"Well, Thomas," I said to myself, "These statues represent Melvin and the countless men and women who sacrificed their lives for their country. Do what you've come to do."

So, I did!

Crossing the line dividing the statues from the people, in full view of the imposing guards, I fell on my knees before each figure and issued a prayer thanking God for their bloody offerings and my safety. By the time I'd reached the final bronze warrior the guards threatened to put me in jail with, "You can't do this, Sir."

"Whose Memorial is this anyway?" I retorted.

I reasoned, "They're going to put me in jail. I was sure enough scared in Korea, but these guards don't scare me now. What are these bars after serving in Heartbreak Hotel?"

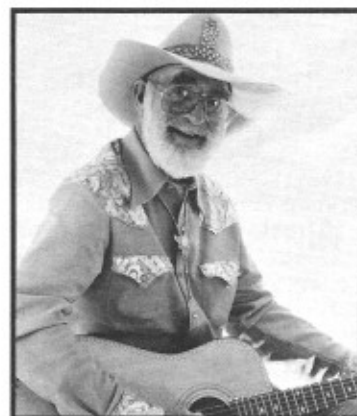
Reaching the last soldier, I stood up and belted out the National Anthem. The gathering crowd applauded and thanked me. Cameras flashed and somehow those security guards just melted away.

Outside the south gate of the White House I repeated my encore till another guard told me to "Get the Hell out of here".

So, I did!

Back at the Memorial again I placed my cap with its medals on the head of one of the bronze figures in a farewell gesture. A wonderful feeling, like a quiet calm after a storm, enveloped me. An inner voice gently sounded, "Forget it, Tom. Forget the war and its horrors. The Korean War and its heroes, like yourself, now rest in peace at this official recognition of their efforts and blood."

I found myself free . . . free after 43 years, proving once again for all Americans . . . FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.



Tom Maxwell

Tom Maxwell currently resides in Aguila, Arizona with his older brother, Ben. Tom alternates his time prospecting claims in the nearby Date Creek Mountains and performing his melodious tenor Country and Gospel singing and yodeling for various organizations. Copies of his original "Christmas in Korea -52" tape and other recordings can be obtained by writing Tom at P.O. Box 524, Congress, Az. 85332.

## More Memories

### Repo-Depot, Inchon, Korea

The Army A.G. Corps Replacement Battalion at Inchon, Korea operated out of an old Japanese school house. I remember it had a long corridor with a wooden floor, about 8 or 10 feet wide, where column after column of G.I.'s completed their medical inspections four or six abreast.

Soldiers who had "earned their points" were being rotated out of their outfits, and new men were being shipped in.

As Battalion Company Commander, the low man on the C.O.'s staff, my office was at the center of the hall, right where all the inspections were going on. If you have the same indelible memory of Inchon, due to the invasion of your modesty, then feel a little sympathy for the poor guys who had to conduct the exercise.

I was in charge of the primary housing and discipline of a large number of personnel clerks and others, who reported to other staff officers for duty. The thing that lifted me out of the daily routine was the Chaplains Fund. Since the accountable officer of that fund need not be a padre, due to the special nature of the fund itself, I inherited the additional duty.

The Catholic and Protestant Chaplains had agreed together on a joint fund-raising venture. During their several worship services to both incoming and outgoing troops, they would take up a collection for Korean orphans. The money would be evenly divided; half going to a nursery run by the Catholic sisters, in a nearby convent; and half to a Protestant orphanage for older children, run by indigenous missionaries. Permit me to speak for the children. Thanks.

Mission accomplished.

Leon G. Johnson  
105 Geneva Street  
Bath, NY 14810

### Thoughts after returning from the Dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial . . .

Armistice - Korea July 27, 1953

Dedication - Washington, DC July 27, 1995

42 years  
to the day  
thousands came  
reflect, honor, pray

42 years  
plus day three  
crowds have left  
with you and me.

19 stayed behind  
against their will  
as if on a distant  
Korean hill

19 men  
on a grassy knoll  
like those we left  
- a lost patrol.

Robert D. Wetmore  
Barre, Mass  
45th Div



## 1st Marine Division Association Oregon/Columbia River Chapter



### A SHORT STORY ABOUT A FRIEND AND A MARINE

A few of those years during the fun filled college days which were interrupted by the Korean War, it was a time most of us joined something. Jerry Shup, like myself and another buddy, opted for the Marine Corps. Jerry was sent to combat in Korea.

The following words were written by Jerry a few hours before his death on September 12, 1951. Jerry was killed by a sniper. Jerry was only twenty-one years old.

The song describes the life of most of us who served in Korea, with the exception, some of us were lucky enough to come home. He would enjoy the fact that something he once wrote was finally in print and might even get published.

### SHUP'S SONG

*You can have your army khaki  
You can have your navy blue*

*But here's the kind of fighter  
I'll introduce to you.*

*His uniform is different  
it's the best you've ever seen*

*The enemy calls him Devil Dog  
But his real name is Marine.*

*He trained in San Diego  
A place in no man's land*

*He took the hell and woe of "boot"  
And came out a better man.*

*He stalked the plains of Pendleton  
And learned the art of war*

*Then staggered out on liberty  
To bitch about the Corps.*

*He sailed the broad Pacific  
Aboard a "swabby" ship*

*And felt the mighty ocean roar  
With every drunken dip.*

*He didn't go to breakfast  
And he nibbled evening chow*

*Then learned the salty ways of men  
Stretched over a rolling bow.*

*He spent a night of liberty  
in far off old Japan*

*He learned the art of orient love  
And drank with a slant eyed man.*

*The incense and the sake  
They reeled his head about*

*He barely made it to the docks  
Before his ship pulled out.*

*He battled in Korea  
A land that God forgot*

*Where the snow is sixty inches deep  
And the sun is scorching hot.*

*He climbed a million mountains  
And twice as many hills*

*And in between the singing shells  
He took malaria pills.*

*From Inchon Strip to No Name Ridge  
To the Chosin Reservoir*

*He fought with twenty thousand men  
To the frozen hell of war.*

*He blessed the day that winter left  
And when the summer came*

*He sweat his aching body dry  
then drowned it in the rain.*

*He climbed the hills, he took the woe,  
He glowed in victory*

*But the bravest thing he ever did  
Was to down the "deadly three."*

*Now the "deadly three" have taken their toll  
Of more than one marine*

*It's corned beef hash, meat and beans  
And noodles that make 'em scream*

*They come in dry C-rations  
That tear a man in two*

*But for a good old stateside malt  
He'd throw the book at you.*

*On a hill in Korea  
One dread and mistful morn*

*A hill where bullets and shrapnel  
Had left their terrible scorn.*

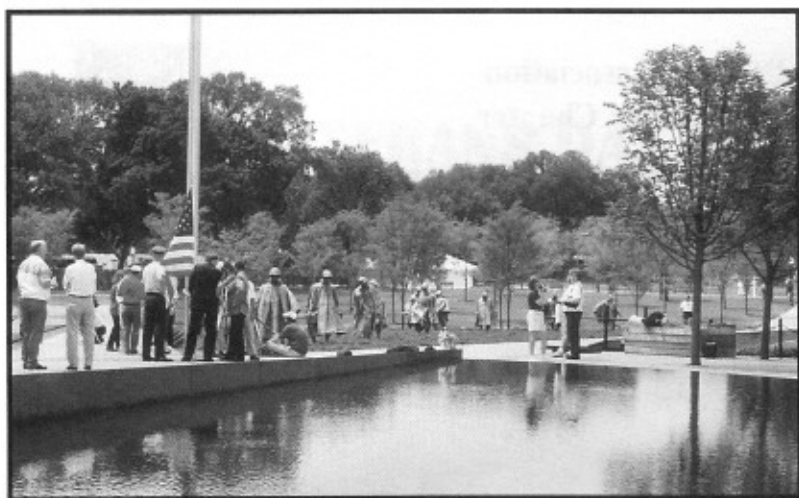
*They laid him on a stretcher  
They laid him where he fell.*

*He had finished his bloody cruise  
On this fiery hell.*

*By  
Jerry E. Shup  
1-3-7 1st Mar Div FMF Pac  
-KOREA 1951*

*Submitted by  
Chuck Ponder  
H-3-7 1st Mar Div FMF Pac  
- Korea 1950-1951*





**Flag Raising**



**Night Patrol**

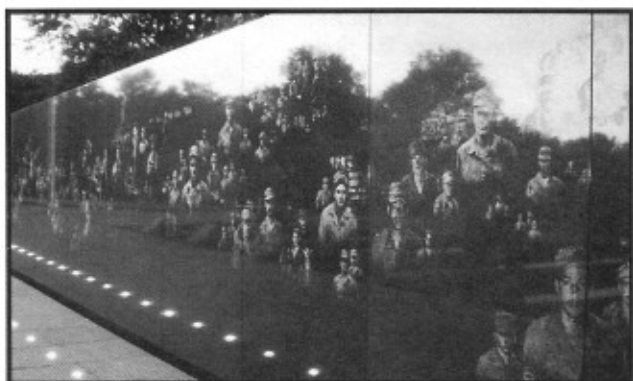
## Looking Back on July 27, 1995



**Honors**



**The Crowd**



**The Wall at Night**



**Faces**

Photos by Scott Boatright

# LETTERS

## Immediate Past Editor Lauded

I wonder the odds of the following coincidence: about (8) months ago I was talking to a neighbor and during the conversation, she informed me her twin brother had been killed in Korea in November of 1950. His body was never returned home. His name was Ernest J. Reale, assigned to the 2nd Div., 23rd Inf Regt, Co B at the time of his death. She also informed me the family had been given very little information regarding his death in combat, and at the time, been treated quite shabbily by someone in the State Department when they made inquiries Re: Ernie's death.

For some reason my interest and curiosity was aroused. I had been in Korea in 1953 & 1954 with the 40th and 7th Divisions in the Kumwha & Chorwon Valley areas around the 38th Parallel and thought maybe I could read a few books and find out what happened to Ernie & Co. B.

During my research I read the following books and it was quite a journey: "The Korean War (Pusan to Chosin)," "This Kind of War," "In Mortal Combat" and "The River and The Gauntlet." The books were great but did not give me the detail I wanted re: the 2nd Div, 23rd Inf Regt, Co. B.

One day I happened to be looking at one of my *Graybeard* issues which mentioned a book called, "Decisive Battles of the Korean War" by Sherman Pratt (Lt. Col.-US Army, Ret). I immediately went out and purchased the book. Lo and behold, the author, Sherman Pratt was also Company Commander of Ernie's Co. B at the time of his demise. Not only that, Pratt also makes mention of Ernie on page 64 and 65 of his book. Subsequent telephone discussions and letters between Sherman, Ernie's twin sister, Yolanda and myself developed that our Ernie Reale was the same as his Ernie mentioned in his book (with minor discrepancies). In fact, Mr. Pratt forwarded us original rosters of Co. B which showed Ernie's name on the Roster prior to his death.

The author has, for the most part, closed the circle for Yolanda and her family. We have given our private thanks to Lt. Col. Pratt and would now like to thank him publicly. To us, he has gone above and beyond.

Ron Unger

KWVA Westchester County Chapter  
1 Beacon Ln., Rye Brook, NY 10573

## Former Medic Shares Feelings

It goes without saying I am a bit late in responding to the "Issues of Interest to Korean Veterans" in the September/October issue of *The Graybeards*.

