

**KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
TELL AMERICA PROGRAM REPORT
NATIONAL CONVENTION
RENO, NEVADA
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I am pleased to have this opportunity to bring you up to date on the TELL America program. Good things continue to happen but I think we can do a lot better with something I would like to propose and will get to in just a moment. One of the very best things happened shortly after the meeting in San Antonio last year. You may remember at the meeting in San Antonio, I made a strong appeal to the Executive Board to help me replenish the 50th anniversary educational material that has been so useful to the chapters in their Tell America programs. I am very pleased to say that several people came forward with help. J.D. Randolph sent me several posters that he had and Warren Wiedhahn and Judith Knight both provided me with software that will allow us to get the posters reprinted if it ever becomes necessary. Immediate help came from Bob Desmond and Larry Sassorossi at the Korean War Veterans Museum in Springfield. They provided just what I was looking for in a package of 40 sets of each of the posters I was looking for and shipped directly to me at no cost to the KWVA. They indicated there were more if I need them. My sincere thanks

to all of these people who responded to my call for help.

Before going any further, I would like to ask a couple of questions.

How many of you know what the TELL AMERICA program is?

How many of you believe it is a good thing for chapters to help communities and schools know and understand what the Korean War was all about?

I am a little biased but I believe it is one of the best and most rewarding things our chapters can do. Even though we didn't know it then, we accomplished historic and monumental successes 50 years ago and we need to be talking about it. If we don't who will!

Requests for the material have decreased but I have continued to hear from chapters who are interested in starting programs or getting the material to enhance what they are doing. Since last October I have sent out 50 packages of the posters and videos to chapters and schools across the country. We have done well with what we are doing but I truly think we can do better and give the Tell America Program a boost by working through the State Departments. I visited with Lou about this and he agreed that I could contact all the State Department

Commanders and ask them to appoint a Tell America Chairman or someone in their state that I could work with to encourage chapters to develop TA programs. I contacted the State Commanders earlier this year but to date have had very little response and basically nothing has happened to get this done. I would appreciate any thoughts from the Board or membership about the possibilities of getting this off the ground.

I am pleased to state that we have also made the INTERNATIONAL Scene.

Back in July I received a letter from a member of the Greek Korean War Veterans organization. The man who sent the letter is Demetrious Mastsoukas, the Special Secretary of the Panhellenic Korean Veterans Organization in Athens, Greece. He is not a Korean War Veteran but his brother was killed in October, 1951 in the Punch Bowl area. He had read one of our Greybeards magazines and was interested in obtaining posters, maps and DVDs for their programs in Greece to set up a "TELL GREECE" program about the Korean War. After checking to make sure he was legitimate I sent him material he requested. I have established email communication with him and we visit regularly through the internet. Some of you may know that Greece provided over 5000 troops in Korea and had 186 killed in the fighting. They feel very strongly about their contribution to the Korean War and

have erected a monument in Athens in recognition of those who died. The end of September in Athens they had a memorial service where they displayed the posters and showed the DVDs I had sent. Demetrious also sent me a CD of their May, 2007 revisit trip to Korea-looked just like us.

It seems to me there is an increasing interest in the public about the Korean War. Recently, I have received numerous requests from schools and individual students who want information about the War and want to interview veterans of the war for a research paper or a project they are working on. So far, I think I have been able to satisfy all these requests.

In September, I received an email from Jonathan Hull a former journalist for the Time magazine who has developed a website entitled "Were You There." He states, "My hope is to enable and encourage a conversation about the moments in life that made a difference, for better or worse, and I'm especially interested in providing a forum for veterans. As a history buff, I'm frequently dismayed by the number of Americans who know next to nothing about the Korean War and the enormous price paid by U. S. troops, so I'm eager to make sure that the voices of Korean vets are represented at Were You There? The site is just getting started but ultimately I hope it will become a communal archive of sorts that is useful to students, researchers and historians."

COMMITTEE MEMBER Jim Yaney is still working diligently with the Public Access TV station in Ft. Wayne, Indiana in the production of monthly shows on Channel 57 there. Jim recently received a letter from State Senator Gary Dillon expressing appreciation for his "efforts to educate people on the Korean War and its veterans." Their TV program has been entered in a contest for the "best program of the year" produced on Channel 57 and Comcast Cable Television. He is currently working with Chapter 259 in central Indiana to get a Tell America program started there. As I mentioned earlier, we frequently get requests from students across the nation for veteran interviews or information about the Korean War. One such request came to me from a "Gifted Resource Teacher" in Henley Middle School in Virginia seeking information about the Chosin Reservoir for one of her students. I asked Jim to contact her and see if he could help. Jim helped their project by producing a TV show in which he interviewed several Chosin Few veterans and sent the DVD to the student for his project. It won 2nd place in the contest and caused Max (the student) to write an email thanking Jim for the effort and stated *"it was hard to find the right words to thank him but hopefully the best way was to show more people the bravery that soldiers and marines at the Chosin Reservoir displayed. Putting your life on*

the line for your country is the noblest thing a man can do. The Chosin Reservoir really should go down in history along side Bunker Hill, The Alamo, Gettysburg and D-Day."

At present, Jim is working hard with Channel 57 putting together a major TV production for the Ft Wayne area on October 30. The program will feature two Korean War Veterans and two from WW II telling their experiences at the Chosin Reservoir and Iwo Jima. They are expecting 5-600 people to attend and anticipate coverage by the local network TV stations. TA Chairman Chris Yanacos will be attending this program.

Committee Member Irving Breitbart tells me he is planning on having the Veterans Panel once again on November 8 at West Point. This will be the 7th year he has done the program and the cadets really appreciate hearing from the veterans and being able to talk with them. He will have at least 150 veterans there with him from Central Long Island, the Nassau & Staten Island Chapters and also some from his own Chapter 91. He says the New York chapters have been invited to visit a ROK Navy ship due in the area around November 2. Tom McHugh is coordinating this effort.

I want to put in a good word for another couple of dedicated veterans in Western Ohio Chapter 108. Fred Shively and Ken Williamson just recently provided me a

summary and pictures covering their visits in this last school year and what they have done. They spoke to over 3500 students, 250 teachers and guests and traveled 2267 miles. These guys are doing a great job in that area—is anyone here from this Chapter?

Bottom line—I feel strongly that we are making a difference in the schools and communities with the Tell America Programs that are active around the country and it reflects very positively on the Korean War Veterans Association. I have been impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication that most of the veterans show when they call to talk about what they are doing. However, I think we can do a much better job if we can get the State Departments to support the program by having someone to promote the Tell America Program on a more local basis. I would appreciate hearing from the State Department Commanders about this proposal

Thank you,
Larry Kinard
October, 2007