

America's Forgotten Victory!

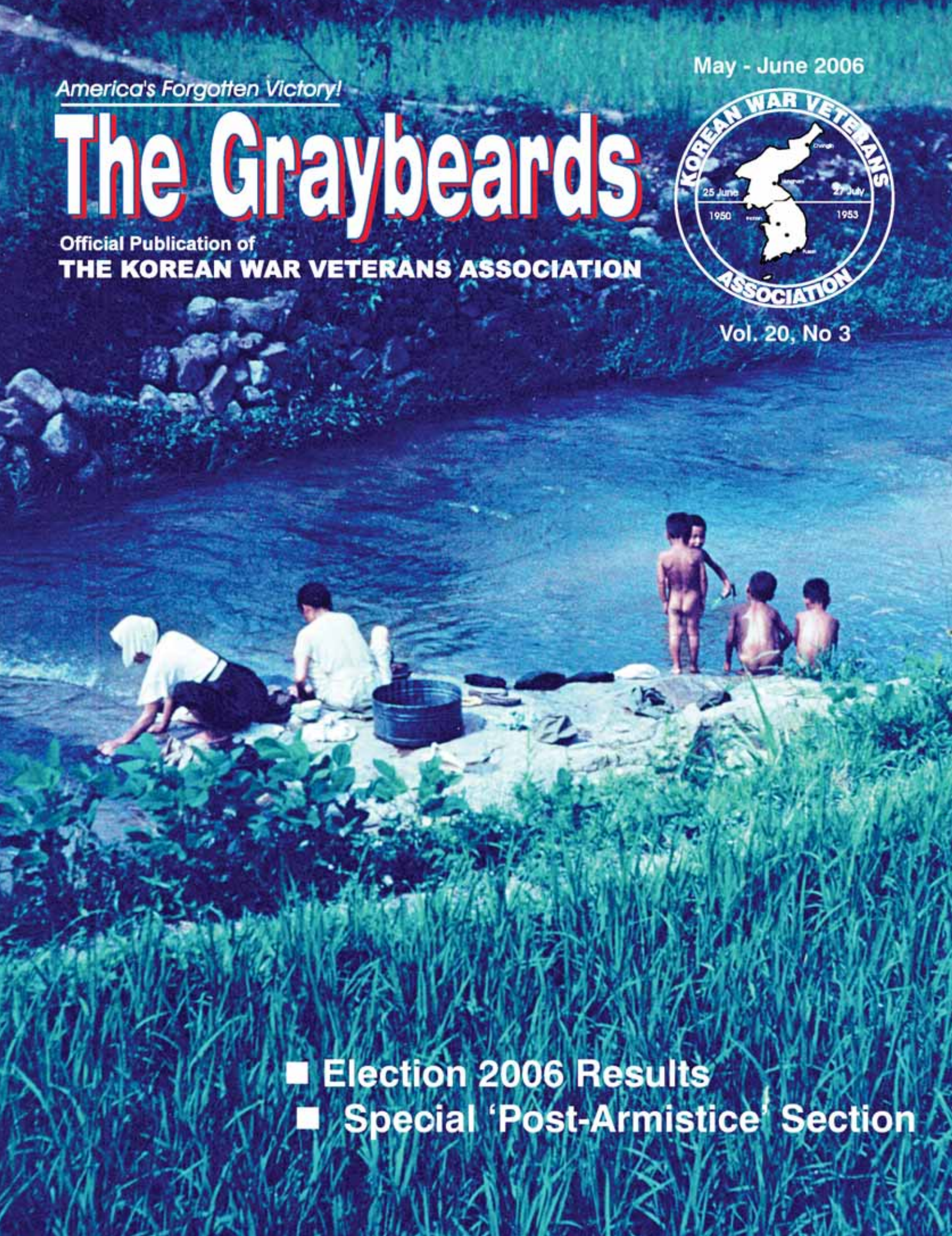
The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

May - June 2006



Vol. 20, No 3



- Election 2006 Results
- Special 'Post-Armistice' Section

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



The Graybeards is the official publication of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA), Camp Beauregard, Louisiana. Mailing address of the KWVA: 163 Deerbrook Trail, Pineville, LA 71360. Website: <http://www.kwva.org>. The Graybeards is published six times a year for members and private distribution. It is not sold by subscription.

Mailing address for change of address: Administrative Assistant, P. O. Box 101238, Arlington, VA 22210-4238

We Honor Founder William Norris

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

Editor

Arthur G. Sharp
152 Sky View Dr
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Ph: 860-563-6149
sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

Advertising Editor

Frank Bertulis
99 Deerfield Ln
Matawan, NJ 07747-1332
FBEB@optonline.net
Ph: 732-566-2737

Webmaster

James A. Doppelhammer
1801 Madison Ave #12
Charleston, IL 61920
webmaster@kwva.org

Publisher

Finisterre Publishing Inc.
3 Black Skimmer Ct
Beaufort, SC 29907
finisterre@islc.net

Address Changes, Corrections, & All Membership Questions

Nancy Monson
Administrative Assistant
P. O. Box 101238
Arlington, VA 22210-4238
KWVAMembership@verizon.net
Ph: 703-522-9629
FAX: 703-528-5403

National KWVA Headquarters

President

Louis T. Dechert
163 Deerbrook Trail
Pineville, LA 71360
louisdechert@cox.net
Ph: 318-641-8033
FAX: 318-640-8312

1st Vice President

Byron Dickerson
314 S Home St
Duncanville, TX 75116
JD1435@sbcglobal.net
Ph: 972-298-7462

2nd Vice President

Nicholas Pappas
209 Country Club Dr
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971-1850
NickAndJan@webtv.net
Ph: 302-227-3675

Secretary

Bill Hutton
4 Belleview Blvd #402
Belleair, FL 33756
billhutton@KWVA.org
Ph: 703-842-7429

Asst Secretary

Jake Feaster
22731 N Hwy 329
Micanopy, FL 32667
JFeaster@kwva.org
Ph: 352-466-3493
FAX: 775-242-8113

Asst Secretary

Frank E. Cohee, Jr.
4037 Chelsea Lane
Lakeland, FL 33809-4063
CoheeSan@verizon.net
Ph: 863-859-1384

Asst Secretary

Billy W. Jones
6504 Wagon Wheel
Killeen, TX 76542
JonesBW@prodigy.net
Ph: 254-628-1735

Treasurer

Richard E. Hare
1260 Southhampton Dr
Alexandria, LA 71303
HarePic@aol.com
Ph: 318-487-9716

Asst Treasurer

Clyde Durham
1016 Highway 3128
Pineville, LA 71360
Cgbsdurham@aol.com
Ph: 318-445-3247

Asst Treasurer

Bill Doyle
270 McNeely Rd
Anacoco, LA 71403
BillD821@bellsouth.net
Ph: 337-239-9833

Membership Management

Jake Feaster, Supervisor
(See Ass't Secretary)
Jim Doppelhammer, Data Base Develop.
(See Webmaster)
Nancy Monson, Data Base Input
(See Address Changes, etc)

Washington DC Area National Office

Warren Wiedhahn
4600 Duke St, #420, Alexandria, VA
22304
JWiedhahn@aol.com Ph: 703-212-0695

Directors

Term 2004-2007

Lee Dauster

15444 Camino Del Parque, Sonora, CA 95370
leedauster@aol.com Ph: 209-588-1529

John G. Edwards

10346 127th Ave., Largo, FL 33773-1022
JJ.Edwards@verizon.net Ph: 727-582-9353

Dean McClain

521 Westgate Blvd., Youngstown, OH 44515
kwbd@zoominternet.net Ph: 330-792-5928

Bob Morga

PO Box 835, Bayport, NY 11705
salbalboa@verizon.com Ph: 631-281-3075

Term 2005-2008

Robert S. Banker

516 Millwood Dr., Fallston, MD 21047
RobertBanker@comcast.net Ph: 410-877-1935

Jeffrey J. Brodeur

48 Square Rigger Ln., Hyannis, MA 02601
KVAMANE@aol.com Ph: 508-790-1898

William F Mac Swain

8452 Marys Creek Dr., Benbrook, TX 76116
billmacswain@charter.net Ph: 817-244-0706

Warren Wiedhahn

4600 Duke St, #420, Alexandria, VA 22304
JWiedhahn@aol.com Ph: 703-212-0695

Term 2006-2009

Mike Doyle

2418 Winewood Ln, Arlington, TX 76013
M-B-Doyle@msn.com Ph: 817-459-2463

Marvin Dunn

1721 Briardale Ct., Arlington, TX 76013-3467
MarvDunnJr@yahoo.com Ph: 817-261-1499

James Fountain

14541 Soho Dr., Florissant, MO 63034-2653
BudFon@netzero.net Ph: 314-974-3579

Christ Yanacos

6452 Brooks Blvd., Mentor, OH 44060-3624
Ph: 440-257-5395

Appointed/Assigned Staff

Chief of Staff, (ex officio)

Charley Price
126 Dirksen Dr., DeBary, FL 32713
CharleyPrice@aol.com Ph: 407-221-6949

Judge Advocate

Sim W. Goodall, Chairman
5026 Pointclear Ct., Arlington, TX 76017
Simgoodall@yahoo.com Ph: 817-483-4443

National Legislative Director

Roy J. Burkhart
1930 N Stony Knoll Ln
Green Valley, AZ 95614
RJBurke@mtaonline.net PH: 907-841-9162

National Veterans Service Officer (VSO)

Arthur E. Hills
4300 Esta Lee Ave., Killeen TX 76549
AHills@hotmail.com Ph: 254-526-6567

National VAVS Director

J. D. Randolph
1523 Pinebluff Dr., Allen, TX 75002-1870
Randy9683@sbcglobal.net Ph: 972-359-2936

Sergeant-at-Arms: (ex officio)

John Sonley
15415 S 16th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85045-1810
Jwscpd8@aol.com Ph: 480-705-8038

POW & MIA Coordinator:

Marty O'Brien
27 Meadow Rd, #202, Augusta, ME 04330
CavkVet50@aol.com Ph: 207-623-1103

KWVA Liaison to Museums/Libraries:

William F. Mac Swain
(See Directors)

KWVA Liaison to Canadian KVA:

Bill Burns
105 Emann Dr, Camillus, NY 13031
bbbgliam@twcnry.rr.com Ph: 315-487-1750

Chaplain Emeritus:

Robert Personette
7136 Oak Leaf Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409
PamP@vom.com Ph: 707-539-7276

Chaplain:

Leonard F. Stegman
7123 Thrush View Ln. #28
San Antonio, TX 78209 FAX: 210-805-9127
Hall06Aaol.com Ph: 210-822-4041

KWVA Committees

(ART III, Sect 1G, Bylaws)

Budget/Finance Committee

James Ferris, Chairman
(See Directors)

Bylaws Committee

Bill Mac Swain, Chairman
(See Directors)

Membership Committee

Dean McClain, Chairman
(See Directors)

Nominations/Election Committee

Robert S. Banker, Chairman
(See Directors)

Resolutions Committee:

Lee Dauster, Chairman
(See Directors)

Reunion Committee

Byron Dickerson, Chairman
(See 2nd Vice President)

Tell America

Larry Kinard, Chairman
2108 Westchester Dr
Mansfield, TX 76063
Ph: 682-518-1040
Larry.Kinard@yahoo.com

Revisit Committee:

Tom Clawson, Chairman
953 Gorman Av
St Paul, MN 55118
Ph: 651-457-6653
TimClawson@charter.net

Warren Wiedhahn, Coordinator
(See Directors)

Recruiting Committee

Jeffrey J. Brodeur, Chairman
(See Directors)

Jim Ferris, Deputy Chairman
(See Directors)

Ethics and Grievance Committee

Stephen Szekely, Chairman
1516 Laclede Rd
South Euclid, OH 44121-3012
Ph: 216-381-9080
SxDszek@sbcglobal.net

Strategic Study Committee

Charley Price, Chairman
(See Chief of Staff)

From the President

Louis T. Dechert



WHY WE NEED A FEDERAL CHARTER

[H.R. 3476, S.1512, 108th Congress]

“The purpose, for which this Association was formed, does not require a Federal Charter.”

A member who I respect very much recently made that statement. My mental answer was, *“Yes, and certain aircraft can fly without engines, but they sure do help in cases where you are going somewhere!”*

The founding purposes of the Korean War Veterans Association (note there is a plurality of purpose not a singular one):

1. To organize, promote and maintain for benevolent and charitable purposes an Association of persons who have seen honorable service during the Korean War at any time between September 3, 1945 and the present time, both dates inclusive, and of certain other persons, with the qualifications for membership set forth in the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. Bylaws.
2. To grant charters to groups of members at large of the association.
3. To provide a means of contact and communication among the members of the association.
4. To promote the establishment of, and to establish war and other memorials commemorative of any person or persons who served in the Korean War.
5. To aid needy Association members and their spouses and children and the spouses and children of persons who were members at the time of their death.
6. To establish and maintain a national headquarters.
7. To do any and all things necessary or proper for the accomplishment of the foregoing business and objectives of the association, including, for such purposes, to contract and pay for personal and other services, to contract for, buy, take by deed, gift or devise, hold, possess, manage, borrow, rent, lease, loan, assign, convey, sell, and

...I found out that [a Federal Charter] is a very important matter to thousands of good men, members and non-members alike, who were unwilling to have the sacrifices of themselves and their buddies slighted by the US Government.

dispose of in any manner real and personal property, and to act as trustee, or be a beneficiary of a trust.

Founder Bill Norris enunciated five principles long before the incorporation (above purposes) of the KWVA. These principles were—

1. To support the ideals this Great Country was founded on
2. To maintain the dignity and pride of the Korean War Veterans who served this Country when asked to;
3. To work towards the recognition of those who did not return from the Korean War;
4. To maintain and foster the comradeship between the men and women who served during the Korean War;
5. To perpetuate the memory and reason which required our service during the Korean War.

With the assistance of a Staff Workshop, I more recently announced a Mission Statement which states the above purposes and principles as:

THE MISSION OF THE KWVA/USA

DEFEND our Nation
CARE for our Veterans
PERPETUATE our Legacy
REMEMBER our Missing and Fallen
MAINTAIN our Memorial
SUPPORT a free Korea

Let's look at some practical examples. We have one delusional member who always insists that the KWVA has hundreds of Veterans Service Officers (VSO, same abbreviation, singular or plural) working with/for the VA and always has. His ranting to the contrary notwithstanding, the KWVA does not have a single VSO working with or for the VA—we are not qualified to license and maintain a single service officer in our own behalf. Those few who may be

licensed are accredited by someone else, not the KWVA, and assist those other veterans organizations (Legion, VFW, DAV, etc.) to assert that young veterans of Korea Service should join those organizations because the KWVA is not interested in helping the younger Korea Service Veterans.

One very real problem this presents is that there is no VSO representing the upwards of 2 million Korea Service Vets—or the 1.5 million Korea War vets (50-53)—for the era 1950 through 1965 when the Vietnam War officially began. Only a very foolish person would argue that there is no difference in health concerns, claims, pensions, GI Bill, job assistance, etc., etc., etc., between the Korea Vet (1950-1965) and the WWII vets who went before them—OR the Vietnam Vets who followed them.

Differences are why we have age-graded degrees of specialization in every other marketing, sales, and production activity in America—AND in health care, lending, small business assistance, and education. But NOT for Korea veterans—good principles are disregarded for these old guys!

Until approximately three years ago, no one apparently knew, or cared, that countless veterans of those portions of the Korea War/Service era that corresponded to Vietnam War years ALSO had some Agent Orange exposure. Oh yes, the Vietnam vets let everyone know, loud, clear, and long, about themselves (and they eventually got the “green”), but there is not a man alive who can take an oath and swear to it and back it up with evidence (I say this because people do lie, you know, and hindsight is perfect, after all) that they had even heard about the Korea vets, the FORGOTTEN WAR, and defense men and women being exposed to Agent Orange in

Continued on page 6

COVER: 'The simple life.' Photo taken near Kunsan, Korea. Courtesy of Paul Andrews, P.O. Box 3126, Waquoit, MA 02536-3126 (508) 548-6519

CONTENTS

Business

Results: Election 20067
 Thanks for Supporting "The Graybeards"7
 Recruiting Report10
 KWVA Management Information System11
 Report from the Legislative Director12
 The Philippines in the Korean War: First Combat at Miudong/Syngue70

Features

Duty on the Island of Cheju-do27
 Heavy Boats in Inchon30
 The Bill Norris Story32
 The Life of a Tanker48
 Frowein's Button Hole57
 Special Section: 'Post-Armistice' Korean Service Vets62
 The Second Korean War63
 My Korean 'Notawar'.....64
 Korean Defense Veterans.....68
 Commander, UN Command And US Forces Korea, Becomes Life Member.....69

Departments

From The President3
 The Editor's Desk.....9
 Last Call13
 Registration Form: 2006 National Convention14
 POW/MIA Update15
 Members in the News19
 Key Bills in Congress20
 Perpetuating – Remembering – Maintaining25
 Monuments and Medals28
 Chapter News38
 Tell America52
 Recon Missions.....54
 Feedback/Return Fire58
 Reunion Calendar74
 Korean War Veterans' Mini-Reunions76

News & Notes

Bonds of Bands of Brothers8
 300 Deploy to South Korea11
 The History of the Korean War Veterans Gathering16
 Memories of the Gathering17
 Western Mass Chapter Member Appointed Lieutenant General 18
 Revisit Korea.....51
 U.S. Navy Sinks Its Own Ship71
 Survey of the Tell America Program78



29



32



40



49

EXCLUSIVE KOREAN WAR VETERANS SERVICE WATCHES

FEATURING YOUR SERVICE EMBLEM, KOREAN WAR MEDAL AND RIBBON



Korean War Veterans Service Watch shown with Army Emblem

We proudly present our Official Korean War Veterans Military Watches to honor your service to our Country. The unique watch dial is a replica of the Korean War Service Medal and is a powerful reminder of the bravery and sacrifice made by so many during this historic conflict.

The exclusive watch band features the Korean War Service Ribbon above the Service Medal dial. Your Service Branch Emblem or Purple Heart Medal, in full enameled colors, is set in the band below the dial. The caseback will be engraved with your initials and years served.

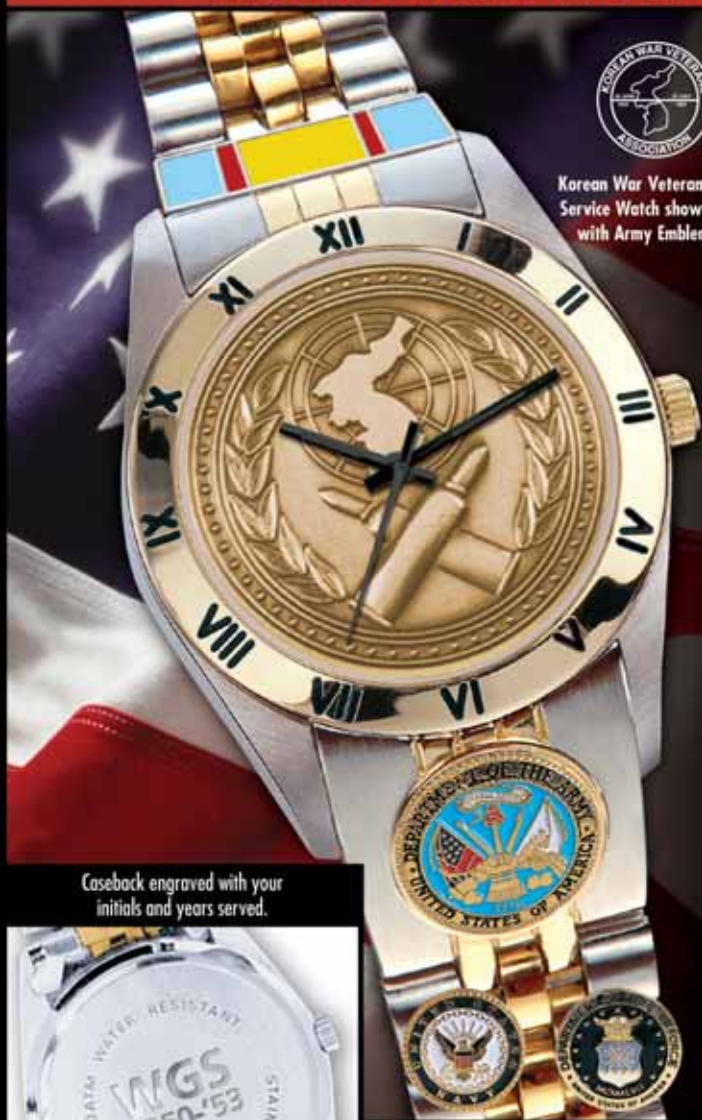
Watch features include a precision quartz movement for accuracy within seconds per month, water-resistant case and adjustable bracelet, both decorated with 23 karat gold.

Priced at just \$125*, payable in two convenient, interest-free monthly installments of \$62.50* each. See order form for details.

Your satisfaction is guaranteed or you may return your watch within 30 days for replacement or refund—no questions asked. So, order yours today!

PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS MAY HAVE THEIR MEDAL IN PLACE OF THE SERVICE BRANCH EMBLEM.

NEW! PURPLE HEART MEDAL NOW AVAILABLE!



Caseback engraved with your initials and years served.



NAVY

AIR FORCE



MARINE CORPS



COAST GUARD



MERCHANT MARINE

FOR FASTEST SERVICE CALL TOLL FREE TO ORDER: 1-800-255-3048

Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm EST Have Credit Card ready when ordering.

ORDER FORM

OR, MAIL TO: Veterans Commemoratives™ Watch Order Center
Two Radnor Corporate Center, Suite 120, Radnor, PA 19087-4599

YES. I wish to order the following Korean War Service Watch, featuring my service branch emblem, Korean War Medal and Ribbon, and my initials and years of service engraved on the caseback.

SERVICE BRANCH: Army Navy Air Force Marine
 Coast Guard Merchant Marine

INITIALS DESIRED (3): _____ **YRS. SERVED:** _____ to _____

I AM A PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT, Please put my medal on my watchband.
NOTE: A copy of your DD214 must be sent with your order. Thank You.

I WISH TO PAY AS FOLLOWS:

- Enclosed is my check or money order for \$125* per watch payable to "Veterans Commemoratives" as payment in full, or
- Charge my credit card \$125* per watch as payment in full, or
- Charge my credit card in 2 monthly installments of \$62.50* each.

Credit Card: VISA MASTER CARD AMEX exp. ___/___/___

CC# _____

SIGNATURE _____

Daytime Phone # (_____) _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS (WE CANNOT SHIP TO P.O. BOXES)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

Phone # _____

ALLOW 4-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.

* PLUS \$7.95 PER WATCH FOR ENGRAVING, S&H.
* PA RESIDENTS ADD 6% (\$7.98) SALES TAX.

MED80-GRB-0406

©2004 VETCOM, INC.

PRESIDENT from page 3

Korea.

HOW MANY MEN (AND/OR THEIR FAMILIES) SUFFERED HEALTH AND ECONOMIC DAMAGES BECAUSE THEY HAD NO ADVOCATE? INCALCULABLE! I care, as we all should, I believe.

Another example is the concern and actions, only within the past three to five years, regarding cold weather injuries for Korea Vets, other than those of the 1st MARDIV and attached units, Nov-Dec 1950. (1stMARDIV had an advocate, the Chosin Few, for a select and narrow group of Korea Vets).

Yes, any of the other organizations composed overwhelmingly of WWII veterans—and more lately Vietnam Veterans (no frost bite in Nam)—could have, *could have*, COULD HAVE jumped in the gap. They did not do so. They are not advocates for the Korea War and Korea Service Vets. Shoulda, *woulda*, COULDA! Korea War and Korea Service vets, catch as catch can.

This whole argument is wasted effort and self-serving, carried on by those who want to see the KWVA disappear and the status quo continue—to hell with those who perish or suffer as a consequence.

There may be some practical reasons why we can't afford to be a federally chartered VSO—there are NO mission and purpose reasons supporting refusing to do what we can to become one.

I received a call and letter from a member in Arizona Friday, May 10th. "Lou, the US Army has just issued a press release of all friendly fire casual-

ties of WWII, VN, and Desert Storm. Korea War omitted. Is this their policy?" My answer would have to be that we have been kept so invisible at the VA, Dept of Defense, before and after the 50th Commemoration, and Washington, DC, that they don't even omit us intentionally—we just do not even exist!

You might say, "Lou, you are overstating the case, aren't you?" No, I am not! Last Veterans Day, and the one before, every public newspaper in Washington area ran special coverage on the Vietnam Memorial and the WWII Memorial. Not a mm of print on the Korea Memorial.

Two years ago the new \$23 million Smithsonian exhibit opened to a "black tie" invitation reception—several hundred were there (I was there with my wife). The Exhibit's name is "America through the Wars." You start with roughly three magnificent hallways on the Revolutionary War with many of General Washington's personal items on display. You pass through a little of 1812, a lot of Civil War, some WWI, a lot of WWII—by this time you have covered 2/3 of the entire exhibit area. You pass through a narrow hallway roughly 12 feet long which is the Korean War (it is simply designated "Cold War"—what a slight to Korea Veterans, and every other veteran 1950 to 1990!)- and then the rest of the floor is devoted to the Vietnam War with a real Huey unloading, etc. as the leadoff.

It is as though nearly 37,000 dead, 8,000 missing, in three years, and all of the territory we defended, retained, and

grew into the world's ninth largest economy- communism's first defeat in open combat with the West - was nothing compared to THE VIETNAM WAR, 58,000 killed and 4,000 missing in ten years! And free Vietnam perished in 1975!

Something is wrong with that picture, even though it is indicative of the attitude that we have allowed to birth and grow in this country regarding the Korea War. Heck, even the name which few of us have protested—Korean War—implies that some one else, some other nation, fought it. It was an American War.

Good Lord, to the veteran who needs help, this is not an academic pursuit, fellow members; it is reality.

Let me be clear, and then I will close. In the election campaign of 2003-2004 I stated, and wrote on the screen of a discussion group, that a charter was of no consequence to me personally. But, after becoming President, I found out that it is a very important matter to thousands of good men, members and non-members alike, who were unwilling to have the sacrifices of themselves and their buddies slighted by the US Government.

I spent seven months in combat in Korea, yes, but then I spent four combat tours in Vietnam, a combat mission in Bolivia, a stint in Romania when it wasn't cool to be in Romania—so I did not—and do not—need Korea as my combat credential. But I find men everyday who gave their guts for this country in KOREA—and some of their families who are still grieving their guts out—because WE have allowed the US Government to ignore those sacrifices, from 1950 until this very day.

Millions of Korea Vets (to the public and the governments of the world we represent them all, not just the 17,000 who have paid up) deserve our service to get a Federal Charter or die trying. I intend to try to measure up to all Korea vets and will die trying. That memorial on the Mall is just as much theirs as it is mine.

Surely, those who cannot join in that mission of honor require a heart check,

Check Your Mailing Label

Membership Number
First two characters reflect membership type

Membership Dues Expiration Date. The example shows a dues date of January 1st, 2006

*****5 Digit
R012345 01/01/06
JOHN J. JOHN
12345 MAIN ST
SMILEY NY 01234-5678
DELIVERY POINT BARCODE

Important: If barcode does not extend across full label, your zip code does not have 9 digits and your address is not correct according to the USPS. Contact your local Post Office for proper format.

Check your name and address (Apt./Bldg/Lot No.). Notify the Membership Chairman if you find an error. **If your zip code does not contain 9 digits (zip+4)**, your address is not correct according to the USPS. Contact your local Post Office for proper format.

BONDS OF BANDS OF BROTHERS



Cpl Mick Bekowsky

Cpl Bekowsky, of Concord, CA, was killed in action on September 6, 2004, in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Bn., 1st Regt., 1st Marine Division at the time. Fittingly, the City of Concord held a service on March 20, 2005, to “recognize the service and sacrifice of its young men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States.” As the invitation to the ceremony noted, “The first proclamation will be presented posthumously to a fallen hero, Marine Corporal Mick Bekowsky.”

There is no doubt that the bonds between bands of brothers when it comes to war and military service are strong. Chapter 264, Mt. Diablo [CA] demonstrated that a while back when it participated in a “Recognition of Service” ceremony for Mick Bekowsky.

Chapter 264 members were in abundance at the ceremony. MajGen Daniel C. Helix, U.S. Army (Ret) was guest speaker, and chapter member Dave McDonald helped with the arrangements



▲ Guest Speaker Dan Helix at left, and Bekowsky “Program Instigator” Dave McDonald (right) before the ceremony begins



▲ Dave McDonald (left) presents plaque to Cpl Bekowsky's brother who accepts on behalf of the Bekowsky family



▲ (R-L) Mike Bekowsky's family with Concord Council Member William Shinn

▼ Dignitaries of Concord at Bekowsky ceremony. Blue Star mother Debi Saunders stands in middle to left of Dave McDonald



▼ Some #264 members in attendance at Bekowsky ceremony, with Tom Dupin at front right

▶ #264 President Peter Muller, Adjutant Don Scose, Ed Koch in VFW cap attend Bekowsky ceremony





I get a lot of letters regarding *The Graybeards*. I will answer two in this column, since they concern some of our journalistic guidelines. (Note that I am including some of those guidelines in this and future issues.)

Leave The "Layout" To Us

We had the honor of participating in the return of our departed veteran, Pfc. Lowell W. Bellar, who was KIA on December 1st, 1950. However, Bellar, who served in combat with the 7th Inf. Div. at the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea, was listed MIA until April 2005.

I laid out the pictures of us attending the return ceremony. It took me four hours to lay them out. The picture of Pfc. Bellamy was not in *The Graybeards*. The newspaper clipping was also sent to you. The whole program was laid out from "1" to "6." What happened? This is no way to treat a Korean War veteran coming home after 55 years.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here is a general response to anyone submitting material to *The Graybeards*. Please do not waste your time doing a "lay out" for us. The layout is the job of the publisher and the editor—mostly the publisher.

Regarding photos, we do not print every photo that we receive. Generally, if a photo does not add anything to a story, or duplicates another one, we do not use it. And, we do limit as much as possible the number of photos in order to provide equitable use of space. One photo eliminated from a batch means that another individual or chapter gets a photo included.

In short, submit as much information and as many photos as you want as the background for stories, chapter news, etc., but, again, please leave the layout to us

I Made A Special Effort....

On July 27, 2005, the KWVA of New Jersey conducted its annual ceremony at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City. I made a special effort to have the photos printed and story written within 72 hours and into the post office to your address.

It wasn't in the September-October issue or the November-December issue. Is there a

...submit your news when it is ready. Rushing to the photo shop and the post office is not necessary, unless the news is of extreme urgency to the entire KWVA.

problem with that submission?

EDITOR'S NOTE: No. But, let me explain what happens with chapter news (and with other news in general).

We have almost 300 KWVA chapters. Most of them compete for the available space in *The Graybeards*. Some of them are more aggressive than others in submitting material. My goal is to fit in as much chapter material as possible. In order to be fair, I rotate the chapters. I maintain a spreadsheet on which I keep track of which chapters are included in which issue. That way, no one chapter gets into every issue. Moreover, our chapter guru, Jake Feaster, keeps tabs on me as a sort of an advocate for the chapters.

As each envelope arrives in the mail, I write the date received on it and place it in my "To be published" file. The combination of "Date Received" and" chapter spreadsheet gives me some control over which chapters get into each issue. It may not be a perfect system, but chapters do get their news in with regularity—albeit not in every issue. (Note that some chapter news appears in other sections, e.g., "Tell America" and

"Monuments.")

So, the bottom line is this: submit your news when it is ready. Rushing to the photo shop and the post office is not necessary, unless the news is of extreme urgency to the entire KWVA. The rotation system is working well. There were 96 individual chapters and 5 departments recognized in 2005. Several of the chapters included in this issue were not included at all in 2005. Send in your news: we'll get it into *The Graybeards* as soon as we can.

Incidentally, in the Jan/Feb issue I offered copies of my out-of-print collection of essays, "Thoughts I Think When I Wasn't Thinking," for sale for \$10.00 a copy, including postage and handling. I got a nice response. In fact, I just sent a large check to our treasurer. (The check itself is large. The amount is not. We can't suspend other fund-raising operations, though. What I sent won't keep the association afloat for long.)

As you may recall, I promised to donate 20% of the proceeds for each book to the KWVA. That offer stands. I have a few more copies for sale. Anyone who wants one of the few remaining copies is invited to send \$10.00 to me at 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067. That covers shipping, handling, the cost of the large check to be submitted to our treasury...everything. And you will be helping the KWVA in the process.

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

In this issue we will start a series on editorial guidelines to give our readers an idea of what to submit to *The Graybeards*, how to submit it, etc. Please save the guidelines for future reference.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE REPRINTS

Many members submit copies of newspaper articles and request that we reprint them in *The Graybeards*. We cannot reprint newspaper articles without the original publisher's permission in writing. To publish articles without written permission would be a violation of copyright laws, which can be costly to the KWVA.

And, if we do get permission, it is often at a cost that we are not willing to absorb. For example, some newspapers will grant us permission to reprint their articles for a fee, some as high as \$150.00 per article. That does not fit into our budget.

If readers want to submit articles for reprint, we ask that they obtain permission in writing from the original publisher and submit it along with the article. That way, we are covered against any legal actions.



Jeff Brodeur, Recruiting Committee Chairman

KWVA Membership Recruiting Report

By Jeff Brodeur

On April 21, the KWVA reached the KWVA recruiting quota of 105 new members per month—with 9 days to go in April. We finished the month of April with 148 total new members.

We set a conservative quota of 100 new members a month after the 2005 KWVA National Convention in Bossier City LA. We raised it to 105 in January 2006. This minimum figure would put us at around the same number of new members, which we set at just under 1,304 as the goal for total new members in 2005.

I was not sure how the new decals, posters, and flyer program would work out. As I said at 2005 KWVA National Convention, I was hoping for a ripple effect. We have started to see that ripple. We have made our quota 7 months in a row—since about the time the task force started brainstorming.

We have 560 total new members for the year as of April 30, 2006. We estimate that at that rate we will add 1,680 new members, a big increase over the 1,304 total for 2005. Of those 560 new members added from Jan- April 30, 50 have become KWVA Life members. We have now experienced triple digit figures of new members for seven consecutive months. That had not happened since September 2001—five years ago.

The word is starting to spread about the KWVA. I have seen a renewed interest in Korea and the KWVA by the members and the public. The public is starting to realize that we still have troops in Korea, and that many have died preserving freedom since the Armistice was signed.

Many chapters have ordered posters and decals which they have put up in various veterans posts and VA hospitals throughout the country. Many have placed ads in local newspapers, and appeared on cable TV or radio. Each time we get a decal, patch, hat, flyer, poster, or attend a ceremony or event, it gets the KWVA's existence out there.

We have received thousands of renewals. Many members were confused on the renewal process. Others who have not renewed live on fixed incomes and were cutting costs. Some of our members have passed on; others have become ill and had to enter assisted living and nursing facilities. Not a member I spoke with who was not renewing did so because they were dissatisfied with the way the KWVA was being run. I called many of those members personally, while others assisted me in calling them.

We have members stationed in Korea now joining the KWVA. We have post war veterans joining the KWVA. We have Korea War veterans joining the KWVA who have never heard of the KWVA.

We have a big pool of Korea veterans from which to recruit. Many of these younger post war veterans had never

known that they could join the KWVA until President Lou Dechert and Director Jim Ferris created the KWVA Recruiting Committee in mid-2005.

I am hoping we finish out the year of 2006 with 2000 new members. We can do this if the chapters go all out and make a serious effort, as did the Maine chapters, Texas chapters #215, #270, and #298, KVA Chapter #299, Finger Lakes, Chapter #67 in New York, Indiana Chapter #30, Florida Chapter#188, CENLA Chapter #180, Hawaii chapters, and the Departments of Florida, New York, New Jersey, South Carolina, Virginia, and Texas. These departments and chapters are going all out to get the word to all Korea veterans that they are welcome to join the KWVA.