The reason for this letter is to respond to the article indicated above. I in complete agreement with the several parts of the article. I am especially pleased to see that the medics are finally getting recognition. I do not hesitate to express my hurt, disappointment and feeling of being orphaned when so much is rightfully said, in print and otherwise, about the contribution made by the Marines; Airborne, Infantry, Air Force and Marine pilots, and other units. Little if anything is said about the medical personnel who were with and cared for all of these good men. I do not wish to take from any unit or branch that is rightfully theirs, rather, I want to ask for the rightful recognition of those who were often the first target of the enemy, and those who placed their lives on the line over and over for their buddies. I only ask that we be placed in our rightful and proper place in the ranks of all who served. I also have the same concern for those of the U. S. Navy who suffer quietly while being unthoughtfully ignored.

Coming from a family where the father and all four sons served in the military, I have a deep concern for all who served regardless of branch, combat or non-combat, stateside or overseas. My father entered the Navy during WWII at age 37 with four sons at home because an Army Air Force hospital commander chose to play "dirty Pool" and have him drafted with a direct assignment to that hospital. Dad beat him to the punch and enlisted in the Navy as a Pharmacist Mate 3d class. A bit later an older brother was out of high school and placed in the Navy serving in the Philippines. Another older brother and myself were Army medics in Korea. A younger brother served as an Army

*Continued on page 46*

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KV

*Stars and Stripes* is published 51 times a year, providing a weekly source of news concerning veterans benefits, legislation and stories about your organization and the Korean War veteran. The Bronze Star issue is now being covered reporting the latest developments. If 1500 members subscribe, Korean War Veterans can have a monthly Korean War veterans page, and a source for new members.

This is not a project of the KWVA, and only *Stars and Stripes* will exercise news judgement. This is an ad paid for by Stan Hadden to provide Korean War vets with more timely news. Spread the word and sign up. Send the coupon to *Stars and Stripes* and help spread the word about Korean War veterans, and what we did in the past!

# ARMY DIARY

*Dear Diary*

In 1951 I was minding my own business when this Korean Conflict broke out. Right then and there, I decided to volunteer for the draft. I went through basic training and that's when I learned what a Sergeant was. "A combination of CHOPIN and HAYDN" Everytime he showed his Pan the men would go into HAYDN.



You've heard of before and after!!!!!! Well, basic training is during. When I got issued my clothes, (which were 5 sizes too big) I walked passed a Colonel who yelled, "Hey soldier! Didn't you see this uniform?" I said, "What the hell are you kicking about! Look what they gave me!"

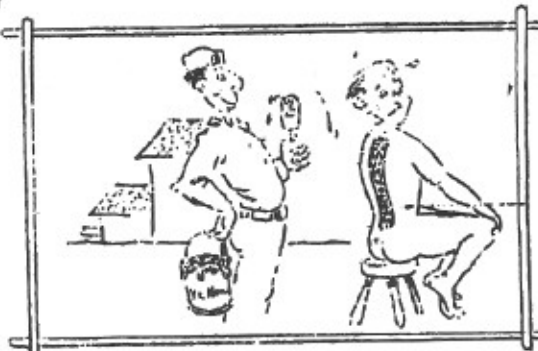


When I went for a physical, some medic told me to strip all the way down. Well, I didn't even know the guy. I finished basic in good spirits...100 proof. Then WHAM!!! I was shipped overseas. I'll never forget my first day on the ship. We were being drilled on deck by our stuttering First Sergeant. Before he could say "Halt!", thirty men went overboard.



We finally hit Korea, and before you could say "I wanna go home" I was on the front line. We were in a bunker, and the Lt. said, "O.K. men! At four o'clock we go over the hill!" I thought, "this is a hell of a time to go AWOL." The Lt. looks at me and says, "What's the matter? You act like you were scared." I told him, "I ain't acting Lt., this is for real!" Then he said, "Haven't you got any blood in your veins?" I said, "Yeah! And I wanna

keep it there!" Then he got mad and said, "What are you, a man or a mouse? An adult or a child? A person I can depend on or a snivelling coward?" I told him, "I'm in there somewhere!!"



At four o'clock we moved out and the first thing that entered my mind was to hide behind a tree. But there wasn't even enough for the officers. Some Lt. yelled, "Fire at will! Fire at will!!" I didn't know who the hell Will was but I guess someone thought I was him because they shot me.



When I came to, I was being carried away on a stretcher with a sheet covering my entire body. I yelled, "Hey! Wait a minute you guys! I ain't dead!" One of the medics said, "Shut up! You want to make a fool out of the doctor!" Next thing I knew I was being washed by a beautiful nurse. She took my pajama top off and then...Oh, well! That's another story.....!

By  
Al Berkowitz



Thanks to Anthony Eilers, (Co. C, 4th Sqd, 461 Inf. Bn) 121 W. McMillan St. #A of Marshfield, WI 54449 for sending in this humorous piece from a newsletter he received on ship when coming back from Korea in 1953.





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### Disbelief War Over

On this day forty-two years ago I was repatriated at Freedom Village after spending 30 months as a prisoner-of-war. I cannot explain the feeling at that moment. It's as if I was in a trace of some sort. In recalling the end of hostilities I remember that all the companies of Camp #3 were marched to the camp headquarters. There we were told that the Armistice had been signed and soon we would be going home to our loved ones. They told us to remember them as good captors and of the good treatment we had received. As I remember there was no excitement of any kind, we just looked at each other and we all thought that they were lying as they always lied to us.

After the lecture we were marched back to our respective companies, I being in Company Four, which was known as a reactionary company, even as far away as the officer's camp. One day, possibly the 28th of July, Edward Saria and a couple of other Mexican-Americans and I were talking to a POW named Belhome, (he believed in communism and stayed behind) he was telling us that it was true the war was over. He told us the Chinese were afraid of us Mexican-Americans. I asked him why and he said that we were always educated and they didn't know what to do about that. I told Belhome he should have told us that two years ago and we would be running the company. About that time three Sabre Jets were flying over our company, one peeled down over our company, tilted his wings and did the victory roll. That is when we knew for sure that it was over.

I hope you'll print this in the *Graybeards* and maybe other X-POWs will remember that day.

Oscar Cortez

2931 White Tail Dr. San Antonio, TX 78228

### The Dambusters

As a Korean War carrier vet, I found Jack Sauter's article in the Nov.-Dec. *Graybeards* very interesting and informative. However, the caption under the picture of the Hwachon Dam on page 17 is incorrect. The "Skyraiders" that attacked the dam weren't from seventh fleet carriers (plural). All eight "Skyraiders" were from one aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Princeton (CV-37). (After the raid, squadron VA-195 took the nickname, "The Dam-busters.")

Ben Klock

8701 Ridge Blvd, Brooklyn, NY 11209

### Korean-American Woman Credited

Now that the great Korean War Veterans Memorial is a fact in D.C., I think it's time to give credit to someone who is responsible for the 19 figures displayed. She is Susie Hyun Sook Beidel, a Korean-American, a great citizen of this country and the "Soul" of the Cpl. Alan F. Kivlehan Chapter, K.W.V.A.

While the enclosed letter below speaks for itself it is the reason that we have 19 figures in the monument, dressed appropriately in war uniform (ponchos notwithstanding). This is solely due to Susie's letter. The Planning Commission dropped the amount of figures from 38 to 19 and they were about to cut it further to 9 when Susie's letter was read to the commission. The commission had a conscience, they did the right thing and kept the amount of figures at 19. All Korean War Veterans owe Susie a debt of gratitude.

John C. Everts - Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter  
Staten Island, NY

March 3, 1992

Mr. Glen T. Urquhart, Chairman  
The National Capital Planning  
Commission  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Urquhart:

My name is "Susie" Hyun Sook Beidel, a victim of the Korean War. I was saved by the U.S. Armed Forces who came to Korea to defend us. In gratitude, I have been involved in various projects for the Korean War veterans. I am an honorary member of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA), on Staten Island. I joined the veterans at New York City Hall for a City Council hearing to get their approval for the Korean War Veterans Parade on June 25, 1991. It was a deeply moving event to see almost 10,000 aging veterans marching down the Canyons of Heroes on Broadway 41 years after the war.

Now I am writing a letter to you and your commission members on behalf of my beloved veterans after reading an article in our local newspaper. I have had this clipping by my nightstand, rereading it, and thinking of a way to let you know that you are crushing the spirits of valiant soldiers who fought a war without reservation. Korea is one of America's strongest allies today because of these brave men and women.

After many sleepless nights, I am putting my thoughts and feelings into written form. This letter is in protest of your Commission's recommendation to lower the number of soldier statues from 38 to 19. Now you are considering to further reduce them even more, not because of lack of funds as the veterans have raised \$15 million, but simply "to subdue their impact and better integrate them within their...pastoral setting." Let's get off our artistic high horses and understand that the Korean war was not fought in a subdued pastoral setting!

*With nothing but a sawed off broomstick, I limped across miles and miles of uninhabitable wastelands, amidst buildings reduced to rubble by bombs. I witnessed countless soldiers, as well as my people, blown up beyond recognition in the crossfire. Fear enveloped me as the Communists soldiers relentlessly interrogated me. Rage and humiliation filled me when I was violated! I experienced the terror of war—but a fraction of what these veterans had encountered in a violent, terrifying setting!*

Mr. Urquhart, how many of your commission members were in combat? If they were not, they should not be sitting in their posh offices, wasting time and money while making these worthy Korean War veterans wait and fret, feeling discouraged and disgusted.

One of the first American soldiers, Sgt. I. Dean Fleming, who taught me the English language, gave me the hope to go on, and sponsored me into this country, is in his eighties. Mr. Fleming now resides in Kent, Washington with his family. Wouldn't it be marvelous if he and millions of other Korean War veterans could see the well-deserved 19 statues on Korean War Veterans Memorial site in Washington, D.C. as a tribute to their heroism and in remembrance of all their fallen comrades before they go?

I am sending a copy of this letter along with the attachments to President & Mrs. George Bush and other politicians for their support. This letter will also be sent to all the veterans groups in the country. I am sure they will not take it lightly, especially when it comes to veterans.

Pardon me, if this letter sounds irate, but understand my sentiment as well as those of these aging Korean War veterans.

Yours truly,

"Susie" Hyun Sook Beidel



## LETTERS

### Feelings from page 41

medic during the early stages of the Vietnam War in the Washington, D.C. area. I am the only one to see combat duty, however, each of the other members did the job to which they were assigned. They were as much a part of the war as those of us who dodged the bullets and shrapnel. Enough said about who should get credit and to what degree.

My wife and I were present for the dedication in Washington, D.C. on July 27 and wish to compliment everyone who had anything whatsoever to do with the event. I do not have the capacity to say how positively impressed we both were and I am now 99% satisfied with this country's recognition of what we, the veterans of the forgotten war, really did for our country. I am particularly thankful for the effect our visit had on my wife. She now understands how and why veterans feelings run as high as they do and that their experience cannot be washed away or pushed into some secret corner of their mind.

I was not aware of the KWVA until met some members on the street near the Vietnam Memorial. These great guys introduced me to the organization. I joined as soon as I got home to Fresno, California and have not been disappointed in the least. My only wish is that I had gotten their names and addresses so I could properly thank them.

