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THE 38TH PARALLEL

KOREA50™

A publication to thank, honor, and remember the Korean War Veteran

Opening ceremony starts long tribute

By Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey
Editor, 38th Parallel

not forgotten. The event, held on the 50th anniversary of the start of the Korean War, marked the start of a commemoration period that will run through Veterans Day 2003.

“Korea was not a police action, or a crisis, or a conflict or a clash. It was a war — a hard, brutal war and the men and women who fought it were heroes,” Clinton. said.

In addition to honoring and remembering the veterans, the president said Korea reminded us that a fully integrated military remains necessary and that America “can never pull away from the rest of the world.”

Before President Clinton’s
Continued on Page 2

In case Korean War veterans didn’t get the message that the nation remembers them, the president of the United States made it loud and clear on June 25.

“For all the talk about Korea being the “Forgotten War”, we must never forget that for some, Korea is still alive every single day,” he said.

“President William Clinton took center stage in front of an estimated 7,000 people on the Mall near the Korean War Veterans Memorial and reminded veterans, their families and other veteran supporters that they are

President Bill Clinton speaks to a sea of veterans during the opening ceremony of the 50th Anniversary Korean War Commemoration on June 25 next to the Korean Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The president along with representatives from 21 other nations also laid wreaths at the memorial. United States Forces Korea and the Republic of Korea also conducted an opening ceremony in Seoul to start the commemoration period that runs through Nov. 11, 2003.

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Courtesy photo

Clinton from Page 1

keynote address, the opening ceremony paid tribute to Korean War veterans in many ways. In the early afternoon a flyover by B-29 and other vintage aircraft streamed across the sky. Korean dancers and Korean War era USO entertainer Connie Stevens performed for the audience. The Air Force Singing Sergeants, the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps and the Air Force Band also performed. Narrated video footage of the Korean War was also shown on two jumbo screens on each side of the stage.

Representatives of 21 other nations involved in the war laid wreaths at the Wall of Nations of the Korean War Veterans Memorial where each country is listed alphabetically. After his speech, the president also laid a wreath at the memorial.

Actor and author James McEachin, a Korean War veteran who was severely wounded at the Battle of Old Baldy, couldn't believe his eyes when he saw the memorial.

"This whole thing is amazing," said McEachin, who received a Purple Heart with the army. "I had seen pictures of it and was impressed from that, but it looks even better. The ponchos add a nice touch."

Ponchos worn on 19 steel statues of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines on patrol reflect more symbolism than realism. They mirror the weather conditions, ethnic diversity and each branch of service of all those who fought. The statues seem to multiply as they bounce off the granite wall of 2,400 etched images of support people from every branch of service who helped those on the front lines.

Retired Col. Sam Dickens, an F-80 pilot with the 15th Tactical Reconnaissance Sq. near Seoul, South Korea, saw the memorial as a fitting location that made him reflect on the war.

"I thought of what the Korean War memorial represented so

eloquently, with the figures moving over the landscape — of how appropriately ghostly they appear to remind us of those who gave their lives in Korea. I thought too, that the Korean War was the first major stand the United States took against the threat of communism, and in terms of our forces commitment, the actual beginning of the Cold War."

Dickens was among the first six veterans to wear the newly authorized Korean War Service Medal. The Republic of Korea Ambassador pinned the medal on the six recipients on stage.

Throughout the day, Dickens and all others at the ceremony fought off sweltering temperatures in the 90s and extreme humidity amid clear, sunny skies. Some people beat the heat by gathering chairs and huddling under shady trees. Others just toughed it out all day, drinking plenty of water they received from ushers and other event staff members.

"The heat doesn't bother me," veteran Joe Derrigo said. "I may get a little tan, but I don't sweat."



Courtesy photo

During his speech, President Clinton acknowledged Joe Derrigo as a hero. Derrigo was the first American to see the North Korean Invasion that started the war.

Korean War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Upcoming Events

Below is a list of some of the major local, national and international level events.

Oct. 4-8, 2000

Fleet Week
San Francisco, Cal.

Oct. 13-15, 2000

Navy Air Show
Miramar Naval Air Station
San Diego, Cal.

Nov. 11, 2000

Nations Parade
New York City, N.Y.

Northern Campaign
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Dec. 7, 2000

Chosin Reservoir
Camp Pendleton, San Diego,
Cal.

Dec. 12, 2000

Hungnam Redeployment and
Evacuation
Navy Memorial, Wash., D.C.

Aug. 18, 2001

Battle of Outposts
Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, Va.

Pentagon Unveils Korean War Exhibit

By **LCDR Jeff Bender**
*Korean War
Commemoration Committee*

More than 100 Korean War Veterans, their families and invited guests attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Joint Service Korean War exhibit in the Pentagon on July 26.

Hosted by the Department of Defense 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, the display reflects the history of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard during the Korean War. It is located adjacent to the Hall of Heroes on the second floor between Corridors 6 and 7.

One of the guest speakers noted

the purpose of the exhibit is two-fold.

“This exhibit does a masterful job of presenting the background on the Korean War and help begin the educational process,” said Gen. (Ret.) Robert Sennewald, USA, former Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Forces Korea and Korean War Veteran. “This is a great way to recognize the sacrifice and contributions of the Korean War veterans.”