Two thousand new members for the year 2006 is a realistic goal if every member recruits one new member. Let's pick up the pace!!!!

Mrs. Norris Receives New Past President Pin

Chairmen and National Directors James Ferris and Jeff Brodeur pinned a new KWVA Past President Pin on Mrs. Clara Norris at the KWVA NY Convention on May 11, 2006.

Mrs Norris was in attendance with her son John Norris and her grandchildren. Mrs Norris was given the new pin from the KWVA Recruiting Committee on behalf of her husband, KWVA founder William Norris.

Mrs Norris will be at the Gathering in Washington DC, where she will be honored on July 27 by the KWVA on behalf of her husband KWVA Founder Bill Norris. (There is an article about Bill Norris in this issue of *The Graybeards* starting on page 32.

Commander Ray Waldron and the Adirondack Chapter #60 hosted the KWVA NY Convention, which included well over 100 members and wives in attendance. It was a great convention for everyone in attendance.



James Ferris and Jeff Brodeur pin new KWVA Past President Pin on Mrs. Clara Norris

KWVA Management Information System

KWVA Database Information and Statistics of Interest

To: KWVA Chapter Presidents
Attn: KWVA Members

The KWVA Management Information System is in full operation and is able to provide data to the National, Department and Chapter Staff on a "need to know basis." It consists of the:

- [1] KWVA website
- [2] KWVA Department and Chapter data base
- [3] KWVA Membership data base

During the past two years, these three electronic systems have been merged to provide instant and more accurate information concerning our Association than has ever been available in the past.

Have you visited our KWVA web site at www.kwva.org? A portion of this information system is available to KWVA members and the public at large who have access to the worldwide internet system. There you are able to view information concerning title, name, address, phone number, mailing address and email address of KWVA National Staff, Department Presidents, and Chapter Presidents. You can also locate where, when and what time the chapters meet.

This information is updated daily by the Webmaster, Supervisor of Membership Records Management, and the Membership Recording Secretary. The information can be found on the web site by clicking on these two links, "Directory of Officials" and "Dept/Chapter List" found in the center of the dark blue bar just under the flag.

In order to keep this information up to date, it is necessary that Department and Chapter staff report the date of their elections and the officers' names and titles as provided for in the bylaws and procedures manual. Presently, that information is to be sent to: "Supervisor of Membership Records Management," preferably by email, to the address listed in *The Graybeards* and on the KWVA website.

Here are some interesting statistics that may be of interest to you. It is obtainable on a daily basis as needed by those staff with a higher level of authorized access.

As of 5/11/06:

[1] there are 13 active departments, 232 active chapters, 207 chapters with email address contact, 224 chapters whose president's dues are current, 191 chapters have reported their election information, 10 departments and 168 chapters have been issued passwords to access their membership records in the data base and print their own rosters.

[2] there were 17,058 KWVA voting members, of whom 10,460 were reported as being assigned to chapters. 447 Associate members and 291 of these were in chapters. Included in the 17,058 KWVA members, 6,635 are Lifetime Members, 346 are Ex-POWs, 16 are Medal of Honor recipients, and 43 are Gold Star Members.

There are an undetermined number of chapter officers who are not current in their membership dues.

[3] Approximately 1,000 annual members have not renewed their membership for the current year.

Though some of the statistics above don't look positive, this has been a year of steady improvement. With your support I believe that we can accomplish the goals listed below.

Desirable goals this year are to:
 1) have 100% of the Department and Chapter Presidents current in their dues.

2) decrease the number of Departments and Chapters without email communication.

3) have 100% reporting of Department and Chapter Elections and Meeting Information.

4) have every Department and Chapter that has email communication capable of accessing and printing their membership rosters directly from the password-protected section of the web site.

5) reduce the number of membership non-renewals to less than 500.

Yours for a better KWVA,

*Jake Feaster, KWVA Supervisor
 Membership Records Management
 Ass't Secretary: JFeaster@kwva.org*

300 Deploy to South Korea Korean War Veterans...

Was this you in 1950, '51, '52, '53?

Families and loved ones of service members, were these YOUR loved ones on their way to becoming only a painful memory in your broken hearts? 39,000* KILLED, OVER 8,000 STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR!

** Includes 2,400 since 1954*

The headline above appeared in the May 5, 2006 *El Paso Times*. The troops referenced are from Fort Bliss, Texas—and such deployments happen often from many bases around the world. The Korea War goes on.

.....

Honor the Sacrifices of Veterans and Current Service Members

Only a relative few have voted to support Korea veterans during the current 109th Congress. To those few, we say thank you. They have learned the lesson that we bought in blood in Korea: FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

Only a relative few have voted to support Korea veterans during the current 109th Congress. To those few, we say thank you ...

It is regrettable that their colleagues have never bothered to learn that lesson regardless of how many times they may utter the words.

Louis T. Dechert|
 National President, KWVA/US
 Co-Chairman and Founder,
 US Federation of Korea Veterans
 Organizations
 Western Hemisphere Member,
 Executive Council,
 International Federation of Korean
 War Veterans Associations



Report from the National Legislative Director

By Roy J. Burkhart



Roy Burkhart, National Legislative Director (L), with CID# 4 Commander Louis Vukovich (R)

I was pleased to be asked to speak to the Edward W. Rhoads Chapter (CID 4) of the KWVA of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona on Saturday, March 25, 2006. Commander Louis Vukovich asked me to brief the membership on the status of our federal charter.

I gave them a brief summary of events on the charter effort, to date, and explained that S1512 and HR3476 have not made it to the floor in either the House

of the Senate for a vote, and that the bills have not made it out of committee effort. The members expressed sincere interest in the effort and asked how they could help.

I explained that we need co-sponsors on the bill, and asked them to contact their national delegation to request that they co-sponsor the respective bills. Commander Vukovich has already contacted the senators for Arizona and his representative on behalf of the chapter.

He and I gave them some tips on what sort of letter to send, and suggested that they would get better attention if their letters were hand written, rather than in a "canned form letter" format. There was a great deal of interest, with many members going away saying they would write their delegation as soon as possible. This would be a great effort for any chapters that haven't participated yet, and whose members might be reading this article.

The hospitality at the Tucson meeting was outstanding—and they make really great coffee! It was interesting to learn from them that there are over 80,000 Korean veterans in Arizona.

The chapter is looking forward to its summer picnic. Senator McCain is expected to speak to them at the picnic. Until next time, let us all work on getting as many co-sponsors as possible. Let's try to get every member reading this to write their delegation, today.

Status of SB1512 and HR3476

(And what you can do to help)

Congratulations to Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, for having 100% of their House of Representatives delegations signed on as Co-Sponsors of HR3476 (as of KWVA webpage 05-09-06).

Also, congratulations to Alaska, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, and Oregon for having 100% of their Senators signed on as Co-Sponsors of SB1512 (as of KWVA webpage 05-09-06).

The status of our SB1512 and HR3476 to achieve our Federal Charter is still the same. It is still in the Judiciary

Committee. There is much each of you members can do to help move these bills through committee to the floor to be approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Correspond with your Senators and Representatives in your respective states and encourage them to become co-sponsors of the two bills, if they haven't already signed on as a co-sponsor. Point out to them that other veteran organizations have been granted a Federal Charter, but we are being left out. Add that we are the only veterans organization directly involved in a war that has not been granted a Federal Charter, while "splinter groups" have been awarded a Charter. Emphasize that the granting of the Federal Charter would be at no cost to the federal government.

One argument that has come up when we ask about the Charter is that Congress does not have sufficient oversight to ensure that all Federal Charter holding organizations spend their funds in the best interest of the group's membership. That was the reason I was given for the moratorium on the granting of charters when I was in Washington in January. I contend that if there is a problem in the laws to provide adequate oversight for Federal Charters, Congress should change the laws, not deny a group such as ours their Charter.

Additionally, something should be done to allow the existing chartered organizations to continue operating with proper oversight. Please write your letters and ask your Congressional delegation to allow our Federal Charter to come to the floor for a vote, not get left behind, again, in committee. We've earned the right to be given an "UP" or "DOWN" vote, based on the merits of our organization.

Another way we can get action is to write letters to the editors of your local papers and call in to various talk radio shows in your areas telling the public about our being the only war time veterans group not federally chartered. Ask people who share our concern to also write their Senators and Representatives in our behalf. We need to use all avenues to get our message out.

Thanks once again for the support you show our organization and its leadership. Following is information to help you contact your Congressional delegates:

- To check on the status of your respective states and who is signed on, go to: <http://www.kwva.org>
- To get information for contacting your Senators, go to <http://www.senate.gov/>
- To get information for contacting your Representatives: go to <http://www.house.gov>.
- To contact all the other Representatives in your state, go to the same address as above for the House of Representatives webpage. There is a blue colored strip that runs down the left side of the page. About a third of the way down there is House Directory. Click on that line. When the next page comes up, Click on the arrow at 'Choose a State,' and then click on your state's name. You will get a list of all the Representatives in your state. You get to them by clicking on their name.

Last Call



All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

ALABAMA

- ★ Abel Hasper
- ★ Eugene W. Holland
- ★ Robert Bruce Yielding

ALASKA

- ★ Glenn Smart

CALIFORNIA

- ★ Fred L. Daniels
- ★ Lillian M. Keil
- ★ Robert F. Whalen

CONNECTICUT

- ★ Allen G. Gouthro
- ★ Louis C. Poitras
- ★ Frederick C. Schmalung

DELAWARE

- ★ Edward A. Clungeon
- ★ Harold E. Powers

FLORIDA

- ★ Charles Lee Beatty
- ★ Joel Brandwein
- ★ Anthony DeCaprio
- ★ Donald J. Like
- ★ Laverne Maxwell
- ★ Frank Snow
- ★ Douglas A. Tanner
- ★ Donald A. Trout
- ★ Prince A. Wiginton

GEORGIA

- ★ Samuel T. Hadden
- ★ Paul M. La Pierre
- ★ Paul H. Madden
- ★ Augustus J. Shupe, Jr.

HAWAII

- ★ Peter L. Birch

IDAHO

- ★ David B. Bleak MOH

ILLINOIS

- ★ Lawrence J. Santoro

INDIANA

- ★ Roger W. Austin
- ★ Ronald L. Baker
- ★ James C. Barbieri
- ★ Ira "Hal" Biers
- ★ James Roberts
- ★ Lloyd Saatoff
- ★ Sherman L. Senger

MAINE

- ★ Wayne A. Grant
- ★ Clifford O. Royal
- ★ John T. C. Strout

MARYLAND

- ★ Robert U. Coleman
- ★ Edward Hechmer
- ★ George P. Kingsteele

MASSACHUSETTS

- ★ John Robert Armstrong
- ★ G. Gahr Finney
- ★ John Gonsalves
- ★ Frederick J. Pilat
- ★ Bruce C. Thompson
- ★ George H. Walsh

MICHIGAN

- ★ John Couperthwaite
- ★ Alvin H. Phipps

MINNESOTA

- ★ Clayton C. Pyle

MISSOURI

- ★ William L. Sparks

NEVADA

- ★ Richard J. Patrick

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- ★ Roger N. Maxfield

NEW JERSEY

- ★ Angelo Cirillo
- ★ Myong Choi Lee

NEW MEXICO

- ★ Robert E. Anderson

NEW YORK

- ★ William F. Dey, Jr.
- ★ Francis A. Fitzgerald
- ★ George J. Fonda

- ★ Frank P. Fonseca
- ★ George T. Ganey, Jr.
- ★ Lacy W. Lake
- ★ William Pyper
- ★ Joseph Ricciardi
- ★ Frederick R. Shute
- ★ Thomas J. Slabowski
- ★ William M. Stanton
- ★ John F. Tuzzio

NORTH CAROLINA

- ★ Nina B. Redditt

OHIO

- ★ Robert D. Anderson
- ★ Mack Bentley
- ★ Norville B. Finney
- ★ Armando Gomez
- ★ Leroy C. Kosteki
- ★ John C. Vesco
- ★ Frank A. Vespasian, Jr.

OREGON

- ★ Omar Dean Davis
- ★ Edward James Gause

PENNSYLVANIA

- ★ Kenneth E. Hartzell
- ★ Peter G. Knox
- ★ William F. Shovlin

RHODE ISLAND

- ★ John J. Baldwin, Jr.
- ★ George M. Woods, Sr.

SOUTH CAROLINA

- ★ Dallas Hammack

TEXAS

- ★ Richard C. Ploch
- ★ Jack J. Russell
- ★ John S. Ylinen

VIRGINIA

- ★ Robert B. Carleson
- ★ Miller R. Whetzel

WISCONSIN

- ★ Wilfred J. Ruff

WYOMING

- ★ Richard E. Cole

Death Notice of a Member of KWVA

The following notice is submitted for publication:

Name of deceased _____

Date of death _____

Department/Chapter _____

Address _____

Army Navy Marine Corps Air Force Coast Guard

Other _____

Primary Unit of service during Korean War

Submitted by _____

Relationship to deceased _____

Send to: Membership, P.O. Box 101238, Arlington, VA 22210

Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA)

2006 National Convention ♦♦ 8 – 11 October

EL TROPICANO HOTEL

110 Lexington Avenue, San Antonio, Texas 78205
800-288-3927



REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE: 24 SEPT 2006

Name _____ Nickname: _____

Spouse/Guest(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Service: Army Navy Marine Corps Air Force

Major Unit Assigned in Service: _____ Years in Korea: _____ Ex-POW? _____

Personal Awards: Army DSC Navy/Marine Cross Silver Star Bronze Star AF Cross Purple Heart
Other _____

KWVA Chapter No. _____ National KWVA Member: Yes No Member No. _____

If you are KWVA MOH, Registration, lunch/banquet fees will be complimentary

REGISTRATION & EVENTS

			# of People	Price	Total
Registration Fee:	For Member (No registration fee for spouse/guests).....	1	1	\$25	\$25
OCTOBER 8	Travel – Hospitality Room**				
OCTOBER 9	Registration** Hospitality Room** – Open Day				
	Do the River Barge (Barge at the Hotel Riverside)				
	ALAMO is six blocks away - See the ALAMO - Dinner on Your Own				
	2:00 PM	Ladies Get Acquainted** (Hospitality Room)			
OCTOBER 10	9:00 AM	Opening Ceremony** – Memorial Service (All are welcome)			
	10:00 AM	**Board of Directors' Meeting			
	12:30	PM MEXICAN BUFFET LUNCH**	_____	\$15 =	\$ _____
	1:30 PM	**Reconvene Board Meeting			
		Evening on Your Own-- Have Dinner at one of San Antonio's Great Restaurants.			
OCTOBER 11	9:00 AM	**General Membership Meeting			
	12:30 PM	Lunch Break			
	1:30 PM	Reconvene General Membership Meeting**			
OCTOBER 11	6:00 PM	BANQUET** (Select meal choice)			
Choices:	#1	Texas Bar B Q.....	_____	\$30	\$ _____
	#2	Breast of Chicken with Champagne Sauce.....	_____	\$30	\$ _____
Please send checks only — NO Credit card!				Total:	\$ _____

** Denotes Functions that are held at El Tropicano Hotel

Make a copy of this form for your records. Total your activity cost and make check payable to: "KWVA 2006." Send your Registration Form and your check to: **Richard E. Hare, Treasurer, Korean War Veterans Association**
1260 South Hampton Drive, Alexandria, LA 71303 (Phone: 318-487-9716)

HOTEL RESERVATION: Make your own reservation as soon as possible. Price \$100/night (single or double occupancy) plus tax. Call El Tropicano Hotel at 800-288-3927 and advise "KWVA Convention.." Hotel has no airport shuttle. Use San Antonio Trans Hotel Shuttle Service, Roundtrip [\$24] or Taxi [\$25]

Revised: 23 May 06 JLF

ALL MAJOR AIRLINES SERVE SAN ANTONIO

Form may be downloaded from www.kwva.org. Other information regarding the convention is also available at the website



POW/MIA Update

by Marty O'Brien

POW/MIA UPDATE

On March 30, President Lou Dechert attended a meeting in Washington, D.C., hosted by Mr. Robert Newberry, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for POW/MIA Affairs. Others present were representatives from POW/MIA family and veteran groups.

Hot topics included personnel appointments, the current shortfall in the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) budget for fiscal year 2006, and a potential reduction in budget for FY 2007. Colonel George Gagnon, USAF, was named the Principal Director of the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO).

On April 25, President George W. Bush announced his intention to designate retired USAF General Robert H. Foglesong of West Virginia to be Co-Chairman of the United States-Russian Joint Commission on POW/MIA. As of this writing, the appointment of a permanent DASD for POW/MIA Affairs remains pending.

According to a July 13, 2005 DPMO report, the total number of remains that had not been accounted for totaled 8,114. Still a long way to go. Meanwhile, the families wait!

CPL HENRY D. CONNELL IS BURIED WITH HONORS

Joe Kalesnik, treasurer of Chapter 187, Western Massachusetts 2000 Chapter, reported that the remains of Corporal Connell, Hampden, MA, were interred with full military honors on May 13 at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Springfield. The journey home took 55 years.

CPL Connell's remains were identified after a decades-long Army recovery and forensic effort. CPL Connell was a member of Co L, 3d Bn, 8th Cav Regt, 1st Cav Div. He was seriously wounded on September 2, 1950.

At dusk on November 1, 1950, two Chinese divisions launched a surprise assault on two battalions of the 8th Cavalry and one ROK regiment. When the battle was over, in addition to ROK casualties, some 1,000 men of the 8th Cavalry were killed and some 400 were captured. On November 2, 1950, 17-year-old Corporal Connell was listed as MIA and later presumed dead.

PLACE OF HONOR

On April 29, "Tiger Survivor" Wilbert "Shorty" Estabrook, who now resides in San Antonio, Texas, rode in a place of honor in the city's annual Fiesta Parade. More than one half million people lined the parade route. Every branch of service was represented in the parade. Many other units participated, including Alamo re-enactors, ROTC units and a number of bugle and drum corps.

San Antonio is a great "veteran" town, with Lackland AFB; Brooke Army Medical Center; Fort Sam Houston; Randolph AFB and Kelly Field nearby.

HIERARCHY OF WHEELS

The following item comes to us via courtesy of Jack Chapman, president of the Korean War Ex-POW Association. Jack said that its

origin is unknown to him, but that it originated at Kanggye, a city located in central Korea, about 20 miles south of the Yalu River.

The city was the site of the first POW indoctrination center of the political department of the Chinese Army. Some 50 years later, the item was published in the *Saturday Evening Post*:

"Do you remember when the Chinese would assemble us and the "high commanders" would harangue us? We would huddle in the freezing cold and listen to speeches that were sometimes three hours long or more, counting the pauses for translation from Chinese into English.

"Remember how we learned to tell how long a man would speak by the way he was dressed? If he wore a fur cap with a leather bill, he was just a little wheel and wouldn't talk very long.

"If he wore a fur cap with a leather bill and had a wrist watch and a fountain pen, he was a medium-sized wheel and might speak for an hour or two.

"If he wore a fur cap with a leather bill, a leather jacket, had a wrist watch, a fountain pen and if he smoked tailor-made cigarettes and had a small boy bring him hot tea as he talked, he was a big wheel, probably straight out of Peking, and we might have to huddle there in the cold the better part of a day."

IN ENEMY HANDS - TWICE [CONTINUED]

In addition to military prisoners of war in Korea, several civilian internees had been captured and imprisoned more than once:

Nell Dyer, of Arkansas, was a Methodist missionary who went to Korea in 1927 to teach. In the late 1930s, as war clouds loomed in Asia, she went to the Philippines only to be captured by the Japanese there and interned for three and a half years. After that experience, she returned to Korea to teach school in Kaesong, only to be arrested by the North Korean secret police shortly after the 1950 invasion.

She was taken North with other detainees and eventually her group joined the infamous "Death March" with a group of American POW. She was on hand when the leader of their captors, a North Korean major dubbed "The Tiger" by the POW, murdered Lt. Cordus H. Thornton, of Longview, Texas, in cold blood.

Despite being treated harshly while interned, Nell, who survived her captivity, was repatriated in the spring of 1953, and lived until the ripe old age of 97.

Ernst Kisch, a native of Vienna, Austria, spent time in both Buchenwald and Dachau. After the war, he joined the Methodist Mission in China. When the Communists took over China, he went to the United States and worked as an orderly in a NYC hospital. The US refused to give him immigration status, so he went to Korea and joined the Methodist Mission at Kaesong.

Dr. Kisch also was a witness to the many cruelties visited upon the POW on the death march and in the camps. In poor health, he died at Andong, North Korea, on June 28, 1951, just one year after his capture at Kaesong.

Martin J. O'Brien, 27 Meadow Rd. #202, Augusta, ME 04330, (207) 623-1103, CavKVet50@aol.com. Please visit www.kwva.org/pow_mia/index.htm.

The History of the Korean War Veterans Gathering

By Jack Cloman

For some time, Korean War veterans have raised questions concerning the KWV Gathering. Here is a bit of background.

In 1985, Bill Norris and volunteer helpers put together a small group of Korean War veterans. He labeled this informal group as the KWV Gathering. A number of members came from the 25th Division Association, of which Bill was a member. (See the Bill Norris story, page 32, in this issue.). It was confirmed that plans were in place to bring this band of old warriors together in Washington, D.C. on 25-28 July at the West Park Hotel, Rosslyn, VA. There were approximately 55 Korean War veterans present; a few fellows brought their wives.

Their purpose was to be at Arlington National Cemetery for an official Military Department of Washington Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, followed by a Memorial Service in the Amphitheater to honor those who made the supreme sacrifice, and to remember our POWs and MIAs.

Let's backtrack for a moment. In 1984, Bill Norris and a 25th Division Association friend, who had both served in F Company, 27th Inf Regt, were brought together: Joe McCallion, from Massachusetts, and Bill Norris, from New York. They gathered a small group of Korean War veterans. That prompted the idea to bring together Korean War veterans in their home towns and states.

They and their supporters soon put together a number of Korean War veterans. Bill Norris made the statement to Korean War veterans: "In Halfmoon, New York, we have, with Massachusetts, enough veterans to form an association."

With encouragement, Bill wrote a Charter and By-Laws based on the 25th Division Association, and filed the paperwork at the New York State capitol in March of 1985. At the same time, Joe McCallion was working on a Tribute and Recognition of Korean War Veterans at the State House, Boston, Massachusetts.

That was the vision they had that began

the formation of a chapter of Korean War veterans in the 25th Division Association of Veterans in the New England area. Then came a bigger idea that led to the first Gathering in Washington, D.C.—and a national association.

Earlier, I said the KWV Gathering and the KWVA became one because Bill Norris came to Washington (Rosslyn, VA) with an approved Charter for a Korean War Veterans Association in the State of New York that was approved on 25 June 1985. Bill called a meeting on 26 July at 2 p.m. to discuss the New York Charter and the coming together of Korean War veterans in Boston, Massachusetts. There were ideas to share with the small band of brothers to get their input and advice.

After listening to Bill and what had transpired in the past (all of which was news to those attending), Bill asked, "Do you think we should make an effort to begin a national association?"

The consensus was, "Yes! How could we leave here without agreeing to start a national association?"

So, it was on 26 July 1985 that the National Korean War Veterans Association was formed by an enthusiastic group of Korean War veterans. (Again, see the Bill Norris story for the reason Bill became so involved in the desire to start a national association).

At that initial meeting, 39 individuals signed a paper showing their presence and paid \$10.00 for one year's dues. Bill Norris was to be the first President, in addition to being the editor of *The Graybeards*.

In 1986 the Korean War Veterans Association members returned to Rosslyn, VA, with those who were present in 1985. A few more were added. They, too, became Association members. Each year we return to Washington, D.C. and Arlington National Cemetery.

During the ten-year period of 1985-1994, a Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington was held with full honors, followed by a ceremony at the Amphitheater. In 1987, the "No Greater Love Bench of Remembrance" was dedicated (See the

Bill Norris story). Since 1987, the Memorial Ceremony and Laying of Mums at the KWV Bench of Remembrance have continued each year.

In 1989 the Association set up its Reunion Headquarters at the Sheraton National Hotel. In 1992 the National Association left the D.C. area and held a Reunion in Reno, Nevada, with the understanding that National would return to the D.C. area in 1995 for the Memorial Dedication. A decision to leave Washington, D.C. was made because there wasn't a Memorial in D.C. And, for the betterment of the Association, the Reno location gave National an opportunity to sign up members in the western part of the United States.

When the word went out, there were a number of veterans and their wives who made their decision that they wanted to continue coming to Washington, D.C. each year. Bill Norris made the announcement, "We will continue to stay in Washington, D.C. on 25-28 July until the Memorial is built, as previously voted on by the membership." The KWV Gathering remained at the Sheraton National Hotel, 1989 through 1999, a period of eleven years.

In 1995, National returned to Washington, D.C. for the Korean War Veterans Memorial Dedication. The Gathering chose to remain at the Sheraton National Hotel. That year, because of the dedication of the KWV Memorial, the ceremony at Arlington was held at 10 a.m. The KWV Memorial Dedication was held in the afternoon, 27 July 1995 (See the Bill Norris story).

After the 1995 dedication and the annual ceremony to honor our Fallen Heroes and to recognize our victory in Korea, Congress proclaimed 27 July as Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, which has continued each year, up to the present.

In 1996, National again moved to another place for its Reunion; the Gathering remained at the Sheraton National Hotel. The Gathering Reunion of old friends and comrades was alive and carrying on their tradition of visiting our

National Memorial and attending the ceremony to:

- uphold our convictions to “never forget our war and the sacrifices” that were made by our comrades
- remember and reflect on that period of time that held so many thoughts and memories of the Korean War in “the land of the morning calm.”

We go there each 27th day of July to express each in his own way the feelings that a veteran has who served in a war. For many, a healing has taken place within their lives as they ponder the statues and

the images of warriors on the granite wall. You can visit there, as many of us have done, and as Bill Norris did in 1995 (see Bill’s story and read the words of his son John), and the experience will be different each visit.

In 1996, it was apparent as we came together in Washington, D.C. at the Sheraton that our leader’s health was failing. Then, some wondered if this would possibly be our last year for our Gathering.

In the late fall of 1996, I received a phone call from Bill Norris. He never had

to say, “It’s Bill Norris.” It was clear from the voice it was Bill. He simply said, “Jack, you will have to take over the Gathering.”

I knew what he meant. After a pause on my end, I replied, “Okay, I will do my best.”

He then said, “I know you can do it. Clara will help you. Jack, I am not doing well. Thank you for taking care of the Gathering. Talk with you later.”

I replied, “Okay.” The conversation ended. I turned to my wife Connie and told her what Bill had said.

Memories of the Gathering

I served from December 1950 to November 1953 in the Kentucky National Guard, 623rd. Field Artillery Battalion, 155 Howitzers. I arrived in Korea in time to celebrate Christmas there in 1951.

I was in combat for nine months along the MLR in the Mundung-ni Valley, just north of Heartbreak Ridge. I moved into the “Smoke Valley Area” of the Punch Bowl in July 1952, and shipped out for the good old states in mid-September of 1952.

How well I remember my last night in “Smoke Valley.” The North Koreans gave us a grand send-off. They dropped 500 rounds of 122 MM Artillery and 61 MM mortar fire in and around our location.

I have the honor of being only Korean War veteran from Kentucky to be depicted on the Korean War Memorial. A good friend and fellow VFW veteran of the Gulf War, Jerry Emmitt, drove me up to Washington for the KWVA 2002 ceremonies there. We met Jerry Lake at the ceremonies; he and I became good friends almost instantly.

I also had the honor of being interviewed during the ceremony by a Washington newspaper, which published a photo of me in its Sunday edition. In the photo, I was standing beside my image on the Memorial. And, I was actually honored personally by then National Chief of Staff General Myers in front of my image.

Due to my health and complications from being wounded in Korea, I was unable to make the trip to DC in 2003.



At left, Jerome “Jerry” Lake and Ron Devore stand by the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington DC (The photo was taken at night, which explains the flash in front of the engraved image on the “Wall of Faces”)



Above, Michele Phillips stands beside her father’s image during 2003 KWVA ceremonies in Washington.

On the left, Jerry Emmitt and Ron Devore stand by the latter’s image on wall during 2002 ceremony

So, my daughter; Michele Phillips; flew up from Tampa, Florida to represent me. En route, she met Jake Feaster on the plane.

Jerry Lake was present at the 2003 KWVA meeting and accompanying ceremonies. Jerry took my daughter under his wing and made her feel like one of the

gang. She just loved Jerry.

I am deeply sorry to learn of his death on January, 20, 2006. I lost a good friend.

*Ron Devore, Glasgow, KY,
(270) 651-3459, office: (270) 651-5984,
fax (270) 651-5984,
mikk800@yahoo.com*

She replied, "For Bill, we will do it." Thus, the torch was passed to me.

The KVV Gathering goes on.

In the years 2000 through 2003, National returned to the Washington, D.C. area at Crystal City. The Korean War Veterans of the Gathering attended the National Reunion and Executive Council meetings. They were once again together as one group.

For 21 years now, members of the KVV Gathering have been coming to Washington, D.C. to honor our own. We continue that tradition in 2006. There are some fellows that have never missed in 21 years. After all, National has a responsibility to Korean War and Korean Service veterans across America.

We, the few that make up the Gathering, prefer now to be thought of as the KVV Friendship Gathering. We are honored to be present on the Mall to pay homage to our Fallen Heroes and those who served, at Arlington National Cemetery to pay our respects to them, and to the thousands of our military interred in our country's National Cemetery: Duty, Honor, & Country - Freedom is not free.

Who are we? Just a group of Korean War veterans and their families and friends who have a commitment to be in Washington, D.C. and at Arlington National Cemetery to remember fondly an old soldier who served his country, and who made possible the bringing together in America of thousands of Korean War veterans.

We have no officers and no meetings. We have only comradeship and fellowship that, over the years, has contributed for us replacing the words "The Forgotten War" with the words "The Remembered Victory." The Korean War is no longer forgotten.

To join with us, or to learn more, simply write me a note at 2702 Franklinville Rd., Joppa, MD 21085, send an e-mail at connienjack@msn.com, or give me a call at 410-676-1388.

You are welcome. If you haven't been to the Gathering in the past, we hope to see you in the future.

*Jack E. Cloman
Chairman, KVV Gathering
Charter Life Member 00006*

Western Mass Chapter Member Appointed Lieutenant General

By John V. Sasso

United States Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced on February 6, 2006, that U.S. Army Major General David P. Valcourt, of Chicopee, MA, has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant general.

Valcourt is the second lieutenant general from this city. The first was Lieutenant General Arthur MacArthur, father of General Douglas MacArthur. Valcourt officially received his third star on April 7, with the change of command in Korea. He is currently serving as deputy commander of all troops in Europe, and is stationed in Germany. General Valcourt's new assignment will be Commander of the 8th Army, Chief of Staff, United Nations Command. This will be his third tour in Korea.

Valcourt grew up in Chicopee, and attended local schools before being accepted at the U.S. Army Military Academy at West Point in 1970. Since his days as a youngster with the Boy Scouts, Troop 138 in his home town, and after two trips to West Point, his mind was made up to be a career soldier. After he graduated from West Point, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Field Artillery on June 6, 1973. Since then, he has traveled extensively throughout the world.

One of his early assignments brought him to the Pentagon, where he served as chief of artillery and attained the rank of colonel. In 2000, Valcourt received his first star as brigadier general and served as Assistant Division Commander of the 2d Division, 8th Army in Korea. While there, he was contacted by then President Martin O'Brien of KWVA Chapter 79, CPL Goodblood (MOH), in Augusta, ME, about having a memorial for Corporal Goodblood, who was KIA on April 25, 1951. Goodblood was awarded the Purple Heart and the Medal of Honor posthumously. General Valcourt saw to it that the new barracks at Camp Red Cloud, Korea was named, "Clair Goodblood Hall." It was dedicated on May 21, 2002. (See www.web-spawner.com/users/goodbloodmemorial)



Then BGen Valcourt speaks at the Korean War Memorial Ceremony in Springfield, MA, on July 27, 2003, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice.

Upon his return stateside, Valcourt was assigned to the Pentagon, where he was Chief of Operations Division. While stationed at Fort Sill, OK, where he commanded the 2/17 Field Artillery Battalion, he was instrumental in the development of the 155mm self-propelled howitzer, which he saw through its final testing. It was known for its accuracy, and could hit a target 20 miles away.

In 2003, he returned to Chicopee and visited the Western Mass KWVA Chapter 2000 (CID 187), where he was presented a plaque making him an honorary lifetime member. In 2004, Valcourt was promoted to major general, and assigned as commanding general and commandant of the Army Field Artillery Center at Fort Sill, OK. In 2005 he was assigned as special assistant to the Commanding General, US Army Europe and 7th Army in Germany.

General Valcourt has held many titles throughout his illustrious career. He holds a master's degree in physical education from Springfield College

(MA), which he earned in one year. He has a second master's degree, in National Security and Strategic Studies, from the Naval War College in Newport, RI. He is also a graduate of the Command and Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS, and the British Higher Command and Staff Course in Shrivenham, England.

General Valcourt has earned many medals throughout his career. Among them are the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

The General and his wife, Diane, have three children. Their daughter Danielle is the wife of a career Army member, Captain Michael Foote, who is with the Special Forces. Their son Mathew also served in the Army, holding the rank of sergeant. Mathew, who has served six years, returned recently from his third tour in Iraq. Daughter Michelle still attends high school in Virginia.

General Valcourt is an avid outdoor sportsman. He enjoys hunting and fishing during his time off, something his dad William taught him when he was a young boy.

I've had the pleasure of knowing General Valcourt and his parents, William and Claire, for the past five years. He is a soldier's soldier and a gentleman in the truest sense of the word. Our chapter is honored and proud to have him as a member.

*John V. Sasso,
Past Commander of CID 187
Western Massachusetts
75 Paderewski Street
Chicopee, MA 01013
(413) 592-5906 JV1037@msn.com*

All Chapter and/or Department news for publication in *The Graybeards* should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor, 152 Sky View Dr., Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or emailed to: Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

Members in the NEWS



Never Too Old To Run

Larry Cole, CID 141, Cape & Islands [MA], completed the P.F. Chang's Rock 'n Roll Arizona Marathon on January 15, 2006. He served in F Co., 5th RCT, from March 1953 to April 1954.



Larry Cole, #141, crosses finish line in Arizona Marathon

Cole was a member of Cape Cod & S.E. Mass Train to End Stroke Team in the race, which was a fund raising event for several charities. He completed the race in 5:16.48, although the official clock time was 5:21:32.

Either way, it is a great accomplishment.

Merle J. Deslaurier, CID 187, Western Massachusetts [MA], was featured in a November 9, 2005, article in the Springfield [MA] Republican, p. NP5. The article focused on his work on behalf of fellow veterans. As he was quoted as saying, "Whenever I see a veteran who needs help, I'm there. Whatever they need, if they need help with a claim or advice about benefits they're entitled to, I'm right there."

Lou Dechert was featured recently in a Q & A article for the *Alexandria-Pineville* [LA] *Town Talk*. Here are a couple of the more interesting questions and answers:

Q. What's your take on President Bush's proposed withdrawal of American forces in Korea?

A. It was inevitable. I just don't know. If everything was played according to the rules, it could have some serious repercussions.

Q. What do you mean by that?

A. If everyone is going by the truce and the cease fire.

There are things going on. The U.S. hasn't been completely stupid. We have unconventional forces prepared to deal with North Korea's nuclear threat. They are less able to deal with conventional threat.

The troops that are in South Korea now are there to deal with a conventional attack.

South Korea has enough men under arms that they can protect themselves. They have about 680,000 in the army and about 2 million people mobilizeable. It's required by conscription—a lot like Israel.

In my last tour in Vietnam, I worked with the Korean corps there. They were really [a] very good unit. In Vietnam the enemy didn't mess with the Koreans: they whipped them every time.