Your comment about combat medics of all branches receiving the Silver Star is certainly gratifying. While I do not expect that this will actually take place, it does tell me, and I hope others, how much many veterans valued the combat medic. I certainly felt this at the dedication, when I received hugs from and looked into tear filled eyes for my fellow veterans as their sincere expression of appreciation for what my fellow medics and I had done. That will serve as my Silver Star. What we did was no more than could and should have been expected. We were there for our buddies and thank God we had the knowledge, training and opportunity to serve as medics.

Thank you for the great job you are doing bringing the real story about all of us who fought a thankless war. This comes from deep in my heart and for my buddies who did not come home and are unable to thank you.

Robert W. Evans, 5827 North Monte Avenue,  
Fresno, California 93711

### KWVA the BEST for K Vets

In reply to the letter from Jim Clarke in the Nov.-Dec. issue, wondering where the VFW were during the Dedication of our Memorial.

The same damned place they have always been - away from us, ignore us and possibly we will go away.

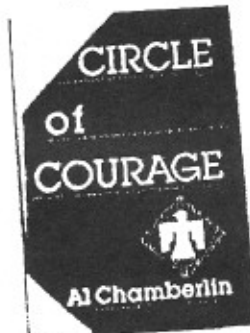
My former VFW Post has had this type of attitude all these years.

My being also a vet of one of the (Big Wars) WWII, I was accepted, but don't try to fly your Korean colors (shame-shame).

So, I belong to the KWVA (Lone Star Chapter) and The American Legion.

Max Basore  
126 Glenside Ave.  
Ponca City, OK 74601

**Circle of Courage is the best book I ever read! I couldn't put it down!**



The author's powers of description are so masterful that they took me back to the battlefields of Korea as a Company Commander in 1952.

What a writer! So realistic! The author is a decorated combat veteran of WW II and the Korean War. "Circle of Courage" is a memorial to all brave combat men, especially those who did not get the medals they deserved. The author's writing skills come close to matching his courage in combat.

Andrew J. Gatsis  
Brigadier General, US Army Retired

### Editor's Note:

I agree with BGen Gatsis. This is a terrific book written in the hope the men who fought so heroically in battle would receive the medals they so richly deserve. Al Chamberlin would be pleased to send members an autographed copy by sending a check for \$15.50 to:

Al Chamberlin  
4625 Backwoods Road  
Chesapeake, VA 23322  
804-421-3890

## KOREA, NO LONGER WILL THEY BE FORGOTTEN

brave young men they were,  
gallant and courageous,  
marching into the rice paddies,  
full fields on their backs,  
this foreign land with mountains,  
and a people divided by ideology,  
these brave young men,  
most of them just boys,  
stepped into the battlefield,  
to fight someone else's war,  
many were taken prisoner,  
some died along the way,  
the others returned home,  
and no one ever mentioned that  
war again,

but now they will be honored,  
for they were heroes one and all,  
this monument will be everlasting,  
a memory of their war,  
a reminder of their bravery,  
and of those they left behind,  
the Korean War,  
no longer forgotten,  
a victory in the South,  
but not in the North,  
but freedom was given to half a  
nation,  
who are forever indebted,  
to these heroes,  
who are now finally,

being remembered,  
these statues of the soldiers,  
will help to tell the story,  
of how these heroes,  
fought a war,  
and never asked for glory.  
they fought for Uncle Sam,  
and now years after Vietnam,  
these soldiers of Korea,  
are remembered by us all,  
the Korean Conflict,  
1950-1953.

Celine Rose Mariotti  
411 Coram Avenue  
Shelton, CT 06484

## Open Letter to the People of The Republic of Korea:

Thirty eight years ago I made an investment in the future of your country by risking my life in defense of your freedom. I have just returned from a one week tour of your nation as a guest of the Korean War Veteran Revisit Program and wish to comment on the changes I have seen.

I am absolutely overwhelmed with admiration for all of the hard work and ingenuity that has gone into creating such a thriving nation bursting with unbounded vitality. In less than two generations you have leaped from the rural, agrarian economy I saw in 1953 into the high-tech industrial marvel you are today. Congratulations! I cannot begin to imagine the sacrifices that made this accomplishment possible.

Equally impressive was the exquisite care and thoughtfulness that went into the construction of your Olympic Park and Stadium; and the magnificent tribute to the history and traditions of Korea - your Hall of Independence. But most of all, I was impressed by the open, friendly and cheerful attitude of your people - especially your beautiful, smiling children. They are your future, and clearly, the best is yet to come!

Finally, I would like to thank the generous sponsors of my trip for their incredible hospitality: Mr. Wi Yong Park of the International Korean War Association; Dr. Paul Chung of the Korea Council Navy League; Mr. Kap-Chong Chi of the UN Korean War Allies Association; Mr. Ma Gil Pyung of the Mama Electric Co.; Mr. Jong Hee Lee of Korean Air; and Mr. Kenneth Yu of Olympus Travel. I am truly proud to have contributed in some small way thirty-eight years ago to an investment that has borne such incredible dividends - today's Republic of Korea.

Richard E. Jaffe  
8255 S.W. 134th Street  
Miami, Florida 33156-6633  
U.S.A.

## Wants Information

I would like to get a reply to my questions or see it in the paper. Would appreciate a breakdown of Board & Dignitaries expense at the last Reunion (1995).

Lester Johnson  
2406 Heather Rd.  
Homewood, IL 60430

## Article in: *The Graybeards*, "My Favorite Fighter-Bomber Saber Story" by Flamm D. Harper, September-October

As a Combat Infantry Private on the ground during Dee Harpers Saber Jet attack on the 100 car train supplying the 1,000,000 man Chinese Army facing me on the night of July 15, 1953, I say: THANK YOU VERY MUCH! Your brave decision to "take it on yourself" to order the attack of the 18th Fighter-Bomber Group probably saved my life and those of my fellow 31st Infantry Regiment soldiers. Few of us would have survived such an onslaught of well supplied enemy troops.

As I remember, the artillery was already pointed at a 90 degree angle to our right and I was beginning to worry that we could become surrounded if the line did not hold. Thanks to you, it held!

It is my sincere desire that the Pentagon, belatedly, now, award you the meritorious medal that you so richly earned that night. Your command decision to immediately arm and strike was in the best tradition of dynamic American leadership which is unique to the American Armed Forces.

While I deeply regret any pilots loss of life during this night attack, countless thousands of us were saved on the ground to fight on, until 12 days later, the Chinese signed the armistice to cease hostilities at 2200 hrs., 27 July 1953.

This particular Private First-class, whose life your decision helped save, lived on to become an elementary school teacher and a contributing citizen of America, thanks to you.

Robert Hudson Jones  
2961 Givens Drive  
Norton, Ohio 44203  
(216)825-2146

## First Outpost Serving Veterans Nursing Home

Recently I had the great pleasure of receiving a copy of the September-October issue of *The Graybeards*. As both a member of the local Korean War Veterans Outpost and as a journalist, I was most impressed with your publication and even more proud to be a Korean War veteran.

Here at the New Jersey Veterans Home at Paramus (N.J.) we have a growing Chorwon Outpost, part of the Chorwon Chapter based in Park Ridge, N.J. It is our understanding that this is one of the few, if not the

## LETTERS

### R&R Leads to Successful Marriage

Mr. Richard B. Koerner's poignant letter about his love for a Korean girl named Kim Soong ("Summer in Seoul," *The Graybeards*, Nov.-Dec. 1995, p55.) prompts me to write.

I met a beautiful Japanese girl in February of 1952 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sanjo, Kyoto, Japan when I was on R&R. I later returned to Kyoto from Korea on PCS in June of 1952, and married her on July 23, 1953 at St. Viator Catholic Church, about one block from her home. We had four beautiful children and nine gorgeous grandchildren.

Our marriage lasted nearly 42 years until she passed away of cancer at Bethesda Naval Hospital in June of 1995. That's pretty good for a marriage that wasn't supposed to work out, and despite the U.S. Army's best (worst?) efforts to discourage us.

I find it poetic that she, a former enemy (she was 15 at the end of WWII), is buried wearing full, formal Japanese kimono, on MacArthur Drive in Arlington National Cemetery.

Thank God we both decided to disregard the predicted consequences. How wrong they were!

Hugh A. E. Strehle  
CAPT USN(Ret)  
Life Member #09405  
Formerly Cpl., 326th & 349th Comm.  
Recon. Co. (ASA) 1st Cav. Div.

Appreciated the picture of the Iowa. I served also on the battleships Missouri, New Jersey and Wisconsin in Korea with the Staff of the Seventh Fleet.

Jerry Weber  
Texas Lone Star Chapter

only such outpost serving a veterans nursing home in the nation. Your office could confirm this.

We were formed in February 1993 with a charter membership of seven, now increased to about 35. Since we are still in the organizing stage, there are a lot of matters to begin, put into place and plan for the future.

Any mention of the our existence would be most appreciated, depending upon the amount of editorial space available.

Robert W. Hardy  
Adjutant  
New Jersey Veterans Home  
1 Veterans Way  
Paramus, NJ 07652

# My Turn — Members Soundoff

**Author of Korean Twilight Responds**  
Dear Edward P. Doherty,

Upon learning of your service in the Military Police, I now understand the reason behind your personal attack against one you have never met. Your reference to me as "Sometimes the smartest cat will let the craftiest rat slip by" is indeed personal.

On the other hand, one of your sterling character, will, I'm sure, equally respect my right to respond to your attack. Surely the Fourth Amendment offers me the same protection you so strongly demand for yourself.

And now, let me set the record straight.

You are correct when you state that there has never been a **60th Regiment** in Korea. My arrangement with **THE GRAYBEARDS** was made with the express understanding that names and places have been changed; and that those changes will in no way affect the accuracy of my work.

But since you fancy yourself to be a military historian, it is now my intention to provide you with the actual unit in which I proudly served, to wit—the **65th Infantry Regimental Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division**, a fighting unit which was comprised mainly of **Puerto Rican volunteers**; and whose devotion to duty and honor ranks amongst the very best who served in that war-torn and often forsaken land.

As it is with any army, the various supporting factions, including the rear echelons and military police, are an integral part of the whole.

Nevertheless, the true historian would never distort, nor attempt to rewrite history; and whereas I accept the value of the **772 M.P.s** as a necessary segment, any attempt to equate them with combat infantry is patently absurd. Of course they suffered! But any historian would know that the degree of suffering between both factions is as clear as night and day!

And I'll tell you something else, Edward P. Doherty. The degree of utter misery inflicted upon four hapless infantrymen just returned from the line, by two impeccably garbed M.P.s. is absolutely true; and the fact that it grates harshly against the way you see yourself, does not alter what happened.

Finally, the **Chaplains** whom I was Privileged to know, were not arrogant, nor patronizing, nor condescending — but dearly loved those who fell in battle.

**Pro Patria** indeed!

Michael E. Cohane

## Biased Article Out Of Place

Regarding the article "The Worst Military Decision of the 20th Century" in *The Graybeards* (Nov-Dec 1995), page 20, it was an unfortunate choice to include in an official publication of Korean War veterans. It is the type of leftist anti-MacArthur drivel one finds in the mainstream media. Alistair Horne suggests that the decision to advance to the Yalu and unite Korea was MacArthur's. He was just following orders given him by President Truman and the UN. On Sept. 27, 1950 the JCS sent MacArthur a directive approved by Truman which stated: "Your military objective is the destruction of the North Korean Armed Forces." On Oct 7, eight days before Wake Island, the UN adopted a resolution that stated:

"(a) All appropriate steps be taken to ensure conditions of stability throughout Korea:

(b) All constituent acts to be taken, including the holding of elections under the auspices of the United Nations, for the establishment of a unified, independent and democratic Government in the Sovereign State of Korea . . . (Emphasis added.)

