TELL AMERICA REPORT AT THE NATIONAL MEETING IN SAN ANTONIO ON OCT 8-11, 2006

Greetings from the Tell America Committee-Chris Yanacos Board Oversite, Jim Yaney in Indiana who has a great TV program going with their local PBS station, Irving Breitbart in New York who has a wonderful program every year with West Point and Marvin Dunn who helps promote our program in Texas. We are all pleased to report that the TA program is alive and well and making a difference to students in many parts of the USA. The committee has much to talk about but I don't have time to do it all so will try to boil it down to three major topics.

1. WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING,
HOW THE PROGRAM IS PROGRESSING AND
THE FUTURE OF THE PROGRAM

A. WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING (GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS)

THE GOOD NEWS IS---

We have been E-mailing and talking with veterans, teachers and students literally all over the US and even some in Europe who have questions about our Tell America program. Thanks to the good support from Art Sharp we have had articles in the Graybeards every month about what our Korean vets are doing around the country with successful programs. Hopefully, this encourages others to start their own program and also gives recognition to those who are doing the work. Jim Dopplehammer has done a good job of posting information on the website to help those who need information to get started. For those who may not know, we have an outline and a script on our website that will provide words and information for those who don't want to write their own material or just need help in getting started. With the aid of several people we obtained posters, maps, brochures, booklets and a video that was a part of the 50th anniversary

celebration in 2003. This has served as a good resource for those who have a need-both to chapters who want more visual aids and a good boost for those who are just getting started. The 11 minute video is an excerpt from the 50th anniversary celebration tape and provides a great overview of the action and summarizes the historical significance of the war. Since late last year when I came into possession of the material I have mailed out close to 50 sets of what I call a standard packet that consists of a large map of Korea, a poster of events during the war, and a set of 4 posters that depict various activities of service personnel during the war. I have received several notes from chapters telling me how much they appreciate the material and how it is helping with their program.

I have additional items that could be of interest to someone:

- (1) 2 DVDs from Jim Yaney on their Korean Memorial Dedication and a program on the Chosin Few that is being sent to the Library of Congress.
- (2) A DVD from Roger Hathaway in Winthrop, Ma. Titled "Once Forgotten/Now Remembered."
- (3) A CD and tape of "Bloody Korea: the Real Story."
- (4) A music/poetry CD by Richard Ratledge titled "We Were Soldiers."
- (5) Norm Strickbine's book "Red Dragon-Faces of War II" (can be ordered from him).
- (6) Admiral Yi Sun-sun-the story of a Korean National Hero published by the Diamond Sutra organization that is free to those interested.

THE BAD NEWS IS-

We are running out of the visual aids (posters and other printed material) that have been so very helpful for the program this past year and we need to find more or have these reprinted. I would love to have additional copies of this material but haven't figured a good way to replace it. If anyone knows of material like this available I would like to hear from you. This kind of information is what encourages chapters to get started in the program.

(Note: At the Convention Bob Desmond, Member of the Board for the Korean War National Museum told me he thought Larry Sassarossi had some of these posters at the Museum. Since then it has been confirmed that they do have a pretty fair supply of the material and will make it available to us.)

DOES YOUR CHAPTER HAVE A TELL AMERICA PROGRAM???-

We are very proud of those who do and continue to work diligently with the schools. If you don't, we would like to hear from you if you have an interest in getting started. I still think this program which takes us into the schools/civic programs or wherever else you can go to tell about the Korean War is one of the best things our chapters can do. It gets the members involved in a project that will make them feel good and will certainly make a difference, especially in the lives of students, when you tell them about the sacrifices that all veterans have made in protecting the freedoms in this country. It is not really difficult to start the program but definitely does take work, commitment and dedication to get into the schools and do it right.

B. HOW ARE WE DOING WITH THIS PROGRAM??

The basic truth is I don't really know but I am hoping to find out. My gut feeling from people, who have contacted me, is that we are doing pretty well for a bunch of old guys. Some of you may have seen the survey in the Graybeards and on the web site. So far of our 247 KWVA chapters, I have received 36 responses with 23 indicating they have a working Tell America program. am sure there are many chapters out there with programs that I haven't heard from so my request of you is to please fill out the survey so we get some indication of how well we are doing in contacting our communities. The most common question that comes from the survey deal with "How do you go about getting started and please send more visual aids." If I can get enough information to make it worthwhile I hope to put the results of the survey in the Graybeards along with comments and suggestions that I have received. My objective with all this is still to encourage more chapters to get involved and provide support where it is needed. The Executive Council put \$1500 dollars in the budget this year to help with the program.

C. THE FUTURE OF THE PROGRAM-

The two basic facts about this program are (1) we have a great story to tell and (2) there is no one better suited than we are to tell this story. Unfortunately our schools and the students get very little of the story of the Korean War in text books. We find that the teachers, unless they have a close relative that was in the war also know very little about Korea but are very willing to help tell the story if they are made aware of the history. As you look around you can tell we are

following closely behind the WW II vets with diminishing ranks and do not have a lot of time to tell our story. So what we do in the NEAR FUTURE will determine how many of our citizens/students will really know about the Korean War from the people who know it best. The future of this program is in your hands and your help in telling the story. Personally, I think it is a good idea to get the younger Korean vets involved with your programs if you can. They bring a little different version but will be here much longer to continue what we have started.

I mentioned Jim Yaney, unfortunately he couldn't attend but did send his greetings in the form of a short report on Chapter#1 in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. I know he will welcome your questions and be delighted to help in any way. You can call him at telephone # 260-248-2203.

Following is a portion of Jim Yaney's report:

We believe that we have created one of the most successful Tell America programs in the country. In the beginning we found it difficult to get our program into the school system. Now they call us and in doing so ask us to put them on the list for an annual visit. One year ago we dreamed of reaching a much larger audience...the only way we could do this was to try radio or television.

Today, I am proud to say, that through the hard work of our dedicated Korean veterans, in October we will celebrate our first year on Public Access Television and proud that we have made a great rating with the viewers on Channel 57 in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to report on some

of our accomplishments this year. On Memorial Day we were honored by Channel 57 in showing continuously for 24 hours a marathon of all the shows we produced this If that wasn't enough, we were informed by the station that they wanted to send our programs to the Library of Congress for all Americans to enjoy. but not least, the Genealogy Department of one of our largest libraries has requested our programs and with the help of our veterans they want to reach out to all genealogy departments in the nation to promote more information to go into history books for future generations to know more about the Korean War. As we came to the call of the Korean people fifty-five years ago, the time is now to answer the call of our future generations of Americans who want more information on the Forgotten War so it will never be forgotten by any American who feels freedom is not an option but the right of all people and is made so by the veterans who paid the supreme sacrifice to insure that freedom will prevail always.

In closing, I would like to announce that with the cooperation of public access TV in Ft. Wayne the Director, Robert Erie (a veteran of the USMC) has given me a list of the TV stations across the nation that are interested in offering this same opportunity to chapters in their area. Please feel free to contact me to see if a station in your area is on the list. It will be my pleasure to help in any way I can in getting the story of the Korean War out to the public.

Larry Kinard National Tell America Program