Q. Given that you also fought in the Vietnam War, why now do [you] spend so much time on the Korean War?

A. Veterans tend to remember their last war most vividly. Sometimes it has more emotional ties. And of course the factor is the more wars you're exposed to the less unique any particular one is. I found the Korean veterans had great pride and very, very little recognition for their combat. They have asked me to help them overcome that. They deserve recognition for service in their way—our way, for I experienced my first combat there.

EDITOR'S SUGGESTION: *Anyone who is interviewed for, or featured in, an article in a newspaper, magazine, or other publication, should mention membership in the KWVA. The inclusion of the KWVA is a good recruiting tool, and might help build membership in the organization.*

Unfortunately, members sometimes to forget the association's name when being interviewed.

Key Bills Pending in the 109th Congress

This compilation of key bills in Congress is graciously provided by the **National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS)**. We are grateful to NAUS for its willingness to share the information with our members.

Throughout the 109th Congress, NAUS will identify and track certain bills that address issues important to our members. Over time the list will expand to include newly introduced bills replacing older or less comprehensive bills. We must do this because of space limitations. While we support any and all bills that lead towards the achievement of a legislative goal, we place the most emphasis on the more comprehensive bills. Since the art of passing legislation is “doing the possible” we may have to compromise on the approach to the final goal but will not compromise on the principle. Note: While space limitations may preclude a special write up on a bill, it does not mean that no action is taking place on the bill. Readers are encouraged to write members of their congressional delegations to cosponsor and support the enactment of the bill’s provisions. Also appearing will be some bills for information purposes to readers interested in the issue so that they can make their position known to their congressional delegations. During the legislative process, we can expect to see some of the provisions of both House and Senate stand-alone bills included in a bill that Congress sends to the President for his action. This is especially true about large authorization bills involving national defense or veterans’ benefits.

The Library of Congress provides free online information concerning Congress and the legislative process through a website named THOMAS, located on the web at thomas.loc.gov. This is an especially useful and easy to use tool to help you track bills in which you are interested but we do not list due to space limitations. This is especially true about bills involving veterans’ issues. For veteran bill tracking we recommend you go to the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs Websites at veterans.senate.gov or veterans.house.gov. THOMAS also provides access to other congressional committees for you to do independent research. The dates in each summary generally denote the time of the bill’s introduction.

Defense

H.R. 97 – Rep. Sam Graves (R-6-MO), 01/04/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Establish requirements with respect to the terms of consumer credit extended by a creditor to a service member or the dependent of a service member.

H.R. 923 – Rep. Vito Fossella (R-13-NY), 03/17/2005 – Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute by House Committee on Government Reform. Amend Title 39, US Code, to provide for free mailing privileges for personal correspondence and parcels sent by family members from within the United States to members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan.

H.R. 2874 – Rep. Harold E. Ford (D-9-TN), 06/14/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Government Reform. A bill to provide for a program under which postal benefits shall be made available for purposes of certain personal correspondence and other mail matter sent from within the United States to members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty abroad who are engaged in military operations.

H.R. 4563 – Rep. Jim Ryun (R-2-KS), 12/15/2005 – the Servicemembers Interest Rate Relief Act of 2005, Referred to the House Veterans’ Affairs Sub-Committee on Economic Opportunity. Amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide improved interest rate relief for servicemembers during periods of military service.

H.R. 5083 – Rep. Geoff Davis (R-4-KY), 04/04/2006 – Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services. Amend title 10, US Code, to provide equity between active and reserve component members of the Armed Forces in the computation of disability retired pay for members wounded in action.

Guard & Reserve

H.R. 558 – Rep. Tom Latham (R-4-IA), 02/02/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to revise the age and service requirements for eligibility to receive retired pay for non-regular (Guard & Reserve) service.

H.R. 783 – Rep. Jim Saxton (R-3-NJ), 2/10/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to reduce the age for receipt of military retired pay for non-regular service from 60 to 55.

S. 1142 – Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA), 05/26/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Provide pay protection for members of the Reserve and National Guard (Hope at Home Act).

S. 32 – Sen. Mark Dayton (D-MN), 01/24/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Enhance the benefits and protections for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are called or ordered to extend active duty, and for other purposes.

S. 38 – Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), 01/24/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Enhance and improve benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserves who serve extended periods on active duty, and for other purposes.

S. 337 – Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), 02/09/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to revise the age and service requirements for eligibility to receive retired pay for non-regular service, to expand certain authorities to provide health care benefits for Reserves and their families, and for other purposes.

MGIB & Educational Benefits

H.R. 197 – Rep. David Scott (D-13-GA), 01/04/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to require a State to charge in-State tuition rates to active-duty members of the Armed Forces domiciled or stationed on active duty in that State and to the dependents of such members.

H.R. 269 – Rep. David Camp (R-4-MI), 01/06/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to provide for certain servicemembers to become eligible for educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill.

H.R. 772 – Rep. Jim Matheson (D-2-UT), 02/10/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Provide entitlement to education assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill for members of the Selected Reserve who aggregate more than 2 years of active duty service in any five-year period.

H.R. 2248 – Rep. Lane Evans (D-17-IL), 05/11/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 38, US Code, to improve benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill establishing an enhanced educational assistance program, increasing the amount of basic educational assistance, repealing the requirement for reduction in pay for participation in the program, eliminating the time limitation for use of benefits under the program, expanding the opportunities to transfer educational assistance benefits to dependents and for other purposes.

H.R. 2365 – Rep. Bob Filner (D-51-CA), 05/16/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to extend the time limitation for use of eligibility and entitlement for educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill.

H.R. 3347 – Rep. Rick Larsen (D-2-WA), 07/19/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Titles 10 & 38 US Code, to repeal the 10-year limits on use of Montgomery GI Bill educational assistance benefits. Companion Bill: **S. 1162** – Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA), 06/06/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

S. 615 – Sen. Mark Dayton (D-MN), 03/14/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to improve benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill by establishing an enhanced educational assistance program and by repealing the requirement for reduction in pay for participation in the program.

Flag Amendment

HJR 10 – Rep. Randy Cunningham (R-50-CA), 06/22/2005 – *Passed by the full House*. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. Companion Bill: **SJR 12** – Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), 04/14/2005 – Pending action in the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

Health Care & Medicare

H.R. 201 – Rep. David Scott (D-13-GA), 01/04/2005 –

Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to stabilize the amount of the Medicare Part B premium. Companion Bill: **S. 222** – Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), 01/31/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

H.R. 218 – Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-6-FL), 01/04/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for amounts paid for health insurance and prescription drug costs of individuals.

H.R. 322 – Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, (R-8-MO), 01/25/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit to military retirees for premiums paid for coverage under Medicare Part B.

H.R. 376 – Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-8-MO), 01/26/2005 – Referred to the House committee on Ways and Means. Amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate fair prices for Medicare prescription drugs on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries.

H.R. 602 – Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-8-MD), 02/02/2005 Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes. (*Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act*) Companion Bill: **S. 407** – Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD), 02/16/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

H.R. 836 – Rep. Charles Norwood (R-9-GA), 02/16/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to take such actions as are necessary to change the reimbursement rates and cost sharing requirements under the TRICARE program to be the same as, or as similar as possible to, the reimbursement rates and cost sharing requirements under the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Standard Plan provided under the Federal Employee Health Benefit program under Chapter 89 of Title 5, United States Code.

H.R. 994 – Rep. Thomas M. Davis (R-11-VA), 03/01/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means. Amend Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums. Companion Bill: **S. 484** – Sen. John Warner (R-VA), 03/01/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on Finance.

H.R. 1478 – Rep. Michael R. Turner (R-3-OH), 04/05/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means. Amend Title 10, US Code, to provide limited TRICARE program eligibility for members of the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces, to provide financial support for continuation of health insurance for mobilized members of reserve components of the Armed Forces.

H.R. 2824 – Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-46-CA), 06/08/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to provide TRICARE Standard coverage for members of Reserve Components of the Armed Forces who serve at least one year on active duty overseas.

H.R. 4949 – Rep. Chet Edwards (D-17-TX), 03/14/2006 – Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services. Amend title 10, US Code, to prohibit increases in fees for military health care.

S. 18 – Sen. Mark Dayton (D-MN), 01/24/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements in the Medicare program for beneficiaries.

S. 123 – Sen. Russell Feingold (D-WI), 01/24/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for negotiation of fair prices for Medicare prescription drugs.

S. 160 – Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), 01/25/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a refundable credit against income tax for the purchase of private health insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 184 – Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH), 01/26/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to protect the public health from the unsafe importation of prescription drugs and from counterfeit prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 239 – Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME), 02/01/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Reduce the costs of prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes.

S. 2617 – Sen. Lautenberg (D-NJ), 04/07/2006 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Calls for yearly increases in TRICARE premiums that are equivalent to the Cost of Living (COLA) increase that military retirees receive.

Social Security

H.R. 80 – Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-8-MO), 01/04/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend Title II of the Social Security Act to provide for an improved benefit computation formula for workers affected by the changes in benefit computation rules enacted in the Social Security Amendments of 1977 who attained age 65 during the 10-year period after 1981 and before 1992 (and related beneficiaries) and to provide prospectively for increases in their benefits accordingly (Notch Reform).

H.R. 147 – Rep. Howard McKeon, (R-25-CA), 1/04/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend

Title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

H.R. 266 – Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite (R-5-FL), 1/06/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Rules. Amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to protect Social Security beneficiaries against any reduction in benefits.

H.R. 276 – Rep. Gene Green (D-9-TX), 01/06/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend Title II of the Social Security Act to remove the limitation upon the amount of outside income which an individual may earn while receiving benefits under such title.

H.R. 615 – Rep. Ralph Hall (R-4-TX), 02/08/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend Title II of the Social Security Act to allow workers who attain age 65 after 1981 and before 1992 to choose either lump sum payments over four years totaling \$5,000 or an improved benefit computation formula under a new 10-year rule governing the transition to the changes in benefit computation rules enacted in the Social Security Amendments of 1977, and for other purposes (Notch Reform).

H.R. 1164 – Rep. Walter B. Jones (R-3-NC), 03/08/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means. Guarantee the right of individuals to receive Social Security benefits under Title II of the Social Security Act in full with an accurate annual cost-of-living adjustment.

S. 275 – Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA), 02/03/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Require the establishment of a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers to compute cost-of-living increases for Social Security benefits under Title II of the Social Security Act.

S. 292 – Sen. David Vitter (R-LA), 02/03/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on the Budget. Establish a procedure to safeguard the Social Security Trust Funds.

S. 568 – Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH), 03/08/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on the Budget. Balance the budget and protect the Social Security Trust Fund Surpluses.

Taxes

H.R. 64 – Rep. Christopher Cox (R-48-CA), 01/04/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Repeal the Federal death tax, including the estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers.

H.R. 66 – Rep. Christopher Cox (R-48-CA), 01/04/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve health care choice by providing for the tax deductibility of medical expenses by individuals.

H.R. 321 – Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-8-MO), 01/25/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit to certain senior citizens for premiums paid for coverage under Medicare Part B.

H.R. 443 – Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-9-FL), 02/01/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit to employers for the value of the service not performed during the

THE GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

Articles to be published in the *The Graybeards* must be sent to the editor no later than the 15th day of the first month of that issue. —Editor.

Jan-Feb	Jan 15
Mar-Apr	Mar 15
May-June	May 15
July-Aug	Jul 15
Sept-Oct	Sept 15
Nov-Dec	Nov 15

period employees are performing service as a member of the Ready Reserve or the National Guard.

H.R. 5044 – Rep. Jo Ann Davis (R-1-VA), 03/29/2006 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate that income tax overpayments be used for veterans' health benefits.

H.R. 5081 – Rep. John Carter (R-31-TX), 04/04/2006 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 78 – Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), 01/24/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Make permanent marriage penalty relief.

Veterans

H.R. 76 – Rep. John Duncan (R-2-TN), 01/04/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to improve access to medical services for veterans seeking treatment at Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinics with exceptionally long waiting periods.

H.R. 170 – Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-37-CA), 01/04/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to improve benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II.

H.R. 515 – Rep. Lane Evans (D-17-IL), 02/02/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to provide for an assured adequate level of funding for veterans health care. Companion Bill: S. 331 – Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD), Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 531 – Rep. Ed Case (D-2-HI), 02/02/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to increase the allowance for burial expenses of certain veterans.

H.R. 616 – Rep. Joe Baca (D-43-CA), 02/08/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Provide for reduction in the backlog of claims for benefits pending with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 693 – Rep. George Butterfield (D-1-NC), 02/09/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to require the Department of Veterans Affairs pharmacies to dispense medications to veterans for prescriptions written by private practitioners, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2369 – Rep. Bob Filner (D-51-CA), 05/16/2005 – Honor Our Fallen Prisoners of War Act, referred to the House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to provide for the Purple Heart to be awarded to prisoners of war who die in captivity under circumstances not otherwise establishing eligibility for the Purple Heart. Companion Bill: S. 2157 – Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), 12/21/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Forces.

H.R. 2832 – Rep. Sue W. Kelly (R-19-NY), 06/09/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Establish certain conditions on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs imple-

menting any recommendation of the CARES Commission that would have the effect of eliminating or severely reducing any medical service provided to veterans throughout the United States at Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities.

H.R. 3457 – Rep. Robert Andrews (D-1-NJ), 06/27/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for World War II veterans to be in the same priority category for health care services from the Department of Veterans Affairs as World War I veterans.

H.R. 4025 – Rep. John Barrow (D-12-GA), 10/07/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the deductible and change the method of determining the mileage reimbursement rate under the beneficiary travel program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes

H.R. 4727 – Rep. Sam Farr (D-17-CA), 02/08/2006 – the Disabled Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2006, referred to House Committee on Ways & Means. Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an extension of the period of limitation to file claims for refunds on account of disability determinations by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 4843 – Rep. Jeff Miller (R-1-FL), 03/02/2006 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. To increase, effective as of December 1, 2006, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4914 – Rep. Lane Evans (D-17-IL), 03/09/2006 – referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. amend title 38, United States Code, to remove certain limitations on attorney representation of claimants for veterans benefits in administrative proceedings before the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4992 – Rep. Sue Kelly (R-19-NY), 03/16/2006 – Referred to the House Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce and Veterans' Affairs. To provide for Medicare reimbursement for health care services provided to Medicare-eligible veterans in facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 5037 – Rep. Michael J. Rogers (R-8-MI), 03/29/2006 – Referred to the House Committees on Veterans Affairs and Judiciary. Amend titles 38 and 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain demonstrations at cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration and at Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

S. 481 – Sen. Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), 03/01/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to extend the period of eligibility for health care for combat service in the Persian Gulf War or future hostilities from two years to five years after discharge or release.

S. 614 – Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA), 03/14/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 38, US Code, to permit medicare-eligible veterans to receive an outpatient medication benefit, to provide that certain veterans who receive such benefit are not otherwise eligible for medical care

and services from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 2415 – Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), 03/15/2006, – Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend title 38, US Code, to increase burial benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2500 – Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI), 04/04/2006 – Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. To enhance the counseling and readjustment services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2562 – Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID), 04/06/2006 – Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. To increase, effective as of December 1, 2006, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

Pay and Compensation

HRES 270 – Rep. Jim Marshall, (D-3-GA), 05/10/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Rules. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 303, to amend Title 10, US Code, to permit certain additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or CRSC and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt.

H.R. 303 – Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-9-FL), 01/25/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Amend Title 10, US Code, to permit certain additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of the years of military service or Combat Related Special Compensation and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt (full Concurrent Receipt). Companion Bill: **S. 558** – Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV), 03/08/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services.

H.R. 808 – Rep. Henry Brown (R-1-SC), 02/15/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to repeal the offset from surviving spouse annuities under the military Survivor Benefit Plan for amounts paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

H.R. 968 – Rep. Jim Saxton (R-3-NJ), 02/17/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to change the effective date for paid-up coverage under the military Survivor Benefit Plan from October 1, 2008 to October 1, 2005.

H.R. 995 – Rep. Jerry Weller (R-11-IL), 03/01/2005 – Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to provide for the payment of Combat-Related Special Compensation under that title to members of the Armed Forces retired for disability with less than 20 years of military service who were awarded the Purple Heart.

H.R. 1366 – Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-9-FL), 03/17/2005 –

Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to expand eligibility for Combat Related Special Compensation paid by the uniformed services in order to permit certain additional retired members who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for that disability and Combat Related Special Compensation by reason of that disability.

H.R. 2046 – Rep. Steve Buyer (R-4-IN), 05/24/2005 – Passed full House on May 23 and sent to Senate for action. Amend Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to limit premium increases on reinstated health insurance on servicemembers who are released from active military service.

H.R. 2076 – Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-9-FL), 05/04/2005 – Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or CRSC.

S. 185 – Sen. Bill Nelson, (D-FL), 01/26/2005 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to repeal the requirement for the reduction of certain Survivor Benefit Plan annuities by the amount of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation and to modify the effective date for paid-up coverage under the Survivor Benefit Plan.

S. 558 – Sen. Harry Reid, (D-NV), 03/08/2005 – Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services. Amend Title 10, US Code, to permit certain additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt.

S. 845 – Sen. Harry Reid, (D-NV), 04/19/2005 – Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar. Amends Title 10, US Code, to permit retired service members who have a service-connected disability to receive disability compensation and either retired pay or Combat-Related Special Compensation and to eliminate the phase-in period with respect to such concurrent receipt.

VIRGINIA INTRODUCES CIB LICENSE PLATE

Finally, we have a Combat Infantryman Badge license plate in Virginia.

Since it took 350 applications before the DMV would make them, and since there is no list of names to contact, it would never have been done except for the bulldog tenacity of one Major Gary Gibbs.

If any of the Virginia guys have questions about the plate, they can call Major Gibbs, (540) 734-7205, or Dave Newman, (434) 793- 5828.

Thanks to Dave Newman for bringing this news to our attention.

PERPETUATING – REMEMBERING – MAINTAINING

From the National President, Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA)

The last time I was in Washington, the air was full of wind-blown cherry blossoms. And up on the hill at Arlington National Cemetery, the perpetual watch by the Honor Guard from the “Old Guard” continued their silent vigil, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 (or 366) days of the year – 24/7/365.

Across Memorial Bridge, almost two miles away at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the Mall, another vigil was being maintained by 19 eternal sentinels – 24/7/365. And, since the arrival of His Excellency Tae-Sik-Lee, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, there has been a Memorial Wreath – 24/7/365, *The people of Korea never ceasing in honors to our troops, their “GI’s.”*

Many members have asserted that the KWVA was created/born to build the National Memorial. Certainly Bill Norris felt that way, judging from much of what I have been able to read from his writings. The KWVA, the General Richard G Stilwell Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation (KWVMF), the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), and millions of others created and built what many of us believe is the most moving and appropriate war memorial on the Mall.

Then we “stacked arms,” taking up our individual, local and regional concerns. After all, the Memorial Squad and Reflecting Wall were forever, weren’t they? We should have known better! Nothing is forever, especially if those who should have the greatest care and concern for perpetuating it forget their role and responsibility for the Memorial.

A uniquely great American soldier is the Executive Director of the Memorial Foundation-Colonel Bill Weber. Listen to Bill as he expresses his heartfelt concern for our Memorial:

The National Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D. C., is a dramatic and tangible testament to the service and sacrifices of a generation of American soldiery. It personifies the dedication of our people to adhere to one of our most sacred principles that, “Freedom is Not Free,” and that some must bear the burden when a free people are threatened by armed subjugation. The Memorial honors those who fought in the Korean War and, by extension, those who have since defended the freedom that was preserved for the Republic of Korea and its people.

Preservation of the Memorial in a pristine condition for future generations is an obligation of our people. We place trust in the premise that such will be a normal process by a governmental agency, specifically the National Capitol Region of the National Park Service (NPS).

However, circumstances are such that the NPS is, at times, overwhelmed by the - magnitude of the task of maintaining all our national monuments and memorials, etc., as a result of Congressional and Administration reductions in budgetary requests by NPS. Thus, NPS must ‘prioritize’ available funds to meet the most critical need. The result is that some routine but necessary maintenance suffers and a gradual deterioration is a potential that can lead to major problems—

at the very least, a degradation of the symbolism intended.

Consequently, those of our people most concerned about a specific memorial or monument band together to ensure the foregoing can be avoided. They form non-profit 501, c, 3, Foundations to raise funds to assist the NPS, when and if necessary, by providing grants to augment inadequate NPS maintenance and repair funds for that memorial or monument. Almost every significant memorial and monument in our Nation is so supported.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc., (KWVMFnd), was chartered for the purpose of providing for the National Korean War Veterans Memorial. The KWVMFnd has a primary goal of raising a Memorial Maintenance Endowment Fund so that the annual interest from such would, as needed, guarantee that the NPS has the monetary resources to ensure timely, appropriate and required maintenance and repair of our Memorial.

The KWVA is the ONLY veteran’s organization that has a proprietary interest in the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the only organization that can be considered as representing the totality of Korean War and Defense veterans of our nation. Thus, it is axiomatic that the KWVA should commit full support to the mission of the KWVMFnd. The Memorial is our legacy to future generations and speaks of the heritage we added to our Nation’s history. If we don’t ensure the future—who will?

24/7/365



HONOR NEVER SLEEPS

THE MISSION OF THE KWVA/USA is
DEFEND our Nation
CARE for our Veterans
PERPETUATE our Legacy
REMEMBER our Missing and Fallen
MAINTAIN our Memorial
SUPPORT a free Korea

KWVA members are urged to visit the KWVMFnd website for more details. www.KoreanWarVetsMemFnd.org

Col William E Weber (USA-Ret), Chairman, KWVMFnd
(410) 775-7733 Email: eagle187@direcway.com

If we don't ensure the future, who will?

I was asked to write this letter to every chapter telling you of the need-and the responsibility-concerning our Memorial. It appears to me that we have taken too long a break from our Mission, from PERPETUATING - REMEMBERING - MAINTAINING. We all need to take a lesson from Ambassador Lee - 24/7/365.

I was asked to describe the need, in terms of our Mission, and challenge our members to take charge in reversing the neglect of our heritage. I was glad to do so because I believe it is the type of thing that is our responsibility, and something that we need to get busy carrying out. Fortunately, two great Chapters—Maryland Chapter 33 and Maryland Chapter 142, Frederick, stepped up to join with Colonel Weber and me on this project. They have each pledged \$2000 this year to the KWVMFnd through the sales of the Rose of Sharon, a most unique fund raiser.

I am asking that each Chapter and Department President/Commander challenge their units to do the same, or at least as much as they possibly can to answer this need—24/7/365.

Please consider doing so and write and tell me the results. We will be announcing a recognition program to acknowledge our units as they carry out this important part of our Mission.

Please let Colonel Weber and me know what you are doing. If sending a donation or remitting funds collected, make checks payable to the *Memorial Maintenance Fund* and mail directly to:

Gen. RGS Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc.
920 East Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20003
Ph: 202-543-2127 Fax: 202-543-0724

Thank you, each and everyone, as you respond to this latest challenge to the warriors of America's longest war—1950-2006, and counting.

Louis T. Dechert
National President

National KWVA Fund Raiser Flower Rose of Sharon

The Rose of Sharon is the National KWVA fund raising flower. The Rose of Sharon is sold by the dozen.

- Sample order is 4 dozen @ \$12 plus \$3.00 S/H.
- Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$60 plus \$5.00 S/H.

Order from: Earl House
1870 Yakona Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21234
Phone 410-661-8950



Make Checks payable to: **Maryland Chapter – KWVA**

Some Additional Insights to 'Honor Never Sleeps'...

I have traveled to Department Conventions and otherwise heard from many members regarding their reactions to my request to improve KWVA efforts to improve maintenance of the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the Mall.

I want to note that I probably overstressed reliance on the Rose of Sharon from Maryland Chapter 33 as a fund raising activity. The objective was to challenge all Chapters to cooperate and contribute to making up maintenance shortfalls at the Memorial. The sale of the Rose of Sharon was given as a readily available and practical way of raising funds and pledging upkeep funds for the Memorial. Two chapters have already pledged \$5,000 each this year using this fund raising means.

Since placing the article on the homepage I have heard other ideas: in prior times the use of the yellow daisy was utilized and in at least one case is still being utilized. Another Chapter is staging a special Las Vegas night with all proceeds to the fund. Another is using the old annual pioneers day bail me out of jail type of event. Another is using a community sanctioned members with buckets at key intersections when the lights change. Yet another is raffling items at their meetings.

It is most important that we accomplish the objective, regardless of the fund raising technique being used. I invite all Chapters to drop me an email or letter reporting effective fund raisers that they are using or have used. And I urge us all to do all we can do in this worthwhile campaign.

Lou Dechert

One Veteran To Another

Military veterans pride themselves on being "brothers," regardless of when they served, in what branch of the armed forces, or their rank. What better proof is there than the photo below of Stanly Biesky, Past Commander of CID 171, Brooklyn [NY], and former Secretary of State Colin Powell.



The veteran from the Bronx, Colin Powell (L), meets the veteran from Brooklyn, Stanley Biesky (R)

Duty on the Island of Cheju-do

By John Laura

After I spent nine months on the Korean Peninsula with the 45th division, an announcement came to the 120th Medical Battalion that the 279th regiment needed medics to go with them to the island of Cheju, where violent Communist Chinese POWs were held. My dental assistant and I looked at each other and said, "Let's go."

I signed for a jeep at the motor pool, and we drove the muddy road to the port of Inchon. We got there in the evening, so we spread our sleeping bags on the beach and tried to sleep with one eye open so no one would steal the jeep. In the morning, we boarded an APA.

We arrived in the afternoon after an overnight trip. The ship anchored a mile or so off shore, since there were no docking facilities. While I was wondering if I was going to have to swim ashore, an LST pulled up along side. Some sailors threw a landing net over the side. We climbed down to the LST, which went to the beach, put the ramp down and we walked ashore.

Cheju-do is about sixty miles off the southern coast of the peninsula. It is the smallest province of the Republic of Korea. It is a volcanic island forty miles by sixteen miles, and the largest of Korea's islands. The inactive volcano mountain, the largest mountain on the island, is called "Hallasan."

The climate is much more temperate than it is on the mainland. I saw farm plots ringed by stone fences similar to ones I see near my home. The stones there are lava rocks.

The prisoners were well guarded in a compound with a fence and barbed wire. There was a fenced sally port the prisoners used for exercise. The Communist prisoners were highly organized. Each building had a hierarchy of command, and discipline was strictly maintained.

Each prisoner was issued a Communist red star for his cap. They made the stars by cutting aluminum beer cans and scraping the red paint off cans, mixing it with some contraband material, and painting the stars. The guards let them keep the stars. But, on occasion, when conducting inspections and taking contraband, they kept a few stars for souvenirs. I heard that when Stalin died,



Throne room in King's Palace, Seoul, Korea

each POW had a black armband the next day.

GIs guarded work details of eight or so POWs. Even so, men from work details would exchange places covertly so that each prison hut was kept informed of the news.

One thing that was not tolerated was throwing stones. The standing orders were to shoot rock throwers. The most dangerous and violent POW's were kept on this island because the great distance to the mainland made escape impossible.

Cheju Do has many beaches, almost all with lava rock formations. Some lava rock is so smooth it is almost slippery. Other rocks are jagged enough to cut the soles of boots. There is one beach we saw that had fine black sand. There we saw the now famous women divers who dived for a staple of their diet, Mah-Yo (seaweed).

They were dressed in white dresses tied closely to their bodies. They used baskets to collect the seaweed, lined at the top with cork to keep them afloat. With a whistling sound they dove in about twenty feet of water and came up with armloads of seaweed. We timed some who stayed down for more than two minutes.

When the baskets were full they came out and gathered wood for a fire. They indicated to us they needed a match to start the fire, so we helped them gather wood and started a fire. We tried to converse with gestures but they just giggled.

When we went back to my jeep, the tide had started to come in and the water was up to the floorboard, so we had to push it up past the rocks to dry land. It started OK, so I was relieved not to have to pay for a jeep.

To show how times have changed, in

modern Korea the girls dive for pearls or other treasure. They no longer need the seaweed as a dietary supplement. They can purchase what they need.

We climbed a mountain near Halla-san called San Bong San, which means "mountain beside a mountain." It was an easy trail. We were advised to bring carbines and side arms because of the bandits in the hills. They occasionally came out of the hills and raided the villages for food, women and anything else they could steal. We were not allowed out of the fenced-in Army compound after sundown for that reason.

There is a hunting preserve on the island that is said to be for the King's personal use. We did check out shotguns and go pheasant shooting. I didn't bag anything, but the other men came back with several pheasants which were cooked up in the mess hall. The pheasant is the national bird of Korea.

It was nice duty on the island. There was no brass on top of us. My routine was to have sick call at 0700, patients from 0800 to 1200, and have the afternoon off. My dental assistant and I rigged up a transfusion bottle with water in it. We directed the water with a blunt needle to the revolving bur to keep it cool. I have never heard of anyone else doing this in the field.

I was there from April 1953 until June 1953, when I rotated after thirteen months in Korea and forty points.

There is an effort now to make Cheju-do a tourist attraction. A landing strip has been made for the one hour flight from Seoul. There is a hotel on the island.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone else who served in Cheju-Do during the war.

John Laura, 8 Parkington Circle
East Syracuse, NY 13057-3102
(315) 637-8264, jlaura1@twcny.rr.com



Monuments and Medals

Korea: the Forgotten War, Remembered

106 – TREASURE COAST [FL]

Chapter members and guests participated in a KWVA Memorial Dedication Ceremony on January 14, 2006. The collage captures the mood of the people who attended the ceremony.



181 – KANSAS #1

Korean War Memorial Under Construction In Kansas

(Overland Park, Kan.)...Construction began May 8, 2006 on the new Korean War Veterans Memorial in Overland Park, Kansas honoring the state's servicemen killed in action (KIA) during that war. The 70-foot long, 8-foot high granite structure is scheduled for completion by late August, 2006.



VP Russ Rogers (third from left) will be supervising the construction of the new Korean War Veterans Memorial in Overland Park for SI Veterans Memorials. He is pictured in front of an architect's rendering of the monument with Korean War veterans and members of the monument committee, (l to r) Wayne Shireman, VFW Post Commander Jack Gay and Dick Tussel.

Nestled beneath several large trees, the wall of honor will recognize all five branches of the service and features the names of 412 KIAs, two Medal of Honor recipients, and the Purple Heart recipients. To give new generations a better historical understanding of the event, there will be a map of Korea and a timeline of the Korean War. Also recognized will be the major contributors who are making this monument a reality. The structure will include thirty 2.5 ft. x 8 ft. panels with benches and a brick patio that will allow individuals and companies to pay tribute to those that have served.

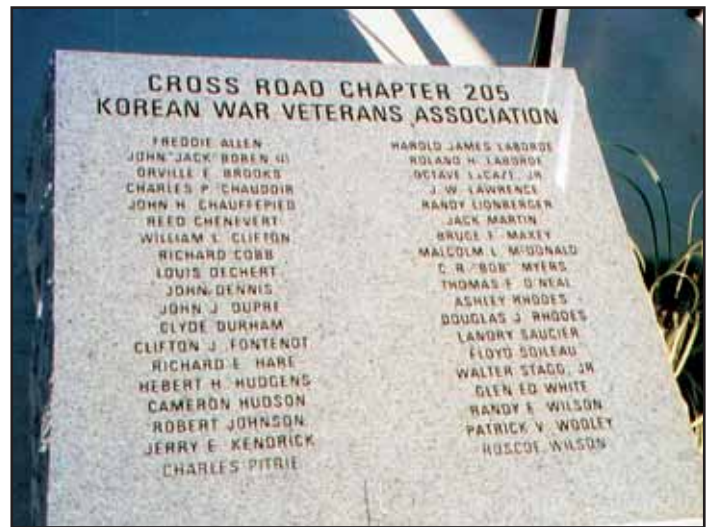
Involved in building the monument is SI Veteran Memorials, a company that has created hundreds of monuments since 1968, including over 20 Korean War Memorials. "Like every project we do, the new Overland Park Memorial will be special," stated Russ Rogers, SI Memorials VP, "because SI believes those who served our country and those dedicated to honoring them by making the project a reality, deserve nothing less."

This Memorial was the vision of the Korean War Veterans Association, CID# 181 -Chapter 181, whose executive committee includes: Jack Krumme, Chairman; Tom Stevens, 1st Vice Chairman; Jack Gay, Post Commander; Wayne Shireman, Secretary / Treasurer; Louis "Dutch" Meyers; Dick Tussell; Don Jamieson; Rudy Green; Gene Tinberg; and Clyde Koch.

205 – CROSSROADS [LA]

The chapter dedicated a monument on November 18, 2005, at Kees Park, in Pineville, LA. The monument is the result of a joint effort between the chapter and the City of Pineville.

KWVA President Lou Dechert and Pineville Mayor Clarence Fields were the guest speakers. The Pineville High School band provided patriotic music.



The names inscribed on #205's monument



#205's monument in its peaceful setting



#205 members gather around their monument (Kneeling, L-R) John Chauffepied, John Dupre, Cameron Hudson, Richard Cobb, Hebert Huggens, Octave LaCaze, Randy Wilson. (Standing, L-R) Harold LaBorde, Richard Hare, Clifton Fontenot, Jack Martin, Clyde Durham, Robert Johnson, Walter Stagg, Donald Maddox, J.W. Lawrence, Glen White

Heavy Boats In Inchon

The 18th Heavy Boat Company was a very busy outfit in Inchon in 1954-55. The unit was based on Small Wal-mee do at the time, when LCUs were the backbone of the logistics operations in Inchon.

LCUs were used to transport troops and supplies back and forth to the troop ships and the nearby islands, which was not always an easy task. The tides were extreme, ranging from a high of 46 feet to a low of 6 feet in a matter of hours. The LCUs were the only water craft that could operate in the 6' deep by 25' across channel.

The 18th Heavy Boat Company had nine LCUs that took care of most of the activity in Inchon Harbor. But, that is not all the unit members did. They also had the time to send "goodies" to some of the orphans at the Star of the Sea Orphanage in Inchon. They did all this in a less-than-safe environment.

When the troops went to the different islands in the area, the retreating tides often left them high and dry—and great targets for the enemy.

Story and photos supplied by Jerry Damico, 5534 Fox Fire Road, Milton, FL 32570

The LCUs were the only water craft that could operate in the 6' deep by 25' across channel.



Greek troops coming ashore in Inchon in April 1954



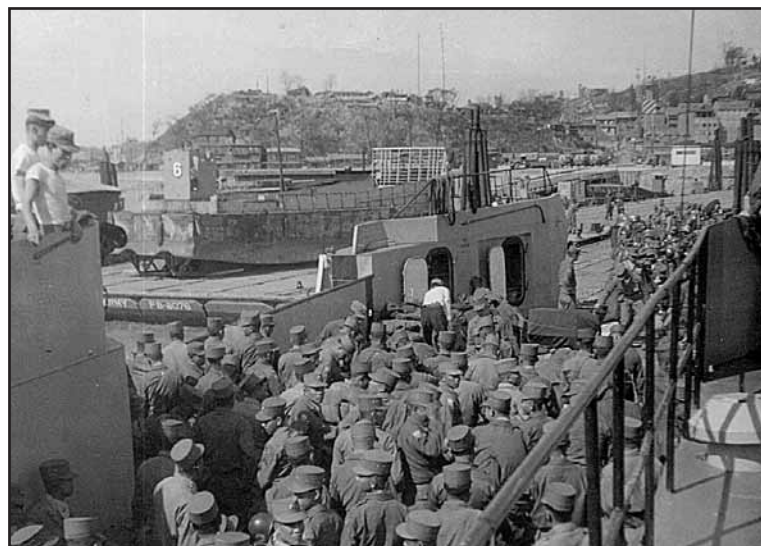
18th Heavy Boat Company vessels on Schocee, Walmee-Do, April 1954



When the tide goes out in Inchon Harbor



Photo taken from atop the Star of the Sea Orphanage in Inchon. In the distance are Schocee (spelling?), Walmee-Do, and downtown Inchon



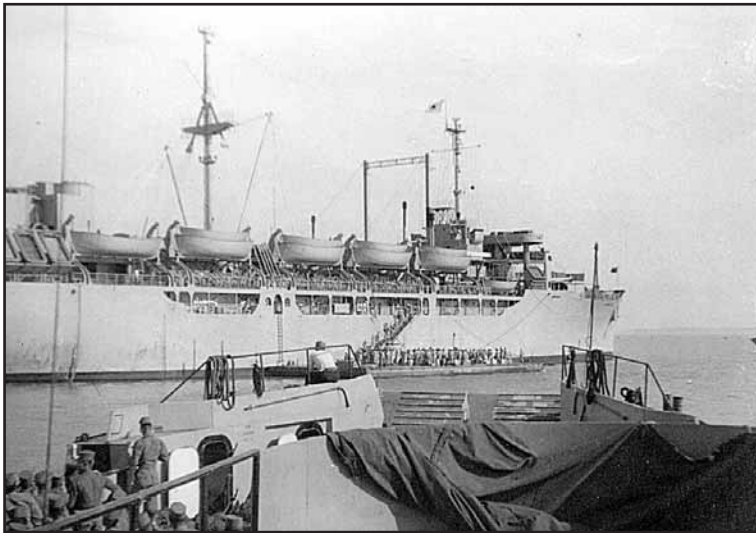
Ferrying troops to Inchon Harbor in May 1954



One of many LCUs the 18th Heavy Boat Company used to transport troops and cargo to and from the troop ships and out islands



An 18th Heavy Boat Company LCU transferring troops who are going home



Numerous troop ships like this one came into Inchon Harbor to drop off and take home troops

The 18th Heavy Boat Company had nine LCUs that took care of most of the activity in Inchon Harbor.