Even after the Red Chinese entered the war, the "Anglo-American Joint Communique, December 8, 1950" indicated that the mission was the same. This document that was agreed to by British Prime Minister Clement Attlee and President Truman stated:

"By the end of October, the forces of the United Nations had all but completed the mission set for them by the United Nations 'to repel the armed attack and to restore international peace and security in the area.' A free and unified Korea—the objective which the United Nations has long sought—was well on the way to being realized. At that point Chinese Communist forces entered Korea in large numbers, and on November 27 launched a large-scale attack....The United Nations has not changed the mission...."

Another of the several questionable statements in Horne's article has to do with "Undetected by Western Intelligence, hundreds of thousands of Chinese 'volunteers' began infiltrating by night." Western intelligence did detect thousands of Chi-

nese. In his Nov 5, 1950 report to the UN, MacArthur notified the UN of the following:

- "16 October: The 370th Regiment of the 124th Division of the Chinese Communist 42nd Army, consisting of approximately 2500 troops crossed the Yalu River (Korean border) at Wan Po Jint and proceeded to the area of Chosen and Fusen Dams in North Korea where they came in contact with United Nations forces approximately 40 miles north of Hamhung."

- "20 October: A Chinese Communist Tank Force known as the "56th" unit consisting of approximately 5000 troops crossed the Yalu River (Korean border) at Antung and deployed to positions in Korea south of the Sui-Ho Dam. A captured Chinese Communist soldier of this Task Force states that his group was organized out of the regular Chinese Communist 40th Army stationed at Antung, Manchuria."

- "30 October: Interrogation of 19 Chinese prisoners of war identified two additional regiments of 124 CCF Division, the 371 and the 372 in the vicinity of Changjin."

- "2 November: Interrogation of prisoners of war indicates that 54 CCF unit in Korea. This unit is reported to have same organization as 55 and 56 units, but drawn from 112, 113, and 114 Divisions of the 38 CCF Army."

- "3 November: Further interrogation of Chinese prisoners of war indicates 56 CCF unit organized from elements of 118, 119, and 120 CCF Divisions of the 40 CCF Army." (from State Department's United States Policy in the Korean Conflict July 1950-February 1951, Washington: USGPO, 1951)

In his testimony before the "MacArthur Hearings" MacArthur used the numbers "40,000 to 60,000" as the number of Red Chinese thought to be in Korea prior to the UN Nov 24 offensive (Military Situation in the Far East, p. 19).

The topics presented in Alistair Horne's simplistic biased essay are important and complex, and they deserve serious objective consideration, not flippant mischaracterizations. By reprinting the article, *The Graybeards* gave the article "credibility."

William Leahy  
130 Sunset Drive South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33707



# Searching For

**Shipmates of USS Weiss APD 135.** Contact George E. Mason, USS Weiss APD-135 Assoc. 605 Evesham Ave., Voorhees, NJ 08403, phone 609-429-0157.

Seeking persons who served in the **116th Engr. Combat Bn., and 19th Engr. Combat Group** (X Corps in Korea). Contact John Lockard Barnes, 902 W. Nolcrest Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20903-1038, Ph. 301-593-0801.

**187th RCT** stationed in Hdq. in Beppo, Japan 1952-53. Also, activated to Korea looking especially for **Walter Rodgers** last known to be in Dade County, FL in 1953. All former 187th RCT members. Contact Alexander J. McManus, 270 Bronxville Rd., Apt. B5, Bronxville, NY 10708.

**A Co, 120th Combat Engr.** from Camp Polk to Korea. Also Bn Hdq. NY metro area. The 7th Reunion will held in Oct. 96. Contact Anthony DiPalma, 1430 Thieriot Ave., Bronx, NY 10460, Ph. 718-829-1329.

Info on **Cpl David M. "Buddy" Rodgers, Hq & Hq Co., 35th Inf., 25th Div.** Also seeking good Division histories of Korean War for sale. Contact Paul Rogers, 5217 Oiley Lane, Burke, VA 22015. Ph 703-912-1657.

**Calif. vets who served in Korea** interested in attending 1st state reunion. Contact Mike Glazzy, 3361 Williams Rd., San Jose, CA 95117. Ph 408-296-8282.

**Cpl Jackie O. Moon, Med Bn Clearing Co, 25th Inf.** Div. in Korea 1954. Age 65 to 70. Member United Pentacostal Church in Texas. Contact Kim, Ui Young, Jangwi 3 dong, #178-1, Song Buk ku, Seoul Korea. Ph. 02-915-7307.

Anyone who served in **C Battery 57th FA arty. BN 7** Div. Feb 55-Jun 56. Battery clerk was Arden K. Larson, Cmdr **Rowland M. Parks Jr., 1st Lt. Arty & M/Sgt. Odeon Wilkes.** Write or call Rufus C. Mullikin Jr., 1975 Twelve Oak Cir., NE, Kennesaw, GA 30144, Ph. 770-425-9257

**2nd BN, 8th Cav Regt (Scrappy White).** Contact Joe Christopher, 210 N. Citadel Ave., Tucson, AZ 85748, 1-520-885-0673.

**USMC - Camp Pendleton 1950-51** - Looking for Dave Barholdt from Allegany, N.Y. and Bill Newcomb from Desmoine, IA — Please contact Arlene Rhinehart in Newport Beach, CA at 714-760-9660.

**Hq Co, 1st BN, 17th Inf Regt, 7th Div. Korea 1953, Commo Platoon** - Looking for former members for a Korean War Vets reunion Aug. 25-27, 1995 Columbus, NE. Contact Orville L. Dean, Rt. 4, Box 197, Hiawatha, KA 66434 - Last year at NE Reunion in Grand Island 4 of us came - this year in Columbus 16 expected.

**1st MAW, MAG-12, SMS-12, 1951-1952** - Looking for Henry Osterkamp from Georgia, and others who serve in Korea during this time. Contact Ed Knapp, 33 Camelot Dr., Rochester, NY 14623

**Third Infantry Division** - Looking for present and former members and anyone with an interest in the 'Third Infantry Division.'

**Seeking Lt. whose life was saved in vicinity of Iljuk-Myon, Ansongun, US 7th Inf Div, January 4, 1951** about 40 miles south of Seoul. Lt. survived from wound through his thigh. I didn't know a word of English nor did he a word of Korean, but I could know the feeling for each other. My fellow sergeant went back to his unit and I went to the hospital (I don't know the location) and stayed there with him for a week. I had to leave and we exchanged photos and he gave me his automatic gold watch. I gave him my name and address as Choi Dae Youl, #160, Samwoodoo-ri, Yarksan-Myon, Wando-Kun, Chonra-Nam -do, Korea. During a battle I lost everything he gave me. Anyone who can identify the Lt. tel: (02)-417-1057, Co. FAX (02)-551-3809. My present address: 74 Dong 104, Siyong Apt. Shincheon-Dong Songpa - GU, Seoul, Korea.

## SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE?

Would you be interested in finding someone? A long lost buddy perhaps?

1. Fill out Information Slip below. (If you have more than one request, make a copy of information slip and use for each request.)
2. Payment of \$5.00 either cash or check for each name (make check payable to Nancy C. Monson).
3. Self-addressed stamped envelope (32¢ postage)

Mail completed Information Slip, payment (\$5 each name - make checks payable to Nancy C. Monson), and self-addressed stamped envelope to KWVA-Name Search, PO Box 10806, Arlington, VA 22210.

Keep in mind, we will be sending you a list of **possible** addresses and phone numbers for the person whose name you provide. There is no guarantee that the list we send you will be the person you are looking for. If no information is found for the name you requested, your money **will** be returned.

### INFORMATION SLIP

Name of person to locate: \_\_\_\_\_  
(include a middle initial, if possible)  
List possible U.S. area (state) where this person might be located: \_\_\_\_\_

## Video Review

by Don Cush

I first reviewed the tape, *The Forgotten War Remembered*, at the home of Amos Camp, Editor of *Graybeards*. We both found the tape moving, informative and a credit to Korean Veterans. I personally found the speech by Gen. Stillwell's son very moving. The tape is well produced and something all Korean Vets will want to have in their video collection.

The video, *The Final Convoy* covers the bringing of the elements of the Memorial to Washington. It is a travelogue of homage to all elements that went into the Memorial. Each segments moves with music provided by "Korea, the Forgotten War," a song written by Korean Veteran, Fred Lane of Durham, N.C. Fred, a POW for 33 months wrote this poem and was able to get Bobby Pender to sing it (Hubert Dean wrote the music). Its the perfect blend of historic video, and music.

The proceeds for this video goes to the Korean War Veterans Family Endowment (nonprofit) and the KWVA. These dollars to be used for Korean veterans and their families. See the inside back cover of this issue of *Graybeards* for details for obtaining these videos.

# Reunions

**Korean Veterans, all service branches.** Planning the first CA state reunion. Contact: Mike Glazzy, 3361 Williams Rd., San Jose, CA 95117, 408-296-8282

## MAY

**61st Field Artillery Bn, May 2-4, 1996,** Best Western Yankee Square Inn, 3450 Washington Dr., Eagan, MN 55122. 612-452-1100. Contact Francis "Pat" Bohnert, 3566 149th St. W., Rosemont, MN 55068. Tel 612-423-1520.

**3rd Inf Div. Western Region, May 9-12, 1996,** Dan Diego, CA. Contact H. Miceli, 2723 Lompoc St., Los Angeles, CA 90065.

**The Chosin Few - Army Chapter, May 21-25,** Radisson Hotel, Ashville, NC. Contact COL John E. Gray, 7655 NC 801 Highway, MY, Ulla, NC 28125-8618.

## JUNE

**304th Signal Op BN, Korean Vets all years reunion, June 18-20, 1996,** Rapid City, SD. Contact: Leland Dibley, 5 Ridge Rd., Spearfish, SD 57783. 605-642-0407.

**KWVA meeting, June 25, 1996,** Memphis VA Medical Center. Contact Clayton Payne, PO Box 176, Heth, AK 72346. Tel: 501-657-2308.

## JULY

**3rd Bn, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Div., 1952-53, July 23-28, 1996,** 4th Annual Reunion, San Diego, CA. Contact Vince Walsh, 1953 Flying Hills Ln., El Cajon, CA 92020, Tel 619-448-9179 or Bob Farrell, 2248 #. Briarvale Ave., Anaheim, CA 92806. Tel 714-774-7238.

## AUGUST

**Korean Veterans Assoc. of Canada, biennial convention and reunion, Aug. 23-25, 1996,** Calgary, Alberta, Canada. All Korean Vets welcome. For brochure write: 143 Whitlock Cl. N.E., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T1Y 4X2 (403) 285-8048, FAX 403-293-2612.

**204th Field Arty BN (Li'l Joe), Korea, 1950-54, August 25-30, 1996,** Warwick, RI. Info call Nick Vanderhave, 1333 Littleton Rd., Morris Plains, NJ 07950 or call 201-538-7189.