Retired Gen. Paik Sun Yup, Republic of Korea Army, also welcomed the opportunity to thank the Korean War veterans at the ceremony. As a 29-year-old colonel, Paik helped lead the Republic of Korea Army and was the first Korean to achieve the rank of four-star general.

See Pentagon Page 4



Wall Street's welcome

The New York Stock Exchange honored Korean War Veterans on Wall Street. Veterans opened the trading day with the traditional ringing of the bell.

This Date in History

1950

October – Arrival of first Greek Army forces in Korea.
Oct. 24 – Arrival of first Netherlands forces in Korea.
November – Arrival of Turkish forces. First jet-to-jet air combat in history.
Nov. 20 – Arrival of India's 60th Field Ambulance and Surgical unit.
Nov. 25 – Chinese forces enter combat in Korea.
Nov. 29 – Arrival of first French forces in Korea.
Dec. 9 – Arrival of Greek Battalion at Pusan.
Dec. 16 – President Truman declares State of National Emergency.
Dec. 23 – General Mathew B. Ridgway replaces Lt. Gen. Walton Walker, killed in a motor accident, as 8th U.S. Army Commander.
Dec. 31 – New Chinese offensive begins.

1951

Oct. 25 – Truce talks transferred to Panmunjom.
Nov. 12 – General Ridgway orders end of U.N. ground offensive military action and implements “active defense” strategy.
Nov. 27 – Agreement reached at Panmunjom on line of military demarcation and Demilitarized Zone. Agreement subsequently invalidated Dec. 27.

1952

November – Dogfight between U.S. Naval aircraft and Soviet MiG-15s near carrier Oriskany; it is the only known direct attempt by Soviet airpower to attack U.N. sea forces.
Nov. 4 – Dwight Eisenhower elected President of the U.S.
Dec. 2-5 President-Elect Eisenhower tours Korea to fulfill his election pledge, “I will go to Korea.”

1953

Aug.-23 December – Operation Big Switch exchanges all POWs willing to be repatriated.

Remains of U.S. Servicemen Recovered in North Korea

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Remains believed to be those of 14 American servicemen, missing in action from the Korean War, will be repatriated Saturday, Aug. 19, Korea time.

The remains will be flown on a U.S. Air Force aircraft from Pyongyang, North Korea, to Yokota Air Base, Japan, under escort of a uniformed U.S. honor guard.

A United Nations Command repatriation ceremony will be held at Yokota. The following week the remains will be flown to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. Following a U.S. Pacific Command ceremony there, the remains will be transferred to the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory (CILHI) for forensic examination and positive identification.

A joint U.S.-North Korean investigation team recovered the remains, the largest number recovered during a single operation to date. The 20-person U.S. team is composed primarily of specialists from the lab.

This recovery operation is the 14th in North Korea since 1996. Three more are scheduled for this year, with the fifth operation scheduled to conclude on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2000. Joint U.S. - North Korean teams have recovered 26 sets of remains so far this year, surpassing the total in any single, full year of operations. Of the 88,000 U.S. servicemembers missing in action from all conflicts, more than 8,100 are from the Korean War. (Courtesy DoD News Service)

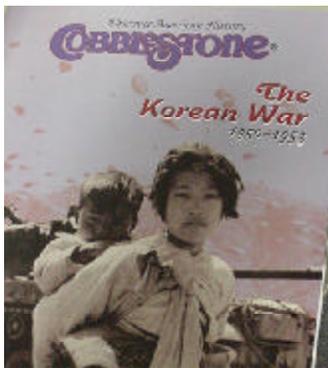
Pentagon from Page 3

"I believe South Korea would not exist today if U.S. Forces had not come to our rescue," said Paik, also a Korean War veteran. "Our country has a deep appreciation for Korean War veterans."

The director of the DoD 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee explained the exhibit "is a major step in the nation's commemoration efforts."

"The display represents a tremendous undertaking from all services and I am proud of the team spirit which made it come together," noted Air Force Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Nels Running.

Each of the display cases highlights each service's role in the war along with a chronology of events from 1950 to 1953. The exhibit will stay in the Pentagon during the Korean War Commemoration period now through Veterans Day, 2003.



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Autograph please

Patrick Reynolds, illustrator with the Washington Post, autographs a poster he designed for the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee. The poster is one of the most requested products in the committee inventory.

Veterans to wear Korea War Service Medal

When retired Col. Sam Dickens sat on stage with President Clinton on the Mall and became one of the first six veterans to wear the Korean campaign service medal since the war began 50 years ago, the moment was a very special one for him.

"I felt humbled and honored to represent all members of the United States Air Force who are veterans of the Korean War," Dickens said on June 25 during the opening ceremony of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean war commemoration. "I thought that there were so many other who had accomplished much more than I. The Air Force Band, the honor guards, the singing, the vintage aircraft flyover, and the presence of so many veterans and their families truly made the event a magnificent occasion.

"Those of us representing our services were honored to be seated beside our highest ranking service representatives," Dickens added. "That was a special note signifying to each of us the importance of this opening ceremony commemorating the beginning of the Korean War."