Loading supplies aboard an LCU to be delivered to an outer island



One of the docks the 18th Heavy Boat Company used to offload troops and supplies



Orphans and staff at the Star of the Sea Orphanage in Inchon

The Bill Norris Story

By Jack Cloman

As told by those who knew him and were privileged to have met him along his life's journey.

Who was Bill Norris? He was just an average guy, caught up in the everyday struggles of life—until one day when he got caught up in World War II, and became a patriot at a very young age.

Bill Norris: Marine, Soldier—And Patriot

Bill Norris' experience as a Marine in WWII and his youth during the "growing up" years had a direct influence in shaping his life and his future. Little did he expect that just five years after WWII his country would be at war in a far-away place called Korea, and he would be involved in combat once again, as the call went out: "UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU!"

Bill answered the call, this time in the United States Army. He took his training, as all troops have to do. Next, he made the trip across the Pacific. In 1951 he arrived in Korea. Another chapter was about to begin in the life of Bill Norris. Little did he know that his assignment to the 25th Division, 37th Infantry Regiment, F Company, would be the catalyst in 1984-1985 to forming a gathering of his 25th Division acquaintances, friends, and Korean War veterans across the country.

Bill returned home to civilian life from his tour of combat duty in Korea. He was a decorated soldier who had been wounded there. That resulted in a stay at a hospital in Japan. He was justifiably proud of his service to the US Army, the 25th Division, the 27th Regiment (Wolfhounds), and his country.

Upon his return, Bill settled into civilian life, seeking employment, marriage and raising a family. He joined the VFW Post 1498, and became a Boy Scout leader to be with his son John. He was just a fellow who went through his daily routine with its ups and downs, enjoying family life, and serving his community.

Bill attended both the 25th Division Association and 27th Wolfhound reunions whenever he could. There he joined Korean War veterans. And, just as he did



Left, Bill Norris with President Ronald Reagan, and right, with President George W. Bush, 41st President, USA

in his VFW post, he developed a bond with these fellows as they shared their experiences in combat in Korea and the military.

Time passed: the Vietnam War became a reality, and the country was once again at war in a far-off land. As Bill saw it, family, job, and supporting war veterans of our country was a patriot's duty. He felt that, as an old soldier, he had an obligation to serve his fellow veterans—this time at home. The Vietnam War ended, but the Cold War was still a part of life. Things around the world remained uncertain, but Bill's loyalty to his fellow veterans did not.

Bill Norris Sees A Need, And Acts To Fulfill It

The Vietnam veterans, thousands strong, became organized, started looking for recognition for their sacrifices, and stood up for their service to their country. The National Memorial was built in Washington, D.C., and state memorials to honor their service were erected across America.

Time moved on, and Korean War combat veterans continued to age. They were in the 50-to-60 age range, and becoming long forgotten as the veterans who stopped aggression and communism in the Far East. Enter key players, 1984.

On right, Bill Norris is pictured attending a 25th Division Reunion where he shows the Division Colors and Korean War Ribbon. On the far right, he is shown with a large photo of veterans stamp, issued 26 July 1985

An Unlikely Trio Sets Events In Motion

Things began to come to pass that really began in Korea, unknown to Bill Norris. He, Joe McCallion, and Bill's daughter, Virginia ("Ginny") formed a unique trio comprising two veterans and a school-age daughter. The unlikely trio would accomplish some amazing things, directly and indirectly.

It started one day when Ginny, with a bit of hesitation, told her father that she had chosen to write a report for a class assignment on the Korean War, mainly to surprise her Dad. Then it became apparent—as many Korean Veterans have also learned—that the Korean War, "The Forgotten War," was not in the school's history books. Neither their school library nor their local library had any reference books from which Ginny could gather the resource material and references required by her teacher for her school project.

That did it! Bill listened intently to Ginny's plight.

"What can I do?" she asked her father. "Please help me."

Bill knew that he had to go into action



and help his daughter pass her assignment. One way was to bring his buddies together for serious discussions about how and why veterans of the Korean War were being forgotten. This became a passion with Bill and heightened his determination to make a difference—and helped Ginny considerably. Her report was given all of the attention needed. With Bill's help and support, she came out with a victory of her own, earning an A+ on her report.

Bill turned to Col (Ret) Ralph Melcher, President of the 25th Division Association, about his plan to organize Korean War veterans in New York. Ralph said, "Contact Joe McCallion in Massachusetts. He has the same idea and he has developed a plan to organize Korean Veterans of Massachusetts."

Bill contacted McCallion, a "Wolfhound" and a Korean War veteran. Joe decided early in 1984 that he would begin a movement to bring together veterans of the Korean War in Massachusetts. If he was successful, they would possibly start a Korean War veterans association. And, they would petition the State of Massachusetts for their overdue recognition.

The Timing Is Right

It was apparent to Joe and his supporters that the timing was right, and they were successful. Joe told Bill of his plans and how much progress was being made in a short time. He invited Bill to join him in this endeavor. Joe and Bill thought that they could muster up Korean War veterans and start a chapter in the 25th Division Association.

As Bill embarked on his mission, he was joined by his dear wife, Clara. She

was the silent partner who was always there through the early days that led into years to support her husband in his desire to fulfill his mission for Korean War veterans. She was not alone. There were many other individuals involved as well, whose names are referred to frequently in this story.

Bill summoned eight of his Korean War buddies from his VFW post to his home to fill them in on the things that had transpired in just a couple months. He told them about his plan to bring together Korean War veterans in New York with Joe McCallion and his comrades in Massachusetts. They agreed to help, and began to kick around ideas as to the who, how, and when of their project. Out of that grew support for McCallion's effort in Massachusetts and the idea to begin a Korean War Veterans Association in New York.

Together they came up with a plan. "Let's bring the veterans who we can reach to Washington, D.C. and Arlington National Cemetery" for a gathering for a Wreath Laying and Memorial Ceremony of Remembrance to honor those who made the supreme sacrifice, our POWs, and our MIAs.

The wheels began to turn in New York around Clara's kitchen table, and they developed a plan to set up the ceremony and contact veterans as they continued working with Joe in Massachusetts.

The Idea Of "The Gathering" Takes Root

Bill and Joe began with their buddies in the Wolfhounds, the 25th Division Association. They also contacted friends in Washington, Maryland, and Virginia. In 1984-1985, the nine in Halfmoon, NY

were: Arthur L. DeVoe, Jr., Kenneth E. Dame, Sr., Jack Furlough, Arthur T. Patterson, John A. Herbert, Marco S. Concelletta, Ira J. Stinger, Ralph R. Marchille, and William T. Norris. The Massachusetts contingent comprised Joseph P. McCallion and William Kingston, Jr.

They reached out to those who could provide good names and addresses. The group included Richard (Dick) Adams, CA; Bill Booker, NY; LeRoy Stucker, NY; Ken Poss, GA; Sam Talbert, WV; Bob O'Hara, OH; Tony Zdanavage, PA; Charles Soules, NJ; Herb Parnow, MI; Bud Collett, AR; Joe Ricker, LI, NY; Jack Cloman, MD; Stan Hadden, WV; Dale Riggs, NY; Richard Soderlund, IL; Jack Jones, PA; Richard Winterstein, MD; Joe McCallion, MA—and an host of others not mentioned.

The First Meetings

Plans in Massachusetts were bearing great results. The group set a date for their first ceremony: 25 June 1985. The ceremony was held at the Hall of Flags at the State House, Boston, MA, with a number of Korean War veterans in attendance. Other meetings soon followed.

The first gathering of Korean War veterans held their ceremony on 27 July 1985, at Arlington National Cemetery and Amphitheater at 10 a.m., on the 32nd anniversary of the armistice signing. The first KWV Gathering was 25-28 July 1985 at the West Park Hotel, Rosslyn, VA. A special highlight was the issue of a Korean War stamp on 26 July at the Post Office, Washington, D.C. to honor Korean War veterans. On 27 July, our first Wreath Laying and Memorial Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery became a reality. The experience was one to remember for those in attendance, as we remembered those who made the supreme sacrifice.

The Emergence Of The KWVA

Bill called a meeting on the afternoon of 26 July at 2 p.m. to make a couple decisions that ultimately resulted in a national Korean War Veterans Association. The association was organized and chartered 25 June 1985 as a Korean War Veterans Association, State of New York.



During the meeting of the gathering of Korean War Veterans, the decisions were made to go national with an association of Korean War veterans and to adopt the Charter and By-Laws approved on 25 June 1985 in New York, to be amended as a national association. (That explains why the national association is legally chartered in Albany, New York.)

A slate of officers was approved for the Charter and By-Laws. The first list of officers published by President Bill Norris, who was also *The Graybeards* first editor, appeared in 1985. They were:

- President William T. Norris
- 1st Vice-President Mario Scarcelletta
- 2nd Vice-President Arthur Patterson
- Secretary & Treasurer John Herbert
- Chaplain Jack A. Furlow
- Historians William Kingston, Jr., and Victor Gerst, Jr.
- Directors 1985 - Kenneth A. Dame, Ira J. Singer, Edward Hoth
- Directors 1986 - Robert F. Marchillo, Arthur L. Devoe, Jr., Stanley E. Hadden
- Directors 1987 - William Coe, Dale W. Ringgs, Joseph A. Ricker
- Medical Advisor & Consultant - Dr. William D. Racek, PhD, Coatsville VA Medical Center, Coatsville, PA 19320

The Graybeards Hits The Newsstands

The first publication of the Association by President Norris and *Graybeards* Editor was after the first meeting of the Executive Board on 28 September 1985. The first issue was printed and distributed about January 1986.



It's Logical To Have A Logo

There was a logo designed in the early planning stages in 1985, which soon became visible on letterheads, papers, and *The Graybeards*, but only in black and white. Color was added in late 1985.

In 1985 the logo featured a black and white circle with a map of Korea. At the top of the circle were the words "Korean War Veterans." At the bottom appeared "Association" and the 38th parallel with the Korean War dates. Bill put together the US Flag, the UN Flag, and Flag of the Republic of Korea, all in color. On the cover of the first publication was the tombstone designed by Bill that gives the grim statistics of the Korean War.

In 1985, color was added to the Korean War Veterans Association logo: a blue field in the center, the white border, and the words "Korean War Veterans Association" in red.

Also in 1985, a decal was made up. In 1987 it was printed in color on the cover that had a base or tab on the bottom, inscribed with, "Korean War Veterans Association 25 June 1985" (The date the KWVA was chartered). The words at the top of the decal were, "America's Forgotten War."

On the cover of the September 1987 issue is a picture of the "No Greater Love Bench of Remembrance" that is inscribed with these words, the slogan of *No Greater Love*, which is discussed later on in this article:

"The beginning of the end of war lies in remembrance."...Herman Wouk

In sacred memory of those Americans who gave their lives during the Korean War, 1950-1953

52,246 died; 127 missing in action; 389 unaccounted for POW's;

First internal tribute July 27, 1987

Given by No Greater Love and the Korean War Veterans Association

Agreement Is Reached On A National Association

During the meeting on 26 July 1985, at

Cover of 1985 Graybeards

the West Park Hotel, Rosslyn, VA, the veterans present agreed to organize a national Korean War Veterans Association. Thirty-nine members signed on and paid dues for one year in the amount of \$10.00. (There were more than 39 present at the first gathering. About 55 veterans attended, many with their wives.)

The 39 who have been referred to over the past 20 years in *The Graybeards* on a number of occasions are: Dale W. Riggs, William Booker, Joseph J. Perc, William F. Mason, Jr., Robert A. McWatter, Vincent A. Estella, Arthur T. Patterson, Donald E. Nelson, Gage Lamagna, Allen M. Smith, LeRoy M. Stucker, Richard Winterstein, John A. Herbert, Daniel Lucey, Jr., Edward Hoth, Kenneth Borchardt, Ralph W. Melcher, William McCavitt, C. J. Rittenhouse, Thomas C. Harris, Jr., Wes Worsham, Harry Wallace, Herman Vollings, Charles Ritenour, Richard Ziemba, Ralph Lugo, William T. Norris, Stanley Hadden, Herbert Parnow, Charles Soules, Jack E. Cloman, Mario Scarcelletta, Jr., Howard M. Steele, Jr., Victor Gerst, Robert O'Hara, Joseph Brown, Joseph P. McCallion, Herbert Watson, and Milton H. Glazagasti.

A 40th individual present on 26 July not listed on the sign-in sheet is Ralph Butler, ex-POW, Korean War Membership Number POW 0001.

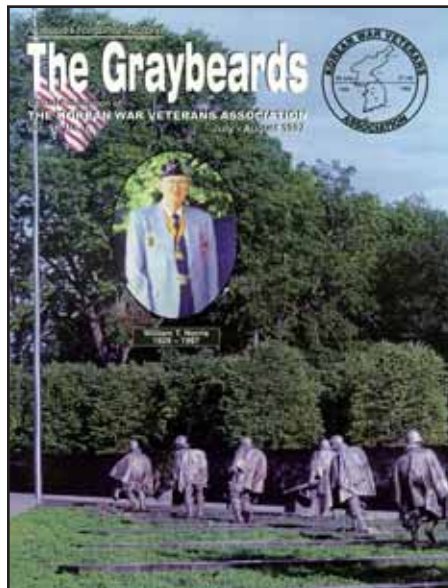
At the meeting on 26 July the Charter, filed and approved in New York, was amended to include Prisoners of War. It was decided that the ex-POW of the Korean War needed only to complete an application, and they would not have to pay dues. Additionally, they were granted life memberships in the Association.

A set of principles was established. For a number of years they were printed in the inside cover of *The Graybeards*. After 1989, the printed principles disappeared from the cover of *The Graybeards*. Those principles were:

- 1) To support the ideals this great country was founded on
- 2) To maintain the dignity and pride of the Korean War Veterans who served this country when asked to
- 3) To work towards the recognition of those who did not return from the Korean War
- 4) To maintain and foster the comradeship between the men and women who served during the Korean War



Cover of 1988 Graybeards



Cover of 1997 Graybeards

5) To perpetuate the memory and reason which required our service during the Korean War.

In the late 1980s, Bill Norris wrote a history of the Korean War Veterans Association, in which he recapped the events of 1984 and 1985 and the meeting—and correcting the prior mistakes printed and published in *The Graybeards*. (Basically, these facts have been covered in this write up, covering the years of our beginning as an Association that led to the first Korean War Veterans Gathering that fostered the concept and desire that we, the Korean War veterans, should have a National Association.)

Folks, this was our humble beginning in 1985. We had a slate of officers that comprised veterans who volunteered to jump start the Association and build up

the membership. Bill Norris became the President and, by extension, the leader of the Association. Early on he had a group of willing and dedicated persons. Many of them who he never knew before July 1985 became the engine that began the national movement to locate our nation's Korean War veterans and interest them in becoming a member.

The Next Chapter: Chapters

Soon after the formation of the Association in 1985, as Korean War veterans were contacted and signed up as members, inquiries were made to Bill about starting chapters. However, the issuance of charters was delayed, as the Association waited for the Internal Revenue Service and other agencies to issue the proper ID numbers and tax exempt status official papers. Once they

materialized, charters were finally established. Chapters in the United States became not only a reality, but the greatest means of increasing our membership.

Next Project: A Memorial To The Veterans Of The Korean War

Early on, the project that was foremost on the agenda was to have a memorial in our nation's capital to honor those who made the supreme sacrifice, our POWs, MIAs, and those who served their country during the Korean War.

The Vietnam War Memorial started Korean War veterans thinking about their war. Slowly, a few veterans took up the cause that brought about some interest in a small number of Korean War veterans and citizens in the US. Unfortunately for them, the ones they needed to win over in our government just didn't seem to be listening.

By organizing the Korean War Veterans Association on a national level, we gained in numbers during the mid- to late-1980s. As the momentum picked up during the early years, more Korean War veterans became involved in the quest to have a memorial in our nation's capital.

This desire to make the memorial project a reality brought thousands of our veterans together. With a lot of prodding, letter writing, and bills presented to Congress, the legislation needed was finally passed. At last, for a number of weary veterans there was hope of having a memorial. Those of us directly involved in the struggle learned that it was only beginning.

On 14 March 1984 Joe McCallion



Groundbreaking for Korean War Veterans Memorial, Albany, NY



Bill Norris in Arlington National Cemetery at the KVV Bench

wrote his first letter about the fact there wasn't a memorial, asking Congress to take action. When Bill Norris and Joe McCallion joined forces in 1984, Bill began his letter writing campaign. He encouraged others to do the same.

During President Ronald W. Reagan's term in office, Bill published a letter to the Association officers and membership encouraging all veterans to write to the President and their states' congressional representatives and senators to ask them to support a memorial in our nation's capital.

Bill's stationery at the bottom had these words: "America's Forgotten War". Veterans of Korea - No Monuments - No Memorial - Only Memories." That letter was written at the time the Office of Management and Budget refused the request early in 1985 for money to plan for a Korean War Veterans Memorial. You can only imagine how that news was received by Bill in New York.

Time To Regroup And Widen The Membership Doors

This news stirred up veterans across America. It was time to regroup and forge ahead.

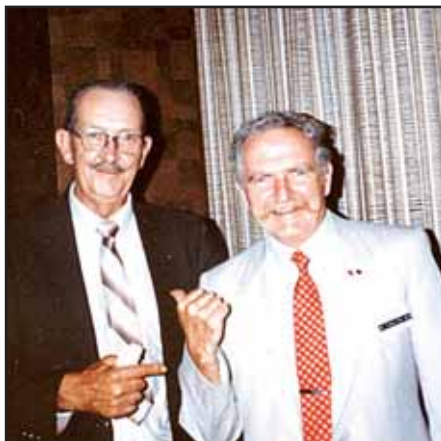
On 2 May 1986 Bill took a hard look at the time period given in the By-Laws and Chapter when the Association was chartered in New York. The Charter stated the period of eligibility as 1950-1955. Therefore, Bill proposed an amendment to change the By-Laws, to read as follows:

Date: 2 May 1986
 Subject: Proposed Amendment to Charter and By-laws
 To: All members of the Executive Board and Directors

Under Article V, Section 1, of the By-laws of the Korean War Veterans Association, the following proposed amendment be brought before the membership at this year annual business meeting and be voted on.

Amend Section I. Qualification of Members: To read: The membership of this Association shall consist of Regular Members, Chapter Members, Honorary Members and Korean Service Members. -

1. Any person who has served in Korea with a Regular Assigned Unit following the Cease Fire on 27 July 1953 to present shall be eligible for membership. 2. Upon making application for membership they



Bill Norris & Joe McCallion taken from 1985 *Graybeards*

must submit documentation as to unit assigned and to have served IN Korea for at least 90 days.

'The above proposed amendment is requested for the following reasons: There has never been a Treaty or Surrender formally signed between the two Major factors involved or the United Nations whom the United States Forces served under. The area in Korea has been maintained with American Forces since the Cease Fire to present. They serve on the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and have suffered casualties through the years. For this they are awarded the Purple Heart which is considered a Combat Award.

Sincerely, /s/ William T. Norris, President

In the first year of the Association's existence, Bill Norris knew that for our Association to continue in future years, the eligible time period for membership eligibility needed to be adjusted. In 1986, the Association began to accept veterans who served in Korea post-1953 as eligible members of the Association.

Bill Norris was presented with a flag stand and flags of 22 nations, Canadian Veterans Reunion



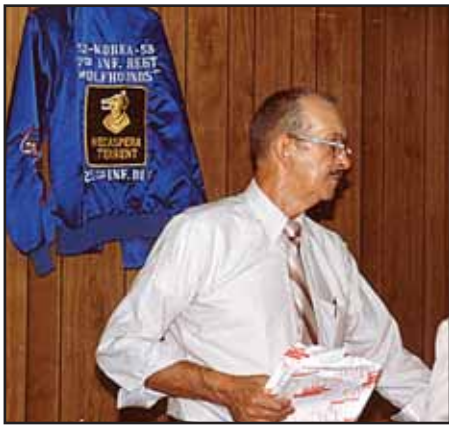
As time went on, the Executive Council made changes and adjustments to the requirements of membership, setting the dates to be 1945 to 1955 and to those who have served honorably in Korea and territorial waters from 1955 to the present, defined now as Korea Defense Service Veterans by the US Department of Defense.

During the years of 1985-1988, Bill served our Association as President. He made every effort in good faith to lead the Association in the direction for success. He was also the editor of *The Graybeards* during those years, and the overseer of the annual Reunions that continued to grow each year.

As Bill led, edited, and oversaw, the Association experienced its share of growing pains and ups and downs. But, in spite of the obstacles and occasional differences of opinions, Bill never lost sight of the big goal: to obtain a national memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Highlights Of Bill Norris' Leadership Years

There were a number of highlights during his term as President. One that stands out to this day came about due to another key player in Bill's life and—in turn—in the life of all Korean War veterans: Carmella LaSpada, Founder and President of "No Greater Love." For, on 27 July 1987, the President and Founder of KWVA and the Chairman and Founder of "No Greater Love" joined in Arlington National Cemetery for the dedication of the international tribute to U.N. Forces in Korea and dedication of a Meditation Bench in honor of Americans who gave their lives during the Korean War, 1950-1953.



Above left, Bill Norris at our Hospitality Room, July 1985, West Park Best Western Hotel, Rosslyn, VA. Above right, Bill Norris, 1996, at the podium, Sheraton National Hotel (Bill's last KWW Gathering)

“No Greater Love” has a motto, attributed to author Herman Wouk: *“The beginning of the end of war lies in remembrance.”* Carmella LaSpada had this vision in the spring of 1984. Check the date. It seems to hold a special significance for Korean War veterans.

Another step forward was the expansion of reunion sites. The time came for the Korean War Veterans Association to take the Reunions in July to other parts of the United States. In 1992 they went to Reno, Nevada.

Bill Norris stated that he would continue to be in Washington, D.C., 25-27 July until the memorial was built and dedicated. In 1995 it became clear—finally—that the memorial was to be a reality. Therefore, a number of Korean War veterans stood with Bill and agreed to be in Washington, D.C., as well. A number of them were from the 1985 “39,” and they continue to be in Washington D.C. every year. We have a few who have never missed in 21 years. So, the “Gathering” continues in D.C. as we observe the Korean War Veterans Armistice Day each year.

I found that as I revisited the years of Bill Norris and his role as founder of the KWVA, and president, leader, and mentor for many, that I have material that is volumes of papers, documents, copies of publications, letters, copies of *The Graybeards*, writings and works of others to fill a couple 3-ring binders. So, I will stop and wrap up with a few observations of my own, and tributes from Bill’s family that should take a place of honor in this tribute to William T. Norris.

Notes From Mrs. Clara Norris:

These are insights into his life. He worked most of his life for the Norton Company as a Steam Plant Engineer, from which he retired after 41 years. He liked to visit his friends, go out to dinner and dance. He enjoyed entertaining family and friends. His great joy was being with his grandchildren. He had many happy occasions with them.

Bill was one to be active. He took great pride in taking care of the home. He liked to fish and enjoyed hunting. We had a camper for years and he would load it up on weekends, and he drove Mrs. Norris and the children on many memorable trips; of course, the fishing pole and tackle went along. Bill was a good man, a devoted husband and father. He was also a joiner. He wanted to give back to his community.

Bill was a life member of VFW Post 1498 of Clifton Park, Halfmoon, NY. He was a volunteer fireman of the Halfmoon Fire Department; volunteered with the Boy Scouts for 15 years, Scoutmaster of Troop 36 and also on District Staff and on the Council level, all in Saratoga County; member of American Legion Post 1450 in Clifton Park; member of Masonic Temple Lodge #116, Cohoes, NY F & AM (Free and Accepted Masons); served on the Saratoga County Veterans Advisory Board for 2 years.

Bill received awards for the Wood Badge training in scouting, which is the highest level of leadership training for non-professionals; District Award of Merit for Scouting; Order of the Arrow; George Meany Award - BSA, presented by AFL-

CIO Union in Norton Company. He was the Man of the Year, VFW in 1986, Hudson-Mohawk Council District 3; received The Post Bugle, 1st place - 1991-1992, William Norris, Editor, Post 1498.

He received the DeWitt Clinton Award for Community Service (March 1989) awarded by Daniel Carpenter Lodge #588, New York City (Man of the Year). It was given to him in recognition for his work for Korean War veterans, with remarks made by KWVA 1st Vice-President Tom Maines. This award was sponsored by Joseph P. Caulfield, a KWVA member, and also a member of the Daniel Carpenter Lodge #588, New York City.

His military awards include Combat Infantry Badge, WWII Victory Medal, Army Occupation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Korean Service Medal with three

Continued on page 72

*Dedicated to those of us
who will never see our
National Monument*

KOREA
America's Forgotten War

It's called America's forgotten war
That was fought so long ago.
Fought in muddy trenches
and in the blood stained snow.

It started back in fifty
We fought till fifty three
Sent to defend South Korea
To keep that country free.

We fought to take the high ground
and hold on to the crest.
While fighting in the trenches
We stood up to the test

We fought on Old Baldy
We think of those who fell.
On T-Bone and Pork Chop Hill
It was a living hell.

Why has our country forgotten?
I stop and wonder why.
I think of those still missing
and who in that war did die.

Yes, they have forgot us
veterans who stood up to the test.
Those who are still living
and who in hallowed ground now rest.

Cpl. Tom Lyons

A great poem by Tom Lyons, copied and used by many over the years

19 GENERAL RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

The guest speaker at the chapter's semi-monthly meeting in February was member Jack Robinson. As a U.S. Marine with the 1st Bn. 1st, Reg, 1st Marine Div., he saw considerable action in operations "Guerilla Hunt" and "Killer," and on Horseshoe Ridge during the Punchbowl battle.



#19 President Thomas Harris, Dae Yong Mun, President of Korean Veterans Association, Jack W. Robinson

On November 11, 2005, The Georgia Tech Center for International Strategy, Technology & Policy unveiled the General Raymond G. Davis "Wall of Honor." Gen. Davis was a graduate of Georgia Tech.

At the chapter's Christmas Party, member James Conway presented a framed original photograph of the bridge across the Rhine River at Arnhem ("A Bridge Too Far") to Mr. Carl Beck,



CID#19 members in attendance at "Wall of Honor" ceremony (L-R) James Conway, Urban Rump, Robert McCubbins, Gen. (Ret) Harold Dye, Edwin Murray, Robert Hendershott, Thaddeus Sobieski, Thomas Harris, Robert Moore, Ronald Clark, Gen. (Ret) Warren Johnson

James Conway (R) presents photo to Carl Beck at CID#19's Christmas Party



the featured speaker. Mr. Beck jumped into Holland with the 501st Paratroopers during the "Market Garden" Campaign. He also jumped into Normandy three times: on D-Day in 1944, and on the 50th and 60th anniversaries of the invasion.

*James Conway, 1184 Fourteenth Place NE
Atlanta, GA 30309-3505*

30 INDIANA #1 [IN]

The chapter's website has moved to <http://mysite.verizon.net/kwvafw/fwkvva.html>

*Dean Whitesel, P.O. Box 8795
Fort Wayne, In. 46898-8795*

40 MINNESOTA #1 - [MN]

Several chapter members make monthly visits to veterans who are patients at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis—and have been doing so for several years. In fact, some of the members of the chapter have spent hundreds of hours visiting with patients, and carrying with them bags filled with donated supplies such as shaving soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other VA-approved supplies.



CID#40 members starting a visit to Medical Center patients (Sitting, L-R) Rev. Don Swanson (Hospital Chairman, VAVS-Rep.), Tom McNeeley (Deputy VAVS); (Standing, L-R) Harvey Sell, Sonny Dabruzzi, Lou Weber, Chanley Lundgren, Floyd Jones

58 MONROE COUNTY [NY]

James Cannioto, the medic in the famous picture below taken by SFC Al Chang, (Army) on August 28, 1950 in the Haktong-ni area of Korea, passed away recently and will be buried in White Haven Memorial Park in Rochester, NY on May 20th at 10:00 a.m.



#58's James Cannioto in Korea

It turned out to be a cold and windy day, but that did not stop the many members and friends of the Korean War vets from turning out to honor the committal service of a Medic who was the man in the very well known picture taken on August 28th, 1950 by Army photographer Al Chang. The picture shows a medic off to the left, making out the death report on a GI who had just been killed, while another GI comforts the buddy of the deceased soldier.

Jimmy Cannioto, the medic in the picture, passed away last December. This day, his ashes were borne to White Haven Memorial Park in Rochester, NY, to be buried scant feet from where his image is engraved forever on one of the two huge boulders which make up Monroe County's Korean War Vets Memorial.

An Honor Guard of Korean War vets from Waterloo's Finger Lakes Chapter escorted the remains and Jimmy's long-term friend Pat Albert to Rochester. Included in the Honor Guard were newly elected State President Jim Lewis of the KWVA, and newly appointed Treasurer Dick Compos.

Media coverage was provided by two TV channels and reporters from the *Democrat and Chronicle* newspaper.

Jimmy was with the 19th Regiment of the 24th Division. After they had taken devastating losses, he was transferred to the 34th Regiment of the 24th. The severity of the fighting by the 24th was made evident by the whole 24th being awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Jimmy was a Past President and very active member of our chapter. His ashes were accompanied to Rochester from Waterloo, NY where he was living at the time of his death, by an Honor Guard of members from Finger Lakes Chapter, CID# 67, of the KWVA.

Alan Murray, #58's newest member, is Officer in Charge of the Flag Section of the Anzac Day Parade in Melbourne



Our chapter's newest member, Allan Murray, who lives in Melbourne, Australia, was with an Honor Guard detachment in Korea. He is presently the Publicity Officer and a Committeeman for the Korean Veterans Association of Australia, Inc.

*Joe Vogel, 1432 Leicester Road
Caledonia, NY 14423, (585) 538-6162*

60 ADIRONDACK [NY]

Korean War veteran Roger Calkins arranged one of our monthly special events—a beautiful and scenic trip and tour to the United States Military Academy at West Point. A delicious luncheon was served at the Officers Club.

*Ray Waldron, 4 Patricia Ln
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-2812, (518) 584-4362
ExADRay@aol.com*



Members of #60 gather at one of their special events

69 GREATER CLEVELAND [OH]

On Nov. 22, 2005, after a brief meeting, 36 KWVA members and associates worked together to pack 36 boxes of "goodies" for troopers in Iraq. Everything from beef jerky to popcorn to chapstick—some 27 different items—went into each box. Then, using some 30 plus pounds of loosely packed, individually wrapped candies, we stuffed each box tightly to avoid any shifting of contents during shipment.

74 KWVA OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA [PA]

In October 2005, chapter member Ed Vogel was one of four veterans honored at the Southwestern Veteran Center on Highland Drive, Pittsburgh, PA. Pictures are displayed for six months and names are listed on permanent plaque. Hall of Fame Dedication

Honoree: Sergeant Edwin E. Vogel

With 1st Marine Division in Battle at Chosin Reservoir in Korea. Received Purple Heart Medal, Combat Action Ribbon. Presidential Unit Citation with Star (USA), National Defense Medal, Korea Service Medal with Star, Presidential Unit Citation (S. Korea), United Nations Service Medal and Republic of Korea War Service Medal. Served the Veterans in many, many capacities after his active duty.

CID# 74 member Ed Vogel with General Jessica L. Wright and State Senator Donald C. White



The KWVA honor guard posted the colors for the dedication.
Burt Kennedy,

117 OCEAN STATE #1 [RI]

Members attended a Korean War Armistice Day remembrance at the Korean War Memorial in Providence, RI, on July 27, 2005. The following day, chapter members were at a ceremony to honor Korean War veteran Theodore Low, who was sworn in as a civilian aide to LtGen Russel L. Honore.



#117 members at Theodore Low ceremony (L-R) RI State Representative Ken Carter, Past President United Veterans Council Joseph Corrente, LtGen Russel L. Honore, #117 and VFW Post 306 Commander Maurice Trottier, Jr. Vice Commander Roland A. Watts Sr., and #147 (RI Chapter 2) Commander Robert Hartley



TOP: #69's Commander, Paul Romanovich, looks on as an unidentified postal clerk prepares packages for Iraq

BELOW: John Hermann (L) and Paul Romanovich (R) finish packing and sealing 35 boxes of goods filled by #69 members and shipped to Iraq

By the 10th of December we added a few more boxes to the initial number, and all the boxes were sent overseas. The designated chairman, John Hermann, did an exceptional job of selecting the items, based on the USO's guidelines. Jan Naples assisted John with the details, since she had shipped such boxes before and was therefore familiar with the regulations.

The Greater Cleveland KWVA chapter coordinated and worked together to donate \$1,000.00 from their treasury, wishing holiday good wishes for those overseas in Iraq. The senders and receivers were identified individually, so each recipient knew from whom the box was sent. The spirit of the holidays traveled with each box, complemented by a personal holiday greeting inside.

Perhaps a few notes will arrive in Cleveland from Iraq.

*Paul Romanovich, 5400 Sandy Hook Dr
Parma, OH 44134, (440) 885-5101*

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association
Website: www.KWVA.org

126 TRI-STATE [OH]

With the coming of spring and warmer weather, our chapter becomes more active, and we shake the rust off these old bones. As the “Tell America” program winds down, the “Forget-Me-Not” sales begin.

We usually get a dozen members out on a Saturday to sell. It’s fun, and we get to know everyone better. Memorial Day weekend is a busy time for us, as we place flags on veterans’ graves and participate in the parade in East Liverpool (Ohio).

The nearby pictures are from 2005, but 2006 looks like a repeat, with an added parade, six picnics, and some trips. Being in three states keeps us busy, but we enjoy doing our part, so we’re not “forgotten.”

*George W. Piggott, 3720 Root Ave
NE, Canton, OH 44705-2665*



#117 Chaplain Ken LaFountain (L) and Commander Maurice Trottier (R) at Providence ceremony



#126 members after placing flags on the graves at River View Cemetery, East Liverpool, OH (Sitting, L-R) Tony Flara, Don Wolf, Ed Peters (Standing) Bob Estell, Lloyd Nalley)



Three RI chapter commanders gather at Providence ceremony (L-R) #147’s Robert Hartley, #117’s Maurice Trottier, #258’s (Northern RI) Frank Meo



#117 members (L-R) Commander Maurice Trottier, Chaplain Ken LaFountain, and Past Commander Roland A. Watts Sr. at Providence ceremony

*Maurice Trottier, 20 Oakdale Ave
Pawtucket, RI 02860-2512*



#126 members at East Liverpool, OH, Memorial Day Parade (L-R, w/ flags) Bob Estell, George Piggott, Don Glass; Carrying banner, L-R, Herb Nida, John Kilcoyne

#126 member Bob Estell selling "Forget-Me-Nots" in East Liverpool. OH



#142 members participated with a Color Guard and the Fallen Comrade ceremony.