## SEPTEMBER

**3d Inf Div Society, 77th reunion/convention, Sept. 6-9, 1996,** Pittsburgh, PA. Greentree Marriott Hotel (1-800-525-5902). Info contact Thomas R. Maines, 1801 Saw Mill Run Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15210, 412-881-2010.

## SEPTEMBER

**USS Finch (DE/DER-328 & Coast Guard WDE-428) 9th. Sept. 18-21, 1996,** Seattle, WA. Details contact Chuck Poreda, 5510 Southampton Dr., Springfield, VA 22151. 703-323-6019.

**USS Wilhoite DE 397 - DER 397, Sept. 18-21,** Orlando, FL. Contact Robert R. Long, 234 S. Tulpehocken St., Pine Grove, PA 17963. Tel 717-345-4712.

**USS Hornet CV-8, CV/CVA/CVS-12, 48th Reunion, Sept. 18-22, 1996,** Jacksonville, FL. Contact Carla Svendsen, Secy. USS Hornet Club, PO Box 1147, Denver, NC 28037.

**45th Div Assoc. (Thunderbirds) WWII and Korea, Sept. 19-21,** Radisson Inn, Oklahoma City, OK. Info contact Raul Trevino, 2145 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111. Tel: 210-681-9134.

**USS Montague AKA-98, Sept. 19-22, 1996,** Washington, DC. Contact F.C. "Fred" Machado, 5445 S. Blythe Ave., Fresno, CA 93706, Ph. 209-266-2976 or Gerald Lady, 1944 Hillcrest Dr., Visalia, CA 93277, 209-625-1299.

**999th AFA BN (Armored Field Artillery Bn) Army Korea 1950-54, Sept. 20-22, 1996,** Edgewood Resort, Edgewood Park, Alexandria Bay, NY. Contact Emanuele (Red) Falcone, 102 Sharon Rd., Solvay, NY 13209. Ph. 315-487-5361 or Summer 315-689-3406.

## SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

**B Co., 15th Regt, 3rd Div. (Korean War), Sept. 30-Oct 4, 1996,** Ramada Inn, Lancaster, PA. Contact George Scott, 306 McCaffrey Dr., Coraopolis, PA 15108, 412-264-8975 or Peter Zofchak, 324 Locust Ave., Houston, PA 15342, 412-745-6356.

**USS Thomas F. Nickel (DE 587) October 2-3, 1996,** Reno Nevada. Contact John Ward, 955 Arlington Court, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Tel 408-736-8475.

**H/3/1 KOREA USMC 5th reunion, Oct. 9-12,** Pensacola Beach, FL. Contact Jack Dedrick, 6 Sheridan Ter., Swampscott, MA 01907-2042. or 617-598-9726.

**USS Buck DD-761, Corpus Christi, TX, Oct. 10-12, 1996.** Info: John B. Connolly, 7 Tenerife Wy, Hot Springs NP, AR 71909, Ph 501-922-3969.

**USS Rochester (CA-124), Oct 12-14, 1996, 50th Anniversary Reunion,** Rochester, NY. Contact: Bart Bartholomew, 2448 Ellington Rd., Gerry, NY 14740 or call 716-985-4273.

# THE KOREAN WAR

## THE COMPLETE VIDEO DOCUMENTARY

White Star has released on video the definitive documentary on the Korean War. This revealing ten-hour series, produced to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the end of the Korean War, is the most complete video record of the war ever assembled.

The Korean Broadcast System spent years compiling never-before-seen film footage from both North and South Korea with interviews with Korean, American, and Russian military and political leaders who participated in the events chronicled in these programs.

This epic production is a complete rendering of the war, beginning with the dividing of the Korean Peninsula after World War II, and continuing right through to today, where an uneasy truce on the 38th parallel still exists. This five-volume video collection provides an in-depth look at the nations caught-up in this dramatic struggle which shaped the course of modern global history.

### *The volumes in this series include:*

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# WHY DID THEY FIGHT?

*Condensed from a CBS broadcast by Eric Sevareid*

To me the greatest mystery in the Korean War was what made American youngsters fight so hard, so long and so well – in this kind of war.

There have been armies that fought well only for loot; there was none of that in Korea.

Armies have fought well only for glory and victory; there was little of that in Korea.

Armies have fought well only when their homeland was invaded; this was not true for Americans in Korea.

And there have been armies that fought as crusaders out of burning moral or religious zeal; but thousands who fought so well in Korea had only the dimmest conception of what the war was all about.

Our youngsters fought a war they did not particularly believe in to the bitter end – an armistice they have little faith in.

And they will fight again, automatically and instantly, if the armistice should fail.

They did all this without the exhortations of political commissars.

They bled and died in the mud of that bleak and incomprehensible

and, in full knowledge that half their countrymen at home were too bored with it all to give the daily casualty lists a second glance.

They had full knowledge that, while they were living the worst life they had ever known, millions of their countrymen were living the best life they had ever known.

They gave liberally from their own pay checks to the emaciated Korean children while their prosperous countrymen showed little interest.

They knew it was too much effort for many of their countrymen to walk to the nearest blood-donation center, so they gave their own blood to their wounded comrades.

And they felt no particular bitterness that all this was so.

They fought right ahead at the time military authorities were publicly arguing that they were being handled tragically wrong.

And they fought right ahead knowing politicians divided their country about the very purpose of their fight, telling them that their wounds were all in vain.

And they fought ahead knowing that, while Allied nations were cheer-

ing them on, Allied soldiers were not coming to help them in any great numbers.

Why have these youths behaved so magnificently?

The answer lies deep in the heart and tissues of American life, and none among us can unravel all its threads.

It has to do with their parents and their teachers and their ministers. With their 4-H clubs, their scout troops, their neighborhood centers.

It has to do with the sense of belonging to a team, with the honor of upholding it, the shame of letting it down.

But it has also to do with their implicit, unreasoned belief in their country, and their natural belief in themselves as individual men upon the earth.

Whatever is responsible, these boys' behavior in this unrewarded war outmatches, it seems to me, the behavior of those who fought our wars of certainty and victory.

This is something new in the American story.

This is something to be recorded with respect and humility.

---

## 1996 Revisit Trips to Korea

These are the "original official" Trip, as sponsored by The Korean Veteran Association (KVA), Seoul. Please do NOT confuse the KVA Trips with other Trips such as Olympus Travel, Los Angeles, etc.!! Currently, all the 1996 Trips are completely filled. KVA/Seoul recently faxed me they have drastically reduced my allotments for the year because of budget considerations. However, wait-lists have been established, each trip in the event of cancellations, etc. If you would like to make reservations for a 1997 Trip, please contact me, and I will mail you an application/info. I already have a file of 70 requests for 1997, so please act accordingly.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Any Veteran who was assigned to duty, Korea, from June 25th 1950-July 27th 1953. Plus ONE family member, i.e. spouse, adult son/daughter or adult

grandchild. Immediate family members of our KIA, MIAs, POW's, K-Vets who have NOT been on a previous KVA Trip.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Hotel, all meals, tours are "courtesy of KVA/Seoul. This includes the family member accompanying a K-Vet.

**DATES OF TRIPS, 1996:** April... usually the 1st part of the month. June....21st-26th, as the 25th is a National Holiday, in Korea, to mark the anniversary of the Invasion. Special ceremonies are scheduled on this date. September....11th-16th.

**AIR FARES:** AS OF 1995 (MAY be subject to change, 1996): Eastern, Midwest, Southern States, \$1,090.00 per person, round trip. 5 Western States . . . \$850.00 P.P.R.T. All of the above fares, include a flight on a domestic airline, from YOUR nearest airport, to connect with Korean Airlines flights from International Air-

ports: N.Y.-JFK, Chicago-O'Hare, Los Angeles, San Francisco. June Trips may be \$100 more, due to June being the "peak" tourist season. All flights, Korea will depart U.S. one day earlier due to the international time difference.

**FAR EAST, HAWAII TRAVEL:** Trip to Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Mainland China, may be arranged for approximately \$100.00 per person. Hawaii \$50.00 per person. Hotel, tour "Packages" are available through Travel Agent, Tom Jin who is the official designated Travel Agent for KWVA Members, Revisit Trips, Korea, etc.

**To obtain further details, info, applications, please Contact:** Kathleen Cronan Wyosnick (Coordinator, Revisit Trips) P.O. Box 3716, Saratoga, CA 95070. Phone: 1-408-253-3068 Fax: 1-408-973-8449

## BOOK REVIEW

by Amos T. Camp

### SAILORS IN THE SKY

*Memoir of a Navy Aircrewman in the Korean War*

By Jack Sauter

312 pages, photographs, map, bibliography, index

McFarland & Co, Publishers 1995

Many readers are familiar with Paul Harvey's stories on the radio, and "This is the rest of the story."

Reading Jack Sauter's "Sailors in the Sky" gave me the same glued interest to want to know the rest of the story.

From the first word in the book to the last you know the author, Jack Sauter, is a superb story teller. He makes the ordinary seem alive. Whether making a formation, going to chow, going on pass or simply doing your job - you feel yourself as the buddy sharing the same experience.

As I read the book, I could see that this story is one for every man. That going into the service is a lonely but eventually a sharing experience with others. Friendships are formed and buddies made. In the telling, Sauter brings back memories of your own feelings at this defining moment. He details the behavior of the new recruit as he settles in to a whole new world of the military and in due time ultimately destined to become a seasoned veteran. It is a thrilling story. However, in the hands of such a fine writer, the telling promises much more. The reader is caught up in feeling part of the action.

Jack Sauter wrote the book to tell the unwritten story of the dedication and heroism of enlisted aircrews involved in every aspect of projecting naval power against enemy forces. Readers of this book will not be disappointed. If you were an aircrewman, you will feel proud to be recognized. If you were in another branch of service, reading about

actions of these brothers-in-arms will fill you with pride.

I had only a vague knowledge of the daily acts of heroism required by aircrewmen who launch and return aircraft to a moving flight deck. Sauter skillfully details how heavily weighs the emotional impact of this duty on participants constantly exposed to danger and the terrible consequences of error.

Above all, this is a human story of every day life in the service during training and finally on board ship. He reveals the loneliness and feelings of helplessness when far from home. The telling reveals how common are these emotions whether on land or sea or in whatever branch of service.

Reading this book will be a joy to anyone who ever served in the armed forces regardless of branch or rank. Autographed copies of the book are available if ordered directly from the author. See ad on page 25 of this issue of *Graybeards*.

## Attention KWVA Members

An Opportunity to own the 8-page July 27, 1995

Dedication Day

"A Pictorial Scrapbook"

in full color as it appeared in the September-October *Graybeards*

Reprinted on coated paper including the dramatic picture of the Statues with the Lincoln Memorial shown in the background.

The Association is making these souvenir copies available to help support printing of *The Graybeards*. Order as many as you wish—Chapter or individual orders. Perfect for recruiting new members and/or as a keepsake for friends and relatives. Valued at \$2 each.

