



Vol. 1 Issue 5

38TH PARALLEL

KOREA50™

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

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Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Republic of Korea Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Kil Hyoung Bo, left, and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki lay a wreath at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on February 22.

Morgan State salutes Korean War Veteran



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Actor, author and former soldier James McEachin appeared overwhelmed at all the attention he was getting on the campus of Morgan State University.

"I am thrilled beyond measure to be here," said McEachin who received two awards inside the school's Murphy Fine Arts Auditorium on Feb. 1. "I am so terribly gratified that you would select me particularly in this new millennium. There have been so many many people that you could have chosen to honor."

McEachin, a Korean War veteran, received Morgan State University's first Distinguished Achievement Award in 2001 for his military service and literary contributions. Dr. Cecil W. Payton and Dr. Burney J. Hollis honored McEachin with the school's achievement certificate.

In addition, the Department of De-

fense recognized the Purple Heart recipient's service to his country.

Lt. Col. Rudy Schulz, from the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, then presented McEachin with the Korean War Service Medal. In 1954 Congress authorized service members to wear foreign service medals.

With numerous accolades for his work in the entertainment industry, McEachin credits the military for the foundation of his success.

"Thank God for the military because I never would have made it without having been in service," the 70-year-old McEachin said.

Born in North Carolina and raised in Hackensack, N.J., McEachin enlisted

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Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

James McEachin talks to his audience after delivering a speech at Morgan State University February 1.

McEachin from Page 1

in the United States Army in 1947, training with the 24th Infantry Regiment. After separating from the military, McEachin returned to the Army in 1950 to serve in the Korean War where he was attached to the 2nd Infantry Division. In 1952, at the Battle of Old Baldy, he was wounded in his legs and chest, earning him the Purple Heart for his injuries.

Even though his movie and television career includes such shows as "Perry Mason," "Matlock," "Murder She Wrote," "Hill Street Blues" and "Tenafly," McEachin's contributions shine through his lifelong love of the written word. He is the author of four books, including the 1998 Benjamin Franklin Award-winning "Farewell to the Mockingbirds," a novel about the largest mistrial in U.S. military history.

Although he seemed at a loss for words at the historically black university located in the northeast section of Baltimore, McEachin was clear in his message to college students to take advantage of what college, and life, have to offer.

"Seize the moment, use everything

you can... The world is before you young students," McEachin said. "With the proper use of the mind you can unfold the blanket of discovery. Every great story has not been told. The world will always be a place of opportunity and challenge and the rung of God's ladder will always be there to enable you to get to the next step."

Warning students that the road to success may not be a smooth one, he challenged students and spoke of encouraging words of wisdom.

"You will, by nature, not always be understood," McEachin said. You will slip and you will fall, but you are to rise up, dust yourself off and you are to continue for that slip or that fall was only momentary. It was there to teach you a lesson.

"I implore you not to be afraid to tread that road and reach out," McEachin said. "Tread the road less traveled. It will be laden with obstacles, but that is precisely what is should be. For the organ we refer to as the brain functions best only when it is fully challenged."

This Date in History

March 7, 1951: Operation RIPPER drives communists back to the 38th Parallel and retakes Seoul. Seven U.S. military divisions participate.

March 13, 1951: Communists start to withdraw across all fronts.

March 13, 1952: Far East Air Forces flew its 13,000th sortie of the Korean War.

March 13, 1953: Colonel Royal N. "The King" Baker, 4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing, achieves his 13th aerial victory and became the fifth ranking ace of the Korean War.

March 23, 1951: More than 120 C-119s and C-46s drop 3,437 paratroopers of the 187th Regimental Combat Team near Munsan-ni in Operation TOMAHAWK, the second largest airborne operation of the war.



38th Parallel Editorial Staff

Maj. Gen. Nels Running (USAF Ret.)
Executive Director

Col. Jeffrey Douglass (USMCR)
Chief of Staff

Maj. Ernest Parker (USAR)
Chief, Media Outreach

Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey (USAF)
Editor

Commemoration Partners grow

The number of Commemorations Partners joining the Department of Defense 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration continues to climb at an exceptional pace.

“There were more than 7,750 Commemoration Partners during the World War II four-year commemoration period,” said Maj. Ernest T. Parker, Media Outreach Division Chief for the committee. “With 4,003 commemoration partners since the official DoD commemoration began on June 25, 2000, the future looks good for the program. At the rate we’re going, we may surpass 10,000 partners before the end of the commemoration on Nov. 11, 2003.”