*Richard L. Martin, 8113 Glendale Dr
Frederick, MD 21702, (301) 663-6360
RLMAEM@adelphia.net*

169 LAKE COUNTY [FL]

Members attended their annual picnic last July. Judging by the photo, they had a good time.



#126 members at River View Cemetery, East Liverpool, OH (L-R) Carl Sebrell, Wally Rettig, Tony Flara



#169 members enjoying their annual picnic

142 KOREAN WAR VETERANS [MD]

On Sunday, May 7, 2006, the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, MD, sponsored a luncheon and program to honor the participants and volunteers for the Frederick County, MD Veterans History Project. Many area veterans had the history of their military service recorded by volunteers.

175 LT. BALDOMERO LOPEZ, MOH [FL]

Chapter members look forward to their annual Christmas party—especially to the appearance of Santa and at least one elf. If anyone looks closely, they will see that Santa bears a close resemblance to Chapter 2nd VP Fred Gossett, and the elf looks a great deal like Chapter President Murdoch Ford.

*Clarence Clifton, 819 Sidney Washer Rd.
Dover, FL 33527*



142 Color Guard members (L-R) Ken Davis, Scheller Garlock, Tony Malavenda, Charles Kopelman, Leroy Hansberger, Tony Marra, Richard Toms, Glenn Wienhoff, Wendell Murphy. (Not pictured is Color Guard Commander Marty Goge)



CID#175 members enjoy their annual Christmas party

176 REDWOOD [CA]

Several members participated in the annual Rhododendron Parade in Eureka, CA, on April 29, 2006.

*Donald ("Hank") Nicol, 2160 Albee St
Eureka, CA 95501*



#176 member George Lingard at Parade



Gene Bartlett and Ken Stoffer of #176 at Rhododendron Parade



Ken Stoffer's 1944 Willys Jeep in Navy coloration participates with #176 members in the Eureka parade



Bill O'Donnell, alias "The Godfather," of #176 at Parade

177 EASTERN OKLAHOMA [OK]

The chapter gave away a Craftsman mower, courtesy of K-Mart. Members sold tickets to raise funds to help needy veterans. The drawing took place Saturday, May 6, 2006, at 1 p.m. K-Mart assistant manager Tom Farmer drew the winning ticket, which was held by John Howard, of Muskogee, OK. Ironically, Mr. Howard told us, his late father was a Korean veteran.

We advise all chapters to contact their local K-Marts to ask about setting up sites for their fund raisers. Unlike some of their competitors' policies, you don't have to write to K-Mart's corporate offices to seek permission. If the local store okays your request, you will probably have to set up outside.

*Bill Weber, 2404 Pin Oak Road
Muskogee, OK 74401*



K-Mart Asst. Mgr. Tom Farmer draws winning ticket at #177's raffle



#177 members at K-Mart (L-R) Ed Bradshaw, S. D. Stewart, Bob Thomason, Carl Threlkeld

199 MANASOTA [FL]

The chapter's Color Guard presented the Colors at McKetchnie Field Ball Park in Bradenton, FL, for the Pittsburgh Pirates' spring exhibition games.

One of the Color Guard "members" is James C. LaFreniere, a visiting Korean War veteran from Canada. (He is seen holding the Canadian flag in the nearby photo.) He asked if he could join us, and we said, "Why not? We all served under the UN flag."

James is a "snow bird" who visits our chapter.

*Richard P. Coalts, 602 Crete Ct.
Bradenton, FL 34207*



#199's Color Guard at Pirates' game (L-R) Terry Willis, Captain of the Color Guard, Joe Manna, Skip Hannon, James C. LaFreniere, Ralph Coalts, Chpater Commander Gene Gillette

202 ORANGE COUNTY [NY]

At the regular monthly meeting, chapter members elected the following officer for the coming year:

- President - Samuel L. Tucker
- 1st Vice President - Dr. Hubert H. Lee
- 2nd Vice President - John A. Stellingwerf

- Secretary - Joseph J. Schneider
- Treasurer - Joseph LLP. DeSerto
- Public Relations - John A. Sellingwerf
- Website & Email - Dr. Hubert H. Lee

The chapter held a dinner at the American Legion Hall in Middletown, NY on June 25 th. We invited all service personnel who served in the military from June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955, and all who served honorably in Korea from February 1, 1955 until the present. As is the case with all veterans organizations, we are looking for new members.

*Joseph J. Schneider, 189 Guymard Tpke.
Mt. Hope, Middletown, NY 10940-7107, (845) 386-1768,
Schneider@frontiernet.net*

209 LAREDO 1950 [TX]

The chapter presented the Lucy Merriweather Laredo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution with a plaque of appreciation for the great support it affords to the KWVA.

*Pete Trevino, 23 Quadrangle
Laredo, TX 78041*



RIGHT: David Leyendecker, #209's President, presents Plaque of Appreciation to Anabelle Hall of the DAR Laredo chapter



LEFT: Head table of the DAR chapter at #209's presentation

BELOW: DAR members surround #209's President Leyendecker at Laredo ceremony



215 GEN. WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

Meeting the Troops at DFW Airport

Chapter members in the Dallas Fort Worth area meet the troops returning from Iraq at DFW Airport when we can. Also, the DeSoto School District brought some of their classes and administrators to welcome the troops.

The men and women in the nearby photos are coming home for R&R for two weeks. The response from the soldiers is sometimes overwhelming. Some can't hold back their emotions. We receive news coverage here all the time.

John Fisher and his wife Carolyn coordinate these visits. They do a wonderful job of it.

*Marvin Dunn, Jr., President, Texas State Department
1721 Briardale Ct., Arlington, TX 76013*



#215 members and friends await troops at DFW Airport



#215 members line up to greet troops at DFW Airport



#215 members at ease waiting to put arriving troops at ease



Arriving troops greet their #215 counterparts at DFW Airport



DeSoto School District students say it all at DFW Airport



John Penman prepares to cut the cake at the #255 ceremony

chapter's three Korea Service Veterans were important to the future of the chapter, and he hoped that more such veterans would be coming into the organization in the near future. That shows the Korea Service Vets that they are important too.

*Judith Knight, 260 Hill and Dell Dr
Warrenville, SC. 29851*

255 SGT. HAROLD F. ADKISON

The chapter recently honored one of its Korean Service veterans. SFC John Penman has been the Chapter's only active duty member, so his April 30th retirement from the U.S. Army, Ft. Gordon, GA, was a first for the chapter, which honored Penman at their monthly dinner meeting.



#255 Adj/Treas Clyde Hooks presents gift to Julie and John Penman. (Hooks was Penman's instructor when he passed through Ft. Gordon earlier in his career)

Penman and his wife, Julie, were presented with a special scrapbook in which to chronicle their military experience, and a cake was specially decorated to mark the occasion.

During Penman's 25 years of service, he saw two tours of duty in Korea; '93-'94 with the HHC 307th Signal Battalion, Waegwan, and '98-'99 as Maintenance Supervisor COMSEC Logistical Support Center, Seoul.

Chapter Commander Lawrence Doolittle remarked that the

**You Earned It! Why not be part of the elite;
Join the organization for Combat Infantrymen!**

Membership requirements: The applicant must have been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge as certified to by official notation on the applicant's DD-214, Official Army Orders, or other official documents. Applicant must attach a copy of such documentation to this Enlistment (Membership) Application. Dues are \$20.00 for two years or \$75.00 for a life membership. We do not have a one (1) year membership.

For more information and membership application please visit our website at www.cibassoc.com or contact:

Daniel R. Sankoff, Major, C.I.A.
National Membership Officer
236 Danby Road
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-7531
E-mail: silverfox236@aol.com

265 CHARLOTTE [NC]

We held a 75th birthday party for our chapter member and Medal of Honor recipient, Rudy Hernandez. His birthday was April 14, 2006.

He and his wife Denzil reside in Fayetteville, NC, near Fort Bragg.

*Don G. Putnam, 7036 Thorncliff Dr
Charlotte, NC 28210*



#265 members and friends help Rudy Hernandez celebrate his 75th birthday (Standing L-R) Tom Hegg, Barbara Hegg, Bill Stegall, Shirley Waldo, Bill Williams. Denzil Hernandez, in front, holds her arm around Rudy. Bill Waldo sits at the right.

272 GREATER ROCKFORD [IL]

Representatives of the Loves Park Clifford E. Johnson VFW Post 9759 presented a check for \$10,000 to the Greater Rockford Area Korean War Vets Association during the annual meeting April 15 at the Golden Corral in Rockford. The money is to help with the costs of the proposed Korean War Memorial.



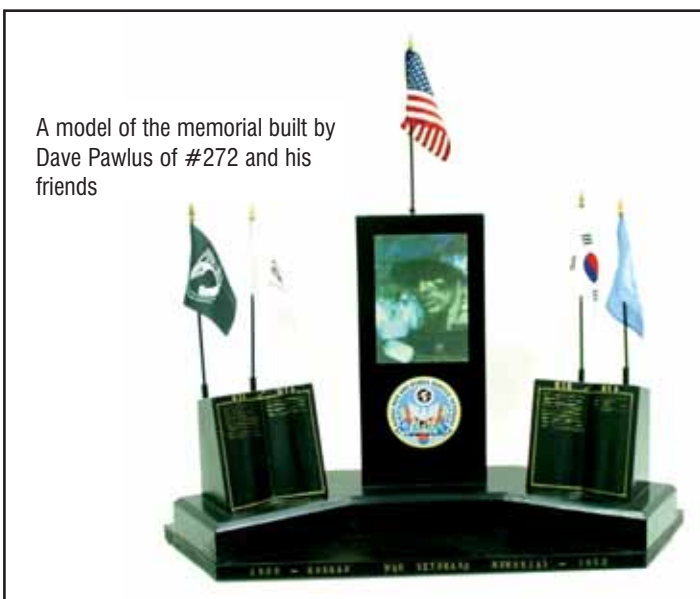
At the table with Rudy Hernandez (L-R) Bill Williams (not pictured), Ken Waldo, Shirley Waldo, Denzil & Rudy Hernandez, Don Putnam, Bill Stegall, Barbara Hegg, Tom Hegg



(L-R) Roland Porter, 6th District Commander, VFW; Ken Sea, Quartermaster, Post 9659; Morrie Allen, 6th District Adjutant, VFW; Jim Gillam, Commander, Post 9759; Paul Petersen, Past Commander, Post 9759; and Stan Mattson, #272 Fund Raising Chairman

As of this report, the chapter has raised over \$50,000 of a needed \$130,000.

The memorial has been approved for erection on Rockford Park District Property in Loves Park, Illinois. Construction is expected to start in November of 2007.



A model of the memorial built by Dave Pawlus of #272 and his friends

Memorial bricks are being sold for \$50 each. Applications are available from: Jack F. Philbrick, President of Chapter 272

*Jack F. Philbrick, 211 N. 2nd St
Rockford, IL 61101*

286 EAST TEXAS [TX]

The members now have a recently completed Chapter flag and Color Guard. The flag was designed by Chapter 286 member Bill Watson. The design was given to Amber and Peter Paek, Korean Nationals who live in Tyler. They had the flag made in Korea at no cost to the Chapter during one of Peter's recent business trips. The flag was presented to the Chapter at its March meeting.

During a recent Massing of the Flags held in Shreveport, LA, some of the Color Guard from Chapter 286 of Tyler, TX, carried their flag.

*Lee R. Baty, 2210 Firestone Cir
Tyler, TX 75703-5872*

299 KOREA VETERANS OF AMERICA [MA]

The chapter held its annual Milbury, MA meeting in April. Thirty members gathered to discuss the local and national KWVA elections, the future of the KWVA, and the June 17, 2006 meeting which Canada KVA President Les Peate attended.

Also discussed were the two Jr. ROTC programs the KVA sponsors at Wareham [MA] High School and Monte Tech, in Fitchburg [MA] and fundraising efforts in the area.

Donald Burning, of the Chosin Few and the KVA, won a KVA clock. Ed Kelly won a BKVA flask donated by BKVA and KVA member Alan Maggs.

*Jeff Brodeur, Mass State House, Rm. 545-2
Boston, MA 02133*



#286's flag



#286 Color Guard members at the Massing of the Flags in Shreveport, LA: (L-R) Jim Gill, Chapter Commander; Richard Perkins; Bill Watson, Flag Designer; Donald Perkins; Kenneth Oxford; and Lee Roy Baty, Past Chapter Commander and organizer of Chapter 286



Members gather at #299 Milbury meeting



Peter and Amber Paek present flag to #286(L-R, Back) Flag designer Bill Watson, Color Guard members Bill Roberts and Richard Perkins. (Front, L-R) Peter Paek, Lee Roy Baty, Amber Paek



#299 members stand with prize winners at April meeting

Continued on page 56

The Life Of A Tanker

ROTC 2nd Lt. Ray Gagnon served in Korea with the 72nd Tank Bn., 2nd Inf. Div. and 38th Tank Co. He provided us with a few insights into a tanker's life there—and a few photos.

“The non-commissioned officers were a big help for me when I arrived in Korea in June 1952,” he said. “They provided the experience I did not have.” Gagnon was not the first soldier to be assigned to a unit for which he had no experience. One of his best friends, Lt. O'Reily, with whom he was very close, fell into that situation, but not by his own volition.

As Gagnon recalled, O'Reily “Got in trouble while attending a briefing in the war room with a general.” Company members went there frequently for morning briefings. He reported that O'Reily was transferred to a recon company, for which he was not trained. To this day Gagnon wonders if his friend survived.

Gagnon served under courageous leader with both the 72nd Bn. and the 38th Tank Co. The company commander of the 72nd, 1st Lt. Harper, “was a fearless and excellent commander,” in Gagnon's opinion. Unfortunately, Harper contracted hemorrhagic fever, and was only 1 of 4 people in his ward who survived. “The death rate was not publicized during the war,” Gagnon commented.

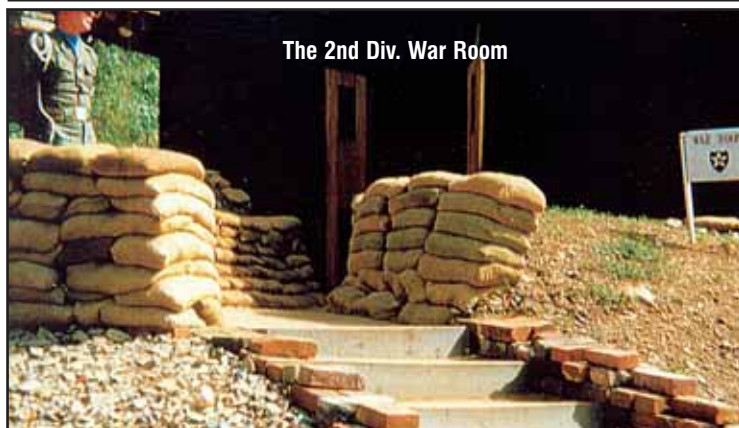
The same analysis applied to Gagnon's time with the 38th. “I was transferred from the 38th, because there was a need for an executive officer there,” he explained. “Captain Smith, the company's Commanding Officer, was, like Harper, a strong leader.” In fact, Gagnon observed, “Captain Smith volunteered to do tank patrols in enemy lines.” But, the tankers were not always called to provide support, which puzzled Gagnon at times.

He remembered a time on “Old Baldy” in summer 1952 when the Marines were receiving air support, but the 72nd Tank Bn., even though it was in the vicinity, was not directed to offer their assistance. “Why? I don't know,” Gagnon said.

But, life with the tankers was not all stress and strain. They did get to go on R & R occasionally, and they tried the local customs. Life with the tankers was not all champagne and roses, but they did get to observe their own version of the “Monroe Doctrine”—Marilyn Monroe, that is.



Lt Ray Gagnon upon his arrival in Korea



The 2nd Div. War Room



72nd Tank Bn. officers (L-R) Lieutenants Harper (Company Commander), McGarvey (Executive Officer), Dasch, Deming

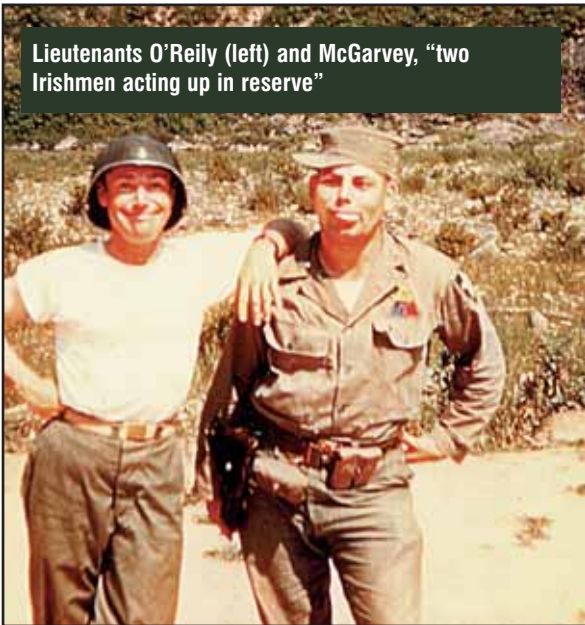


Bunker complex with sandbags, trenches, little foliage—and lots of rats



A modern, top-of-the-line heating apparatus used by the troops in the Division rear

Lieutenants O'Reily (left) and McGarvey, "two Irishmen acting up in reserve"

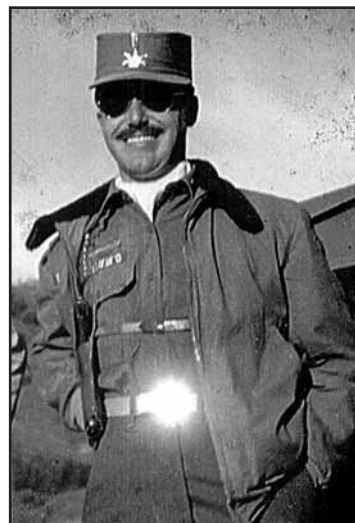


1st Lt Gagnon at the Division rear displaying a sample of the provisions provided to improve morale for the troops after they returned from the front lines: it was "Ginger Ale"



Unidentified sergeant trying out a Korean "A Frame"

Troops boarding the "Box Car" for R & R in Japan



Lt O'Reily



1st Lt Harper



A pin-up of a real morale booster, Marilyn Monroe was "big in '52"



Captain Smith

APPLICATION FOR KVA SEOUL REVISIT TOUR

KVA (Seoul) Revisit Purpose: "To express the gratitude of the Korean Government towards Korean War Veterans who took part in the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to October 15, 1954."

Veteran's Personal History (Please type or print)

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____ Date of Birth _____

KWVA Members# _____ Expiration Date _____

Companion Name/Relationship _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Veteran's Passport# _____ Expiration Date _____

Companion's Passport# _____ Expiration Date _____

NOTE: If you do not have a current valid passport or have just applied to KVA, write "applied for" on # line

Veteran's Military Bibliography

Branch of Service _____ Service Number _____

Period of Service in Korean War (month/year) from _____ thru _____

Unit Assignment _____ Location of Unit _____

Rank Achieved in Korea _____ Highest Rank Achieved while in Service _____

Personal Military Decorations for Valor _____

Veterans's Certification

I hereby certify that I have never previously accepted a KVA (Seoul) Revisit tour and that I am a member in good standing (or have applied) with the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA).

Veteran's Signature _____ Date _____

Complete and mail this form along with a \$300 deposit per person (check, money order or Visa/Mastercard only) to Military Historical Tours. Payment in full is required for all applications submitted sixty days or less prior to departure.

Credit Card Authorization

I, _____ hereby authorize Military Historical Tours to make charges to my _____ credit card, Account#: _____ Expiration date: _____

in consideration for airline tickets and any other travel or transportation services or products as requested by me or authorized users of this credit card.. Signature: _____

Mail To...

KWVA Revisit Korea Program
c/o MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS
4600 Duke Street, Suite 420
Alexandria, VA 22304-2517

Phone: 703-212-0695
Fax: 703-212-8567
E-mail: mht@miltours.com
www.miltours.com

Background

The Korea Revisit program was begun by the Korean Veterans Association (KVA/Seoul) in 1975, the 25th anniversary year of the outbreak of the Korean War, to express their gratitude to veterans of the War and to show them the bountiful results of their sacrifices and devotion.

KVA's Eligibility Requirements

You are eligible if you are:

1. A veteran of the Korean War and /or a war correspondent of any of the 21 nations which came to assistance of the Republic of Korea between 25 June 1950 and 15 October 1954.

2. An immediate family member of one who was killed in action in the Korean War.

Note: You are permitted to take a spouse or one immediate descendent with you to Korea. The family member must be lodged in the same hotel room with you in Korea.

Privileges Accorded Veterans by the KVA, Seoul

1. Hotel accommodations (two persons per room), meals, tours, and transportation, while in Korea for six days and five nights.

2. Tours of Seoul and vicinity. The visits are to Panmunjom, North Korean Invasion Tunnels, Korea War Memorial Monument, National Cemetery, National Museum, Korean Folk Village, Korean War Museum,

plus other cultural/industrial facilities and activities in the Seoul area. Other tours of battle sites and/or Inch eon may be made through the local tour guide.

3. A special reception and dinner hosted by the President of the Korean Veterans Association (KVA) during which the Korea War Medal and Certificate of Ambassador for Peace will be awarded to each veteran who has not received it before.

Sundry Notes

1. The KVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.

2. Participants are required to have a valid passport: a visa is not required for visits of 15 days for fewer in Korea.

3. KVA/Seoul is not responsible for any loss of, or damage to, personal or other items, medical expenses, injuries, or loss of like due to any accident of whatever nature during the revisits. Trip cancellation insurance is available and highly recommended.

4. Transportation costs to and from Korea will be borne by each person who participates in the program.

5. Applications will be received/accepted on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

Note: If you have previously accepted an official KVA/Seoul Revisit tour from any sponsoring association or group, you are NOT eligible to participate again. The reason is that so many veterans have not gone before so they get the "first right of return."

Because former Revisit Program participants have their name in the KVA/Seoul's computer database, please do not try to beat the system. If your name is rejected because of prior participation, all of us will be embarrassed and an eligible Korea War veteran might miss the opportunity to participate.

6. If you want to use your frequent flier miles-or other "free" transportation, you will be charged an administrative service fee of \$300 per person.

Caution: Not traveling with KWVA group air contract can result in much higher post-tour costs to China and other Pacific location.

Note: Should you desire to have a single room or take additional family or friends with you, this can be arranged for an additional cost. Any such requests must be made in writing.

Revisit Korea

■ Article follow up with Donald and Kyung Burton

By Paul Elkins

On 14-November-2004, I had an article published in the Los Alamos [NM] Monitor about our April (2004) tour of the Korean War Battlefields. Some time later I got a call concerning the article from a nice Korean lady, Kyung Burton, who lives in Los Alamos.

As I indicated in the article, my wife Sue and I were favorably impressed with the tour and the Korean people. I asked Kyung if we could meet with her and learn more about her native land. We met her and her husband, Don, for a couple hours and had a very good conversation. We agreed to meet again after the holidays.

Kyung is a former vice-president of the Korean-American Association in the San Francisco Bay Area. Don is currently a physicist in X-Division of the Los Alamos National Lab, and a veteran who served in Korea as a captain in the 2nd Engr Bn, 2nd ID in 1969. Kyung has visited Korea many times over the last 35 years, and has observed the many changes that have taken place in her native land.

She was born in the town of Buyo, and lived there during the war. It is west of Taejon, now Daejeon. She said the fighting was not too bad in her town, but still very



The Burtons and the Elkins

scary for a child. She also said that some of her relatives from Seoul moved in with them during the war years.

The fighting in and around Taejon was very severe. This is where the battered remnants of the 24th ID held off the NKPA for two additional days as requested by LtGen Walker. This gave LtGen Walker time to get two more desperately needed divisions in country. In so doing, MajGen Dean, commander of the 24th ID, fought off tanks in the city and was later captured after evading the NKPA for 36 days. The NKPA committed many atrocities in the vicinity, but thankfully not near Kyung's home.

Paul Elkins, PO Box 348,
Kasilof, AK 99610

(907) 260-6612 p.s.elkins@att.net

NOTE: Paul Elkins' story appeared in the Mar/April issue, pp. 73-77, under the name of Paul Evans. His real name is Elkins. We apologize for the error.

VA Adds Former POW and Purple Heart designation to the Veterans Identification Card (VIC)

VA has added Former POW and Purple Heart (PH) designations on its VIC. These designations are in addition to the Service-Connected designation already displayed on the VIC.

The cards have a photo of the veteran on the face of the card, and identifying information imbedded using bar code and magnetic strip technology. Cards are issued to veterans enrolled in the VA health care system, and are used for identification and administrative processing purposes. The VIC cannot be used as a credit or an insurance card, and it does not authorize or pay for care at non-VA facilities.

Former Prisoner of War and Purple Heart recipients who are currently enrolled with VA and have a current VIC photograph on file will automatically be sent an updated VIC commencing early May, 2006.

Former POWs and/or Purple Heart recipients who are enrolled but have not yet been issued a VIC may request the new card by visiting their local medical center to have their photo taken.

Tell America

76 - LONE STAR CHAPTER [TX]

Chapter 76, located in Houston, began its Tell America program in 1996. At that time our director, Lee Henderson, carried several pieces of equipment and personal material, e.g., M1 rifle, helmets, and dummy grenades to a local school. He spent the entire day at that school by himself, talking to ROTC and history classes about the Korean War. Since that time our program has expanded in numbers of volunteers and amounts of exhibits, which now include clothing, pictures, slides, maps and ammunition. The use of a grenade loaded with caps wakes up all the sleepy kids and gets their attention.



TOP: #76 members at Tell America presentation (L-R) Lee Henderson, Bobby Blair, Tom Campion, Jessie Harper, Mickey Spencer, Henry Martinez.

LEFT: Helmet and grenades used by #76 members at presentations

Lee Henderson and Henry Martinez head the program today. Our group has visited 396 schools and many other groups to present out talks. We generally spend the entire school day talking to the students and other people in attendance. We show pictures of the hills, trenches, tanks on line, infantry bunkers, and artillery gun positions.

Our presentation tells the history of Korea from thousands of years

ago to today. All the students show a lot of interest in our talks. They ask questions about the country, the climate, and the conditions the troops faced in the mountains during the winter season.

We always start our talks with an emphasis on the statement that "Freedom is not free." We try to instill in the audience members that

freedom is always paid for at a great expense, such as the loss of lives and permanent injuries sustained by many of the people involved.

The entire program is a rewarding experience to all who participate. We plan to continue it for many years.

Thomas J. Campion, 8522 Neff Street, Houston, TX 77036

168 - QUAD CITIES [IL]

We did a great Tell America program at Horace Mann School in Rock Island. Don Neer was the history teacher of a class in the higher learning system, with 21 great students.

Don introduced the chapter members as a group. Everyone told of his time and job while in Korea.

Art Holevoet, 17881 County Highway 5, Atkinson, IL 61235



#168 members at Tell America Day (L-R) Jerry Orendorff, William Graham, Joe Gomez, Jerry Guinn, Bill Weber, John Hermstrom, Ron Sears, Don Simpson, Bob Berry, Ed Davis, Art Holevoet, Bob Fitts, Dan Foulke, Keith Krarner



"Hands on time" for Horace Mann School students at #168's Tell America presentation



168 members and Horace Mann School students gather for a group photo

TELL AMERICA AT WORK IN NEW JERSEY

On March 22nd, 2006, Chapter 54, Thomas Daley Jr., New Jersey, participated with the Vietnam Veterans (New Jersey) in a "Tell America" program at the Jr. ROTC Navy facilities located at the Deptford High School, Deptford, New Jersey. Lt Col Scott McClay, USMC (ret), and Senior Chief Franco Colamarco, USN (ret), hosted the event.

The program was well received by the cadets who thanked all veterans of all wars for their service to their country.

Since 2000 our chapter has visited over sixty schools and appeared at many memorial services for veterans and their families. We can truly say we have touched the hearts and minds of our fellow citizens—and stressed our message that "Freedom is not free."



Front, (L-R) Sgt Fred Connolly, Sgt Dom Carrera, LtCol A. Bancroft, USMC (ret) Vietnam, Capt Andy Jackson, USA (ret) Sgt Gennero Porco. (Rear, L-R) MSgt Gil Stead (WWII & Korea), Sgt Norm Rynex (USMC), SFC Al Rodesky, USA (ret) Vietnam & Desert Storm, Sgt Fred Adolf

TA TIPS FROM IRWIN BRAUN

I was Tell America Chairman of the KWWA Nassau County Chapter No.1 on Long Island from 1996 to 2003. I would like to share with you and others my experiences and what I learned.

1. The first thing that we needed was a folder about the Korean War; that was relatively inexpensive to print. We created a folder, "The Korean War and its Historical Impact." Our chapter gave away 12,000 copies. I wrote and designed it.

2. The first speaking engagements were obtained by calling local high schools and following the calls up with a letter. Later, we sent out mailings to 75 schools, but that was less successful. We found that the best time to contact the Social Studies Chairperson was in March or April, since the Korea War is studied at the end of the school year.

3. Another way that we got speaking engagements was our attendance at the Long Island Council for Social Studies Conference. It was a one-day conference at which we had an opportunity to meet lots of social studies teachers. We were given a table, which we set up. We distributed literature on the Korean War. We were also invited to present a seminar on the Korean War for the teachers. It is amazing how little the teachers knew about the Korean War.

We lined up speaking engagements at many schools from these conferences, including a 50th anniversary commemoration at Schreiber High School in Port Washington, with a magnificent program and dinner prepared by the Korean parents in the community.

4. The program that we presented at schools changed over the years as we learned how to become more effective. Initially, we showed a 20-minute video on the Korean War. But, I noticed that many of the students went to sleep as soon as the lights were dimmed. I also noticed that the students were mainly interested in the presenters' personal experiences. So, I tried to incorporate them into the total story of the Korean War.

I ended up using photos that I took when I served with the 32nd Regiment, 7th Infantry Division in '52 and '53. These photos were blown up to 8" x 10" and then made into transparencies. Using an overhead projector—and every school had one—I could project these photos to a very large audience. In addition, I had maps made into transparencies so I could discuss the war's progress. It ended up as a very effective program.

5. In addition to this, we had a program to reach the community at large. We presented a 90-minute slide program on the Korean War at 26 libraries on Long Island. This was a very effective program. But, I have to confess that we never attracted large audiences.

We also made several presentations at the Daughters of the American Revolution and many other organizations that honored our patriotism during the 50th anniversary.

6. Additionally, we recognized that we had to attract media attention to inform all of Long Island about the Korean War. We called newspapers, radio and TV stations and sent them press releases. We had major stories in Newsday, the New York Times, and dozens of local newspapers.

On June 25th, 2003 I was interviewed by Peter Jennings of ABC's World News Tonight, and I had my 5 seconds of fame. I was also interviewed by the History Channel on a documentary about coming home from the Korean War. You have to recognize that while you may speak to a hundred students in a classroom, a story in the paper or on TV will reach hundreds of thousands. And our goal is to inform as many Americans as possible about the Korean War.

7. One of the most important things that we accomplished was a research project about what the social studies textbooks said about the Korean War. The average high school textbook devoted a paltry 49 lines of text to the Korean War. The article was printed in The Graybeards in June 1998, and Peter Jennings mentioned it in his news broadcast. I hope this information is helpful to members of the Tell-America Committee. If you want to get in touch with me I can be reached at 516-623-7062.

Irwin Braun, 2287 Howes Street, Merrick, NY 11566



Recon Missions

Did the Wrong Wrong Person Get The Citation For The Flamethrower Delivery?

Heartbreak Ridge: 23rd Infantry 1951

Sometime during the month of September 1951, while Operation Touchdown was being conducted, the Div Rear received a request from the 23rd Regt for flamethrowers to help them dig the North Koreans out of their caves and trenches. They needed them "like right now"

Three flamethrowers were located and delivered to the Div airstrip as the fastest means of delivery. Two of them were rigged with parachutes (the only two available) to be dropped from the L-19. This airplane was to be flown by Capt [George B.] Daniels. Because no other parachute was available, but the flamethrowers still had to be delivered, the Div Aviation officer determined that the CG's helicopter was the next best choice.

Since it had to be delivered in serviceable condition, it was obvious that the pilot would have to land and give the flamethrower to whomever was going to use it. I was the pilot who made that delivery.

The mission took place sometime during the last ten days of September. I flew through the Mundung-ni valley and up the south slope of Heartbreak Ridge. I circled once to determine a landing site, came back around, and landed on the reverse slope of Hill 931. I remember that as I landed a mortar barrage was coming in. As I touched down, there was no one in sight.

Shortly, I saw a man approaching from my left. He came running up and yelled, "What the hell are you doing here?"

I got out of the chopper and walked around to the pax seat to lift out the flamethrower. As I handed it to him, I asked, "Did you order a flamethrower? Well, here it is"

As we were exchanging the flamethrower, the L-19 appeared overhead with the other two weapons. The pilot dropped them both simultaneously.

One streamered in and the other floated over to the North Koreans. Of the three flamethrowers, only the one that I delivered was received and usable

I wish to contact anyone from the 23rd Inf Regt who was in the company or unit that got this third flamethrower or who has knowledge of the mission as I described it. It is from memory, but is at least 98% correct, to the best of my ability.

I wish to know if my mission served its purpose

Please contact: H. Edward Ziegler, 1914 Hercules Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80906, (719) 632-0019

Editor's Note: Capt Daniels earned the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for his part in the operation, which has been documented in at least three books: MASH, by Dr. Otto Apel, I Remember Korea, by Linda Gramfield, Operation Grasshopper, written by Dario Politella. Reports of the incident vary.

For example, Politella includes part of the citation describing Daniels' action: "The heroic achievement of Captain Daniels enabled the friendly troops to dislodge the foe and to capture a hill of vital strategic importance with a minimum of casualties." Apel, on the other hand, wrote that, "The flamethrower Ziegler delivered was the only one put into use that day on Heartbreak Ridge." If that is the case, why did Daniels earn a DFC, while Ziegler received no acknowledgement?

Apel does explain that in his book. It included a bureaucratic mix-up and perhaps a bit of favoritism. He also noted that, as Ziegler learned later from the unit, the "young sergeant who took the flamethrower was killed in combat later that day."

So, if anybody has any information about the incident, we would like to acquire it as much as Maj. Ziegler (Ret.) does.

The Blue Mules?

I am writing to you for help to find members of my brother's company from Korea. He was with I.Co., 27th Infantry, 127th regiment. They were the Blue Mules and had a red hour glass on their uniforms, which was red in color.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Dale K. Hubbartt, AMS1(AW)
USNR

Looking for Lucas

I am trying to locate the Marine whose photo is nearby. We were stationed together with Hq Co./Hq Bn. in Korea, 1953-54.



Hoping for a sign about Lucas, who is standing by the sign (above) and on liberty (right).



The only name I can remember is Lucas. He came from a Marine family. Two brothers and his father were all Marines.

Please contact me if you have any information. All help is appreciated.

Ed Bank
68 Hammond Place
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 648-1320 (Office)
or (781) 932-0998 (Home)

Saul Citrone

I am trying to find information pertaining to my father's service during the Korean War. My sister and I have had little success going through the government veterans channels. We were basically told that his records were destroyed in a fire.

I was nineteen when my father died of lung cancer at the age of 52 in 1983. Unfortunately, he never spoke about his time spent in Korea. I am not sure if it was because he didn't want to speak about it, or if he was waiting until we were older and could really appreciate the conversation.

I would greatly appreciate any help directing me to gain information about my father, e.g., where he was, why he received two bronze stars, and just anything else that might be available.