An F-80 pilot who flew 12 combat missions over North Korea, Colonel Dickens, along with five other Korean War veterans representing each of the other military branches of service received the medal. The other recipients were:

- Lt. Col. (Ret.) Wayne V. Bjork, Marine Corps
- Capt. Carmella Hix, Army
- Master Sgt. Ray Donnelly, Army
- Petty Officer 1st Class (Ret.) Ralph Campbell, Coast Guard
- Chief Hospital Corpsman Bill Hemmingway, Navy

Braving the scorching heat and high humidity during the ceremony, Dickens reflected on his experience in the war. Though he felt deserving of receiving the medal, he kept things in perspective and hopes relations between the divided Korean countries will strengthen.

"I particularly thought of friends who had been killed in combat and one particularly who had been shot down flying an F-86, declared missing and then dead," he said. "There are so many Air Force pilots who did not come home who are still unaccounted for, and I hope in the not too distant future that the North Koreans, in a conciliatory gesture, will release all their files on interrogated American POWs, who subsequently were not accounted for. My friend was one of those."



Courtesy photo
Petty Officer 1st Class (Ret.) Ralph Campbell shakes hands with President Bill Clinton.

Republic of Korea War Service medal eligibility

Initially offered to servicemember at the start of the war, U.S. veterans of the Korean War are now eligible to wear a medal. To wear it on U.S. military uniforms, servicemembers must have:

- served between the outbreak of hostilities, June 25, 1950, and the date the armistice was signed on July 27, 1953;
- been on permanent assignment or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days
- performed their duty within the territorial limits of Korea, in the waters immediately adjacent thereto or in aerial flight over Korea participating in actual combat operations or in support of combat operations.

The medal is free of charge for veterans and should be worn after the Kuwait Liberation Medal, which was the last foreign medal approved for wear by U.S. military personnel.

The Air Force is the lead agency to receive and distribute the medals. For questions visit the AirForce web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards> or call 1-800-558-1404.



Joint service effort vital to Korean War

Principally a ground war, approximately one-half of American forces belonged to the U.S. Army. It deployed seven infantry divisions, one cavalry division and three separate regimental divisions, one cavalry division and three separate regimental combat teams. The combat forces were comprised of 80 infantry battalions, 54 artillery battalions and eight armor battalions. However, all other branches of the armed services fought against communist aggression.

Coast Guard

The United States Coast Guard's presence in Korea began shortly after World War II when it was tasked to train the Korean Coast Guard. However, once war broke out, the Coast Guard cutters served as open ocean weather stations, providing ground troops with information on weather patterns, and serving as communication support platforms. The Coast Guard was also pivotal in providing search and rescue for downed pilots. Twenty-two cutters served in the Far East Theater of Operations during the Korean War.

Air Force

Less than three years old, the Air Force was in its first

dog-fight in history on Nov. 8, 1950, when an F-80 shot down a MiG-15 in MiG Alley. The area remained a hot spot throughout the war. With the new F-86 Sabre, the Air Force recorded a 10-to-1 kill ratio over the MiG-15 while securing air superiority for United Nations ground troops.

Navy

The Navy provided surface, air and submarine support to U.N. Forces. Amphibious ships delivered troops for the Inchon Landing while battleships and cruisers bombarded the coast in support of allied troops. Underwater demolition teams destroyed port facilities while cargo ships delivered troops and supplies.

Marine Corps

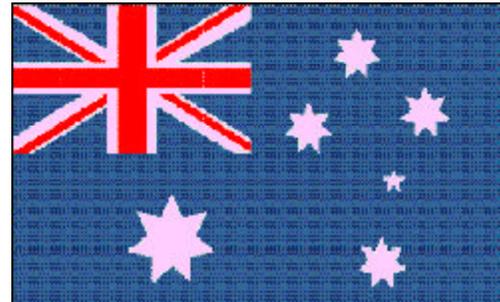
In response to the North Korean invasion, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur requested the support of the U.S. Marine Corps on July 2, 1950. Soon afterward, about 6,500 Marines debarked in Pusan, South Korea. By supplying their own air support, the Marines served as a fully operated integrated air-ground team. More than 1.8 Americans served in the war.

Australia one of many allied nations in fight

22 countries fueled combat power during Korean War

America wasn't the only country that helped defend the Republic of South Korea against communist aggression from North Korea a half a century ago. From medical and logistical support to combat forces on the battlefield, 21 other countries combined air, land and sea power and formed an alliance in the United Nations.

This included Australia, the first nation to lay its wreath among the UN countries at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on June 25. It was also one of the first



nations to serve under the UN banner. The following lists all 22 countries involved:

Australia	France	Norway
Belgium	Great Britain	Philippines
Canada	Greece	South Africa
Columbia	India	South Korea
Denmark	Italy	Sweden
Ethiopia	Luxemborg	Thailand
Greece	Netherlands	Turkey
	New Zealand	United States

USO salutes Korea War veterans

In 1950, the United Service Organizations was called upon to provide morale support to the 3.5 million men and women of the armed forces. The camp shows performed countless times for battle-weary troops in the Pacific – both in Korea and Japan. Marilyn Monroe, Jack Benny, Groucho Marx, Danny Kaye, Al Jolson, Mickey Rooney, Bob Hope and Johnny Grant were among the many who

entertained wounded and weary soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines.