Send your request to:

Editor, *Graybeards*

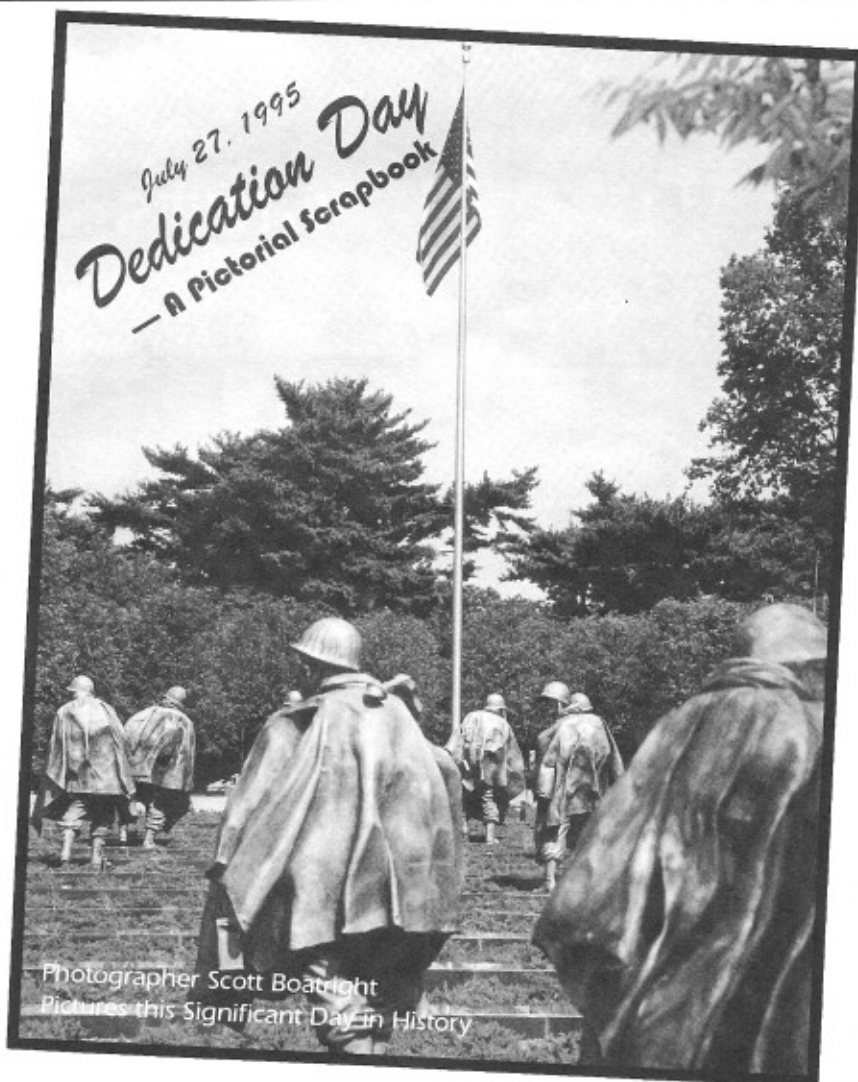
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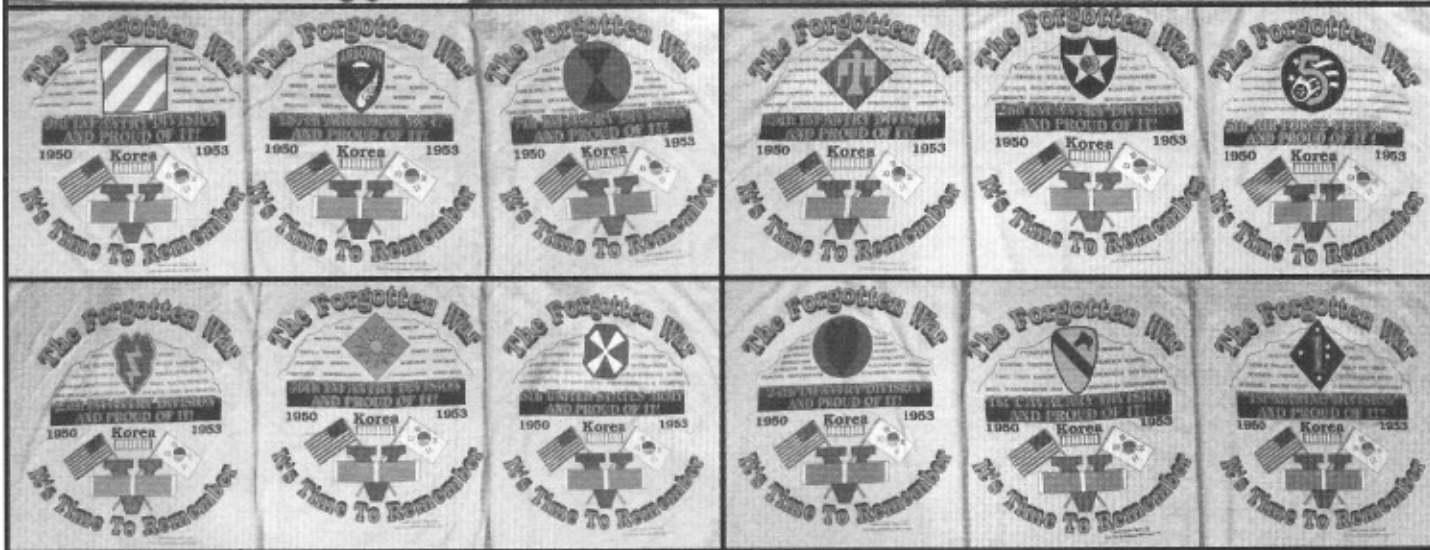
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## This is the news —

### Script from a radio broadcast by Edward R. Murrow

THE COLUMBIA BROADCASTING  
SYSTEM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1951

This is the news —

It is my inclination and my duty to raise a voice in salute to some unusual "mosquitoes." The 6147 Tactical Air Control Squadron in Korea has received a Presidential citation. That's the Mosquito outfit, and it is, I think without parallel in the whole history of aerial warfare. A Mosquito plane is a T-6 without guns, without an inch of armor plate. It's an old advanced training plane, single-engined, dual controls, with room for a pilot and observer. It was never built to do the job it's doing in Korea. The mosquitoes act as scouts and air controllers for the Jets and propeller driven F-51s. They find the targets, whether tanks, troop concentrations or enemy vehicles, and then call the fighter bombers with their rockets fire-bombs and fifty calibres in to do the work. Those Mosquito pilots can only be compared to scouts in the days of Indian fighting on the Western plains. They literally track tanks across a river, up a valley and under the trees. Much of the time they work at an altitude of a hundred feet, or less.

When a Mosquito pilot takes off he has given area-blocked out on his map. He cruises and criss-crosses that area until he finds signs of enemy action. He twists and turns up narrow valleys, goes down below tree-top level to look under the concealing trees. He is looking for ox carts, for the thatched roof of a building that's just a little bit out of line — (it may conceal a tank or truck).

When he has found his targets he picks up his radio-telephone, and says, "This Is Mosquito Wildwest" gives his location: the leader of the fighter squadron answers somewhere in the distance, and says: "We'll be with you in two minutes." In a couple of minutes the fighter-bombers appear: The Mosquito is cruising at about a thousand feet. The Mosquito pilot says: "I've got a tank just beside that building at the north end of the bridge. I'll dive on it to show you where he is." The nose of the tender, unarmed, T-6 goes down, and he pulls out a hundred feet over the tank. The fighter leader follows him down, and says, "I can't see him." The Mosquito pilot says: "This time I'll fly straight up the road, and when we roll up on the right wing he'll be right under me." The whole conversation is very casual, as though the two pilots were sitting shoulder to shoulder instead of in different aircraft. On the second pass the fighter leader spots the tank, and says to the Mosquito pilot: "Which way is he facing. I'd like to hit him in the rear; they're more tender there." The Squadron leader gets a little altitude makes the first pass, looses a rocket, misses and calls for his number two man to try it. Meanwhile the Mosquito is stooging around calling the shots.

When the tank has been taken care of, the Mosquito pilot will say: "about half-a-mile down the river there is a house, in that orchard, I think there is a truck inside it." An F-80 goes lancing down, seeming to pursue the stream of yellow tracer pouring from its nose; the building takes fire; and ammunition from a truck that had been driven through the side of the house begins to explode. The Mos-

quito pilot goes down to have a close look, and says: "That'll be enough for that one." And then he leads the fighter boys up to a wooded ridge, a half-mile from the river, and says: "I think there are troops dug in along the hilltop. Why don't you burn it off and see." Three fighters in line level off for their run down the ridge; and the Mosquito pilot watches the napalm bombs leave their wings. They splash in a great orange burst of fire, and jellied fire trickles down both sides of the ridge. The black smoke drifts away; the ridge is bare and black; and the Mosquito pilot goes down to look at the foxholes and rifle pits with dead men hanging half out of them, or sprawled like broken dolls cast aside by some petulant child.

By this time the fighter squadron has exhausted its rockets, bombs and fifty caliber ammunition. The squadron leader says to the Mosquito pilot: "Thanks very much for the targets; we'll be going home now." The Mosquito pilot says: "Roger — see you tomorrow," and goes looking for more targets. When he finds them, he will pick up his radio-telephone and says: "This is Mosquito Wildwest calling Pickle Barrel Rear," and pull another squadron of fighter bombers out of the air and put them on the targets.

Those old T-6 Mosquitoes couldn't live against air opposition, and they are vulnerable to ground fire, even from light automatic weapons. They have taken their losses, and now as a unit have received a Presidential citation. They are a gallant crew of aerial scouts, with uncanny ability, to penetrate enemy camouflage. Their low level flying and spotting have not been equalled since man began to use flying machines to make war.

The Mosquito pilots are inclined to make jokes about their low-level flying. Last summer, coming back from four hours of that sort of work, we were coasting along at less than two thousand feet, and the pilot laughed into the intercom and said: "Haven't been as high as this in a long time — almost need oxygen way up here."

This is Ed Murrow, I'll be back in a moment with the Word for Today. Now here is Bob Dixon.

Dixon: Commercial:

MURROW: We were speaking of men who fly. Will Rogers, who flew to his death, said this: "This thing of talking about somebody's life being too valuable to risk in an airplane is not only the bunk but an insult to the man we ask to do our flying. Aviation is not a fad but a necessity. And it will be our mode of travel long after all the people who are too "valuable" to fly have met their desired deaths, by the roadsides on Sunday afternoons."

Goodnight and Good Luck!

Thanks to Charles D. McBee, Sr., 206 Bernice St., La Marque, TX 77568-3404 for making available to *Graybeards* the above broadcast text.

# Veterans Services

by J. Norbert "Skip" Reiner



## Discharge Reviews

Attention: All Navy Veterans, wives and friends thereof!

The Navy Discharge Review Board decided, as of 1 October 1995, to conduct a personal hearing only after a Records Review (by the VA for one) is completed. If you are aware of someone who received a "bad" discharge for alcohol related problems, do them a favor. Transport them to the nearest VA regional office and insist on immediate action for an upgrade.

## VA Ratings By "PRIVATE" Physicians

The *Federal Register* shows a new concept pertinent to regulations concerning ratings for Veterans Compensation and Pension Claims. Previously all original claims, those for additional service connected disabilities, and for aid and attendance were only made by a VA Physician. The VA will accept a private physicians rating statement, however it must meet the requirements of the VA Medical Standards. Included in the list are: Clinical manifestation and substantiating the diagnosis, diagnostics techniques acceptable to medical authorities, pathological studies, x-rays, laboratory tests, and so forth.