Here is some of his information. Saul Citrone: service # us 51 138 924. Active as of 24 October 1951; Separated 23 July 1953; most significant duty assignment: 1745 CO K 224th INF

With Gratitude,

Neil Citrone, (646) 707-4921

Norman Lukoskie

Norman Lukoskie was born on 4 August 1931 in Shamokin, Pennsylvania. He died in the same town on 27 January 1994. He served in U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Norman was pulled from Korean service due to the World War II death of brother, and shipped to Marshall Islands in the Pacific, where he was one of thousands of U.S. troops subjected to atomic blast tests. He later worked for Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, from which he retired. The family is seeking information on his military service to include company, regiment, division, time period he served in Korea, period in Marshall Islands, and anyone who may have been with him during the atomic tests in the Pacific.

You may contact Greg Eanes (son-in-law) at eanesgreg@hotmail.com or send letter to Greg Eanes, Crewe, VA 23930.

Arthur Thomas

My name is Robert Allan Hafetz. But, when I was born I had another name. That name was kept secret from me, and to this day the State of New Jersey won't allow me to see my original birth certificate because I am adopted.

My search for my birth family is what brings me to these pages. I did find my mother. Unfortunately, when I did she was in a grave in Texas. I am hoping to find my father before it is too late.

I seek a man named Arthur Thomas who was overseas in the Army in 1951. He would be 75 to 76 years old today. He had 4 brothers and 2 sisters, was of Welsh heritage, Protestant, and lived in the Asbury Park or Newark, New Jersey area. Arthur was 5' 6," of medium build, and was an auto mechanic. His four brothers owned a garage in the 1940s to 1950s. Their father was a coal miner.

I never met my father, and I don't have any pictures of him. I was adopted at the age of five months. At the age of 52, I searched for my birth family. I had no idea who they were or what their name was. I found them after eight months. (Incidentally, I have published a book about my search and adoption experience called *Not Remembered, Never Forgotten...*)

There is a record in the adoption agency that states he left high school in the 11th grade and became an auto mechanic. If he was in the Army, he would have been a mechanic.

Now, a Thomas from Newark, New Jersey (Essex County) in 1951 who fits that description should be easy to find.

But, I haven't been able to find anyone who knows him. He may not know I even exist.

My father would be 75 or 76 today. I believe he is still alive. I am assuming he was in the Korean War, since he was overseas in 1951. I am hoping someone knows a man like this from the area where he enlisted. I am grateful for any direction you can give me.

One last thing: Arthur had a girlfriend named Arlene Klein who worked at the Ambassador Hotel in Asbury Park. If anyone knows this family please contact me at 1014 Surrey Lane, Warrington, PA, 18976, (215) 343-3319, Roberthafetz @comcast.net or www.neaspa.com/ id14.htm

31st Field Artillery

I was looking at my September 2005 *The Graybeards*. On page 33 I found an article about Battery B, #3 Gun, 31st Field Artillery, 7th Inf. Div.

I have been looking for some information about the 31st Field Artillery for years. I was with the Headquarters Battery, 31st Field Artillery in Korea from the invasion in 1950 through May of 1951. I was in Korea in 1948 with a company patrolling on the 38th Parallel until the election in the end of 1948. Then, I was moved to Japan.

I served in Japan until the invasion of Inchon through the invasion of North Korea. I returned to the states in May 1951. I did not see a e-mail or address for this unit and was hoping you could help me get in touch with someone.

My name and rank is/was: Sergeant Charles (Chuck) D. Medinger, Headquarters Battery, 31st Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Inf. Div., (301) 845-8423, cimed@juno.com

National KWVA Fund Raiser Flower Rose of Sharon

The Rose of Sharon is the National KWVA fund raising flower. The Rose of Sharon is sold by the dozen.

- Sample order is 4 dozen @ \$12 plus \$3.00 S/H.
- Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$60 plus \$5.00 S/H.

Order from: Earl House
1870 Yakona Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21234
Phone 410-661-8950



Make Checks payable to: **Maryland Chapter – KWVA**

CHAPTERS from page 47

DIN – DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA

Chapter members from Indiana attended the Indiana State Convention in Lebanon, IN, on March 25, 2006. Included in the group were members of two new KWVA chapters, CID# 308, (Anderson TriCounty) and CID# 309 (Jackie L. Murdock).

*Don Ellwood, 8770 Carriage Lane
Pendleton, IN 46064*



Indiana State KWVA Commander and Chapter Commander of CID# 308 Don Ellwood addresses chapter members at Indiana State Convention. Department members at his right include 1st Vice Commander Jack Beaty, 2nd Vice Commander Luis Aquilera, Chaplain Amos Board, MIA/POW Clarence Voglegesang, Secretary Everett McFarland, Judge Advocate Richard Renbarger



Members of CID#s 308 and 309 gather with Don Ellwood (in white shirt and black tie) at Indiana State Convention

**THE KWVA 2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION
WILL BE HELD IN
SAN ANTONIO, TX
8-11 OCTOBER, 2006**

New KWVA Decals for Sale

Courtesy of KWVA Recruiting Task Force Committee.



These decals are round and measure a full four inches in diameter, in full color, and adhesive backed.

- Prices are:
- One (1) each decal @ \$3.00
 - Two (2) each decals @ \$5.00
 - Twelve (12) each decals @ \$25.00

No handling fees, only stamp fees as delivered

To order, contact Tom Sunseri, KWVA Recruiting Task Force Quartermaster, 6160 82nd Terrace North, Pinellas Park, FL 33781-1307 <kwvafqm@tampabay.rr.com>
Phone: 727.547.1991 Website: <http://www.kwvaqm.org>

Recognize this banner?



**Where was this displayed?
and when?**

Frowein's Button Hole

By Jim Frowein

In early October, 1952, I was dispatched with my $\frac{3}{4}$ Dodge to provide communications for a self-propelled gun from Charlie Battery of the 17th Field. At that time, Charlie was in support of the 1st Marine Division. A platoon of large Russian tanks had been harassing the Marines west of Old Baldy. The tanks came in at sunset and fired on the Marines from the relative safety of the shadows of their hills. We were to wait in ambush to provide counter-battery, a wait that lasted nearly a month.

I stopped by Radio for a radio check and then made the 35-mile drive to Charlie. I reported to the CP, where I met the officer, 1st Lieutenant Kelso, who was to be in charge of the mission. I bantered with the men of the FDC section, and it was soon apparent that the lieutenant did not appreciate my humor, and our relationship went steadily down hill from that point on.

He directed me to Charlie's Radio Section for a check on my radio. I explained that I had new crystals installed just before I left HQ. That response only made him angry, and he repeated his order—emphasizing each word.

I took the truck to radio; the technician claimed that not a single channel worked! I repeated the fact that new crystals had been installed at HQ. What was I to do? I reported back to the CP to inform Lieutenant Kelso of the problem with the radio. With tight-lipped anger, he directed me to return to HQ for the adjustments to the radio.

I made the journey back to HQ. There, the section chief of the Radio Section inspected the radio. He found nothing wrong! He did show me how to adjust the frequencies if they drifted, and he told me that the radio section at Charlie could have done the same thing.

It was dark by the time I got back to Charlie. I followed the SP and the lieutenant's jeep out of the Charlie perimeter. Some of the crew and the medic rode with me. We traveled southwest along the Imjin River before turning north toward the river's broad estuary to a position prepared for us by the Marines. We erected a squad tent above a Marine field kitchen, where we spent the nights. We took breakfast with the Marines and supped with them each evening when we returned from our firing position.

The difficulty between the lieutenant and me seemed to escalate immediately. He and his driver slept apart from the rest of the crew. They were always up early to start to our firing position. Most of the gunners were also early risers, and were ready to follow him. Lieutenant Kelso assigned me the task of rounding up the sluggish crew members.

The medic was a slow eater, so he rode with me. But, there was a Texan who did not eat breakfast, and he was very difficult to awaken. He outranked me, so I felt that I could not give him a direct order. I could move the medic, but the cowboy was another problem. I would plead with him to move, but he was slow to respond.

Each morning, the lieutenant and I would go through some variation of the same ritual. He would stand by his jeep on the road and yell at me to get the @*##+ moving! One day, I gave the Texan a deadline. When he refused to meet it, I left without him.

The lieutenant stopped me and asked if I had all crew members. I explained the problem that I was having with the Texan, and that I had

left without him. He told me that I would do no such thing! He had given me a direct order with which I must comply. It was my responsibility to see that every member was at the gun site, rank or not!

I never fully understood what caused the bad blood between us. Perhaps I reminded him of someone from his past with whom he had had a bad experience; or perhaps it was because I was the only outsider. He continued to hassle me until he left the gun for another assignment.

We had to cross a drainage ditch in order to get to our position. There was a whistle at the crossing which flattened a little each time the SP crossed it. Finally, it gave way and flattened completely. It then became a dam, resulting in the development of a marshy condition on the road. As a result of this, we moved further east along the front in order to find a bypass which would permit us to return to our firing position.

One day, when I was late in getting the Texan up, I decided to try to get across the marshy crossing in order to arrive at our position before the lieutenant and the SP. When we got to the road across the flattened whistle, I found that we were behind a 6x6 and a jeep. The 6x6 made it across with little trouble. The jeep followed, bouncing wildly as it crossed. Then it was our turn.

I put the $\frac{3}{4}$ in four-wheel drive and moved ahead, perhaps too slowly! We had wallowed through about a third of the marshy crossing when we became bogged down. There were three small saplings bordering the road on the far side of the marsh. I asked the medic to take the winch cable to the nearest of these. He flatly refused, stating that I had managed to get stuck when others were successful.

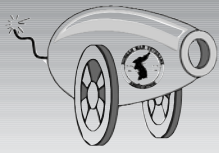
I asked him if he knew how to operate the winch. He said that he did. I stepped out into the quagmire. As the medic unwound the winch cable, I moved toward the closest tree, a sapling about three inches in diameter. There was no hook on the cable, so I wound it around the tree in a knot. I told the medic to pull away. Soon, an uprooted tree was being dragged toward the Dodge.

I unwound the cable and started up the road to the next tree, which was smaller than the first. It yielded even faster than had the first tree. In desperation, I again unwound the cable and headed for the last tree, a sapling about two inches in diameter. As I pulled the cable through the mud toward the last tree, I looked up to see that the lieutenant was watching our operation through field glasses from the firing position up ahead. Damn!

With a heavy heart, I moved the cable toward the tiny tree, certain that it could not save us! It was at the farthest point from the stranded $\frac{3}{4}$, and the cable was at its greatest length. I wound the cable around the base of the little tree and yelled to the medic, telling him that I would work the winch this time.

I waded back to the Dodge and put it into gear. Slowly, slowly the tree bent toward us, and just as slowly the $\frac{3}{4}$ moved from its resting place. The tree was now flat, and the cable was slipping toward the branches. Total despair! There was no other tree within the radius of the winch! But, the roots of the little tree held, and we were soon on footing good enough to allow the Dodge to move ahead on its own power. The little tree had fallen in such a way as to serve as a dead

Continued on page 75



Feedback/Return Fire

This section of *The Graybeards* is designed to provide feedback—and generate more feedback. It gives readers the opportunity to respond to printed stories, letters, points of view, etc., without having to write long-winded replies. Feel free to respond to whatever you see in the magazine. As long as it's tasteful and non-political, we will be happy to include it. If you want to submit ideas, criticisms, etc. that you prefer not to see in print—with your name attached to it—then we will honor that. Make sure to let us know, though.

Mail your "Return Fire" to the "Feedback Editor" at 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-2859. E-mail it to: sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net, or phone it in to (860) 563-6149. Whatever the medium you choose, we welcome your input.

It Is Rewarding To Pay Tribute To Veterans

I wish to comment on your editorial in the March/April issue relating to the freedom we enjoy, and the toll it collects from so many American families.

In addition to KWVA membership, I'm also a Legionnaire, and I head the Color Guard/Honor Guard at our local post. The reward in paying final tribute to these great veterans is ample in itself, but each one of those tributes, performed by an all-volunteer guard, is a constant reminder of the countless Americans throughout our history who have manned the ramparts for the freedom so many take for granted.

The events of 9/11 brought the shock of assault by our enemies, which now seems to be fading as the battle wears on. Standing in the breach, as you so correctly pointed out, is the American military. For those who don't get the connection, I would ask them to accompany me to a graveside service. If that ceremony fails as well, then our prayers for the military must include those naysayers.

Bob Charlesworth, Prescott, AZ, via email, JAVA3B@msn.com

Thank You

I am a first generation Korean American. Like so many others in this great country of ours, I live a rewarding life filled with many cherished possessions, both personal and spiritual. But, in the midst of turbulent times, I am reminded of things of true importance and substance. In the shadow of fallen soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, I wish to express my thanks to those who allowed me to live in freedom; to live in the belief that the world and my place in it is a good and just world, and that with hard work, my family and I can aspire and achieve all that they desire.

As brave men and women of the United States fight and die in Iraq and Afghanistan, I have been moved to reflect upon those sacrifices made by so many soldiers unknown to me today and many decades ago. I find myself viewing today's events through the lens of the Korean War fought a decade before I was born. Many of our leaders have portrayed the wars in the Middle East as a struggle for freedom and democracy. Yet, I believe those words ring hollow to many. Not because they are said of insincerity, but because our own possession of freedom and democracy has dulled our appreciation of them.

That we at times forget is a testament to the society and culture we and our forefathers created. The very richness of our lives and the increasing prosperity we achieve for ourselves and our children slowly distance us from the sacrifices so many made before us. I stand as a witness to the rewards of freedom and its cost.

Born a U.S. citizen by parents who emigrated from South Korea, all I have ever known is this country – our society, our culture, our government. As an involved citizen I am ever eager to point out our failings and shortcomings of which there are many. However, as a Korean American, I am ever mindful of the privilege to criticize—a privilege that far too many in this world will never have.

News of suffering and oppression in North Korea created by a corrupt tyrannical government is repugnant. Detailed accounts and concentration camps and systematic torture the likes of which compare to Nazi Germany abound from North Korean refugees. All of which, had it not been for the United States intervening in 1950, I could be suffering; just as many suffered in Iraq and Afghanistan. Instead, I live in a country in which individual dig-

nity is cherished above all; where life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness among citizens is manifest.

With that understanding, I have tried too seize what opportunities this country has given me. I am living the American dream. And for that I am very grateful.

I do not know how many soldiers who are fighting in the Middle East believe they are fighting for an ideal: freedom, democracy, dignity, justice, happiness. And, for those American soldiers that died in the Korea War, I wonder if that even matters. But those ideals are all too real to me and my sincerest wish is that the veterans of the Korean War know that. And so I say thank you to the soldiers of the Korean War who fought to give me the life that I have.

And thank you to the soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan for fighting to give the unborn children of Iraq and Afghanistan a future filled with freedom and opportunity. Their courage and sacrifice will be remembered for generations to come.

God Bless America and all of our brave soldiers past and present.

*Henry Kang, EP Partners
52 West 14th St., Suite 2B
New York, NY 10011, (212) 366-4325
(Office), (917) 796-7373 (Mobile)*

Recuperation Aboard The Repose

Vol. 19, No. 6, p. 59, included an item, "The Sinking of The Benevolence." This article pertained to the hospital ship *Repose* in the Korean War.

On March 13, 1951, I was wounded in both legs while with Co. I, 38th Regt., 2nd Inf. Div. I was transported to the Danish hospital ship *Jutlandia*, where surgery was performed on my wounds. I was then transferred to the *Repose* for transport to the hospital in Yokohama, Japan. During

the trip to Yokohama, I was awarded the Purple Heart by the Navy.

Yes, the *Repose* surely was in Korea.

*Louis H. Leroy, 21 Newark Street
Sodus, NY 14551
(315) 483-4574*

Filling In The Blanks About The *Repose*

I enjoyed reading all the letters in the March/April issue regarding Navy contributions during the Korean War. I found Alva F. (Sam) McClary's focus on the hospital ship *Repose* very interesting.

In port at the Yokosuka Naval Base in July 1951, my aircraft carrier, USS *Princeton* (CV-37), was moored near the *Repose*. The critical services provided by the crew caring for and transporting patients to Japan were well known.

I decided to take a photo of the ship from the carrier's flight deck. Following our return from deployment, I got my film printed and was pleased with my shot of the *Repose*. My inexpensive Ansco Pioneer camera had done a good job!

Many years later (1996), my book, entitled *Weekend Warriors*, describing the Princeton's first Korea deployment, was published. The *Repose* photo mirrored my lingering image of the ship moored safely in port, so I had included it.

My article in the July-August 2001 issue of *The Graybeards* outlined book highlights. McClary's letter provided much information about the *Repose* that I lacked earlier.

Remaining book copies have been donated and are available through the Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library in Rantoul, IL.

*Paul L. Cooper, KWVA, Mt. Diablo
Chapter 264, email: mayor5@pacbell.net*

When We First Arrived

When we think of the Korean War, we think of bitter cold weather in high mountains. But, when the first units arrived in July 1950, the weather was hot and humid.

At the time, I was in the 2nd Platoon, K Company, 5th RCT, and was defending a position on the Pusan Perimeter near Chindong-Ni. This position, where we spent over a month, was the most southwestern position on the perimeter, and it overlooked the sea.

A U.S. Navy destroyer was just offshore. Every night a boat would come ashore from the destroyer and the sailors would trade their ice cream for our captured North Korean burp guns. Fortunately, during this period we had only one big violent night attack by the North Koreans.

Our biggest enemies were mosquitoes and lack of fresh water. Men came down with malaria and dysentery. Too often men drank water from the rice paddies. Soon, we had to send our night patrols to our front and search the wells in abandoned villages for fresh water.

Once, our 3rd Platoon had to go out on a daylight patrol in front of our position to completely destroy some North Korean weapons previously disabled. Lurking in the high grass of the rice paddies were some hidden North Korean soldiers who ambushed the patrol. The patrol leader was killed instantly, and several men were wounded. My platoon was ordered to go out and bring back the patrol leader's body and the wounded men. This was our first real engagement.

We were successful in the rescue by outflanking the enemy, killing several and taking two prisoners. This time on the Pusan Perimeter is remembered for its vicious fighting as the Eighth Army defended our small foothold in South Korea.

*D. Randall Beirne, 5818 Meadowood Rd,
Baltimore, Maryland 21212*

The Lombardo Story Brings Back Memories

The article about Tom Lombardo in the Jan/Feb *The Graybeards*, p. 20, brought back memories.

I served with Tom Lombardo in Japan with Troop B, 54th Cav. Regt., 1st Cav Div. at Camp Drake (1947-49). I remember when he went back to West Point to coach the backfield, and when he coached the 1st Cav. Div. I also returned to the United States in 1949, where I was assigned to the 26th Inf. Scout Dog Platoon at Fort Riley, KS.

When the Korean War began in June 1950, I was transferred a few days later to the 2nd Inf. Div. I ran into Tom Lombardo at Ft. Lewis. We had a nice talk about the Cavalry days.

I don't know if we went to Korea on

the same ship. I was on the USAT Greely. We went through a typhoon on the way over.

One day in late September 1950, I ran into Lt. Cavanaugh. He told me that Tom Lombardo had been killed.

I met some of the best people in the world wearing the Army uniform. To Lombardo was in that elite group. It was an honor to have served with him. He is not forgotten. May he rest in peace.

*Leonard T. "Buck" Ferrell
502 Cotton Ave.
Caruthersville, MO 63830-1333
(573) 333-1871*

Talk About "Eagle Eyes"

I refer to page 34 of the March/April 2006 issue of *The Graybeards*. In the background of the photo in the upper right corner, the American flag appears to be flying upside down. Has anyone else commented on this, or do my old eyes deceive me?

*John Erm, Marquette MI 49855
(906) 225-0824, jerm@tourvilles.com
(7th ID, Korea, 1950-51)*

The French Croix De Guerre

In the March-April 2006 edition, p. 55, Emilio F. Gusman asked if anyone knows more about the French Croix De Guerre for Korean service and the answer is...well, a bit complicated. First I found this:

Medaille Des Operations
De L'Organization Des Nations Unies en Coree

This medal was authorized for issue to the allied service personnel who fought under the United Nations Command in Korea between 26 June 1950 and June 1954. This is a rare medal since very little publicity was given to it. The medal may be purchased from The American Order of the French Croix de Guerre, 18 East 41st St., Rm. 401, New York, NY 10017. The regulation sized medal is \$30, the miniature medal is \$25 and the ribbon bar is \$3.

Then I found this:

ATTENTION 254TH INFANTRY VETERANS
AVAILABILITY OF A
CERTIFICATE FOR THE FRENCH CROIX DE GUERRE.

In view of the deactivation of the American Order of the French Croix de Guerre in the near future I have ordered ten (10) Diplome de Croix de Guerre avec Palme with the name: 254th Infantry

Regiment entered in the name section.. I have asked that the citations appearing on these certificates be in English.

If you purchased these certificates from the American Order of the French Croix de Guerre the price would be \$25 each....

Lastly I found this:

FRENCH MEDALS FOR WORLD WAR II VETERANS

In my last newsletter, I mentioned several Medals that have been authorized by the French Government for members of the US Forces that assisted in the liberation of France during World War II.

After checking around for a source for these medals, I found that companies that did sell them are no longer in business. But, all is not lost. The American Order of the French Croix de Guerre has advised me that they will be closing their doors in the summer of 2003 due to the lack of members. They are willing to sell their supply of medals, the first three listed in last month's newsletter, to anyone without regard to membership in the organization.

OK, what we have is a now-defunct American veterans organization composed of WWII veterans who were awarded French Decorations, Service medals and Unit Awards for the liberation of France. They also marketed the French Medal for serving in Korea.

I have not found any information as to who would be eligible to be awarded this medal. Based on the criteria for a similar Belgian medal, I would expect that you had to have served with a French unit in an attached capacity—perhaps as a forward artillery observer or liaison officer—to have it officially awarded to you. However, if you just wanted to purchase the *Medaille Des Operations De L'Organisation Des Nations Unies en Coree* (Medal for Operations by the Organization of the United Nations in Korea), it was obtainable at one time from the American Order of the French Croix de Guerre.

The US armed services do not issue foreign decorations, medals, or unit awards. You have to obtain them yourself. I can easily see how the name of the medal and the supplier got confused. It is quite possible that this medal can still be obtained from a US medal dealer or through eBay. It appears to be the French

version of the US Korean Service medal.

While the Kunsan AB website shows this to be a medal awarded to US service members, I think I would write to the French Ambassador to the US and inquire about who is eligible and to learn whether you could have this added to your official service record.

While current "Stolen Valor" legislation does not cover foreign awards, the wearing or taking credit for earning medals is becoming more and more a hot button issue.

John Gavel

The Medal Is For WWII Veterans

This medal is issued to WWII veterans, according to the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs at (217) 442-1711, the French Consulate at (312) 327-5205, and the French Embassy at (202) 944-6500 or 6513.

I would like to suggest that items like this should be checked out before being published in the future.

*Hershall E. Lee, 212 Kentucky Ave.,
Danville, IL 61832, (217) 431-0467/
(217) 474-1387*

Serving In Korea While Staying In Rhode Island

I am a Navy air veteran. My squadron was a FASRON-2 (Fleet Aircraft Service Squadron). We serviced all carriers, e.g., USS *Leyte*, USS *Kearsage*, USS *Bon Homme Richard*, and many others that were sent to Korea. The irony was that we more important by remaining in Quonset Point, Rhode Island than in Korea.

I always felt guilty because I wasn't able to go to sea with a carrier. Even though we were not there, we did our part. Believe me when I tell you this: we worked our butts off. And, we were extended an extra year, so I served four years (1948-52).

I just wanted you to know how many of us felt about not being in Korea at all. We did not get any recognition for our extra year, or even a ribbon to wear. I sort of resent the Navy Department for its lack of consideration for our service.

Let me make it clear that I am not complaining, especially in light of the fact that "some gave all." In fact, I am fortunate

that I am alive today, based on my involvement in a harrowing plane crash incident at Quonset Point.

One day, when I was on watch, I witnessed the collision of two F4U Corsairs. I was the first person to arrive at the wreckage, where I did my best to control the fire and, with the assistance of others, attempt to rescue the pilot. Unfortunately, the pilot was killed in the crash. The Navy presented me with a "Commendation Letter," but there was no medal awarded me.

All in all, I loved my duty—and the Navy.

*Alexander P. Midon, 82 Homeward Lane,
North Attleboro, MA 02760
(508) 397-4695,
APMIDON@comcast.net*

Were These National Guard Units?

Joseph Calabria asked in the March/April *The Graybeards*, p. 64, about National Guard transportation units.

I do lot of research on the Korean War organizations, and I am happy to assist. I feel reasonably sure that he is correct in assuming they were National Guard units attached to bigger units.

National Guard small units were mobilized and assigned to bigger units, and even to various Divisions, Corps, and units. It is very possible that several National Guard companies from all over the 48 states composed this unit and used filler personnel when the original ones rotated.

Mr. Calabria mentions the 715 Truck Co. and the 252, 396, 54, and the 541 companies, which are small units as to commands. The commands that I show for transportation are: 520 Signal Base Depot. 3rd Transportation Railway, 7th Transportation Med. Port, and 7th Major Port, 21st Med. Port Transportation, 425 Transportation, 351

Transport, 925 Group, United Nations Civil Assistance, and the 8086 Eighth Army. All divisions and some regiments had their motor pools.

If he had pictures, we could identify the units by seeing the numbers on the front bumpers of the vehicles.

Charles Smith, via email

More Specifically...

This is in reply to Joseph Calabria's question: "Were These National Guard Outfits?"

The 252nd Transportation Truck Company was an Alabama National Guard unit activated into federal service 19 Aug 1950. It arrived in Korea 16 Feb 1951. The 715th Transportation Truck Company was a Washington D. C. National Guard unit activated 14 Aug 1950. It arrived in Korea 1 Jul 1951.

An excellent book on the National Guard in Korea is *A very Long Weekend; The Army National Guard in Korea 1950-1953*, by William Berebitsky.

Bob Hanson, Hqs Btry, 625th FA Bn, 40th Inf Div, 10777 Pointed Oak Lane, San Diego, CA 92131, jdrlh@netzero.net

Who Was The Last Prisoner Repatriated?

I was pleased to read the POW/MIA Update in the March-April issue of *The Graybeards*. Those who were multi-POWs must be noted and respected. That's a high price.

I do have a problem with the last line on Sgt. Martin Watson, stating he was the last U S POW repatriated. At a reunion a few years ago, within 10 minutes, 2 different ex-POW claimed to have been the last out. The second, a West Point graduate who I won't name, claimed to have escaped, then ran to the exchange center, knocked a Chinese Colonel on his butt, etc., then ran across, last man! I asked other officers who knew the man if that was true. They laughed and said things not printable.

I came out on the last truck with the survivors of RB-29 #737 with whom I was on a mission. Somewhat later, Capt. Ted Harris, the commander of that flight, was hauled out on a Russian jeep. Last man out, 6Sept 1953.

U S Prisoners Of War In The Korean War, written by Arden Rowley, explains why he was last. I have copies of the *Stars & Stripes* as well as the Seattle and Portland papers with stories and pictures of the last man out: Ted Harris!

Major Baumer and a couple others were released years later. They had been sentenced to 10 years prison time by the "friendly Chinese." As with many things,

there are a lot of "Wanna-bes."

I hope that was just a slip-up.

Gene Evers (via email)

A Vet Is A Vet

The article in March/April 2006 Feedback/Return Fire, p. 63, entitled "Matter of Semantics," concerning a distinction, begs an issue.

Members of the military in the Civil War, whether stationed on the Presidio of San Francisco, or with Sherman on his "March to the Sea," were called Civil War veterans. In a like manner, those at Camp Dix, NJ, during World War I were deemed World War I vets. And, the sailor in Portsmouth, RI and the one on submarine patrol in the Japanese home waters were both WWII vets. What was so unique about the Korean War?

On a more practical note, I suspect it would be harder to recruit if the prospect were to discover that he/she was to be considered a "second-class" member. If this were the case, it isn't hard to imagine that the AVKW (Associated Veterans of the Korean War, for want of a better name) would ultimately become much larger than the KWVA, given the fact that there are, by far, more support personnel than there are those in combat.

M. L. Strickler, Willits, CA, email

Korean War Veteran Is Not A Matter Of Semantics

In the March/April issue of *The Graybeards*, p. 64, an unnamed responder worried over "Matter of Semantics. Or Matters of Concern." I am a "Veteran of

the Korean War," and I have deliberately chosen to refer to myself in that way for many years. I served in the active Army from June 1950 to June 1953, and in various National Guard units for 12 more years. I was one of those fortunate soldiers who God blessed with service in Germany rather than Korea.

For me, it is not a matter of semantics, but a matter of respect for all those friends of mine who were killed, injured or served in combat in Korea. I was not one of them and I do not want to be called a "Veteran of the Korean War" out of respect for those guys.

I don't know the vital statistics, but out of 200+ of us in my basic training company, almost 150 were sent to the Far East upon the completion of basic training. In 1953, while I was waiting for a ship home in Bremerhaven, several of us who served together for our three-year enlistments ran into some of our friends from basic. They recounted the large number of our fellow trainees who were killed or injured just in the first year or so of the war. Out of respect for them, I decided then that I was not a "Korean War Veteran."

So, in order to put my service into perspective to others, I decided to call myself a "Veteran of the Korean War." To this day I do not feel left out not to be called a "Korean War Veteran." I was one of those lucky guys who could have been in the war but was not. Therefore, I am a "Veteran of the Korean War".

Larry Romig, 6029 18th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL

Death Notice of a Member of KWVA

The following notice is submitted for publication:

Name of deceased _____

Date of death _____

Department/Chapter _____

Address _____

Army Navy Marine Corps Air Force Coast Guard

Other _____

Primary Unit of service during Korean War

Submitted by _____

Relationship to deceased _____

Send to: Membership, P.O. Box 101238, Arlington, VA 22210

SPECIAL SECTION: "POST-ARMISTICE" KOREA SERVICE VETS

This article is contributed by Bill Hutton, National KWVA Secretary. Bill went on active duty about five months after the end of the "War-time" era, in January 1955. After Armored Officer Basic, Bill served in Korea as a Platoon Leader, "A" Company, 6th Tank BTN, 24th ID, returning home after 16 months of service near the DMZ.

Why should members of the military who served after the Armistice consider joining the KWVA?

You know, I used to ask myself that same question. Why did I join? For that matter, why should anyone join an organization called Korean WAR VETERANS Association, when they didn't serve during the war? Let me propose some ideas, based partly on my own experience, but primarily on the words of Bill Norris and others.

Honoring the service of Korea vets; 54,000 of whom never came back, and many of the survivors returning with serious injuries..

Anyone of my age, 74, had good friends and relatives who served. A close friend and College buddy of mine, a couple of years ahead of me, was killed when his jeep hit a land mine in 1953. My best friend—and the best man at my wedding—lost both his legs to a mortar round the last day of fighting, July 26th. Of our "gang" of 8, most of whom played football together, 2 never left the country, 1 was stationed in the Mediterranean, and four saw combat in Korea. One of them earned two combat Bronze Stars.

All these men, while not spat upon and insulted like the Vietnam guys, were just ignored when they returned. So, all of us who served in Korea know firsthand what the conflict was all about, and we owe it to our brothers to keep their memory and sacrifice alive.

Promoting the fact that this war was, ultimately, a tremendous victory in the battle against communism.

I will never forget the Clint Eastwood movie in which the Korean War was considered a "tie." Several books were published, like *How we lost the Korean War..*

In my opinion, the main reason the Korean War became the "Forgotten" War is that Americans love a winner and detest a loser. I think many of the guys came back with the attitude of having lost the "Big Game". They just wanted to get on with their lives.

In 1985 or so, Bill Norris said "Bull." Look at South Korea, which had just, after many years, become a true democracy. Compare it to North Korea, with 1/3 of its own people enslaved; most of the rest of the country on a subsistence level, and a very few of the "Peoples Party" living off the backs of the others. You tell ME who won the war!

Guys, I take my hat off to the wartime vets. I particularly respect the guys in actual combat at the Chosin Reservoir, the Pusan Perimeter, the landing at Inchon, Pork Chop Hill, and the other "Real War" areas. In the words of the Proclamation given to those of you who receive the "Return to Korea" trip, YOU RESTORED DEMOCRACY. The rest of the men who have served since the ceasefire, have PRESERVED it as well.

In short, if it weren't for the post-armistice troops, the war and sacrifice of the 1950-53 men would have been wasted. AND, this preservation continues till today—some 2.5 million men and women later.

Warning our citizens of the threat of North Korea today. .

When President Bush gave his inaugural speech, he talked about the three "Axis" Nations. We are fighting the first, in Iraq. We are getting close to doing something about Iran, but what about the third "Evil Empire"—North Korea?

From a military point of view, there is a million-man force about as close to Seoul as Baltimore is to Washington, D.C. The South Korean Army is a whole

new ball-game, compared to where they were in 1950, but it still needs the backing of the U.S. and U.N. Korea Service military. With the current leader running the country, North Korea is as dangerous as Germany was in the 1930s and 1940s.

It is up to you, the younger Korea Service vets, to remind America and the western world of this danger, and to provide and protect. Korea is a great ally (Yes, I know that a lot of the young liberals like to demonstrate-but they still need our backing.) That support can best be performed as part of an existing, organized group, which is doing its best to grow and prepare. That group is the KWVA.

Recognition is finally here! But, we need your help..

Many veterans in this category feel let down by the military and the federal government. A person could serve in Korea under near combat conditions and bad weather while separated from his family, and receive less benefits and recognition than someone who served during the war while stationed at the Presidio in San Francisco from June 1950-Jan 1955. But, help is coming.

About two years ago, the Department of Defense authorized the KOREAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL. This was gained through the organized efforts of many people, including the KWVA. The bigger and stronger our organization, the more political clout we will have.

Finally-the time is now. The replacements have got to step up.

The organizers, and the people who have built the KWVA, have done a good job. We hope Bill Norris would be proud. But, the average age of the organization of war-time vets is in the high seventies. In addition to age, many of us struggle with the technology and modern management methods required to build and maintain a first-class organization.

So, we hope that a large number of these vets will join us.

*Bill Hutton
KWVA Secretary*

By John Gavel

Let's briefly review the start of the first Korean War.

June 1950

North Korea unexpectedly invaded the Republic of Korea (ROK) using superior numbers of tanks and troops to force South Korean defenders southward.

By June 25

North Korean troops made an amphibious landing at Kangnung on the east coast, just south of the 38th parallel. The UN Security Council unanimously called for a cease fire and withdrawal of the North Korean Army (NKA) to north of the 38th parallel.

By June 26

The North Koreans captured Chunchon and Tongduchon, South Korea. Beginning in the early morning, 682 people boarded the Norwegian merchant ship Reinholte, which finally left Incheon Harbor at 4:30 p.m., bound for Sasebo, Japan.

By June 27

The UN Security Council called on all UN members to aid South Korea. Far East air forces used Kimpo Airfield near Seoul and Suwon Airfield, some twenty miles south of the capital, for emergency air evacuation of 748 persons to Japan. Fifth Air Force embarked on a mission to establish air superiority over South Korea, partially to prevent the North Korean air force from attacking ROK forces and to protect evacuation forces.

By June 28

North Koreans captured Seoul, forcing the ROK government to move to Taejon. Enemy forces also occupied nearby Kimpo Airfield. C-54s and C-47s flew out the last of 851 U.S. citizens evacuated by air from South Korea.

By June 29

North Korean forces massed on the north shore of the Han River. Heavy fighting raged in the Kimpo area.

By June 30

North Korean forces crossed the Han River, threatening Suwon Airfield. Far East air forces began evacuation of the airfield and authorized improvement of Kimhae Airfield, eleven miles north-west of Pusan, to compensate for the loss of Kimpo and Suwon.