Starting this year, the USO honors and highlights the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration with a host of activities at various locations.

For more information on the USO call 1-800-876-7469 or visit the website at <http://www.uso.org>.

C-2 Watch

Update on Commemorative Community events around the nation

NORTHEAST

New Jersey – The Daughters of the American Revolution held its third commemorative event on February 19. About 114 people attended the Washington’s Birthday Luncheon at the Nassau Club in Princeton where the NJDAR State Regent spoke about the Korean War and honored nine Korean War Veterans with certificates and pins.

— Spotswood High School History Club, America’s first high school to become a Commemorative Community, reports on many activities dedicated to the Korean War commemoration. Among other things they ordered a headstone to be placed in the “Adopted Park and Veterans Memorial” in East Spotswood.

New York – On Feb. 7, the cadets of the Navy Junior ROTC program of the High School of Graphic Communication Arts offered a special tribute to Korean War Veterans on the USS Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York City.

SOUTHEAST

Florida – On February 14, granddaughters passed out Valentines to the veterans at the Bay Pines Veteran Hospital. About 150 people attended this event created partly by the Korean War Veterans Association Suncoast Chapter Commemoration Community.

Georgia – Perry City Council agreed to honor veterans by designating and renaming a major city route, Perry Parkway, as Veterans Memorial Parkway. Attendees included Mayor Jim Whorrall and City Council Commandant Wayne Hagan.

North Carolina – Posters commemorating the Korean War were displayed at the Beaufort Town Hall on February 5. The event, attended by town office employees, the new mayor and two new commissioners, was published in the Beaufort “Gam” newspaper.

CENTRAL REGION

Minnesota – On February 11 veterans at the Minneapolis Veterans home were given a Valentine’s party in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. Members of the John Witherspoon Chapter NSDAR gave out U.S. flags and Korean War commemorative bookmarks.

Iowa – The University of Iowa Army ROTC dining out was February 11. The formal dinner was a commemoration to the Korean War 50th anniversary. Key participants among 150 people included Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ken Fearing, Lt.



Courtesy photo

In Remembrance

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets stand behind the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration flag during an award ceremony aboard the USS Intrepid in New York City. The students pledged their dedication in honor of the 65th Infantry Regiment from Puerto Rico.

Col. Tony Garcia and Cadet Lt. Col. Jason Gustint.

WESTERN REGION

California – Between 5,000 and 6,000 locals and valley visitors including service organizations and veterans groups attended the 53rd Annual Carrot Carnival Celebration in Holtville February 5-6. The event featured a parade, cooking contest, and other activities for the veterans.

— The commemorative community Los Banos has not forgotten the Korean War. The C-2 Anniversary Committee visited the new Los Banos Junior High School. The featured speaker was Lemuel Good of Fresno, one of the few survivors from the Chosin Reservoir campaign. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary also did a tribute to the Korean War by having an evening of reading essays by history students.

SOUTHWEST REGION

Texas – The Nation Society DAR, Col. George Mason Chapter, presented certificates of appreciation at the annual awards ceremony in Garland, February 13. Recognized were Charles Oscar Bratcher, Jr., and Claude R. Burton for their contribution toward “Keeping America Free during the Korean War.”

— As part of the Hospitalized Veterans Week, representatives of VFW Post 10455 and its Ladies Auxiliary held a special ceremony at Evergreen Health Care Center in Burkburnett, to recognize and honor Korean war veterans John Gris and Don Blake. Commemorative flags, pins, bookmarks and other items were also given to all veterans.

New Mexico – The City of Alamogordo and Holloman Air Force Base had a joint Commemorative Community signing at Holloman January 27.

Air Force Museum showcases exhibit of Korean War history

Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AFP) -- More than 100 Korean War artifacts, 21 aircraft, 14 murals and a number of previously unpublished photos make up the Air Force museum's historical tribute to those who served in the "Forgotten War."

"Korea Remembered: The Air Force Comes of Age" is open at the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, showcasing all aspects of air power and its impact on today's military.

"This is a display that doesn't duplicate the museum's permanent Korean War Gallery," said Jeff Duford, Air Force Museum researcher. "It examines the changing roles, technology and tactics within the greater scope of U.S. Air Force history."

The exhibit consists of eight sections — air superiority, strategic bombing, interdiction, close air support, reconnaissance, Korean airlift, aeromedical evacuation and air rescue — tucked between large mountain elements. According to Duford, the elements will lead viewers through a 120-foot-long valley showcasing 200 photographs. Most of the pictures are in color and many have never been published. He said dividing the exhibit into eight sections was the best way to tell the Korean War story.

"Only 11 percent of the missions were air superiority," Duford said. "Interdiction and airlift each made up 29 percent of the missions flown by the Air Force in Korea, while close air support totaled 17 percent."

Although the exhibit showcases more than just aircraft, Duford said there will be special signs in front of 21 representative aircraft that are currently on display throughout the museum. The F-86 Sabre jet, the aircraft that produced many aces, and cargo aircraft like that C-47



Flight nurse Captain Mary Spivak gives candy to "Operation Kiddy Car" orphans.

are just two of the aircraft highlighted.