Parker said that reaching such numbers in eight months does more than shine a light on the Department of Defense. It reflects that people care and want Korean War veterans to know that they are not forgotten.

State and local civilian communities, civic and patriotic organizations, schools, private businesses and corporations, military installations and units, and all levels of government are a few of the types of organizations which serve as Commemoration Partners. Currently there are 1,879 Veteran Service Organizations making them the largest single group. The second largest group of Commemoration Partners is the Veterans Administration with 704. DoD has 376.

However, according to Lt. Col. Diane K. Waters, director of the Commemoration Partners program, anyone can become a partner. Anyone who has a genuine interest in spreading the word about the war can be a part of the program.

“They reach America at the grassroots level,” Waters said. “They are located in both highly populated areas as well as small town

communities where veterans were raised, left home to serve their country, then returned when they completed their military service. There is no better way to reach veterans.”

To become a Commemoration Partner, organizations complete an application certifying that they will thank and honor Korean War Veterans. Receptions, media stories, reunions, dinners, exhibits, speaking engagements, memorial services and web sites are some of the many partners sponsored events. In return, these partners receive products — posters, pins, flags, books and bookmarks, to help educate students and other interest groups.

“I am constantly amazed at the level of involvement our partners display,” Waters said. “The success of the Commemoration Partners program can’t be overstated.”

For more information call 1-866-Korea50.

Korean War remains disinterred in Hawaii

Four sets of remains believed to be those of missing in action servicemen from World War II and the Korean War were disinterred January 30 from Hawaii’s National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

The cemetery, known as the Punch Bowl, is the resting place of more than 800 “unknown” remains from the Korean War, and more than 2,000 from WWII. Most of the Korean War remains were received by the United States at the cease-fire in 1953. Another 204 were turned over by the North Koreans between 1991 and 1994 and are currently in the possession of the Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii (CILHI).

The disinterment was supervised by CILHI specialists who will then apply forensic identification

techniques, including mitochondrial DNA, to identify the remains. The Punch Bowl Cemetery is part of the National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

In September, 1999 CILHI disinterred two sets of remains believed to be those of Korean War soldiers. Since that time, the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) has carried out hundreds of tests on these remains, but has been unable to establish a reliable “sequence” of test results. Scientists at AFDIL have theorized that a preservative chemical used in the 1950s may be blocking the extraction of the DNA.

These two sets of remains were thought to have the highest probability of identification, and potential family members of these unknowns

were contacted to obtain DNA information.

The additional four sets of remains disinterred were also viewed by CILHI scientists as offering a high probability of identification. Family members believed to be associated with these remains have also been contacted.

Following the disinterment, CILHI will request that AFDIL conduct mitochondrial DNA tests to compare to family samples. AFDIL and CILHI were the two agencies who successfully identified Vietnam veteran 1st Lt. Michael Blassie from the Tomb of the Unknowns in 1998. Blassie’s remains now rest at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis. (*Courtesy of DoD News Service*)

Hickam hosts Air Symposium

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii (AFP) — To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War and honor those who served, Pacific Air Force will host a Korean War Air Power Symposium June 25 - 29 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Honolulu.

The symposium will feature panels that will cover virtually every aspect of the air war, including air-to-air, air-to-ground, aerial support and bomber operations; and the people aspect, including nurses, spouses, civilians and more. Speakers and panelists will include veterans who fought in the war and noted historians.

“Our goal for this symposium is to provide an opportunity for a multi-dimensional discussion of the air war in Korea in one comprehensive package,” said Timothy Keck, PACAF command historian. “We believe it will be an event like no other that has been done on the Korean War.”

Other activities planned for the symposium include a Korean War-era hangar party, a golf tournament and a historical tour.

The symposium registration fee is \$110 plus \$55 per family member or guest. The fee includes an icebreaker at the Hilton, an evening party with hors d’oeuvres and two luncheons with speakers at the Hilton.

Rooms at the Hilton Hawaiian Village are \$112 for single and \$147 for double. Those wishing to attend, can call (808) 949-4321 for reservations. For more information, call the PACAF history office at (808) 449-3936. *(Courtesy of PACAF News Service)*



Courtesy photo

Five Men, 55 MiGs

The MiG Alley display at the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, is a replica of what Kimpo Airfield, known as K-14, looked like during the Korean War. An Air Force poster by Nixon Galloway titled “Five Men, 55 MiGs” shows five ace pilots at the entrance to Kimpo Airfield. One of the pilots is Maj. James Jabara, the second leading ace in the war with 15 kills.

