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Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee

In This Issue

Native American Servicemen p. 2

Become a KW60 Ambassador p. 2

Korean War Medical Breakthroughs p. 2

Veterans Gather in Massachusetts p. 6

Hispanic Veterans in the Korean War p. 6



While visiting the Iwo Jima Memorial, Korean War Veterans gather to listen to a presentation by Committee Member Navy Commander John O'Brien. The Veterans were part of the first-ever Valor Flight which visited monuments around Washington, DC



The Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, a three-year program authorized in the 2011 Defense Authorization Bill, is dedicated to thanking and honoring all the Veterans of the Korean War, their families and especially those who lost loved ones in the war.

Committee Welcomes Valor Flight

More than 100 Korean War veterans from Alabama traveled to Washington, DC on Veterans Day weekend to visit their Korean War Memorial in the first trip of its kind.

The nonprofit organization, Valor Flight, sponsored the trip to grant the veterans' wishes to visit the memorial. This was the first trip that the organization has sponsored.

During the day of honor and remembrance, the veterans toured the Korean War Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, the Iwo Jima Memorial and other sites.

At the Iwo Jima Memorial, U.S. Navy CDR John O'Brien, member of the Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean

War Commemoration Committee, awarded each of the veterans with a certificate of appreciation signed by Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta in honor of their service during the Korean War.

"Your country has not forgotten your sacrifice. Your utter selflessness has made possible the freedom and prosperity we enjoy today," O'Brien said.

The Valor Flight program is modeled on the Honor Flight program that takes World War II veterans on day-long trips to the nation's capital. Valor Flight President Steve Celuch hopes to conduct another trip next spring.

The organization, based in Alabama, seeks to recognize Korean War veterans for their service.

Medical Breakthroughs

Veterans of the Korean War contributed not only to freedom, but to medical innovations and better medical treatment in combat.

For the first time, helicopters became the major method to transport casualties to field hospitals. Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals (MASH) units adapted to the rugged Korean terrain and placed medical personnel closer to the front; improving a wounded Soldier's chance for survival and lowering the fatality rate for the seriously injured.

Military medical personnel also con-

tributed to developing artificial kidneys for patients suffering from potassium intoxication following emergency blood transfusions. New vascular repair techniques allowed doctors to save limbs that otherwise would have been amputated. They also pioneered protective clothing for frostbite and lightweight body armor, leading to bulletproof vests used by modern day police officers.

Korean War Veterans are remembered for their efforts and sacrifices. Let us not forget their medical contributions that also helped lead the way to modern medical advancements.



KW60 Ambassador Jim Rudy, South Carolina, presents a certificate of appreciation to Korean War Veteran William F. Funchess.

Become a KW60 Ambassador

The 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee (KW60) Ambassador Volunteer Program takes on an integral role in fulfilling the Committee's mission to find and recognize Korean War Veterans and raise local awareness.

For KW60 Ambassadors, there are countless ways to highlight and honor the sacrifices of Korean War Veterans. Whether it's planning a special event at an American Legion Post, coordinating a Korean War Veterans float in your local parade, or creating a Korean War history display at your local library, our Ambassadors play a critical role in recognizing the contributions of our Veterans.

Anyone interested in honoring our Korean War Veterans as a volunteer is welcome to apply to become a KW60 Ambassador. KW60 Ambassadors must have a willingness to seek out opportunities to include Korean War Veteran outreach in their local community. Staying connected to local Veteran communities is also helpful as it can serve as an outreach platform.

To apply to become a KW60 Ambassador, please visit the "Contact Us" section on our website. Or, simply fill out the KW60 Ambassador volunteer form in this newsletter. You can return your completed form to a member or mail it to 2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1400, Arlington, Virginia 22202.



On November 4, 2011, COL David J. Clark, presents Korean War Veteran and Silver Star recipient Charles Norman Shay with a certificate of appreciation signed by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta at an American Veterans Center panel discussion on Korean War medical advancements. Shay is a member of the Penobscot Indian Tribe.

Recognizing Native American Servicemen

During the month of November, the U.S. recognizes National Native American Heritage Month.

Native Americans have served with distinction in United States military actions for over 200 years. During World War II, more than 44,000 out of a total Native American population of less than 350,000, saw military service.

A few years later, many of these seasoned troops and officers transferred their fighting skills to the Korean Peninsula, where new recruits joined them in the fight against communist aggression.