The exhibit has more than 100 artifacts including: an M-3 machine gun from an F-86; 23 and 37mm cannons from a MiG-15; a Korean A-frame backpack; a C-1 survival vest; and a Razon guided bomb.

Duford said the exhibit's real focus is on the people who served. Eight life-like mannequins appear throughout the exhibit wearing Korean-era uniforms of a pilot and other support airmen. One of the displays shows an airman in a barracks writing a letter home. In addition, there are 14 large murals, 13 in color, and three videos included in the exhibit.

"The first is an introductory video that covers the war on the ground from the beginning to the stalemate in 1951," Duford said. "The second video covers MiG Alley and includes gun camera footage. The last video follows the aerial evacuation of a GI from the time he's hit north of Seoul to his arrival in California a week later." Duford hopes the focus on people will make the Korean War more personal to those who visit the museum.

Since the Korean war was the first for the Air Force as a separate service, he said there is a big story to tell. It was an era where the military faced massive reductions, changes in race and gender policies and budget and force strength shortages.

"As a new service we had to prove ourselves," Duford said. "A lot was at stake."

Corporate Outreach Wants You

Corporations can help raise the visibility of accomplishments of Korean War veterans by supporting internationally and nationally scheduled events, and conducting corporations-oriented functions. Events can range from luncheons honoring veterans and their families, to supporting school programs that teach the history of this era. For more information contact Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Bender, Director of Corporate Outreach at 703-602-0820.

Major League Baseball honors veterans

Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Public Affairs

Allan “Bud” Selig, commissioner of Major League Baseball, teamed up with the Department of Defense and made sure the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War was not forgotten.

“I have asked each of the 30 major league clubs to commemorate this anniversary and pay tribute to our Korean War veterans in appropriate pre-game ceremonies on Sunday, June 25,” Selig said at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., on June 14.

When Selig, together with Gen. Henry Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, he thanked those who served in the Pacific to stop communist aggression.

It is a profound honor to be at this hallowed resting place to so many American heroes, including baseball’s own Abner Doubleday,” Selig said. On behalf of major league baseball, I greatly appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to and remember the service of more than 1.7



Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Allan “Bud” Selig, Commissioner of Major League Baseball, speaks at the National Cemetery as Korean War veteran Vincent Krepps listens in the background.

million Americans who put themselves in harm’s way during the Korean War.”

Selig mentioned the names of some 100 players who traded uniforms to serve their country – Willie Mays, Whitey Ford, Don Newcombe, Curt Simmons. However, he specifically pointed out the one player baseball lost to combat. Air Force Maj. Robert Neighbors, a pilot who played for the St. Louis Browns in 1939 before entering military service in 1940. Neighbors survived combat in Europe, but paid the ultimate sacrifice in 1952 in a mission over North Korea. The commissioner acknowledged Neighbors’ son Robert Fells at the press conference.

“Major Neighbors hailed from a family that embodied the admirable ethic of service to country. Cam” (Robert Fells), I thank you for all that you, your father and your family have done for your country,” Selig said.

Several Korean War veterans attended the ceremony, including former New York Yankees second baseman Jerry Coleman. Now a broadcaster for the San Diego Padres, Coleman was a captain in the Marine Corps when he flew 57 combat missions during the Korean War. Baseball’s Rookie of the Year in 1949, Coleman said his career in a military flight suit was just as satisfying as when he wore pinstripes on the baseball field.

“Of all the things that have happened to me, nothing matches my time in the service,” Coleman said. “Anybody who joins the military, they’re better off when they come out than when they came in.”

Selig considers the lives of Coleman, Neighbors, and former Boston Red Sox star Ted Williams symbolic because “their experiences are emblematic of the many World War II veterans who fought in the Korean War.

“As we look for role models for our nation’s youth, we need to look no further than to Jerry Coleman and Ted Williams – heroes of the baseball diamond and the battlefields of the skies,” Selig said. “They are real life heroes.

“Baseball will always honor and remember those who serve our country. We have a unique and important relationship with our armed forces and we, as an institution, are proud to serve our country.”

Living Legends recall heroic past

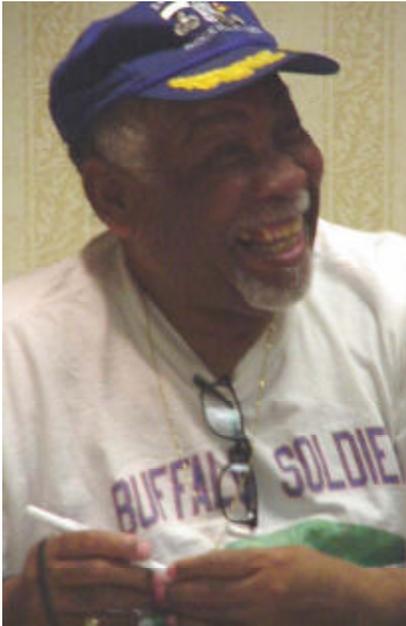
By Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey
Editor, 38th Parallel

When soldiers from the 24th Infantry Regiment reunited in Seattle, Wash., to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Korean War a lot of memories ran through their minds.

“I was young and dumb and didn’t know anything until I got hit,” Curtis Womack said. He remembers being hit the first time by a mortar shell to the leg walking through rice paddies.