A gathering of men

Air Force Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Nels. Running, executive director of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, Lee Sang Hoon, chairman of the Republic of Korea Veterans Association and former ROK Minister of Defense, and Maj. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, defense attache from the South Korean Embassy, lay a wreath at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on March 7 during a presidential visit to the U.S. More than 30 U.S. and South Korea veterans attended the event to pay tribute to their fallen comrades who fought to stop communism.



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

USO shines on Korean War in tribute to movies

When the Department of Defense and the United Service Organizations' teamed up to pay tribute to Hollywood stars who performed for American troops for nearly 60 years, entertainment during the Korean War era was not forgotten.

Celebrities from the 1950s and Korean War veterans attended the event at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Nov. 30, as DoD and the USO hosted a military concert to recognize the film industry. Penny Singleton, known as Blondie on stage, and former astronaut and Air Force pilot, Col. (Ret.) Buzz Aldrin, were recognized among others who made a major impact bringing the military to the big screen and putting Hollywood entertainers on stage for service members all over the world to see.

One of the key people who made an impact was Johnny Grant, the ceremonial mayor of Hollywood. For his 50 years of service to the military, Grant, a veteran of 54 USO shows, received DoD's Medal for Distinguished Public Service from then- Secretary of Defense William Cohen.

"From Korea and Vietnam to Beirut and Saudi Arabia, Mr. Grant never hesitated to place himself directly in harm's way to reach out to and provide support for America's military," Cohen said.

The USO gave its highest award, the "Spirit of Hope," to long time comedian and USO entertainer Bob Hope and his family for giving so much to the morale recreation and welfare to those in the armed services.

Celebrating its 60th anniversary, the USO began in 1940 and was in its infancy during the Korean War. People like Bob Hope, World War II veteran Mickey Rooney and Marilyn Monroe performed in those early days.

Aldrin, who flew the F-84 with the Air Force and shot down two MiGs during the Korean War, stood and represented the Air Force when each service songs were played. (*DoD News Service*)



National Archives
Air Force Capt. Irene Wiley prepares medicine for one of her patients aboard a C-54 "Skymaster" en route to Okinawa, Japan.

March Celebrates Women's History

A two percent ceiling on the number of women in each service, restricted promotions, and transportation problems in-theater didn't stop women from serving with distinction in the Korea War.

More than 600 nurses from all branches of service served in Korea. Nearly three-fourths of these nurses served in the newly developed mobile army surgical hospital or M.A.S.H. units. Many more served at home in uniform supporting the conflict.

However, not all women were nurses. The first female African-American officers were commissioned in the Air Force during the Korean War. Edwina Martin, Fannie Jean Cotton and Evelyn Brown earned the rank of second lieutenant after graduating from Air Force Officer Candidate School in 1951 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

These military breakthroughs occurred after President Harry Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948, making women a permanent element in the U.S. military workforce. The same year Truman issued Executive Order 9981 calling for equal treatment and opportunity in the armed services. As a result, the Korean War led the way in exercising full integration of forces.

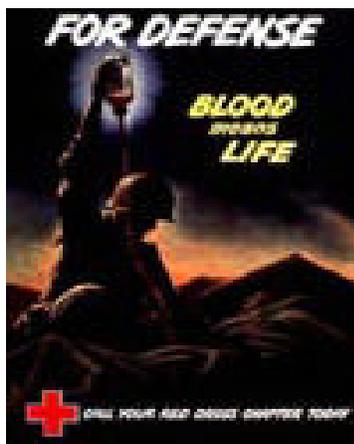
The Department of Defense will honor Korean War Veterans at the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home on April 11 in Washington, D. C.

March is Red Cross Month

When North Korea invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, the American Red Cross became involved, once again, in an international conflict involving U.S. troops. Soon after hostilities began, the American Red Cross began providing services to U.S. armed forces, including transmitting emergency messages from family members to their loved ones serving in the military, collecting and shipping donated blood and plasma to the injured, conducting morale building activities for field troops and distributing personal care items.

The American Red Cross played an active role in the exchange of prisoners of war and provided international relief to the citizens of Korea affected by the war.