The warrior tradition of overpowering the enemy and facing death head-on accurately describes the heroic actions of the three Native Americans awarded the Medal of Honor during the Korean War including Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud Jr., Private First Class Charles George and Captain Raymond Harvey.

Other Native American Servicemen who served during the Korean War include former U.S. Senator from Colorado Ben Campbell and Charles Norman Shay (pictured above), a Korean War medic and Silver Star recipient.



Become a KW60 Ambassador

Help pay tribute to your local Korean War Veterans

Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee Ambassadors, known as KW60 Ambassadors, help raise awareness in their local communities about the sacrifice and contributions made by Korean War Veterans. Their efforts are vital to the growth and success of the KW60 program.

What will I do as a KW60 Ambassador?

- Organize events that honor Veterans
- Participate in media activities such as letter to the editor campaigns supplied to you for signature or assist in placing supplied articles with your community papers
- Volunteer at local Veterans Administration hospitals and homes
- Participate in educational outreach at local schools, libraries, museum exhibits, etc.
- Enhance community activities & events by including commemorations of the Korean War or by recognizing Korean War Veterans

Is volunteering right for me?

Ambassadors should have a willingness to seek out opportunities to include Korean War Veterans in their local community events. Anyone interested in honoring our Korean War Veterans as a volunteer is welcome to apply.



Yes, I want to be a KW60 Ambassador

To apply to become a Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee Ambassador Volunteer, please provide your information below. You can return your completed form to a member or mail it to: 2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1400, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

You can also e-mail us your information to koreanwar@conus.army.mil

First Name _____ Last Name _____

E-mail Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Executive Director Travels to Korea

On December 6, Committee Executive Director COL David J. Clark visited Korea's Memorial Monument National Cemetery (pictured right) where he presided over a wreath laying ceremony and paid respect to the many Korean Nationals who gave their life in defense of the Republic of Korea.

During the ceremony, COL Clark placed three handfuls of incense at the memorial which symbolizes thoughts and prayers being carried skyward.



Flight nurse Captain Irene Wiley prepares medicine for one of her patients aboard a C-54 "Skymaster" air evacuation plane en route from Okinawa to Formosa.

Do You Know Women Who Served in the Korean War?

The Committee is currently searching for female Veterans who served during the Korean War in order to honor their sacrifice and service.

If you have a family member or friend who is a female Korean War Veteran, please call us at 703-545-0011. The Committee hopes to recognize these Veterans during Women's History Month in March 2012.

Did you know that during the Korean War, nearly 22,000 women served in the armed service? Roughly 7,000 of these women were healthcare professionals. The rest served in line assignments in the Women's Army Corps, Women in the Air Force, Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, or Navy Women's Reserve and Women Marines.



Terry Ruddle Boyd Lancaster, the daughter of SSgt Bobby Jack Ruddle, a Korean War Veteran killed in action in 1953, receives her father's medals and a U.S. flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of her father's sacrifice.

Soldier's Family Receives Medals

On December 3, in Louisburg, North Carolina, a memorial service and medal presentation was held for SSgt Bobby Jack Ruddle, a Korean War Veteran killed in action, and Terry Ruddle Boyd Lancaster, his daughter he did not live to see.

Bobby was sent to Korea in February 1953. He was a member of Company D, 7th Marine Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

While in Korea, he took part in the Nevada Cities Outpost War comprised of three hills forward of the main line of resistance guarding Seoul. These peaks, which were under Marine surveillance, were named for the three Nevada gaming towns of

Vegas, Reno, and Carson.

SSgt. Bobby Jack Ruddle was killed on April 19, 1953 on the main line of resistance to the left of Outpost Carson, which faced the main Chinese outpost of Ungok. His daughter Terry was born in May 1953.

During the ceremony, U.S. Congressman Walter B. Jones presented Terry with her father's medals and a U.S. flag which had been flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. in honor of her father. Terry was also presented with a certificate of appreciation signed by the Secretary of Defense recognizing her father's sacrifice and service.

Paying Tribute to Kansas' Veterans

During a special ceremony on December 5, the Committee's U.S. Air Force Liaison delivered remarks and presented local Korean War Veterans with Certificates of Appreciation signed by Secretary of Defense at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7397 in Lenexa, Kansas.