“I felt the heat. It was like an open furnace,” he said. “The second time I got it in the face. I was scared cause I couldn’t see myself bleeding.

“War is war. If the bullet hits you in Korea or the bullet hits you in Vietnam or the bullet hits you in



Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Curtis Womack enjoys one of the many happy moments in Sea-Tac, Wash., during the 24th Regimental Combat Team’s annual reunion June 29-July 2. The 24th RCT’s origin stemmed from the legendary Buffalo Soldiers.

Grenada, that bullet still feels the same.”

Wilfred Matthews agrees.

“You were too young to be scared,” Matthews said, who was wounded three times. “It was either kill or be killed, but when you get hit you’re more cautious.”

Bullets weren’t the only thing they recall. For enlisted rifleman John R. Crosby, it was 36 – the number of points it took to get off the front line. He earned his points, but not before surviving battle at the Pusan Perimeter.

“That was some of the most dramatic fighting in history,” he said. “It was do or die. You had to hold that line of defense or it was over. MacArthur ran that operation beautifully. He had no favoritism. He was a warrior.”

Crosby remembers other warriors, like Medal of Honor recipient Cornelius Charlton and many others who fought against communist aggression. Despite the sacrifice of being wounded and surviving shell shock that he lives with to this day,

Crosby isn’t bitter. A huge number of men – black and white – came back from World War II to serve in the Korean War. He also hasn’t forgotten the support the military gave him.

“I earned \$75 a month. I was holding down four jobs for \$80 at home,” Crosby said, a Chester County, S.C. native, who joined the army to make life easier for his family. “You had three hots and a cot, clothes to wear and money to spare.”

Crosby also remembered the importance of those behind the front lines long before his combat experience in Korea.

“The Department of Defense know how much it takes for one man to go up on the line and fire a rifle. About 13 or 14 people behind him from the clothes to the food he eats, to the ammunition, the ordnance and so forth...support make a difference the minute you’re in the field. And sometimes we’d be starving. If not for support troops, I don’t know where we would have been,” Crosby said.

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Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Members of the USS Princeton Reunion Group look at a newspaper clipping of Medal of Honor Recipient and Army boxing champ, Cpl. Levi Jackson on June 29 during the 24th RCT’s reunion display in Sea-Tac, Wash.

Cardinal John O'Connor: Chaplain and Korean War Veteran

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Former Navy Chief of Chaplains Cardinal John O'Connor, who died May 3 at his residence near St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, was also a Korean War veteran. The Roman Catholic was the archbishop of New York, serving the 2.37 million members of the nation's second largest archdiocese for 16 years. O'Connor was the Vatican's strongest supporter in the U.S.

Ordained a priest in 1945, the admiral joined the Navy in 1952 and was chaplain for 27 years. He served as the Chief of Chaplains from 1975 until he retired on June 1, 1979. Just prior to O'Connor's retirement, Pope John Paul II appointed him as a bishop of the Roman Catholic Church to serve as Auxiliary Bishop, Military Vicar of the Armed Forces.

O'Connor decorations include the Legion of Merit with the Combat "V" and gold stars in lieu of second and third awards, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Distinguished Service Medal.

O'Connor was laid to rest at St. Patrick's Cathedral on May 8. His death was caused by complications resulting from brain tumor cancer. He was 80. (*Information courtesy of Navy News Service*)



Associated Press Photo
Capt. John O'Connor



Associated Press Photo
Cardinal John O'Connor waves to the crowd in New York City in 2000.

Legends

From Page 10 _____

"We have a couple guys here who are POWs. You know why? We ran out of ammo."

For Matthews, hearing ammunition was music he was glad to hear.

"When we called for fire we got fire," Matthews said. "It sounded like a machine gun on automatic. We were the best. But we came out of Kunu-ri by the grace of God. I never saw so many Chinese people in my life.

"M Company was annihilated," Matthews said, who belonged to K Company. "We were out there by ourselves and had to fake dead on the frozen ground for hours. When those Air Force bombers came you could see hundreds of bombs drop from the sky for hours."

Surviving wounds to the chest, ribs, and kidney, combat wasn't what Matthews remembered the most. It was racism.

"That was my worst experience in the army," he said.

Although they no longer have to endure the weather, ammunition, or racism they suffered during the war, these soldiers from the historically all-black unit have weathered the test of time.

"We're happy to live to tell about it," said Harry Davis, the unit's reunion group national president. "We have not forgotten about those who aren't here with us, and we are so blessed to be here."

Actor speaks his peace on Korean War

Hill Street Blues star believes real heroes are on the front lines

By Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey
Editor

When James McEachin stepped on the set, he felt energized. At 70, he's hardly a weary man, but a very seasoned entertainer. Appearing thousands of times before the camera, he reserves his energy for when it matters most.

Today was different. What he saw on the prop table revealed emotions that hardly appeared staged.

"This is amazing," he said while picking up an original M1 Carbine rifle. Circling the table, he stopped to pick up a "pineapple" with his left hand and went through the motions of



Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey
James McEachin holds a grenade on the History Channel Studio.

throwing the hand grenade. "This is amazing."