Coinciding with an escalation in fighting in Korea, President Harry Truman's executive order in 1951 designated the American Red Cross as "the blood collecting agency for the



During the Korean War, James R. Bingham designed this poster to encourage civilian blood donation during the Korean War.

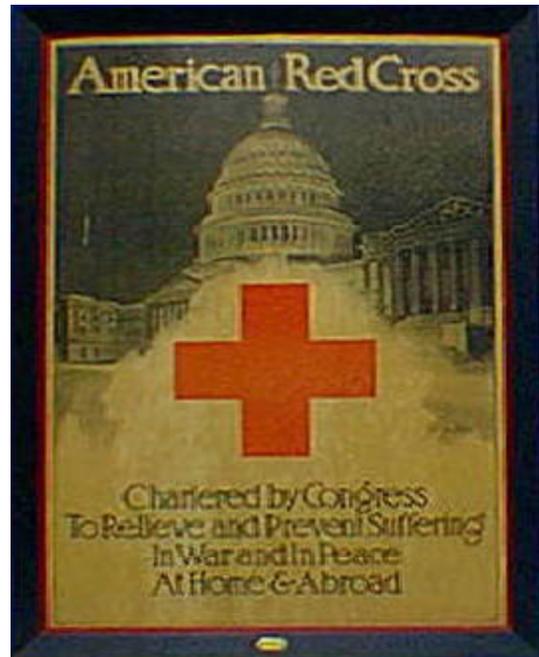
defense needs of the national blood program." The fighting in Korea forced an end to discrimination that existed after 1947 in some communities where Red Cross blood collections were performed.

In 1952, because the armed forces required 300,000 pints of blood per month, a severe shortage of blood persisted even though the Red Cross had collected 2.5 million pints for the military. From 1950 to 1953, the Red Cross collected and procured nearly 5 million pints of blood for the armed forces.

Today, in its 120th year, 40,000 Red Cross nurses continue a proud tradition of service that stretches back to the earliest days of the International Red Cross Movement and the founding of the American Red Cross. This abstract reports the important role of nursing in American Red Cross history.

Through Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2003, the American Red Cross has joined the Department of Defense and other organizations throughout the world in the observance of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War to honor and thank the men and women who served and their families -- especially those who lost loved ones.

The American Red Cross is an independent organization that is organized and exists as a nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable organization pursuant to a charter granted to it by the United States Congress. *(Information courtesy of American Red Cross)*



The military and the Red Cross, founded in 1881 by Clara Barton, have ties that date back more than 100 years.



National Archives

Rollin Friedman, right, delivers the first shipment of blood for combat forces in Korean from the American Red Cross Region Blood Center in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 25, 1950.



Courtesy photo

Honoring Service

George M. Moore Jr., left, Director of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Martinsburg, W.Va., gets assistance in handling a service medal to 99-year-old Frank Buckles, right.

Korean War Service Medal Still Available

The Department of Defense 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee wants veterans to know that the Korean War Service Medal is still available.

During the Korean War, the United States disallowed the wearing of the Korean War Service Medal because of regulations at the time that prevented American service members from wearing foreign awards. Congress changed that regulation in 1954, and now on the occasion of the 50th anniversary the Republic of Korea once again offers this medal.

The Air Force is the lead agent for distributing the medal. Airmen at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, are processing requests and distributing the medal to all Korean War veterans who qualify, regardless of branch of service.

AFPC is processing requests for the free medal on a first come-first served basis. After a request is processed, shipment of medals take up to six months.

To determine eligibility for the Korean War Service Medal, an applicant must have:

- Served during the period of hostilities, June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953;
- Been on permanent duty assignment or temporary duty for 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days; or
- Performed duty within the territorial boundaries of Korea, water adjacent to Korea or in aerial flights over Korea.

Applicants must furnish a copy of their discharge papers, the Department of Defense Form 214, as proof of eligibility. Those who need to request their military records

can download a request form at <http://www.nara.gov/regional/mpsrf180.html>, or call for an application. The form should be mailed to the National Personnel Record Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO, 63132-5000.

Veterans requesting or applying for the medal should contact AFPC by calling (800) 558-1404, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., CST, or contacting the awards and decorations section at (210) 565-2431, (210) 565-2520, (210) 565-2516 or by fax (201) 565-3118. (*Courtesy Air Force Print News*)



A point of view

May I Salute You?