The following day, on December 6, the

Committee's U.S. Air Force Liaison and Korean War Veterans Association Chapter President Tom Stevens held a brief wreath laying ceremony at the Johnson County Korean War Memorial in Overland Park, Kansas. LTC Yoonkap Lim, liaison Republic of Korea officer stationed at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, also joined the ceremony.



The Committee's U.S. Air Force Liaison joins Korean War Veterans Association Chapter President Tom Stevens for a wreath laying ceremony at the Johnson County Korean War Memorial in Overland Park, Kansas.



The Committee's U.S. Air Force Liaison presents a certificate of appreciation to Korean War Veteran Charles Pearson at the Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Lenexa, Kansas.



Mark Mason, a KW60 Ambassador, works with his local Veterans of Foreign War Post in North Carolina to help honor his community's Korean War Veterans.

KW60 Ambassador Honors Local Vets

On November 11, KW60 Ambassador Mark Mason supported a Veterans Day Service at the Calabash Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7288 in North Carolina paying tribute to all American Veterans past and present along with their families.

The Post Commander along with the Post Men's and Ladies Auxiliary acknowledged special thanks to the 150 guests, veterans and family members who attended the event. Mark Mason has been working with the Post Commander for the past three months recognizing and honoring Korean War Veterans.

As of November 2011, Mr. Mason has helped the Committee commemorate 19 Korean War Veterans in his community.

Discover Our Website

We encourage you to check out our website <http://koreanwar.defense.gov> for information on:

- Events
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Korean War History
- Recent News Coverage
- Speeches
- Certificate Information



Korean War Veteran Association Members gather for a group photo with U.S. Army GEN Walter Sharp during their annual banquet in Quincy, Massachusetts.

Veterans Gather in Massachusetts

Executive Director COL David J. Clark and Committee Members joined Korean War Veterans gathering for the Korean War Veterans Association's (KWVA) 2011 Annual Conference in Quincy, Massachusetts.

The KWVA 2011 Annual Conference included four days of events for distinguished Korean War Veterans from around the country. At the conference, COL Clark delivered remarks at a welcome reception and shared information about activities to be conducted over the three-year commemoration period.

During the conference, the Committee

also presented a collection of award-winning documentaries about the Korean War and conducted camera interviews with Veterans on their service.

KWVA members also met with Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick at the State House in Boston as he delivered a proclamation honoring Korean War Veterans with a day of recognition.

The KWVA 2011 Annual Conference provides Veterans an opportunity to reunite with fellow Korean War Veterans, take action on Korean War-related issues, and remember those who paid the ultimate price or remain missing in action.

Committee Treks Across US for Veterans Day

During the 2011 Veterans Day weekend, the Committee traveled the country honoring Korean War Veterans at ceremonies, commemoration services and dedication events. In Massachusetts, Executive Director COL David J. Clark delivered a Veterans Day commemoration speech on the campus of Boston College attended by students and families.

In Illinois, Committee Members recognized

over 200 Korean War Veterans with certificates of appreciation signed by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta at VA homes and hospitals in Chicago, Quincy, LaSalle, Manteno and Anna. In Manteno, Illinois Congressman Adam Kinzinger joined the team to honor local Veterans.

The Committee also made stops at the American Legion Post in Parma, Ohio and a Veteran reunion in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

where they awarded certificates to Korean War Veterans commemorating their service and sacrifices.

In York, Pennsylvania, Committee representative COL John Dabrowski joined State Representative Stanley Saylor and local Korean War Veterans at a ceremony dedicating a portion of State Route 462 in Pennsylvania as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.



First Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez, United States Marine Corps, scales the sea wall at Red Beach during the Inchon Landing, Sept. 15, 1950. Minutes after this photo was taken, Lopez sacrificed his life to save his own men and earned the Medal of Honor.

Hispanic Veterans in the Korean War

Asked to serve their country in time of war, Hispanic Americans displayed loyalty, bravery, and persistence in the face of adversity. Some were familiar with discrimination back home but saw their service as affirming the ideals of democracy. From Charles Rodriguez, who fought with Merrill's Marauders in WWII Burma, to Jose Mares, a teenager who survived incredible hardship as a POW during the Korean War, Hispanic-Americans served proudly.

Hispanic-American ethnic groups, made up mostly of Puerto Ricans and others with ancestry from Mexico, Central and South America, Cuba and other Caribbean islands, already had distinguished themselves through combat skills and bravery during World War II.