Defined as a character actor in the entertainment industry, James McEachin is more recognized by face than by name. Frequently appearing on *Matlock*, *Perry Mason* and *Murder she Wrote*, he gained fame most notably on *Hill Street Blues*, the pioneering prime time police drama that made the way for today's *NYPD Blue* and *ER*. But McEachin didn't have to rehearse one line for the History Channel in New York when it taped his interview that aired on June 25. He knew his purpose. A Korean War veteran, McEachin didn't need any television or movie script to relive his personal experiences on the battlefield some 50 years ago.

"If I could do this all the time I would. This means nothing," McEachin said about his experiences and his thoughts on the importance of remembering the Korean War. "Anybody can act. Any producer can tell a person to spit out a few lines and then make them shine on the set and make tons of money. And you have several chances to get it right. On the battlefield, there is no second chance."

McEachin knows first hand. Enlisting in the Army in 1948 where he served with the 24th Infantry Division, a highly celebrated all-black unit during military segregation, his tour

ended in 1950, the year the war erupted. After separating McEachin returned to service.

"I volunteered to stay in the army and be a part of that war," said McEachin, a Purple Heart recipient.

Joining the 2nd Infantry Division in 1951, McEachin was wounded at the battle of Old Baldy. Although he recovered physically and returned to fight, emotionally, however, McEachin admits "he was a wreck". The war left such an impact on him that it became the subject of his first book, "Farewell to the Mockingbird" where he focuses on the tragedies and triumphs of the friends he's made and lives lost in battle.

As McEachin continued to hold the rifle, Brian Benedict, who supplied the authentic weapons for display, quizzed McEachin.

"After five rounds what do you get?"

"A tracer," McEachin snapped with a big smile.

"Hey Jimmy you got an Indianhead patch?" Benedict asked.

"No, I never kept it," McEachin said.

"You got one now," Benedict said.

McEachin picked up the symbol of the 2nd Infantry Division, turned around, hugged Benedict and said, "Bless your heart."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Equipment reflecting what medics used in the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital is on display at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. The Blood, Sweat and Saline exhibit highlights the medical challenges and breakthroughs during the Korean War.

Blood, Sweat, Saline exhibit depicts many military medical challenges

Introducing the mobile army surgical hospital wasn't the only challenge medics faced during the Korean War. When soldiers in the country suffered blurry vision, high fever, headache and kidney problems, they followed doctors' orders – drink more water. However, the remedy only aggravated their weakened bodies. As a result, kidney failure, a common cause of death for those serving abroad, stemmed from an unknown enemy.

The 8228th MASH unit treated 855 cases of epidemic hemorrhagic fever in one year, further confirming that the military medicine had another fight on its hands. At the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Washington, D.C., the story of MASH units and successful strides in modern medicine are retold during an exhibit commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Korean War.

“Blood, Sweat and Saline: Combat Medicine in the Korean Conflict,” opened June 26 and revisits MASH all over again. It looks at the tools of surgeons, supplies and

medication of that era. Real artifacts of human tissue and organs illustrate the climate, injuries and diseases soldiers faced.

“Medical challenges, as with most of the Korean War, remains an untold story,” Erin Roy, public affairs assistant at the museum, said. “This modest exhibit utilizes the unique collections of this museum and includes images of soldiers afflicted with epidemic hemorrhagic fever and models of fourth degree frostbite and a heart pierced by shrapnel.”

Located on the grounds of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the exhibit will be on display through July 2001. The museum is a division of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. It was founded as the Army Medical Museum in 1862 to study and improve medical conditions during the Civil War.

For more information call 202-782-2000. *(Information courtesy of the National Museum of Health and Medicine)*



John Nugent

Honoring shipmates

The Korean War Navy/Marine Corps traveling exhibit was displayed at the Navy League convention in Norfolk, Va., in October. The city of Norfolk and the MacArthur Memorial Foundation honored veterans with a three-day commemoration featuring an Inchon Landing reenactment of 50 years ago.

Borinqueneers: Honor and Fidelity

By Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The predominantly Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment was honored in a 1992 Army National Guard heritage painting for its record of valor during the Korean War.

The scene depicts the regimental bayonet charge against a Chinese division near Seoul, South Korea, on Feb. 2, 1951.

The 65th had been ordered to seize two hills and climaxed a three-day assault by fixing bayonets and launching straight into the Chinese 149th Division. The enemy soldiers fled.

The 65th was organized in 1899, a year after the United States seized Puerto Rico from Spain. At the time, the Army considered the regiment to be “colonial troops” for the defense of the island, according to the Army Center for Military History in Washington. Its nickname, “The

Borinqueneers,” honors a native Puerto Rican Indian tribe.

The regiment served in Panama and France during World War II, but its record was undistinguished because, some sources say, Army commanders lacked confidence in the Puerto Ricans’ willingness to fight. It took the Korean War to prove those doubts were misplaced.

After arriving at Pusan, South Korea, on Sept. 20, 1950, the outfit quickly won respect on the battlefield. Over the next three years, it participated in nine major campaigns and earning a Presidential Unit Citation, a Meritorious Unit Commendation and two Republic of Korea Unit Citations. Individual members earned four Distinguished Service Crosses and 124 Silver Stars.

The ground war in Korea was fought on some of the most mountainous terrain in the world and many of the bitterest battles occurred during the winter, when extreme cold, snow and ice dogged troops. The 65th’s regimental motto, “Honor and Fidelity,” exemplifies its gallant service in that difficult war.