## Radiations Related Diseases

Recently the Off ice of the President was presented a report and recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments. As a consequence the VA is establishing an interagency coordinating group that will direct its investigation on veterans who participated in atomic testing. Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs is appointing an association of representatives from the VA, Department of Human Services, and Department of Defence. A primary undertaking is to extend further research of radio-epidemiological table now used. This will effect veterans, their survivors relating to illnesses, and deaths. Obviously, compensation will enter the

picture from initial claims to upgrading. All existing data, laws and regulations are subject to review. Spring of 1996 is designated for presentation of the first report of findings by the interagency association.

## Cancer Added to List of Radiation Diseases

In consonant with the above the *Federal Register* revealed the VA amended its regulations by adding Rectal Cancer and Lymphomas in addition to Hodgkins Disease to their medical rating manuals. These are now considered for disability compensation if cause was from ionizing radiation exposure. Standards and guides are established under which a veterans claim must be considered relative to exposure to radiation.

A list of the diseases is available from a Veterans Association Service officer, the VA Service Officer upon visitation or request. An incomplete list is: kidney, urinary, bladder, colon, pancreas, skin, liver, stomach, leukemia (various), nonmalignant thyroid nodular, brain tumors, central nervous system tumors, breast, ovaries, bone, lung, salivary gland and so on. The veteran is required to present data based on scientific or medical evidence illustrating conditions could have been caused by radiation exposure other condition regarding cancer can be presented but must have a definite foundation to the claim being made. Please refer to the article in the *GRAYBEARDS* titled "VA RATINGS BY PRIVATE PHYSICIANS". Use all means possible to enhance your claim. Many of you are represented by Service Officers of other Veterans Organizations. You should bring this to their attention to assure they are aware of these new regulations.

## INSURANCE HOAX

What's new! You, who are members of other veterans organizations, are probably aware the "INSURANCE HOAX" is haunting veterans again. A letter is being sent to those who have serviceman's group life insurance advising they are eligible for dividends. Many claims are made in these notices which recur about once every two years, sometimes more frequently. Dispose of the notice accordingly. During my years with the VA, at one point investigating the

sources of such, we developed a standard procedure that alerted all veterans service officers, veterans organizations, other social and fraternal organizations that assist veterans plus state and county veterans off ices..... The HOAX is resurrected again. Place your notice in the round file unless you have other uses for it (your imagination).

Thanks to those who sent me data regarding this. Please accept this as an answer to your correspondence. Appreciate it guys and of course you devastating dolls.

## Research and Investigation

Regrets for delays. Federal records centers are generally slow. The recent budget crisis and heavy snows have played havoc with our schedules. We will resume January 21, 1996. Our extraordinary editor has graciously allowed me additional time to dig out of the snow. Eight days before we saw a snow plow and then they piled snow six feet high in our intersection and of course across my driveway. Florida is in the future, really!—Absolutely.

The Memorial is Exhilarating with snow upon it. Brings back memories. As soon as we get our film processed, its possible some photos can be made available at cost and processing. We were getting thousands of visitors a day. A most impressive monument. Haven't heard a discouraging word, only awe and praise.

## Camera Lost at the Dedication

LOST-(1) 35mm Olympus Infinity S camera, serial # 102740, with "Jackie Jones" on the back in dymo-label tape. It was knocked from my hand during the surge of humanity when the guards dropped the rope to allow us Non-VIPs to be seated at the beginning of the dedication ceremony of the Korean War Veteran's Memorial this last summer. A reward is offered.

Please mail it to:  
Robert R. Jones  
2961 Givens Dr.  
Norton, OH 44203

## Special Korean War Issue of *Military History Magazine*

*Military History* magazine's April issue is devoted to "Korea: Remembering The Forgotten War."

You can reserve a copy by calling 1-800-435-9610.

Articles in this special issue include:

- A comprehensive summary of the Korean War and its significance put in historical perspective by Colonel Harry G. Summers, Jr., who served on the ground in Korea and Vietnam and is now a noted author, newspaper columnist, military affairs commentator and editor of *Vietnam* magazine.

- Col. Harry J. Maihafer, author of *From the Hudson to the Yalu*, interviews Joe Kingston, a member of West Point's Class of 1949 who fought in Korea with Company I, 32nd Infantry, 7th Division and went on to become an Army major general.

- The little-known Korean War incident near Vladivostok in 1952, in which U.S. Navy carrier jet fighters tangled with Soviet MiG-15s.

- Army Sergeant Hiroshi H. Miyamura's Medal of Honor was kept secret for a year and a half while he was held captive in a North Korean POW camp.

- Military History* Editor Emeritus C. Brian Kelly describes the heroic acts that earned several Korean War veterans Medals of Honor.

*Military History* is published seven times a year by Cowles History Group, America's largest publisher of history-related magazines. Other titles include *World War II*, *Vietnam* and *Aviation History*.

## "Tell America" Scores Hit With High School Audiences

Recent activities by KWVA chapters in Missouri to widen awareness of the Korean War among high school students have met with excellent results, according to the teachers who worked with the veterans to sponsor the programs.

**Missouri Chapter 2**, Kansas City, provided three 1-hour programs in local high schools in Spring. Members described the war, what it entailed, and what resulted. To bring the war closer to students, a member recounted his experiences in combat. In each case, the students were deeply interested, as attested to the very direct and pointed questions they asked about living and fighting conditions. The programs were successful enough that they will probably be repeated next year.

In November, just prior to Veterans Day, representatives of local veterans organizations, addressed students at St. Louis-suburban Kirkwood High School. Organized by Kirkwood High School history teacher Rick Streams, the program covered all wars from WWII to the Persian Gulf. Members of KWVA's **Missouri Chapter 1**, covered the Korean War, including Chapter Commander Paul Phillips, Treasurer Bob Meeker, and member Loy Lovitt.

The program was presented in a panel format with each member reciting some of his personal experiences, and students responding with questions. This is the second year of the program, and according to Streams has been very successful, with greatly increased awareness of the Korean War among all students.

## The Day I Talked With God

*I walked alone beside the sea,  
and as I walked there seemed to be  
an unseen Friend walked by my side  
as I wondered at the changing tide.*

*He rules the sea, the sky, the land,  
the moon and stars hear His command.  
All else but man, joins his melody,  
of love and faith, and harmony.*

*His gentle voice spoke from the sea  
"Be not afraid, just follow me."  
I noticed not the time nor way  
as we walked and talked that day.*

*I lingered there until the sun,  
dipped in the sea, and day was done.  
My cares, my fears all slipped away,  
because I walked with Him that day.*

*I hurried home, my duty called,  
all seemed right, there-in walked,  
my hope renewed, fears washed away,  
Because I walked with GOD that day.*

—Charles V Hearn  
Santa Monica, California

## Dance Band and "The Andrews Sisters" Signed

In keeping with its pledge to make the '96 KWVA Reunion "the best ever", the St. Louis '96 Reunion Committee announced at its most recent monthly meeting that contracts had been let for a dance band and entertainers for the program.

The "Freddie White Band", a fixture at midwest gatherings for many years, has been signed to play for dancing following the banquet, and a group, "The Andrews Sisters", will perform in the Hospitality Room, the evening before.

White's band offers a wide variety of types of music, from '40s-'50s Swing, through Rock, Country-Western, Irish and ethnic — even including some Rap. The group has performed widely around the St. Louis area for years, and has realized good sales of its recordings. Conductor Freddie White promises an evening "you'll enjoy remembering for many years."

Four talented women, "The Andrews Sisters" specialize in the music that made their namesakes so popular, including "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," and "Rum and Coca Cola." The group was an outstanding success the midwest's largest Memorial Day celebration "Salute To Veterans", for the last two years. They will give two performances, at 7:30 and 8:30, in the KWVA hospitality room at the Adams-Mark Hotel, Friday, July 26.

### Announcement

## Korean Veteran Family Reunion

October 15-21, 1996  
Virginia Beach, VA.

For more information call:  
1-800-523-4715

Medal of  
Honor re-  
cipient Cpl.  
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tober 1995  
KV Family  
Reunion at  
Virginia  
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# A Korean Twilight

## Interrelated Short Stories of the Korean War

by M.E. Cohane

### Kennedy

Corporal Raymond Bean, rifleman, second platoon, was sprawled flat on his belly. To the east of Papasan Mountain, dawn has just broken through the overcast. Bean shook his head angrily, aware that he had slept the better part of an hour. That in itself was unforgivable, he knew. Stiff jointed and cramped from the long night watch, he cursed the flak-jacket which did little to keep the morning chill from his body.

Bean loosed a long sigh and slowly raised his head, the acrid sand whipping his face with pebbles just before he heard the distant report of a rifle.

"Out of the frying pan and into the fucking fire!" cried Bean, swallowing the phlegm he was about to relieve. He reached out cautiously, his fingers curling about the rifle at his side and drawing it in close.

For a long time, Bean remained motionless, hungering for the first cigarette of the day. Having approximated the general vicinity of the sniper, he deemed it pointless to expose himself by blindly returning the fire. Under the circumstances, the best thing he could do was to lie still and wait.

But after an hour had passed, Raymond Bean still had not moved. His knees were cramped and aching, his temples pounded from nervous pressure, and he adamantly refused to go another minute without that cigarette.

"Ahh, the hell with it!" Bean cried, fumbling through the pockets of his fatigues. "You can forget all about his seeing the smoke, pal — he knows exactly where you are, anyway —" Slowly shaking his head, he lighted the cigarette and inhaled gratefully.

"Jesus, this ain't the day for me to go full circle, is it?" he asked himself, at the same time managing to discard the sobering thought, because there was simply no way that his mind could equate death at the hands of some unseen enemy. Bean's mind stubbornly refused to work that way.

The morning sun finally broke through the heavy cloud cover, and Bean felt the chill magically evaporate from his body. Shading his eyes, he squinted up at the sun and sighed.

"This is some country," he told himself. "You're either freezing your ass off, or you're burning to death!" Dragging listlessly on his cigarette, he kept his head low to the ground, listening for alien sounds. He heard nothing except the occasional airbursts puffing lazily in the sky.

With the early morning chill now replaced with arid, rising dust, Bean was about to light a second cigarette, when he heard a shrill whistle from below. Twisting his neck, he watched his relief climbing carelessly up the steep incline. Shaking his head at the climber's stupidity, Bean propped himself on his elbows, shoved his rifle over the parapet and yelled as loud as he could.

**An earlier misunderstanding between the editorial staff and the author no longer exists. We now understand that *A KOREAN TWILIGHT* has been proffered to *The Graybeards* as nonfiction; and other than the names being changed, and an occasional literary license, the author stipulates that each story is true.**

### Fifth of a series

"Sniper! Come up on your belly, you idiot!" He glared as his relief man, his rifle slung uselessly over one shoulder, simply continued his weary climb to the top.

A few minutes later, Private First Class James Harris climbed over the parapet and sank to his knees.

"What the hell do you use for brains?" Bean cried with annoyance. "If you're hell-bent on drawing fire, do it when you're by your lonesome!"

"Going to be a hot day," Harris observed, stretching out his lanky frame. He switched the safety on his rifle to the firing position and added slyly, "It may end up being the hottest day of the month —" He sighed with satisfaction, knowing how Bean hated the heat.

Refusing to be drawn in, Bean glared at him.

"Are you looking to die, Harris?" he asked coldly. "I mean, don't you give a damn, one way or the other?"