By Patricia Salwei

I approached the entrance to Fort Belvoir's medical facility last year as an old veteran pattered towards me. Easily over 80 years old, stooped and slow, I barely gave him a second glance because on his heels was a full bird colonel.

As they approached, I rendered a sharp salute and barked, "Good morning, Sir!" Because they were heel to toe, I began my salute as the old veteran was about two paces from me. He immediately came to life!

Transformed by my greeting, he rose to his full height, returned my salute with pride, and exclaimed, "Good morning captain!" I was startled, but the full bird behind him was flabbergasted. The colonel stopped mid-salute, smiled at me and quietly moved on.

As I entered the clinic, the utter beauty of the encounter preoccupied me. What prompted the old man to assume that I was saluting him. Perhaps he just thought, "It's about time!" After all, doesn't a veteran outrank us all? I turned my attention to the waiting room taking a moment to survey the veterans there. Service people rushed around, loudspeakers blared, the bell for the prescription window kept ringing. It was a whirl of activity and the older veterans sat quietly on the outside seemingly out of step, patiently waiting to be seen. Nobody was seeing.

My old friend stayed on my mind. I began to pay attention to the military's attitude towards its veterans. I witnessed indifference: Impatient soldiers and airmen plowing over little old ladies at the commissary; I noticed my own agitation as an older couple cornered me at the Officer's Club and began reminiscing about their tour in Germany.

To our disgrace, I have also witnessed disdain: At Ramstein Air Base terminal, an airman was condescending and borderline cruel with a deaf veteran flying Space Available; An ancient

woman wearing a WACS button was shoved aside by a cadet at the Women's Memorial dedication in D.C.; A member of the color guard turned away in disgust from a drunk Vietnam vet trying to talk to him before the Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Vietnam War Memorial.

Have you been to a ceremony at the Wall lately? How about a Veteran's Day parade in a small town? The crowds are growing faint. Why do we expect the general public to care if we don't? We are getting comfortable again.

It is not my intention to minimize the selfless service of our modern military; my comrades are the greatest people I know. But lately I'm wondering if the public's attitude towards the military isn't just a reflection of the active duty military's attitude towards its own veterans.

It's time to ask -- do we regard them, do we consider them at all? How does our attitude change when the hero is no longer wearing a uniform?

I was proud to wear my uniform. Can I admit that I thought it was cool? There is no denying that there is something about our profession, combined with youth, that feeds the ego a little.

We have all seen a young pilot strut into the Officer's Club with his flight suit on. He matters; he takes on the room; he knows he can take on the world. But, one day he will leave his jet for a desk, and eventually he will have to hang up that flight suit. A super hero hanging up his cape. How will we measure his value then? He will no longer look like a pilot, an officer, a colonel. He'll just look like an old man coming out of the clinic with his prescription.

But, he is he less of a hero? Will anybody remember or care about all the months he spent away from his newborn daughter while making peace a possibility in the Balkans? Probably not.

Our society has a short memory. Maybe it is not for the protected to

understand. Rather, it is my hope that when a young lieutenant walks by him they will each see themselves reflected in the other -- one's future, the other's past. In that moment, perhaps, the lieutenant will also see the hero, now disguised as an old man, and thank him. The truth is there are heroes in disguise everywhere.

I used to wonder why people would want to chat with me when I was in uniform, telling me about their four years as a radio operator in Korea. So what? I wasn't impressed relative to my own experiences. Now I understand that they were telling me because nobody else cared. Proud of their service, no matter how limited, and still in love with our country, they were trying to stay connected. Their stories were a code for "I understand and appreciate you, can you appreciate me?" The answer is yes.

I separated from the military in February. I'm out of the club. Still, I want you to know that I'll attend the parades, visit the memorials, and honor you while my kids and your kids are watching. Then, maybe someday when I'm an old woman riding the metro, a young airman will take a moment of her time to listen to one of my war stories. I, in turn, will soak in her beauty and strength, and remember.

Today as I reflect on my adventures in the Air Force, I'm thinking of that ancient warrior

I collided with at Fort Belvoir. I'm wondering where he is, if he's still alive, if it's too late to thank him. I want to start a campaign in his honor -- Salute a Veteran.

Yes, this started out as a misunderstanding on my part. But, now I get it. That day was the first time in my life that I really understood what it meant to salute someone.

Dear veteran, I recognize and hail you! I do understand what I have and what you have given to make it possible. So I'm wondering if we meet on the street again...may I salute you?