Despite USAF attacks, the invaders

The Second Korean War

***EDITOR'S NOTE:** With this issue, we begin a series in which U.S. service members share their experiences in Korea since July 27, 1953. As author John Gavel suggests, you Korean War veterans established the legacy. Thousands of men and women of the U.S. and South Korean armed forces have kept the peace since then, often at the cost of their lives. So, we give them the opportunity to tell their stories.*

We invite post-1953 veterans to share their stories and photos with us for inclusion in future issue of The Graybeards. John Gavel started the ball rolling. Hopefully, other contributors will keep it in motion.

quickly captured South Korea's capital, Seoul, overran the port of Incheon, seized the airfield at Kimpo, and threatened the city of Suwon.

The intent of the invasion was to overrun the entire southern peninsula. Considering the topography and oceanography, staging an amphibious invasion would have been even more difficult than that of Normandy. The same situation as existed at the end of WWII regarding an invasion of mainland Japan would have existed, and the nuclear option would not have been such a ready choice given the presence of "friendlies" and the possible

reaction of the Soviet Union and Communist China.

By The Summer Of 2006

It is now sometime in the summer of 2006. North Korea realizes that it cannot hope to overrun the entire landmass of the ROK before deployment of American airpower makes this impossible. As a result, the war aim is to achieve the same progress as was made by June 30, 1950.

The ROK now has a population of some 48 million people, almost 20 million of whom are located in the Seoul metropolitan area. Seoul is the political, industrial, and financial capital of South Korea. Capturing Seoul and calling for an in-place ceasefire would so reduce the south's capability and increase the north's capability that unless the US stationed massive land and air forces permanently in what remained of the ROK, the remainder of the country would fall to follow-on invasions.

Can in-place and early deploying US/ROK air forces gain air superiority immediately to allow evacuation, reinforcement, and re-supply? Can ROK/US ground forces hold the North Korean advance to Seoul?

North Korea has the 3rd largest army in the world. Not only is it larger than the ROK army, but the ROK army must be dispersed to block three invasion corridors and be prepared to secure the rear area from commando attacks. The North Korean army is forward deployed and can attack with a moment's notice.

The North would like to have nuclear weapons. It may already have chemical and biological ones. Every year the south conducts two exercises: Team Spirit and Ulchi-Focus Lens. One is a field exercise to deploy airpower to South Korea. The other is a command post exercise to test, exercise, and refine civil and military plans in case of a second Korean War.

Clearly, the North has felt that for over fifty years it has not been the right year to invade. If you listen to North Korean speeches, clearly they would like to have the US withdraw its forces and provide that extra needed edge to make it the right year. South Korea is not in a position to attack North Korea, despite Communist claims.

In 1950 the north of Korea was industrially oriented and the south agriculturally oriented. Because of climate and the Communist system, the north has not progressed agriculturally. Because of its politics, it has closed itself off from markets from its industrial products.

The south, on the other hand, has developed itself industrially and reached out to markets worldwide. The standard of living in the south is so much better than the north that North Korea lowered the window frames in its building at Pan Mun Jon in a futile effort to make its soldiers look taller.

The height requirement for ROK forces stationed in the Joint Security Area used to be 5' 10." For US forces it was 6'. Neither had any problem finding enough troops to fill their billets. The north either has a height requirement of 5' 6" or suffers from a lack of "Wheaties" for breakfast.

With each year, the north faces more problems feeding its people, obtaining petroleum products, and maintaining totalitarian control. We can only hope that this year is the year that Democratic People's Republic of Korea collapses from these internal causes. Until that day arrives—if it ever does—U.S. and South Korean forces remain on guard in their ongoing peacekeeping assignments, despite the dangers they entail.

There is no question of the hardship and heroism repeatedly displayed by UN and ROK forces during the first Korean War. American servicemen and women stationed in Korea would be the first to agree with this; they see on a day-to-day basis the respect paid by the Korean people to the achievements of the men and women who fought so valiantly in Korea in 1950-53. That's you, the members of the KWVA...

Every night the peacekeepers go to sleep knowing that they may wake up to the start of the Second Korean War. For over fifty years they have done the job of peacekeeping so well that when they wake up it's still the same "Land of the Morning Calm" that Korean War veterans bequeathed them in 1953. You won the war; they kept the peace.

Both are achievements worthy of American fighting men.

My Korean "Notawar"

By John Gavel

I arrived in Seoul in October 1979, reporting for duty at Detachment 1, 314th Air Division, Young San Army Garrison as staff fuels officer. Shortly after my arrival, while I was still living in Faith Hall, the transit quarters, the President of South Korea, Park Chun Hee, was assassinated. I had barely had time to turn over with my predecessor before the logistics staff relocated to Osan Air Base, where the rest of the 314th Air Division was located.

Since the US and Republic of Korea (ROK) had both gone to an increased state of alert, we manned the Resource Management Center (RMC) there in case the North Koreans decided that this was the right time to resume the war. For the remainder of my two-year tour, I alternated between peacetime, preparing for war, and being one heart beat away from it.

While I am tempted to launch into what I did in the war mode, I really need to explain that our peacetime duties were important and often very challenging. Tours in Korea are mostly one year long, with a few two-year ones. This succession of short tours can allow problems to build up that are daunting to try and solve in your time in Korea.

I was well aware that I was the US administrator of an international fuel exchange agreement with the Korean Air Force. It had gotten out of hand, primarily because it tried to do too much for too many. While it was between the two Air Forces, it provided support to the US Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.

It was financially advantageous to the Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF) to have the US owe them fuel. As a result, despite my predecessor's best efforts to fix problems he inherited two years before, the paperwork backlog was over six months and the debt owed in jet fuel was almost nine million gallons. In addition, there was a balance in ROKAF's favor of a half a million gallons of aviation gasoline. This was a special problem, since the US did not have any Avgas in Korea with which to repay the ROKAF.

It was only during Team Spirit that the US had a real opportunity to repay its jet fuel debt. Team Spirit is the annual joint US/ROK field exercise in which additional US forces are deployed to Korea, much as they would be if the North renewed hostilities. During this period of increased ROK usage, the US could supply fuel to ROK bases and reduce its debt by supplying both US and ROK units. Thanks to the total support of my commander, Major General George A. Edwards, Jr., I was able to secure the cooperation of ROKAF in fixing the problems.

After my two years in Korea, I was able to turn over to my successor an agreement with no processing backlog and a debt of less than a half million gallons. As for the Aviation Gasoline (AvGas), well, we brought a small tanker into Inchon with the amount on board needed to repay the debt. I had arranged to have a US Army fuel specialist from Petroleum Distribution System Korea (PDSK) inspect and seal the trucks loaded from port tankage specially leased by the Defense Fuel Supply Center. The trucks then delivered the 115/145 octane AvGas to Seoul Air Base, where a Navy fuel specialist from CNFK handled the transfer of the cargo to the ROKAF. I had the services of Marine Gunnery Sergeant Love (also from CNFK) to coordinate the numerous truckloads of fuel moved.

As for getting ready for war I have mentioned Team Spirit (TS) and I supported TS 80 and TS 81. The process of going from a zero US presence on the ground to a full-up operating unit in a matter of hours requires not only careful planning but near perfect execution. Making this happen takes an around-the-clock effort by logistics staffs both in country and out. Not only must the levels of supplies, equipment and personnel be known at all times, they must be kept in balance. It does little good to deploy a fighter squadron to a base and have the pilots and aircraft lack any of the immediate needs that must be met, such as fuel, munitions, supplies and equipment to maintain the aircraft and food, quarters, showers, latrines, and medical services for the pilots.

Naturally, the personnel who provide

these require their own support. Problems can throw the system into disarray. A box get on the wrong plane and goes to the wrong place. A truck moving supplies from the cargo air head breaks down. Not only do problems have to be found and fixed, but they have to be anticipated. Projected requirements and resupply must be factored in against stocks on the ground and stock outages of showstoppers prevented. After you go through this the first time, you realize that you will need to do the impossible better the next time. And, if you ever have to do it for real, the lessons learned are invaluable. You also learn that “next time” you will volunteer for the advance party. This gives you a shot at a hard billet as opposed to a cot in tent city.

Given the choice, the civil engineer will site a tent city in a hollow. It will then rain and the pierced steel planking walkways will sink into the mud. In many cases, the wooden latrines seen in M*A*S*H have been replaced by a more sociable general purpose large tent with around-the-wall seating for thirty and a double sided urinal in the center. As you are considering the joy of field duty, you hear the detail working below you changing out the half drums and know that there is always someone else who has it worse than you.

As part of getting ready for war, we had to cope with adjustments to in-place forces. During my tour of duty, it was decided that A-10s would be stationed in country on a permanent basis, and that sites for C-130 tactical airlift forward operating locations (FOL) needed to be identified. Fortunately, these two taskings did not come up at the same time.

In order to decide where the most effective and efficient site would be, a site survey team would be formed. This strolling band of players would then hit the road to evaluate the various sites that had been nominated. The teams would be composed of personnel from all the various operational and support specialties. Travel would be by air or land, depending on distance from the Seoul/Osan area.

Site visits would be conducted to assess existing capabilities, the possibility and cost of expansion, and the overall utility of the location. Some sites had not changed much from the way they were in 1953.

Korea is not the industrial giant that the United States is, and the ROKAF was still operating F-86 fighters, working in Quonset Huts, and gathering around the kerosene heater to get warm. One notable change was that a pot of barley water was warming on the stove instead of coffee. After much travel, inspection, interviewing, note taking and analysis, Suwon Air Base north of Osan was chosen to be the new home to the A-10.

Having done so well with this tasking, it was only a matter of months before we got to go out and do it over. For the most part, we visited different locations than we did on our first “world tour,” so it took about the same time and effort. Since staffing in Korea is kept to a minimum, these opportunities to get out of the office meant more overtime to catch up with work left undone while you were in the field.

Getting ready for war meant that only a limited number of dependants could be accommodated in country. It also meant that Saturday was a workday, and that your dependents couldn't join you for six months when housing became available. At this point, the “Greybeards” will be shaking their heads and saying to themselves, “We

in Thailand and Cambodia. It was a great system that could be set up in hours. This was especially true if the beams were in place to hold the bladders.

At the time, this equipment was stored in Japan, Europe and the CONUS. During both Team Spirit and Ulchi Focus Lens, we practiced relocating this equipment from Japan to Korea. It became clear that having a limited number of systems in country would be a smart idea. This brought forth major objections from out-of-country higher headquarters. They raised the point that equipment stationed in Korea would not be used on a regular basis or, if it was, it would wear out. In either case, we would be using up a valuable asset.

The equipment in Japan was used to train personnel, and is rotated from long-term storage to temporary use. It was well maintained, as much as school equipment that is kept “spotless.” After stressing that the in-country equipment could be rotated out during Team Spirit each year, and that this would answer any maintenance and use concerns, we received approval for the relocation. It had the added benefit in that extra equipment was in country during Team

Given the choice, the civil engineer will site a tent city in a hollow. It will then rain and the pierced steel planking walkways will sink into the mud. In many cases, the wooden latrines seen in M*A*S*H have been replaced by a more sociable general purpose large tent with around-the-wall seating for thirty and a double sided urinal in the center.

had it a lot tougher.” Absolutely true! Also true is that while you never got the recognition you deserved, neither did those who kept the peace – often not even from their predecessors!

I also dealt with a few projects relating chiefly to my specialty. In order to refuel aircraft you need to have trucks and/or a hydrant and bulk storage system. An Air Transportable Hydrant Refueling System (ATHRS) consists of a pumping/filtration unit and two 50,000-gallon fuel storage bladders. You can use it to fill refueling trucks or service aircraft directly. I had previous experience working with the ATHRS

Spirit should the North Koreans for their own reasons feel that this was the right time to resume hostilities.

One of the uses of the ATHRS is for hot pit refueling. In this case, an aircraft lands and refuels with engines running. This minimizes ground time. If properly done, it does not present an unacceptable safety hazard. If not done properly, you stand to lose a pilot and aircraft. The need for this capability in Korea was an out-of-country higher headquarters mandate (The “Graybeards” had this situation during the Chosen Reservoir campaign). My commander had lost a friend when a hot pit refu-



eling went bad.

I spent a lot of time ensuring that our hot pit refueling crossed all ‘t’s and dotted all the ‘i’s. While hoses are hydrostatically tested on a regular basis, it is the rare fuels troop who hasn’t had a hose leak. This is why deluge showers are installed in fuel storage areas. (As an aside, it is still cold in Korea during the winter.) A hose bursts. Do you go under the deluge shower and pull the chain? No, you go back to the barracks to shower off.

As you are going in the door, a guy comes out smoking a cigarette. They roll you in the snow bank to put the fire out. The only casualty is that the fur around your parka hood is burned off. It happened in Duluth, Minnesota—and it could have just as easily happened in Korea. The only difference was ten years time and the use of deluge showers had become commonplace. The troop in Duluth did not have the choice. But, frankly, it would have taken someone with an extraordinary amount of discipline to have pulled the chain in the freezing cold.

I feel obligated to touch on one final area of preparing for war: dependent evacuation exercises. Once a year they would schedule an exercise and the Military Police would round up our wives and children, put them on buses if necessary, and transport them to the nearest airhead. Once they got there, they would go through filling out paperwork, checking documents, and getting briefing on what else they would have gone through if it had been the real thing.

While it was designed to give you and your family a feeling of safety, it usually had the opposite effect, as you could see how difficult it would be to do so if you had civilian refugees on the road and bridges were destroyed. There were alternative plans in that case to use helicopters, but again you still prayed that if the day came it wouldn’t be on your tour. You did so realizing that it would be someone else’s tour, not a good feeling either.

There came times in my tour when I really felt that war was only a heartbeat away. Unlike when you played war during chemical warfare, field and command post exercises, there was something going on that either lessened our defensive posture or elevated the risk of war.

In the aftermath of President Park’s

assassination, parliament elected a new civilian president. President Park, who had been Commander of Capital Corps, felt that President Rhee’s leadership had become a threat to the safety of the country. He led a military coup and made himself president. Subsequently, Parliament voted that he retain the position. Remember, Korea is a country under siege, and like the US during the Civil War, sometimes democratic practices are suspended in response to a crisis.

Once again, the Commander of Capital Corps deposed the civilian president and became President Chun. The evening of the “General’s coup,” I was living in a BOQ near the northern wall of Young San Army Garrison. This is significant, because on the other side of the wall was the ROK Ministry of Defense. The sound of automatic weapons fire got everyone’s attention.

Several young lieutenants wanted to “go see” what was happening. As senior resident, I explained that no one was going to do so, but that they could take turns standing by the phone. This idea was warmly received by the Chief Warrant Officers who had seen combat in Vietnam. So we stayed put. The next morning we discovered that soldiers from Capital Corps had been sent to take the Defense Minister, former General Rho, into protective custody. The Minister’s guard force refused them entry, and shots were exchanged. Minister Rho immediately came down from his office where he had been working and ordered a ceasefire. He told both parties that South Korean soldiers do not shoot each other, never, ever. He agreed to go with the Capital Corps soldiers. He was escorted home and placed under house arrest.

A few weeks later he was released, having agreed to resign his post and resume his life as a retired general officer. It is noteworthy that the Korean Vice Commander of the Combined Forces Command (CFC) had received a call that he was to report to the CFC command bunker. When he got there, no one knew what was happening—including him. This was done to ensure that the American command structure understood that the coup was being conducted by forces not under the operational control of CFC, and that the Korean generals assigned to CFC were not involved. This meant that CFC was not degraded and retained its full capability to wage war, and that the coup

was an internal South Korean affair.

During the aftermath of the coup, the US and ROK assessed whether or not North Korea would feel that the timing was right to attack. The ROK felt that a higher state of alert was called for, but the US did not. The Resource Management Center (RMC) at Osan is normally unmanned as the Logistics Staff, which was then located at Young San. While we worked both with ROKAF Headquarters in Seoul and ROKAF’s Combat Air Command at Osan, we did more logistics business with ROKAF Headquarters. Anyway, we needed some way to show our solidarity with ROKAF while adhering to the US threat assessment. This meant providing minimum US manning at the RMC. During the daytime I was it.

As I recall we had two senior NCOs man the night shifts. I clearly remember one morning sitting up on the dais with Colonel Kim at the start of a shift. We had exchanged our usual pleasantries, and he said something in Korean to his staff. They hung up phones, put down grease pencils, and fell into ranks.

He proceeded to shout in Korean; various personnel would respond in that language. Colonel Kim then leaned over the arm of his chair and confided in me: “I chew butt.” Somehow I managed to respond “Yes, sir,” and not laugh in his face as it had been so obviously a chewing out session that you did not need to understand one word of Korean to figure out what was going on. It was a universal military thing.

Periodically there would be student riots in Seoul. They were well disciplined in that a “riot zone” was established and no one rioted on the way to or from it. These demonstrations were considered almost required because after you got out of school such behavior would be tolerated. Unfortunately, they caused tremendous traffic jams.

As I was caught up in one of these, I started to think about what it would be like if the North chose to attack now. Capital Corps soldiers were present in the city just in case things got out of hand. I had been driving in circles for about two hours, not being able to change lanes and get to our off base apartment. Out of the blue a Korean soldier appeared next to my open window. I

asked if he could help me to get “over there.” He saluted and ran off without saying a word.

The next thing I knew a Korean National Policeman (KNP) was standing by my car. He asked in perfect English if he could be of assistance. I explained that I lived “over there,” and asked if he could help me make

Services Expeditionary medal was issued for service in Korea. These incidents even occurred in the Joint Security Area (JSA) at Pan Mun Jon. On August 18, 1976, two American officers supervising an announced tree trimming operation were brutally slain with pick axes by North Korean soldiers. These same soldiers fled

coordinate the deployment of a strike package to Osan Air Base should a decision to retaliate be made by the National Command Authority.

An SA-2 battalion consists of a Fan Song radar, an early warning Spoon Rest radar, a control van, six launchers and transport, and maintenance and missile reloads. Neutralizing a SAM site requires a strike package of aircraft and munitions that will provide escort, counter-air, anti-radiation, and air-to-ground capability. The F-15 Eagle was the first choice at the time for escort and counter air.

While they were based in Japan, none were deployed to Korea. Armed with radar and heat seeking missiles, the F-15 could shoot down any aircraft in the North Korean inventory. The F-4G Wild Weasel was the platform of choice when it came to destroying ground-based radars. Armed with the AGM-78 missile, it could not only destroy a radar site with a 223 pound blast-fragmentation warhead, but it could illuminate the target with a white phosphorus target marker.

No F-4G's were stationed in Korea. The final step would be for F-4D Phantom jets to destroy the rest of the site with laser guided bombs and/or cluster munitions. These we had in Korea in abundance. Much like for Team Spirit, Mission Support Kits (MSK) for the F-15 and F-4G would have to be developed based on the standard War Readiness Spares Kit (WRSK)

A WRSK is designed to provide initial support until follow on resupply can be established. An MSK is tailored, and may contain a different mix of items and quantities than a WRSK. While the WRSK is based on a wartime sortie rate and a planned expenditure of munitions, an MSK has to consider training and operational sorties. Tires need to be replaced after being repeatedly scuffed on landing, but munitions are only expended during live firing.

The support network used during Team Spirit would allow any shortages to be resolved by the most effective and efficient means. On August 28th, the North Korean media denied the launch, accusing the US of fabricating the incident. On September 1st, during the 407th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission, North Korean Army Major General Han Ju Kyong

US forces are no longer involved in firefights with North Korean forces along the DMZ. This is because they have been withdrawn from the front line since the late 1990s. Up until then it would be a rare tour in Korea when shots were not exchanged. To assist their communist brothers, the North Koreans stepped up these activities during the 1960s to the extent that this period is referred to as the “Second Korean War.”

a right turn so I could get home. He explained that traffic was a mess because of the student riots, and asked if the street directly to our right would get me home. I told him that it was a straight shot, but that any street to the right would be OK.

He saluted me. I saluted back. The KNP proceeded to make me a lane. I followed his signal and turned into it even though I was not sure there was enough clearance. There was. I then drove the two blocks I needed to get home. It was then that I realized that in the event of war the KNP would clear a way through traffic for all US personnel. Once again, it was both a good and bad feeling. You find that you do not have to remember the words to prayers in Korea. The words just come, but I am sure that those reading this already knew that.

US forces are no longer involved in firefights with North Korean forces along the DMZ. This is because they have been withdrawn from the front line since the late 1990s. Up until then it would be a rare tour in Korea when shots were not exchanged. To assist their communist brothers, the North Koreans stepped up these activities during the 1960s to the extent that this period is referred to as the “Second Korean War.”

It was during this period that the Armed

when US forces responded. In another incident, an American major was sitting on a bench next to a building on the US side of the line inside the JSA. Without provocation, he was attacked by North Korean guards, beaten and his larynx crushed.

A defection from the North Korean side provoked a firefight that left several soldiers dead on both sides. The North has dug tunnels under the DMZ large enough to drive tanks through and repeatedly tried to infiltrate special forces into South Korea. My tour included a dozen firefights and an infiltration attempt, as I recall—including one singular incident.

It was almost time for me to rotate home. I had put on my major's leaves at the start of the month when on August 26th North Korea fired a SA-2 surface to air missile (SAM) at a US SR-71 in international airspace. The missile failed to hit the target, and the aircraft returned safely to Kadena Air Base, Japan. The US State Department condemned the attack, citing a violation of international law and the Korean War Armistice.

Once again, it was time for me to deploy to the RMC along with our supply NCO, SMSgt Mark V. Cangey, and our maintenance NCO, whose name I regret I cannot recall. Our mission was to plan for and

denied the charges that North Korea fired the SAM on 26 August. He called the accusation a pretext for an arms buildup and to unleash another war on the Korean peninsula.

The next day a weather front settled in over the potential target. No SR-71 mission had been flown since the 26th. Days went by and the weather remained bad. Finally, SMSgt Cangey woke me up to tell me that our Director of Logistics had called and we were to button up the RMC and return to Seoul. The war would not happen today.

One of the problems in writing about “Notawar” is that much of what we did in a tour was classified, and I have been careful to ensure that all of the details contained herein are unclassified. Unfortunately, this leaves a lot of the story untold. In reading accounts of the Korean War in *The Graybeards*, they often end with mention of unit awards. During the period I served with the 314th Air Division, it received the ROK Presidential Unit Citation and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Personally, I received the Meritorious Service medal - which is the peacetime equivalent of the Bronze Star.

Two days before my wife, son, daughter and I left Korea, I received my final change of orders. After being alerted for possible assignment to the Pentagon, US European Command, and Luke AFB, I was assigned to the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force (RDJTF). Since our car had been shipped to the west coast, we got to drive across the United States to Tampa, Florida. About a year later the RDJTF became the US Central Command. But that is another story.

I would encourage my fellow members to tell their stories. Not just of their service during the war in Korea, but in other places, other times. I often read how Iraq is another Vietnam. No one talks about how Iraq may be another Korea. Talk about the forgotten war!

We had the national resolve to stay the course in South Korea, and it remains a free nation. They remain a staunch ally, serving by the side of US forces in Viet Nam and in Iraq. This does not mean that I feel we will be in Iraq in fifty years. It does mean that the voices of Korean veterans need to be heard. What better way to do so than to talk to each other?

Korea Defense Veterans

By Roy Burkhardt

As far back as I can remember, I had a strong desire to be in the military. I was 14 years of age when I first went to the recruiting office—with altered proof of age, of course. It looked like something that a 14 year old had altered, so the Recruiting Sergeant sent me home and told me to come back when I was old enough. I tried a number of other times, again with altered paperwork. Each time I was again sent home. Finally, on March 13, 1955, I turned 17—and I was in the recruiting office bright and early that morning, with proper documentation in hand. That day I enlisted in the United States Air Force.

In basic training I contracted a disabling disease and was hospitalized for three months. I was offered a medical discharge, which I refused. I went back and finished basic, went to Radar School in Biloxi, Mississippi, and landed in Korea in December of 1955. I was assigned to the 607th Aircraft Communication and Warning Squadron at K-6 (for a closer look at the AC&W groups, see pp. 52/53 in the November-December 2005, *The Graybeards*). We did the best we could to keep the MIGS in North Korea. But, if they strayed across the DMZ, we would scramble F86s to chase them back. I remember well the day three infiltrators were killed climbing through the wire on our flight line.

I left Korea in November of 1956 and was reassigned to a Radar Site in Oregon. I was discharged in 1959. I received a 30%

Disability from the VA for the illness I had while in basic. However, I did not receive the GI Bill for education, and at that time I did not qualify for membership in any of the Veterans organizations. Over the years that changed; I am proud to now be a Life Member of the KWVA, AMVETS, DAV, and VFW veteran organizations. But, to this day, I am not eligible to join the American Legion.

I also was not authorized to wear any medals or ribbons. I was not authorized to wear the National Defense Ribbon. It was a proud moment for me when, in March of 2005, I was finally awarded the Korea Defense Service Medal by my Senator Lisa Murkowski and General Campbell, from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. This is the only medal that I am authorized to wear.

When I came back from Korea I tried to share with friends, family members and other veterans some of my experiences in Korea, they would look at me like I was lying, or say, “That could not have happened. That War is over.” I finally just quit talking about it because a very few people believed what I had to say.

It is very sad that the Korean War has been dubbed the “Forgotten War.” It is also very sad that the Korea Defense Veterans have become the “Forgotten Warriors” of the “Forgotten War”. Even sadder is that these “Forgotten Warriors” continue to be on duty in Korea, as you read this. Very few Americans are not even aware of this—nor do they care!

Korean War Veteran Recruits Contemporaries On Korea Vacation

CSM (R) Jim Sherrill, life member of KWVA Don C. Faith (MOH) Chapter #222, located in Killeen, Texas, had the opportunity to visit with 2nd Infantry Division Command Sergeant Major James A. Benedict while on vacation in Korea last month.

CSM Benedict talked about the training opportunities that soldiers have while serving in the 2nd Infantry

Division, and elaborated on the fantastic job our soldiers and NCOs are doing. Prior to departing, CSM Sherrill invited all Korea service members to join the KWVA.

CSM Sherrill’s last active duty assignment was the 2nd Infantry Division Artillery Command Sergeant Major at Camp Stanley, Korea.

Commander, UN Command And US Forces Korea, Becomes Life Member

President Dechert announced that the Commander, UN Command and US Forces Korea, General B.B. Bell, US Army, has become a Life Member of the KWVA. Dechert noted that this supports the mission of the KWVA and supports membership recruiting of contemporary service personnel engaged in the continuing defense of the Republic of Korea.

A KWVA records search indicates that this is the first time the ranking UN/US commander serving in the Republic of Korea has become a member of the organization.

United Nations Command/ Combined Forces Command / United States Forces Korea General Bell was born in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on 9 April 1947, and was commissioned as a Distinguished Military Graduate in June 1969 upon graduation from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

His military education includes the Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Command and General Staff College, and the National War College. He received a Master of Science in Systems Management from the University of Southern California.

General Bell's command positions include the 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) at Ft. Stewart, Georgia; and the 24th ID's 2nd Vanguard Brigade, also at Ft. Stewart. He served as an Assistant Division Commander, 1st Infantry Division (Mech) Bamberg, Germany, and commanded the Army's Armor Center and Ft. Knox, Ft. Knox, Kentucky.

General Bell commanded the Army's III Corps, headquartered at Fort Hood, Texas. Most recently, he commanded the United States Army, Europe and 7th Army; and NATO's Allied Land Component Command, Heidelberg, Germany.

His staff positions include service as an ROTC Instructor at Texas Tech University; Force Plans Analyst for the

A KWVA records search indicates that this is the first time the ranking UN/US commander serving in the Republic of Korea has become a member of the organization.

Army DCSOPS; and Joint Staff Officer responsible for the Unified Command Plan in the J5, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Additionally, he was a tank battalion S3 in Korea and the Chief of Staff of 3rd Infantry Division in Wurzburg, Germany. He also served as Chief of Staff of V Corps, and as DCSOPS and subsequently Chief of Staff, United States Army, Europe and 7th Army.

In 1994 General Bell served as a Senior Military Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City, and has since been selected as a serving member on the Council.

General Bell deployed as USCINCCENT's Executive Officer in Desert Shield and Desert Storm; and

later served as Chief of Staff, USAREUR Forward Headquarters, Taszar, Hungary during Operation Joint Endeavor in the Balkans.

His awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters.

General Bell has also been awarded the NATO Meritorious Service Medal and the Polish Army Medal (Gold Award).

One of the Reasons We are Starting This Section

A letter by Carl Presley in the "Feedback/Return: Fire" section of *The Graybeards*, Jan/Feb 2006 (p.64), February 2006 caught my attention.

Like Comrade Presley, I also served during the Korean War (stateside, USMC). In 1951, I volunteered for combat duty in Korea, but this request was denied.

Presently, I belong to several veterans organizations. However, being a non-combat zone veteran, in some of them I feel like a second-class citizen; this includes the KWVA and the Marine Corps League.

For several years I have belonged to the American Legion locally. In that organization, I have always felt like a first-class citizen. That organization has several combat zone veterans, but they treat the rest of us as top notch.

As Comrade Presley noted, veterans organizations should treat all their members as first-class citizens. That would likely improve their membership and give them more community and national status.

John M. McCoin
4913 W Colonial Way
Lawrence, KS 66049
(785) 842-1386

The Philippines in the Korean War

First Combat at Miudong/Syngue



Max Young

By Maj. Max Young (Ret)

The Philippines 10th Battalion Combat Team (motorized) set foot in South Korea on 19 September 1950, less than three months after the start of the Korean War. The 1,400 officers and men of the 10th BCT carried with them the weight of historic honor: they were the first Filipino military force to see overseas combat since WWI. These men, many of whom fought communist Huk guerillas in Philippine jungles, were also the first Asians to come to the aid of beleaguered South Korea, and the third country after the US and the UK to send combat troops to the war.

The 10th BCT was the first of five BCTs that composed the Philippine Expeditionary Force (PEFTOK) to Korea. More than 7,000 Filipino soldiers would serve in Korea from 1950 to 1955 as members of the 10th, 20th, 19th, 14th, and 2nd BCTs.

Tank Battalion

The 10th BCT was the Philippines' only armored battalion in 1950. It had a company of medium tanks (M-4 Sherman) and another company of light tanks. The 10th was selected as the first PEFTOK battalion sent to Korea because the Philippine Army believed it was admirably suited to the "slugging type" of conventional warfare in Korea. The battalion's motto was "Steady On."

The battalion's "teeth" consisted of three rifle companies, a medium tank company, a reconnaissance company equipped with light tanks, and a field artillery battery. Both tank units arrived in Korea without tanks, since the Americans had agreed to provide these.

In the event, only the Reconnaissance Company to which I belonged received tanks (M-24 Chaffee, a light reconnaissance tank) during the battalion's tour in Korea. The tankless tank company was reorganized into a Heavy Weapons Company, becoming a highly decorated unit that won fame at the Battle of Yuldong during the Communist Chinese Great Spring Offensive in April 1951.

Col Mariano Azurin, the first commanding officer of the 10th BCT, was a tank man trained at the US Army armor school in

Kentucky. Azurin organized and was the first commanding officer of the 3rd BCT, the former unit designation of the 10th BCT.

The 10th spent its first two weeks in country acclimatizing to the terrain, continuing unit training (interrupted by its abrupt departure), and taking in weapons and supplies. Bivouacked initially in the town of Miryang, 35 miles north of Pusan, the 10th was first attached to the US 25th Inf. Div., which had fought in North and Central Luzon in the Philippines in 1945.

Guerilla Fighters

Preceded by its reputation as a battle-hardened anti-guerilla unit, the 10th was first given the mission of hunting down the North Korean guerillas interdicting the main supply route (MSR) of the United Nations Command (UNC) in South Korea. The battalion's first area of operations, based on Waegwan, covered more than 800 square miles and harbored about 3,000 guerillas.

At Waegwan, the 10th took the war to the guerillas, but at a price. Pvt. Alipio Ceciliano was killed in a guerilla ambush along the Naktong River. He was the first Filipino killed in action in the Korean War. The battalion was deployed in anti-guerilla operations during the first six months of its tour in Korea.

Many North Korean guerillas were regular soldiers of the North Korean People's Army

(NKPA), well armed and with better knowledge of the rugged terrain than their UNC enemies. These soldiers had taken to the hills either because it was their mission, or because they had decided to fight on after being cut off from their units by the victorious UNC advance into North Korea following the Inchon landings on 15 September 1950. Other guerillas were South Korean communists who had tried unsuccessfully to overthrow the government before the war. (In September 1950, the UNC estimated that there were 35,000 communist guerillas in South Korea disrupting UNC road and railroad communications and attacking INC units behind the front line.)

The NKPA credited guerillas with helping defeat the US 24th Inf. Div. and capturing its commander, MGen William Dean, in July 1950. The division, however, had sacrificed itself to gain the time for the arrival of UNC reinforcements. The 24th ID had fought against the Japanese Imperial Army in Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao in the Philippines during WWII.

On 31 October, advanced elements of the 10th crossed the 38th Parallel dividing North and South Korea, an event reported to the Filipino public by Johnny Villasanta, a Filipino UN War Correspondent who accompanied the advanced unit. Villasanta was the first Filipino war correspondent in Korea, and he covered the war the longest.

The next day, the rest of the battalion moved farther north to Pyongyang, capital of



(L-R) Fidel Ramos, former President of the Philippines and a Korean War veteran, Korean President Roh and his wife First Lady Kwon Yang-suk BGen Bienvenido R. Castro, PVAI President. (Standing, L-R) BCT Chapter Presidents (with chapter numbers in parentheses) Col Jovencio P. Dominguez (Ret) (19th), BGen Victorino T. Azada (Ret) (2nd), Col Sixto P. Belen (Ret) (14th) Maj Maximo P. Young (10th), BGen Felizardo R. Tanabe (Ret) (20th)

North Korea, and was given the mission of securing the MSR from Kaesong to Pyongyang and clearing the area of guerrillas.

At the outskirts of the town of Miudong, the battalion fought its first pitched battle, this against a North Korean battalion, killing 40 of them while losing 1 man.

The Battle of Miudong/Syngue

The Miudong/Syngue battle began on the morning of 11 November 1950. The task given the 10th by the US 3rd Inf. Div. was to clear and secure the town of Syngue in North Korea prior to its occupation by 3rd ID.

We were stationed at the town of Na Chon Jon, to the south of Syngue. I was then a first sergeant commanding a platoon of five M-24 Chaffees, having graduated at the Armored School, Fort Knox, Kentucky in 1948. My platoon composed the spearhead of our advance heading towards Syngue. Behind us at intervals rolled the rest of the battalion. I commanded the third tank in the spearhead. Supporting us were recon infantry and those from Able Company.

We departed Nam Chon Jon at 0730. The terrain was typically Korean: hilly and undulating. The advance was cautious, as we were told the area was mined. We were briefed to expect trouble as we approached our objective. Trouble came sooner than we expected.

At 0930 our tank platoon had just cleared a bend in the winding mountain road leading to the town of Miudong when we were hit by heavy small arms fire from a North Korean battalion positioned along the forward slope of hills on the right flank of our advance. The sudden storm of fire from higher ground drove our infantry to ground. Our men were pinned down in minutes with only desultory fire answering the dug-in North Koreans. The situation was critical immediately, since the North Koreans could be expected to counter-attack the pinned-down unit.

My first inkling of the ambush was the sound of enemy rounds pinging off my tank. We were buttoned down when the ambush was sprung. Our tank column stopped and we swung our turrets to the right seeking targets.

I couldn't pick out the enemy positions from inside the tank, but I could see our infantry going for cover. My gunner was yelling at me for target coordinates. There was only one thing left to do. I flung open the turret hatch, braced my feet, and swung the .50 caliber turret machine gun (MG) toward the enemy position that I could now see. The MG

had no gun shield, and I was fully exposed to enemy fire that continued to hit my tank.

I fired aimed bursts at the identified enemy positions, some of which ceased firing. I saw several of the enemy abandon their foxholes under my fire to seek safety in other positions. The sound of my heavy MG firing apparently caused our pinned down infantry to rally. An increasing volume of fire was brought to bear on the enemy positions.