"What I really care about is my stomach," Harris replied. "I'm goddamned hungry, Beanie —"

"Oh, you ain't had any chow?" scoffed Bean. "That's too goddamned bad, pal. You had plenty of time to garbage up — especially since you're an hour late relieving me. Anyway, listen to me good. That bird up there is a good shot. It's a good five hundred yards from where he's been pecking away at me."

Harris shrugged.

"How long since he's fired at you, Beanie? I didn't hear any shooting when I was coming up."

"Couple of hours, maybe."

"How do you know for sure that he's still up there?"

"Aside from death and taxes, the only thing I know for sure is that you're a goddamned idiot!"

"You don't leave too much room for me to argue with you," Bean said, grinning at him. "I happen to be RA—"

Bean was genuinely shocked at the revelation.

"You're regular army?" he said slowly, staring at Harris. "You're sitting here, telling me that you weren't drafted? That you

***"The only counting I do is in figuring out the days before I go home!" cried Bean. Nothing else matters!"***

actually joined up? That's a crock of you-know-what, pal! Let me have a look at your dogtags!"

Continuing to grin at Bean, Harris silently proffered the personal identification tags, until, after close examination, Bean cried out gleefully.

"You really are RA! Joe college, the all-American boy a PFC in the infantry! That's irony, pal! Old Bean here, he can't wait to hear your reason —"

Harris shook his head, grinning ruefully.

"I'll explain it, but you'll never buy the reason," he said softly. "I'm a strict constitutionalist, Beany, one of those clowns who truly believe that freedom isn't free. Somewhere along the line you have to pay your dues. I paid mine when I enlisted —"

Bean shook his head and snorted.

"You wouldn't be trying to kid a bumpkin from the country, would you, pal? Your ass, paying your dues! I'm not about to lay down my life for bug-out ROKS who expect me to do their fighting for them!"

"What's the matter," Harris said, grinning at him. "Are you saying that you don't want to be a holder of liberty's torch? Are you saying that you don't want to stand up and be counted?"

"The only counting I do is in figuring out the days before I go home!" cried Bean. "Nothing else matters!"

"You have a point there," Harris said. "But you won't be going home today, I may as well give you the happy news. You and me — we both got tagged for tonight's patrol."

"We caught patrol again?"

"You heard me, Beany. I was on my way to relieve you when I ran into the new lieutenant. He's personally heading up tonight's patrol."

"Listen to me, Harris," Bean said suddenly. "Did I ever mention that I already have twenty-nine rotation points? Ever since Lieutenant Reisman got killed, it's been Kennedy who's been heading up the patrols. But now, with this new guy —"

"You're that worried about a new officer taking out the patrol?" Harris said.

"Damn well told I'm worried!" Bean cried hotly. "We've been getting four points a month in this sector! That means that I only need three more points to be rotated on home! I shouldn't even be up on the line any more!"

"Listen, Harris, I never bitched when I didn't have the points, did I? But now that I have them, I shouldn't be up here. But with a hard-ass like Kennedy leading the patrols, at least my odds are better. Can't you understand what I'm getting at?"

"Jesus, give it a rest," Harris said, shaking his head. "You're starting to sound like a scratched phonograph record, with the needle stuck in the same groove! Give it a rest!"

"Why should I give it a rest!" cried Bean. "The minute I go out with a brand new patrol leader, I'll catch it for sure! That's easy for you to say — you don't have nearly the points that I have —"

Harris lighted a cigarette, knowing that Bean's fears were reasonably grounded. Once a man accrued that many rotation points, his efficiency would drop like lead shot in water. Instead of looking after the next man, he would concentrate strictly on staying alive. In this, Bean was absolutely correct, thought Harris, slowly shaking

his head. Men on the line should never know how many points they had. It was not only cruel, it was diabolically so.

"The new lieutenant, what's his name?" Bean asked suddenly.

"His name is Burell, His kind doesn't have a first name — if you know what I mean."

"What did he have to say?"

Harris grinned ruefully. "He said we were the sorriest bunch he's ever seen. This bird — he doesn't have any burlap covering the bar on his helmet. He wants you to see it from fifty yards away."

"Jesus Christ ..."

"You'd better listen to the rest of it," Harris said with a small smile.

"This Burell, he holds up his hand like a traffic cop, and reams me out for not saluting. Then, he starts walking around me like I was the wall of Jericho. Here he is, checking out my beard and my clothes. Hey, everyone knows how good we smell, Beany! And then, without another word, he turns on his heel and makes a beeline for the CP. Listen, I was already late relieving you, so I figured a few minutes more wouldn't hurt. I wanted to see how Kennedy would defend against a direct frontal assault. So, I climbed up that pile of sandbags along the right side of the bunker and squished my ear up against a vent hole ..."

Second Lieutenant John Burell entered the bunker, pausing briefly to allow his eyes to adjust to the dim light. He then fixed a baleful eye on the first sergeant as he approached his makeshift desk.

Kennedy, barely acknowledging his superior with a nod, continued to work on his report; at the same time, somehow managing to ignore the withering tirade of the new lieutenant. When he found that he could no longer effectively concentrate on his work, he pocketed his pencil stub and gave Burell his undivided attention.

"Your men are downright filthy!" Burell snapped, glaring at Kennedy. "As the first sergeant, you're responsible for their appearance! You make damn sure you understand me on this, Sergeant!"

Kennedy shook his head and shrugged. "We haven't got much water up here," he said quietly. "What little we have is used mainly for drinking. I'm surprised that Division Rear didn't fill you in on our situation. With the Chinese having the lower pass zeroed in with mortars, it ain't easy to get fresh water up here — let alone basic provisions. And speaking of provisions, these kids could do with some hot meals."

"You can spare me the parental horseshit!" Burell said scornfully. "Those aren't the answers that I'm looking for!"

"If you like, we can start with the saluting," Kennedy said. "By now, you have to be aware of the sharpshooters all along the ridge line. If you don't care about yourself, you should care about exposing the men to unnecessary risk."

"I'll say this only once, Sergeant," Burell replied coldly. "Don't you ever again try getting cute or clever with me. Discipline and military courtesy will continue to be the order of the day. Make absolutely sure that you understand me on this! These men are soldiers — not backwoods mountain boys!"

*Continued on page 60*

### **Korean Twilight from page 59**

Kennedy, born and bred in the hills of Tennessee, climbed to his feet and smiled. "You mentioned that you intend to lead tonight's patrol," he said softly. "Do you figure on handling everything all by yourself?"

"All by myself, Sergeant," Burell said. "And contrary to what you may believe, I've had sufficient briefing at regimental headquarters. Any more questions?"

"Only one, Lieutenant. Do you intend to go strictly by the book?"

"I'm not sure where you're going with this," Burell said, staring at his first sergeant. "We'll follow SOP, if that's what you're driving at. Anything else?"

"Of course, this has nothing to do with you, Lieutenant," Kennedy said, carefully choosing his words. "But if I lose one more man because of some horse's ass — no matter who the unknown sonofabitch is — I'll kill him myself. You may have some

letters you want to write, Lieutenant. There's paper and pencils in the cubby ..."

"And that's the end of the story, Beany," Harris said. "Kennedy walked out of the bunker and spotted me before I could scramble down. Then, he peeked up at the sun and told me to get my ass up here and relieve you. You want to know what else he told me?"

"I get the feeling I'm about to find out," said Bean, beginning to smile.

"He told me that he'll be coming along for the ride on tonight's patrol. That's exactly what he told me."

"Jesus—"

"And I'll tell you something else," Harris said quietly. "I've been watching him. He's the last of the old breed of mother hens who really give a damn whether their kids live or die. We could do a hell of a lot worse, pal. Now, having heard all

this, would you like to hear what you can do with your twenty-nine points?"

For some long moments, Bean stared steadily at the young man who had relieved him. Then he climbed wearily to his feet, ignoring his earlier fear of a sniper, as he slung his weapon and moved down the trail without looking back.

Eyeing Bean's descent, Harris sighed deeply, hoping his smokes would last until he was relieved. He removed his helmet and began a fierce massage of the tight knots matting his unwashed hair. Then, he drew his rifle to his side, stacked some extra clips in a neat row just under the parapet, and settled himself down to the long watch.

Later that evening, some hours after their contact patrol had engaged its enemy counterpart, Private First Class James Harris was found not far from Simon Kennedy, at the place where they were killed by automatic weapons fire. ■

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NightsSub-Total  
Room x NightsRoom Rate  
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Charges

(2)

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X

=

X

\$

=

\$

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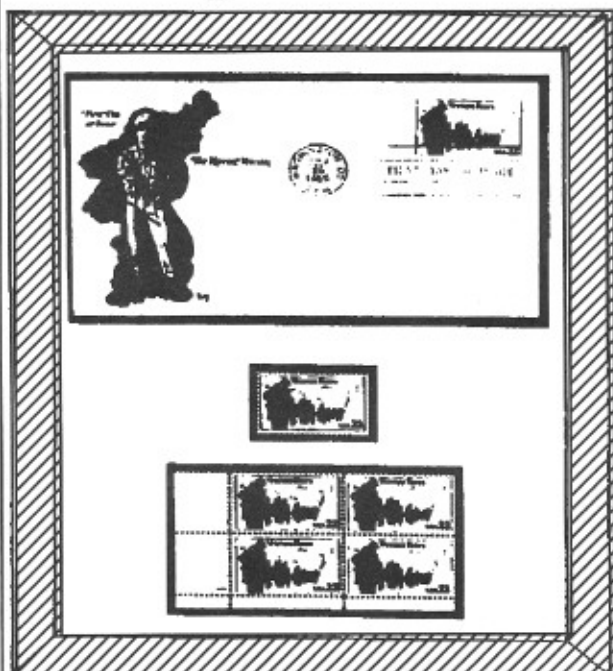
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A. **Honorary Members.** Any person of good character may be elected as an honorary member by the vote of the Executive Council.

B. **Regular Members.**

1. **Service in United States Armed Forces.** Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, said service being within or without Korea, but during the Korean war era (September 3, 1945 - January 31, 1955), or who, as a member of the armed forces of the United States as defined by U.S.C. Title 10, served honorably in Korea from February 1, 1955, shall be eligible for membership. No person shall be excluded from membership because of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability, so long as the individual meets the service requirements.

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BOTH TAPES	\$49.00		\$5.95 (SET)	
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LOOK WHAT \$5 CAN DO!



You can win a  
*1996 Chevrolet Cavalier*

*And Donate to The Korean War Veterans Scholarship Fund  
And Help Support the 1996 Reunion in St. Louis, MO.*

Here's How...

Contact your local K.W.V.A. Chapter for tickets and information or you can write, call or fax to: K.W.V.A. 1996 Reunion, P.O. box 1839, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Tel: (618) 397-1295 or Fax: (618) 397-1294.

The drawing for the 1996 Chevrolet Cavalier will be held July 27, 1996 at the National Korean War Veterans Association Reunion Banquet in St. Louis, Missouri. NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN. All net proceeds will be applied toward the K.W.V.A. Scholarship Fund and toward supporting the 1996 Reunion in St. Louis.

Automobile is F.O.B. from St. Louis, Missouri. All applicable taxes and registration fees responsibility of winner. Woodrum Chevrolet, Inc., Macomb, Illinois is supplier of vehicle.

What Are You Waiting For?

*Put your \$5.00 to work for the Korean War Veterans Scholarship  
Fund and A Chance to Win a 1996 Chevrolet Cavalier!*

WINNER OF CAR MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER



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