In July 1950, there were about 20,000 Hispanics in the armed forces. Over the next three years, nearly 148,000 Hispanic-Americans volunteered for or were drafted into military service. Of these, approximately 60,000 Puerto Ricans served in Korea.

During the Korean War, most Hispanic-Americans served in the Army and Marine Corps. However, several thousand served in the Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard in both combat and combat service support branches. Commanders recognized the courage and determination of Hispanic-Americans in combat.

Nine Hispanics were awarded the Medal of Honor and more than 100 others received Distinguished Service Crosses and Silver Stars for acts of combat bravery.

Veterans Day 2011

This year's Veterans Day, the Committee traveled to Illinois, Massachusetts, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin to thank, honor and commemorate Korean War Veterans. Check out our photo gallery!



Committee Executive Director COL David J. Clark delivers remarks at a honorary ceremony on the Boston College Campus commemorating Veterans on Veterans Day 2011.



A Korean War Veteran is presented with a certificate of appreciation signed by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta at the American Legion Post in Parma, Ohio on Veterans Day.



Committee Representative COL John Dabrowski joins local Korean War Veterans at a ceremony dedicating a portion of State Route 462 in Pennsylvania as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.



The Committee's U.S. Air Force Liaison presents Korean War Veterans with certificates of appreciation signed by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta at the Manteno VA home in Illinois on Veterans Day.



Committee Member LTC Tim Washington chats with Korean War Veteran Robert Ericson after he presented Ericson with a certificate of appreciation at the Quincy Veterans Home in Illinois on Veterans Day.



Committee Member U.S. Army LTC Robert Ruffolo presents a Korean War Veteran with a certificate of appreciation signed by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta at an event in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Veterans Day.



Executive Director COL David J. Clark meets with Veterans from World War II and the Korean War as they visit their national memorials for the first time in Washington, DC. The trip was sponsored by Jeremy Bloom's Wish of a Lifetime Foundation.

From My Notebook

By: COL David J. Clark

It is a humbling experience to have met with so many distinguished Korean War Veterans over the last year. The world and this nation are indebted to them for their service in what we now rightfully call the Forgotten Victory. Because of Korean War Veterans, the Republic of Korea stands today as a shining example of democracy and freedom and a beacon for other emerging nations around the globe.

Over the past year, I and the members of the Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee have had the distinct honor of meeting and touching Korean War Veterans around the country and internationally. We have been part of events in places

such as in Australia, Canada, France, Boston, Houston, Las Vegas, New Orleans, Savannah and Seattle.

Our Committee has been hard at work to meet the mission outlined by Congress to honor our Korean War Veterans and family members, commemorate key events of the Korean War, and educate the general public about the significance of the Korean War.

Over the next year, the Committee will focus on developing student lessons, a virtual archive and a permanent Pentagon display for the official Pentagon tour.

We invite you to engage our Committee as we work to support commemorative programs and events during this commemoration period.



United States Forces Korea Commander GEN James D. Thurman honors the memory of those who died in the Korean War during a wreath laying ceremony at the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. on October 11, 2011.

Commemorating Allied Partnerships

On October 12, in Paris, France, Committee Members joined the French Association of Korean War Veterans for their annual commemoration ceremony. The program, which included a Korean War Exhibition, signing ceremony and reception, honored Korean Veterans who fought with the French Battalion. Korea's Yanggu City Mayor and military representatives from allied countries participated in the event.

Executive Director COL David J. Clark

delivered remarks and met with French Korean War Veterans.

As part of its Congressional mandate, the Committee is dedicated to recognizing the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Korean War.

Fifteen allies sent combat forces to serve in the United Nations Command in Korea during the Korean War and five noncombatant nations provided hospitals or ambulance units.

Upcoming Events

The Committee will participate in several upcoming events to honor and recognize Korean War Veterans and their families including:

January 10, 2012

Washington, DC

Committee Members to greet representatives from Allied Countries

January 25, 2012

Leesburg, Florida

Committee Members to honor Korean War Veterans with a special presentation

March 9, 2012

Arlington, Virginia

Committee Members to honor female Veterans of the Korean War at the Women in Military Service Memorial

Keep posted for more upcoming events on the "Events" tab of our website.

Questions? Contact Us

koreanwar@conus.army.mil | 703-545-0011 | 2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1400, Arlington, Virginia 22202