Teamwork

Korean War Veteran Alfred Ortiz shares the stage with Gen. John Jumper during a Korean War commemoration retreat on July 13 at Langley Air Force Base, Va. Both were keynote speakers for the event.



Courtesy photo



Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Baggin' it

Timothy Reeves from the National Archives Central Region in Kansas City, Kan., arranges sandbags for a display bunker in the Pentagon depicting life in a bunker during war.

U.S. Forces Korea news briefs

AIR POWER DATE CHANGE

The date for the Air Power Day commemoration to be held at Osan Air Base is now Sept. 14, 2002.

NAME CHANGE

The Chosin/Changjin Reservoir commemoration event scheduled for Nov. 11, was renamed Northern Campaigns (EUSA/X CORPS/CHOSIN).

50th AKWC MAILINGS:

Please let us know if there are changes to your mailing or email address so we can keep our database current. If you know of any Korean War veterans who are not receiving our mailings, please forward their names and addresses, or have them contact this office directly.

50th AKWC PERSONNEL CHANGES

Air Force Reserve Majors Dennis C. Jefferson of Mechanicsville, VA and Larry G. Murphy of Kennerdel, PA have reported for duty with the 50th AKWC office as of May. 2, 2000.

BADGES FOR RETURNING VETS

The US Forces Korea 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee will provide tour groups with commemorative event badges for distribution to veterans participating in 50th AKWC events.

The purpose of this badge is to recognize and honor American veterans who served in the Korean War. It should be worn on the left breast pocket to identify the veteran while visiting the Republic of Korea. The badge will be issued to veterans

or their designated representative, and will allow access to priority seating at the commemorative event and to some installations throughout Korea during the commemoration period.

The badge will be valid for a period of 14 days — seven days before the event until seven days after the event. The veteran and his/her family members will be allowed access on post by showing the veterans' badges and U.S. passports for each visitor.

Each badge will be numbered, and will only be valid for the event printed on the front side. Veterans attending more than one event — Pusan breakout/Inchon Landing — will be issued a separate badge for each event. No photo or name will be printed on the badge. Upon completion of the event, the veteran may keep the badge as a souvenir.

Individual veterans or their designated representatives, not traveling as part of a group tour, will receive event badges directly from the United States Forces Korea 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee. Please provide the information below to the Operations Officer.

Tour groups requiring veterans' badges will need to provide the following information for each participant as soon as possible, but not later than 60 days prior to each commemorative event:

- *Name of Veteran and if required, designated representative*
- *Korean War Veteran-yes/no-if yes:*
 - a. *Rank*
 - b. *Branch of service*
 - c. *Period of service in Korea*
 - d. *Highest decoration awarded*

Send information to

Operations Officer

USFK 50th AKWC
PSC 303 Box 90
APO AP 96204-0090

Badges will be mailed out no later than 30 days prior to the specified commemorative events.

TRAVEL TO KOREA

To learn more about travel to Korea, visit the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee homepage at <http://www.korea.army.mil/50anniv.>, the U.S. Forces Korea homepage at <http://www.korea.army.mil/>, Command Public Affairs at <http://www.korea.army.mil/pao/cr/runion.htm> or Korean War Project Homepage at <http://www.koreanwar.org> as well as other affiliated websites, homepages and links.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR PLANS

There are many fine veterans organizations working on reunions and group trips to attend the commemoration events that will be held in Korea and the U.S. Although we cannot organize reunions or group trips ourselves, we can help spread the word about your plans.

Please let us know the "who, what, when, where" on your reunion or group trip and we will list the basics on our web site. Please provide a point of contact for the event, so that other veterans know whom to contact.

Please email the information to: kw50ann@usfk.korea.army.mil Our regular mailing address is: 50th AKWC, PSC 303 Box 90, APO AP 96204.

Honor Roll

Cpl. David B.Champagne

Organization: U.S. Marine Corps, Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Reinforced).

Place and date: Republic of Korea, May 28, 1952.

Entered service at: Wakefield R.I.

Born: 1932, Waterville, Md.



Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Fire Team Leader of Company A, First Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced), in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea on May 28, 1952.

Advancing with his platoon in the initial assault of the company against a strongly fortified and heavily defended hill position, Corporal Champagne skillfully led his fire team through a veritable hail of intense enemy machine-gun, small-arms and grenade fire, over-running trenches and a series of almost impregnable bunker positions before reaching the crest of the hill and placing his men in defensive positions.

Suffering a painful leg wound while assisting in repelling the ensuing hostile counter-attack, which was launched under cover of a murderous hail of mortar and artillery fire, he steadfastly refused evacuation and fearlessly continued to control his fire team. When the enemy counterattack increased in intensity, and a hostile grenade landed in the midst of the fire team, Corporal Champagne unhesitatingly seized the deadly missile and hurled it in the direction of the approaching enemy. As the grenade left his hand, it exploded, blowing off his hand and throwing him out of the trench.

Mortally wounded by enemy mortar fire while in this exposed position, Corporal Champagne, by his valiant leadership, fortitude and gallant spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of almost certain death, undoubtedly saved the lives of several of his fellow Marines.