One of our forward observers, who had been positioned prudently on a hill behind us, called for fire support. The incoming artillery rounds struck the hillside occupied by the North Koreans.

Our infantry attacked the enemy positions before the dust from the barrage had lifted. I continued firing my MG to support this counter-attack, while the other tanks in my platoon pounded the enemy positions.

The North Koreans fled. They were shot down in droves as they ran from their trenches. Our men pursued the retreating enemy into Syngue, whose defenders (two NKPA battalions) scattered before our attack.

We counted 42 enemy dead in their abandoned hill positions outside Miudong. We estimated about 100 more had been wounded. The battle was suddenly over after 45 minutes. We had one man from Able Co. KIA and a few WIA.

We learned later that several high-ranking officers from the 187th Airborne Regiment, the US 3rd ID, and some foreign officers had seen the fight from high ground. Several of these officers later congratulated me for my part in the combat.

I also received a "Well done" from my battalion CO, Col Azurin, the Executive Officer, Col Gamaliel Manikan, and Operations Officer Major Delfin Argao.

I received a battlefield commission for my role in the Miudong battle, but no further action was taken as Colonels Azurin and Manikan were relieved of their commands seven days after the first battle fought by Filipinos in the Korean War.

As an aside, South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun received Filipino veterans of the Korean War during his visit to the Philippines in December 2005. The veterans, all of whom are members of the PEFTOK Veterans Association, Inc. (PVAI), talked to President Roh about livelihood projects for Filipino veterans and scholarships for their dependents.

Korean War Aircraft Carrier Sunk

U.S. Navy Sinks Its Own Ship

The U.S. Navy sank its own ship, the USS *Oriskany*, on May 17, 2006. Of course, it did not do so by accident: it sank the ship deliberately to create an artificial reef in the Gulf of Mexico.

Korean War veterans may remember the *Oriskany*. The 888-foot aircraft carrier was commissioned in 1950, and saw duty in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Veterans of both wars watched as the venerable carrier began its 212-foot descent to the bottom of the Gulf off Pensacola Beach. The *Oriskany's* final mission can be likened to that of many Korean War veterans. It will do a great deal of good as an artificial reef –just as so many Korean War veterans have done for their country since 1950, and continue to do today.

According to the U.S. Navy's historical records:

USS *Oriskany*, a 27,100 ton *Ticonderoga* class aircraft carrier, was built at the New York Navy Yard. Though she was launched in October 1945, construction was suspended in August 1947 and she was completed to a revised design that was also used in modernizing several other ships of the *Essex* and *Ticonderoga* classes.

Commissioned in September 1950, *Oriskany* deployed to the Mediterranean Sea between May and October 1951 and steamed around Cape Horn to join the Pacific Fleet in May 1952. She made one Korean War combat cruise, from September 1952 to May 1953.

Following the end of the Korean conflict, *Oriskany* continued her Pacific Fleet service for more than two more decades, deploying regularly to the Western Pacific for tours of duty with the Seventh Fleet. She was out of commission from January 1957 until March 1959, during which time she was modernized with a new angled flight deck, steam catapults, an enclosed "hurricane" bow and many other improvements that permitted safer operation of high-performance aircraft. In 1961, she became the first aircraft carrier to be fitted with the revolutionary Naval Tactical Data System (NTDS).



Joe McCallion ,Bill Norris, Allan Smith at Arlington Cemetery, 1985

stars, UN Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, and Ambassador for Peace Award & Medal from the Korean Veterans Association of Korea. He was made an honorary member of Korean Veterans Association of Korea and awarded their highest medal in 1994. He received the Conspicuous Service Cross of New York State in 1993.

Remarks From Bill's Son, John

Father, grandfather, husband, sergeant, scoutmaster, founder, patriot - all these terms were used to describe my Dad during his lifetime. They were all important to him; they all applied.

When I recall his impact, it is from the perspective of a son. Dad was a proud man, one who gave greatly from himself to the greater good, a voracious student of leadership examples. He became a great leader and a great example to me.

He used his resources well. In economics they teach that there are always finite resources and infinite demands. Dad used all his resources to form something that didn't exist. In the scouting program, Dad learned about "seeing the need and meeting the challenge!" He felt that society appreciated the sacrifices of soldiers in other wars more, and that was a challenge to him. If someone referred to the actions in Korea as a "conflict," he bristled. He served and came home. That was his duty.

The Korean War Veterans Association was his life's calling. It was his creation and his passion. His greatest joy was the completion of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. More than

once Mom has shared with me the story of the night after the Memorial's dedication ceremony. She and Dad walked between the bigger-than-life statues of the GIs in their ponchos on some patrol. As they walked together, Dad cried silently.

Every time I hear this, I smile—and I remember the proud man who saw a need

and met a challenge.

Daughter Ginny Offers Her Thoughts

I guess the thing that comes to mind most about my father is that he never did anything halfheartedly. When he became interested in something, he jumped in with both feet and gave it 150% effort. Dad was always a hard worker. He had an intense sense of duty no matter what he did, and he was never one to be partially involved in anything.

He worked hard and played hard. He loved Sunday roast beef dinners that Mom made, and he loved ice cream. His favorite summer drinks were iced tea or a cold Pepsi; and he was great behind the grill.

Dad never had a problem talking with strangers on our camping trips. As he approached retirement, other pre-KWVA

hobbies were the CB radio and having fish tanks. Our home looked like an aquarium for some time! Yup, when Dad was interested in something, he really became interested!

He taught me how to swim. I remember my first car that my parents bought me; he drove 250 miles to deliver it to me in college, only to grab lunch, hop on a train, and head back home to go to work.

Dad wasn't a man to share his emotions. He taught by his actions, and his words: work hard, don't be afraid to fight for what you believe in, and don't complain. That's why I think God put him in the place to start the KWVA.

When I went to him and told him I could not use his personal experience in Korea as a bibliography source, it really made him angry. I was writing a paper asking the question: Was Korea America's War? The rest is literally history.

His tenacity and strength, his willingness to fight for what he believed in, and his intensity were the exact characteristics that we needed to make a difference. He sacrificed a lot of personal time.

My mother deserves a lot of credit for allowing Dad to be the man he needed to be—even though it meant the house became overcrowded with typewriters, copiers, stacks of paper and phone calls at all hours of the day and night. Sometimes we would all wonder why he was doing it. That question was answered the day he, being in poor health at that time, saw the memorial in D.C. I knew who all the hard work was for—for everyone to remember,



Group of Korean War veterans, March 1985, who made a return trip to Korea; veterans of the 25th Division Association.; Bill Norris, Arthur Patterson, Dick Adams, and Harley Coon made this trip

“The Graybeards”



The Korean War is no longer “the forgotten war,” thanks to Bill Norris and his convictions and determination. Korean War veterans and Korea Service veterans alike celebrate and cherish the victory that belongs to us and our United Nations partners and the military of the Republic of Korea that made possible the freedom of the people of the Republic of Korea. That is the legacy of Bill Norris and of all Korean War veterans. Their sacrifices were honorable. We, as an Association and as comrades in arms, are grateful to our Founder. We salute him.

Credits—And Thanks

A number of our Korean War veterans contributed to this article and tribute to Bill Norris, including his family, Joe McCallion, Art Patterson, Marty O’Brien, Earl House, Samuel Fielder, Jr., newspaper reporters, editors of *The Graybeards*, the late Bill Norris, and you, the Korean War veterans past and present.

For each day, each passing year, the history of the Association becomes the past and the future belongs to us. How will we go about conducting the future history of our one-of-a-kind Association? We are unique.

The answer lies with each of us. Let us be worthy of that trust.

I served during the Korean War son!

to learn, and to never forget.

Bill Norris was not a complicated man. This small town, ex-military man, rose up to honor, educate, and show generations to come that freedom is not free—once again the illustration of the power of what one person can do if they only believe.

In The Final Analysis

At the time of Bill Norris’ passing from this life, I believe it can truly be said without the slightest pause, that he served his country, his family, and mankind well. As it was spoken at his funeral and burial, “Dear Lord, we give you this day your good and faithful servant. May he rest from his labors in peace, for he was an instrument of your peace, for it is in giving that we receive, it is pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born into eternal life.” St. Francis of Assisi.

I personally was very proud to have known and worked with Bill Norris, and to have been asked to write a tribute to him for *The Graybeards*. We honor his life, his service to God and country, and the legacy he has given to the Korean War veterans of the United States of America.

Sam Fielder’s Ode to Bill Norris

AN ODE TO BILL NORRIS

*Down through the ages men come along,
with the leadership qualities to inspire a throng.
Bill Norris was that kind of man,
the heads of States did shake his hand.
Twice he answered his country’s call,
a patriot true, courageous and tall.
He sent out a call in eighty-five,
and the Korean War Veterans Association came alive.
He started with eight then thirty nine,
then over ten thousand more fell in line.
He said to Congress, “ We need some land,
a Memorial we will build, magnificent and grand.”
He wanted a Memorial for all to see,
because we fought for freedom and liberty.
It was placed there upon the Mall,
nineteen statues and a reflecting wall.
It has been known as the Forgotten War,
but because of Bill Norris it will not be forgotten any more.
No other Korean War Veteran has stood so tall,
as our Founder Bill Norris, the tallest of us all.*

Sam Fielder, Jr.

Reunion Calendar

NOTE: There is no fee required for entries to be published in the "Reunion Calendar." Entries are made on a "First-come, first-served, as space allows" basis. Korean War-related reunions are given preference. Of course, contributions to the KWVA are always welcome.

JULY

The Korean War Ex-POW Association (31st Annual Reunion), 23-30 July, Nashville, TN, Sheraton Music City Hotel. POC: F Jack Chapman, (505)-523-2298, fjchap@aol.com

4th Infantry (IVY) Div. Assn., 24-30 July, Orlando, FL, Sheraton World Hotel. POC: Gregory Rollinger, 8891 Aviary Path, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077, www.4thinfantry.org

35th Regiment Association, 27-30 July, Scottsdale, AZ, Chapparal Resorts. POC: Richard C. Lopez, (760) 246-8180.

AUGUST

USS Bon Homme Richard (CV/CVA-31), Ship's Company, Air Groups and USS Bon Homme Richard (LHD-6), 10-12 Aug., Minneapolis, MN. POC: Ron Elund, 2299 Madalene, Muskegon, MI 49442, (231) 773-0441

936th Field Artillery Bn., 19-20 Aug., Fayetteville, AR, Clarion Inn, 1255 South Shiloh, Fayetteville, AR 72701. POC: Wayne Bohannon, 10617 East First Street, Tulsa, OK 74128-1403, (918) 437-5324.

USS Abnaki (A.F.T. 96), 23-27 Aug., San Antonio, TX, POC: Pete Kingsley, 5320 N. W 66 Pl., Johnston IA 50131, (515) 276-7250, p.kingsley@att.net, Coordinator, Joe Colombara, 720 E. Country Ln., Collinsville, IL 62234, (618)344-8869, joec96@intertek.net

8221st Army Unit Association, 24-27 Aug., Seattle, WA, Embassy Suites. POC: Ted & Shirley Pang, (425) 746-7868, pangs7@msn.com

88th Inf. Div Assn. ("Blue Devils"), 31 Aug.-3 Sept., Boston, MA. POC: Bill Konze, 7318 Riverhill Road, Oxon Hill, MD 20745-1031, (301) 839-4427, www.88infdiv.org

USS Iowa (BB-61), 30 Aug.-3 Sept., Portland, OR, Doubletree Hotel (503) 281-6111. POC: Thomas Kmucha, 801 Klockow Street, Galena, IL 61036, (815) 777-1432.

SEPTEMBER

Third Infantry Division Society (including attached units in war and peace time), 5-10 Sept., Nashville, TN, Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel, (615) 259-2000, \$89 per night plus tax. POC: John Shirley, (925) 447-2256, jbshirley@comcast.net, or Linda Irvine, (360) 663-2521, info@theReunionBrat.com

3650th Basic Military Training and Indoctrination Wing, Sampson Air Force Base Veterans Association, 7-10 Sept., Sampson State Park, Romulus, NY. POC: Chip Phillips, P.O. Box 331, Williamsville, NY 14231-0331, (716) 633-1119, (716) 633-9118 (fax), chip34@aol.com

75th Air Depot Wing, (Korea 1952-55), 7-10 Sept., Springfield, IL. POC: Walter Walko, 13616 Paradise Villas Grove, Colorado Springs CO 80921, (719) 488-1106, wawlaw2@juno.com"

630th Engineers, Light Equipment Co., Korea, 10-13 Sept, Branson, MO, Fall Creek Inn. POC: Oscar Viehland, 9587 Woodland Rd, Robertsville, MO 63072, (636) 285-4402, ogvccv@rural.com.net

USS Sphinx (ARL-24), 11-14 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Frank Ironi, 954 Lilac Drive, Sauk Center, MN 56378, (612) 352-3271

538th Ordinance MAM Co., (Korea, 1950-55), 11-14 Sept., Carol Stream, IL. POC: Ann McMahon, (630) 933-9901.

532nd EB & SR, 11-16 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Jake Harding (913) 362-0941 or Billy D. Gray, 6671 Nightingale Rd., Okawville, IL 62271-1755, (618) 243-6197.

USS Essex (CV/CVA/CVS 9), 11-17 Sept., Johnson City, TN. POC: Bruce Sims, (770) 707-1812, essex9@bellsouth.net, website is www.ussexesxcv9.org

USS Weiss (APD 135), 13-17 Sept., Nashville, TN. POC: Jim Morton, 5205 Route 219, Great Valley, NY 14741, (716) 945-3679, apd135@yahoo.com

USS Soley (DD 707), 13-18 Sept., San Antonio, TX. POC: Eugene Blum, 6749 San Benito Way, Buena Park, CA 90620-3741, (714) 527-4925, eblum@juno.com, or visit website at www.usssoley.org

VS-931 & VS-20 Antisubmarine Squadrons, 14-16 Sept., Nashville, TN. POC: J. Robert Wagner, 2996 Runnymede Drive, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-7179, (610) 277-4374 (Phone & Fax), bobwagner@msn.com

51st Fighter Interceptor Wing (Korean War), 14-16 Sept, Marietta, GA, Crowne Plaza. POC: J. E. Young, (770) 435-5705, jeyoung65@aol.com, or 51st FIWA website, www.keithfannon.netfirms.com

999th AFA (Armored Field Artillery) Bn., "Never Die," Korea, 1950-54, 15-17 Sept., Romulus, MI, Marriott Detroit Airport. POC: Bernie Jones, 2317 Carleton West Rd., Carleton, MI 48117, (734) 654-6915, oldred49@provide.net

1st Radio Squadron, Mobile/6920th (Korea, 1950-55, USAFSS), 17-20 Sept., Colorado Springs, CO. POC: Phil Perry, (717) 545-0974, perryper101@aol.com.

A-1-1 (Korea 1950-53), 17-20 Sept., San Francisco, CA (Marines Memorial Club & Hotel). POC: Dick Wilson, 31852 Via Puntero, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675, (949) 473-7186.

40th Inf. Div., 160th Regt., Co. A (Korea), 18-20 Sept., Branson, Mo., Settle Inn. POC: Roger Lueckenhoff, 208 Steeplechase Rd., Rolla, MO. 65401-3784, (573) 364-4145, lueck@fidnet.com

72nd Engineer Combat Co., 18-22 Sept., Pigeon Forge, TN, Holiday Inn Express (call 888-774-4366 for reservations at group rate of \$52.99). POC: Robert C. Mount, 6518 Fish Hatchery Rd., Thurmont, MD 21788, (301) 898-7952 (Ph), (301) 898-5549 (Fax), taxpreper@aol.com

44th Engineer Battalion Association (Broken Heart Battalion), 19-23 Sept., Fort Carson/Colorado Springs, CO. POC: Lt Col [Ret] Ken Jobe, (757) 428-0328, kejo425@AOL.com, or Bernie Resnick, (603) 434-6406, BigBMR@AOL.com, for registration, reservation, and membership information. The gathering is open to all Korean War, post-Korean war, Vietnam, and Iraqi War members of the Association, as well as supporting and associated units.

6147th TAC CON GP (and all units thereof), the Mosquito Assn, Korea, 19-25 Sept., Atlanta, GA. POC: Dick Souza, (978) 453-3887, skeeterloc@aol.com

USS Colonial (LSD 18), 20-23 Sept., Gaithersburg, MD. POC: Loren Kerby, 3013 Emerald Ct., Platte City, MO 64079, (816) 858-3158, kerbyplatte@aol.com

11th Engineer Bn. Assn. (all years), 21-25 Sept., Santa Fe, NM. POC: Fred Boelsche, 54 Edstan Drive, Moonachie, NJ 07074-1239, (201) 641-5828, FredB11thEng@hotmail.com

GHQ 1st Raider Co/X Corps Sp Opns Co, 20-22 Sept., Spring Green, WI, Round Barn Lodge. POC: Robert Graves, (608) 588-2951

VMF 311 (K-3 Korea), 20-24 Sept., San Diego, CA. POC: Jim Galchick, (330) 337-9383, jimsue@raex.com (Any member of VMF/ VMA 311, any year, any place)

92nd Armored Field Artillery Bn. (Korea), 21-24 Sept., Bridgeton, MO, Crown Plaza Hotel, St. Louis, MO Airport, POC: Guy McMenemy, (281) 469-2819, BraveCannons@sbcglobal.net

369th E.A.S.R., All companies, officers, enlisted men, Korea (1950-53), 22-24 Sept., Port Angeles, WA. POC: John Singhose, 57584 Highway 112, Port Angeles, WA 98363, (360) 457-5944

712th TROB (Korean War), 24-27 Sept., Evansville, IN. POC: Robert G Shannon, 17 Sandpiper Dr, Whispering Pines, NC 28327-9393, (910) 949-3920, rgshannon@ac.net

86th Ordnance Co. Assc., 27-29 Sept., Cumberland/LaVale, MD. POC: Richard Schildbach, 101 South Whiting Street, Alexandria, VA 22304, (703) 370-2707

USS Eversole (DD 789), 27 Sept. - 1 Oct., San Diego, CA. POC: Tom Trainham, 218 Whistle Way, Locust Grove, GA, (770) 320-7511, tjt1958@yahoo.com

45th In. Div. ("Thunderbirds"), 28 Sept. - 1 Oct., POC: Raul Trevino, 2145 NE Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111, (210) 681-9134

26th Inf. Scout Dog Platoon, 29 Sept.-1 Oct., Sturgis, SD. POC: Robert E. Fickbohm, 18113 Winkler Rd., Newell, SD 57760

OCTOBER

Baker Co., 15th Regt., 3rd Div. (Korean War), 1-4 Oct., Ft. Benning, GA, Holiday Inn Columbus North, 2800 Manchester Expressway, Columbus GA 31904, \$79.00 plus 14% tax per night, (800) 465-4329, ask for unit rate. POC: George Ertel, (423) 496-7571, gertel@bellsouth.net, or Bob Kent, (299) 334-5283, bgnk2@yahoo.com

194TH Combat Engr. Bn., All companies (Korea 1951-1954), 2-5 Oct., Laughlin, NV, The Ramada Inn. POC: (east coast) Bob (Sandy) Sanford, 432 Walnut Hill RD, Woonsocket, RI 02895, (401) 766-8262, boblorsan2@aol.com.(west coast) Bill Alexander, P.O. Box 5036, Blue Jay, CA 92316, (909) 337-3796

13th Engineer Combat Battalion, 5-8 Oct., St. Louis, MO. POC: Edward Larkin, (502) 231-3552, eflarkin@earthlink.net

1st Field Artillery Observation Battalion, 5-8 Oct., Springfield, IL, Northfield Inn, 3280 Northfield Dr. POC: Ralph Mueller, (724) 348-5359, or John Palla (708) 246-2140.

USS Bayfield (APA 33), 5-9 Oct., Nashville, TN, Sheraton Music City Hotel. POC: Florence Tarantino, (908) 604-2688, George Brewer, (772) 288-1526, or Art Nelson at artbets@cox.net

160th Inf. 40th Div. (Korea, 1950 to 1953), 12-15 Oct., Nashville, TN. POC: M/Sgt. Duane E. Whaley, (951) 245-9726, or David Mays (256) 766-3773, docmays@bellsouth.net

Co. "F," 279th Inf., 45th Div., 5-8 Oct., Branson, MO. POC: John Hill, 3419 Dobbs Farm Rd., Kinston, NC 28504-8923, (252) 522-1310, hillaud@msn.com

1st Ordnance MM Co. (WWII/Korea/to Present), 12-14 Oct., Warner Robbins, GA. POC: Bobby Lamb, (912) 836-5313 or George Kvet, (330) 854-9754

44th Inf. Div. (All units assigned to it in Korean War, 1952-53), 13-15 Oct., Peoria, IL, Holiday Inn City Centre. POC: Howard Ferrill, 8902 Windsor Ct., Granbury, TX 76049, (817) 579-1608, hmf12@juno.com, Charles W. Munie, 465 S. Linden, Decatur IL 62522, (217) 423-6265, camunie@aol.com, or Duane Green, 1616 W. Queens Ct., Peoria, IL 61614, (309) 691-8341, dgreen6357@aol.com

Veterans of the Korean War (All branches are welcome), 18-21 Oct., Virginia Beach, VA. POC: Floyd D. Newkirk, (757) 340-9801, fnewkirk1@cox.net. Website, www.VKWR.org

"L" Co., 279th Infantry, 45th Division, 26-29 Oct., eastern Oklahoma, Western Hills Lodge. POC: Paul Elkins at (907)260-6612; e-mail p.s.elkins@att.net

USS Algol (AKA 54), 18-21 Oct., Washington DC. POC: Art Nelson, artbets@cox.net, Tony Soria, (209) 722-6005, Ron De Witt, aka54ussalgol@aol.com, or Bob Valdepena, s1027@gvtc.com

Army Security Agency Korea (ASA Korea) Veterans, 19-22 Oct., King of Prussia, PA, Radisson Valley Forge Hotel, 1160 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA 19406. Information is available on our web site, www.asakorea.org. POC: Rev. Charles "Preacher" Knappenberger (215) 918-2992, preacherk@aol.com, or Allen Koehler (610) 584-5379, tennislob31@comcast.net.

279 Inf. Regt., 45th Inf. Div., & 45th BDE (All Wars), 27-29 Oct. POC: Reunion Committee, P. O. Box 1413, Miami, OK 74355-1413, (918) 542-6782.

NOVEMBER

Engineer OCS Association, 8-13 Nov., Las Vegas, NV. POC: E. T. Mealing (404) 231-3402, TEOCSA@comcast.net.

FROWEIN from page 57

man. Still under the eyes of the watching lieutenant, I unhooked the cable and cleaned it as the medic rewound it on the winch.

We climbed the hill to the gun position to hear the jeers of the gunners who had kept tabs on the operation. The lieutenant stood still, hands on his hips (his customary symbol of authority), tight-lipped and silent, until the gunners had quieted. He then said, "Frowein, your breast pocket is unbuttoned."

I took the defensive, noting that nearly every member of the crew had pockets unbuttoned. He replied, "Frowein, you are going to dig a fox hole so deep that I cannot see you; and you are to begin immediately!"

The crew was silent. I am sure that they were sympathetic to my plight, but they sincerely liked their lieutenant, and they considered him to be a fair man.

I started on the hole. The ground was extremely rocky, so I borrowed a pick from the truck to make headway. Each time that I swung the pick, I would look at the lieutenant. I am sure that he got my message.

When I was down about two feet, I took the lid from a fuse case and made a sign which I placed above the hole in plain sight of the lieutenant. It read: "Frowein's Button Hole. Please drop in."

*James A. Frowein, 24438 W Lancelot Ln.
Joliet, IL 60431-6659, (815) 741-1076*

Ode To The U.S. Flag: In Honor Of Flag Day

By Lee Dauster

One day in 1991 I sat at my dining room table and studied the 3x5 United States flag on the opposite wall of the room. The thought occurred to me that most civilians and military veterans look upon this national emblem with reverence.

As I pondered, I realized that the emotions stirred by this beautiful symbol are second only to the excitement one feels when communicating with his or her God. This thought prompted me to write this poem.

Now, some people may question whether this is really a poem. I will let Robert Frost answer that.

When he was asked, "What is poetry?," he had a simple answer.

"Poetry is what poets write. If a poem says it's a poem, then it is a poem."

The Flag Of The United States

In early school, we first pledged allegiance to your form.

You are the sovereign symbol of those who fought, when

Liberty was born. Your thirteen stripes remain the same, suggestive of your humble birth.

But, in the field of blue you have grown, and strengthened your resolve, that Freedom will prevail.

At dawn's first light you rise, and glory radiates in the brilliance of your colors:

Red—the blood of your people, shed in the pursuit of your ideals.

White—your purity of purpose.

Blue—staunch truth you will remain the cementing bond that holds your States United.

When flown at half your mast, you mourn in silent sorrow, the passing of those who loved you dearly.

Families of your honored dead receive your folded form. When shadows fall, and quiet becalms the fabric of your soul, You rest in graceful drape.

Your folds softened by the murmur of the wind.

Your stars, like eyes in constant watch, remain alert and guard throughout your vigil.

You reign in peace; and peace is all you ask. But, when the battle cry is sounded, and winds of war resound throughout the land;

Your voice is heard above the din, "Sweet Freedom will remain."

And those who dare to mar this truth will not survive the day.

You are the touchstone by which liberty is measured.

Other countries reach to you when tyranny oppresses the Freedom for which they strive. In your presence we are awed by the beauty of your face, and our love of country, exemplified by your presence, is eternal.

Korean War Veterans Mini-Reunions

194th ECB

Members of the 194th Engineering Combat Battalion got together in Laughlin, NV, in October 2005.

Marvin Tenopir, 3240 N. 56th Street, Lincoln, NE 68504



Members of the 194th Engineer Combat Bn. at the mini-reunion in Laughlin, NV: (Front, L-R) Robert Sanford, William Brandt, Ralph Stearns (Back, L-R) Charles Havey, William Alexander, Marvin Tenopir, Charles Connor, James Rice

453rd Engineer Combat Bn.

Unit members get together every year during the first weekend of August. The 2005 reunion was held at Francis D. Thompson's home in Greenville, SC.

The 2006 reunion is scheduled for Cleveland, OH, with Phil Millhouse as host. He can be contacted at 417 Bishop Road, Highland Heights, OH 44143-1449.

We would like to hear from any others from the 453rd.

*Francis D. Thompson
102 Rose Circle
Greenville, SC 29607-4902*



ABOVE: August 2005 453rd reunion attendees (Back, L-R) Terry Thompson and his father Francis, Wallace Barbour (MI), Ben Kirk (IA), Norman Flentje (IL), Richard Mattson (NE); (Middle, L-R) Doyle Carlson (IA), Dave Yoder (OH), Nathan Riddle (VA), Phil Millhouse (OH), Joshua Thompson, grandson of Francis (MO); (Kneeling, L-R) Dale Skelton (IL), Ed Hecht (CO), Bob Freeman, visitor and friend of Phil Millhouse

RIGHT: Wives and friends of the 453rd ECB at the home of Francis and Nell Thompson: (Back, L-R) Frances Sinner, Donna Mattson, Nell Thompson, Annette Skelton, Virginia Kirk, Alice Riddle, Dorothy Flentje; (Middle, L-R) Shirley Barbour, Virginia Carlson, Kathy Hecht; (Kneeling, L-R) Jessica and Kady Havens, granddaughters of Virginia Carlson



C-1-7, 1st MarDiv

C-1-7 veterans of Korea, 1950-53, got together in San Antonio, TX, March 26-29, 2006. Seventy-five Marines and guests, along with several Navy Corpsmen, attended.

One of the highlights of the gathering was a moving memorial service conducted in honor of our fallen comrades by a former Marine who is now a priest.



Members of C-1-7 gather in San Antonio

Able Co., 35th Inf. Regt., 25th Inf. Div.

By Charles V. (Chris) Christian

About 1995 I received a list from retired Lt. General Sidney B. Berry of surviving Korean War veterans of Able Company, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. It was at that time that I thought it would be a good idea for all of us to get together at least once before we all went to join our maker.

I had written to some of the guys on the list about that idea. Unfortunately, the responses never came back. So, I decided that if nobody else was interested in the idea, there was no reason why I should bother pursuing it.

The idea kept nagging at me for years. The names on the list kept getting fewer and fewer. So, in December 2004, I decided I'd give it one more shot. I sent letters to all twenty remaining members on the list. I did get a few responses that favored the idea. So, I started working on organizing this event.

By this time, General Berry had relocated from Arlington, Virginia to Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. I had also been in communication with one of our members who lived in Connecticut, Alexander Harkness. Alex was very eager for the reunion. He was a terrific help in making phone calls to those for whom we had phone numbers in the hope of getting their feedback.

It became necessary to determine a location for the reunion. At this time I received a letter from Tom Frazier, in Alexandria, Virginia advising me of a reunion for the 25th Infantry Division that Bob Muzzy was hosting in Cherry Hill, New Jersey in the early part of August 2005. Cherry Hill is about a 45-minute drive from Kennett Square, and a few guys from Able Company were going to attend that reunion. I decided on having the reunion in



Able Company, 35th Inf. Regt., 25th Inf. Div. members gather in PA: (Seated) Alex Harkness, General Sidney B. Berry, Lester Blevins, Charles V. Christian (Standing) Tom Frazier, Bob Liberty, Joseph Drozd, Robert Kisner, William Doyle, Don Wrightson

Kennett Square for two reasons: out of respect for General Berry, so he wouldn't have to travel any great distance, and to make it possible for the guys at the Cherry Hill reunion to join us.

Inasmuch as none of us was familiar with Kennett Square, it was necessary to have a central locale for all of us to meet. So, I contacted Mike Pralle, the Commander of VFW Post 5467 in Kennett Square and explained our situation to him. He agreed to let us use his post as a marshalling area.

The original plan was to have Alex and his wife meet with the general and his wife at a predetermined restaurant. The rest of would show up there and surprise him. It just so happened that the general's wife, Anne, was involved with a family reunion at the same time. So, we went to plan B.

I contacted Mike Pralle again and told him about the change in plans. I asked if we could have the reunion at his post, to which he agreed. Everyone was notified of the plans and received copies of maps provided by General Berry of Kennett Square showing how to get to the VFW Post.

On 6 August 2005 we finally had our reunion, with 10 of the 20 survivors attending. It only lasted about three hours, but there was a lot done in that brief time. It was the first time that we had all ever been together since 1953, and it was the first time for me to ever meet many of the guys.

It was a distinct pleasure to have everyone there. During the reunion I suggested to General Berry that we have a minute of silence to remember those who didn't make it back. He was kind enough to lead us all in a short prayer for them, their families, and friends.

Mike Pralle was a very gracious host. He was extremely helpful, and provided us all with a memento from his post. He had decorated an area for us with tables and glassware and little vases and a flag on each table. He also provided us with snacks, a cheese tray, and soft drinks.

All in all, everything turned out quite well. I was thankful to have finally realized a dream that had been haunting me for so many years.

Those who attended the reunion were LtGen Sidney B. Berry (Ret), Kennett Square, PA; Lester Blevins, Amelia, OH; Charles V. Christian, Dundalk, MD; William Doyle, Ravenswood, WV; Joseph Drozd, Albrightsville, PA; Thomas Frazier, Alexandria, VA; Alexander Harkness, Thomaston, CT; Robert Kisner, Kent, OH; Robert J. Liberty, New Dartmouth, MA; and Donald L. Wrightson, Pendleton, OR.



KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

SURVEY OF THE TELL AMERICA PROGRAM

TO: All KWVA Chapters
FROM: National Tell America Chairman, Larry Kinard

Many of our chapters have active and successful Tell America programs. Their membership is involved and they are making a difference in our schools and communities in their understanding of the Korean War and the freedoms we enjoy today.

We have very little information on which chapters have these programs, and we would like to know who has and who hasn't. This brief survey is designed to help provide that information.

Please complete the following questions and return to:
Larry Kinard, 2108 Westchester, Mansfield, TX 76063.

Chapter Name and number: _____

How many members in 2006: _____

Location: _____

President or contact person: _____

Telephone number or e-mail address: _____

Does your chapter have a Tell America Program:

YES? NO?

If yes, please tell us about your Program:

1. When was it started? _____

2. How many members are involved? _____

3. How many schools do you speak to? _____

4. Approximate # of students contacted each year: _____

5. Do you also speak to community and civic groups?

YES? NO?

6. Approximate number of these contacts each year: _____

7. Do you have program information you are willing to share?

YES? NO?

a. Please tell what that is! _____

8. Has your TA program appeared on television? _____

YES? NO?

9. What would make your program better? _____

10. Please tell us how we can help at the national level!

Thanks for your participation in this survey. It will be a big help for our Tell America Program.

Official Membership Application Form

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 101238, Arlington, VA 22210-4238 (Telephone: 703-522-9629)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Assigned Membership Number: _____

K.W.V.A. Regular Annual Dues - \$20.00 • Associate Membership - \$12.00 • Ex-POW, Gold Star Parent or Spouse & Honorary - \$0.00
Regular Life Membership - \$150.00: May be paid in lump sum or 6 equal payments over a 12 month period

Please Check One: New Member Renewal Member # _____

Please Check One: Ex-POW Regular Member Life Member Associate Member
 Honorary Gold Star Spouse Gold Star Parent

(Please Print)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle/Maiden Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email _____

Name of Chapter (if applicable) _____

All Regular members please provide the following information if applicable

Unit(s) to which Assigned

Division _____
Regiment _____
Battalion _____
Company _____
Other _____

Branch of Service

Army
 Air Force
 Navy
 Marines
 Coast Guard

Dates of service:

Within Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

Without Korea were: (See criteria below)

From _____ To _____

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes as indicated, is true and correct."

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to: KWVA and mail to: Korean War Veterans Association Inc., PO Box 101238, Arlington, VA 22210-4238 (Telephone: 703-522-9629)

Credit Card # _____ VISA MASTER CARD

Expiration Date _____ Your Signature _____

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Section 1. Qualifications of Members. Membership in this Association shall consist of Regular, Associate and Honorary Members. No person shall be excluded from membership because of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, or physical or mental disability, as long as the individual meets the criteria of service requirements as stipulated below. Only Regular Members as defined in A. below have a vote in National or Department matters.

A. Regular Members.

- 1. Service in the United States Armed Forces.** Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, defined as Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, said service being within Korea including territorial waters and airspace (September 3, 1945 – June 25, 1950) within and without (June 25, 1950-January 31, 1955), or who served honorably in Korea from February 1, 1955 until the present time is eligible for Membership.
- 2. Medal of Honor.** Any Medal of Honor recipient, so honored for service during the Korean War is eligible for life membership.
- 3. Prisoner of War.** Any person held as a prisoner of war by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces during and after hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward is eligible for life membership.
- 4. United Nations Command and Korean Armed Forces.** Any person who served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United Nations Command or in the Republic of Korea Armed Forces during the Korean War era and thereafter is eligible for membership. However, UN/Korean membership of the Association may not exceed 10% of the total membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.
- 5. Gold Star Parents.** Any person whose son/daughter was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War is eligible for life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.
- 6. Gold Star Spouses.** Any person whose spouse was killed in action, missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War is eligible for life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

B. Associate Members. Any person with a legitimate interest in the affairs of this Association and who wishes to support its aims, and not being eligible for Regular membership and who agrees to accept the terms and conditions set forth in the charter and bylaws shall be eligible for associate membership in the Association.

C. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as Honorary Member by vote by the Board of Directors.

D. Ineligible. Any person who has been separated from the service of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the United Nations Command, or the Republic of Korea under conditions other than honorable shall be ineligible for membership in this Association.

WEB SITE: www.kwva.org



All Aboard! Photo taken near Kunsan, Korea. Courtesy of Paul Andrews, P.O. Box 3126, Waquoit, MA 02536-3126 (508) 548-6519

**Korean War Veterans Association
Membership Recording Secretary
PO Box 101238
Arlington, VA 22210**

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
QUINCY, FL
PERMIT NO. 866