



Vol. 1 Issue 6

38TH PARALLEL

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

KOREA50™

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Rudi Williams

Air Force veteran Eugene Mundy receives the Republic of Korea War Service Medal from Col. Kang Choong Soon, ROK air attache.

Veterans take center stage at retirement home

Fifty years after fighting for their country in the Korean War, veterans at the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in Washington, D.C. got the attention they deserved.

Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines received the long-awaited Republic of Korea War Service Medal before friends, family and fellow residents of the retirement home inside the theater of the Scott Building on April 11.

"Today was a wonderful day," Eugene Mundy, veteran Air Force medic and one of 39 medal recipients, said after the ceremony. "The only time we had this many people in the theater was when we saw (the movie) "Men of Honor."

Each veteran was honored with the medal, a service pin and a certificates from the Department of Defense 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemo-

ration Committee and the Republic of Korea government. To show his country's appreciation, Air Force Col. Kang Choong Soon, air attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Korea, pinned the medal on 16 airmen, 18 soldiers, three sailors and two Marine veterans.

"The war taught us that Korea was not alone in the world," Kang said. "Twenty-one countries came to help us under the banner of the United Nations. Americans (1.8 million) fought in the war... you were all among them.

"It is because of what you did in Korea that the Korean People came to learn how to say 'thank you,'" Kang said. "Even now after half a century, these are the first words that come to the minds of the Korean people when we think of America."

In 1951, the Republic of Korea of-

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Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Thank you

Army Cpl. Cosmo Martin Bell receives the Republic of Korea War Service Medal from retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Nels Running, executive director of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee. Bell was the first of 22 veterans from all branches of service who received the medal on March 29 at the American Legion Post 229 in Utica, N.Y. Post commander Darwin Rocker, center, looks on.

Youth outreach

A child displays a chronology poster she received from the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee exhibit booth inside a hangar during the Armed Forces Open House 2000 at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. The Committee had its products on hand on May 18 at the 2001 Armed Forces Open House.



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Korean War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Upcoming Events

Below is a list of some of the major events for 2001.

May 23-30

Fleet Week, *USS John F. Kennedy*, New York City

May 27

National Memorial Day Concert at Capitol West Lawn Washington, D.C.

June 25-29

Pacific Air Forces Korean Air War Symposium, Hickam AFB, Hawaii

July 23

African-American Korean War Commemoration, Arlington National Cemetery

July 25

Twilight Tattoo for Korean War Veterans at Ellipse, Washington, D.C.

July 27

Korean War Armistice Day Commemoration, Washington, D.C.

United War Veterans Council Armistice Commemoration, Staten Island, N.Y.



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Incoming!

The Korean War Diary exhibit inside the theater of the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Memorial Museum in Norfolk, Va., displays memorabilia from the war. It is one of the theater's two Korean War exhibits and will be on display until November 2003.

USSAH from on Page 1

ferred the Republic of Korea War Service Medal to United Nations forces serving in Korea and adjacent waters. However U.S. law prohibited its military forces from wearing medals issued by foreign governments. Congress changed that ruling in 1954, but by then most U.S. service members eligible for the medal had returned home.

In 1998, to coincide with the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Korean War, the Republic of Korea reiterated its original offer of the service medal to U.S. military service members. On Aug. 20, 1999, the Department of Defense approved the acceptance and wear of the medal. Approximately 1.8 million U.S. Korean War veterans are eligible to receive it.

Lt. Gen. Donald Peterson, Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel and the ceremony keynote speaker, reminded the veterans that their time, service and sacrifices a half century ago were not in vain.

"Our freedom and that of our South Korean friends was not free, but was paid in full by those who gave their lives and those fortunate enough to return

and witness the impact of their sacrifices," Peterson said.

The Department of Defense tapped the Air Force as the lead agency for the distribution of the medal to veterans of all branches of service. Under the direction of Peterson, the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, serves as the focal point where veterans apply for the foreign service award. Peterson said more than 49,500 veterans have received the medal.

More than 1,100 veterans reside at the 320-acre facility in northwest Washington, D.C. Established by Congress in 1851, the retirement facility is funded by a trust fund and maintained in part by active duty service members through payroll deduction.

"We are blessed to have them with us today," retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Nels Running, executive director of the Department of Defense 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, said of the veterans in attendance.

The ceremony was one of a number events scheduled during the DoD's three-year commemoration period.

This Date in History

April 30, 1951

U.N. Forces, having withdrawn to a new defense line, halted the Chinese offensive north of Seoul and the Han River.

Far East Air Forces accumulated 1,277 sorties, the largest number to date. Fifth Air Force accounted for a record breaking 960 of them.

April 30, 1952

The destroyers USS Maddox and Laffey participated in the most protracted gun duel of the Korean War as the engaged enemy shore batteries in Wonsan Harbor. Heavy coastal artillery fire was received, but neither of the two U.S. ships was damaged.

May 1, 1951

The first phase of the Chinese offensive was halted north of Seoul.

Skyraiders from the USS Princeton, using aerial torpedoes, knocked out two floodgates of the Ewachon Reservoir. This was the first aerial torpedo attack of the Korean War.

Greek troops in Korea observed the Greek Orthodox Easter with traditional roast lamb and wine. As a gesture of goodwill, the Greeks sent a gift of Greek cognac to the Turkish Brigade, marking the first time in modern history that the Greeks and Turks had fought on the same side.

Forgotten airborne soldiers honored

By SPC Jon Creese
U.S. Army Special Operations
Command Public Affairs

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – They call it the “forgotten war.” For many years though, it was not only the war that was forgotten, but the soldiers as well. Due to the past classification of the missions of the 8240th and 8007th Army units in Korea, some Special Forces personnel assigned to those units were not officially recognized for their contributions until March 26.

The U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne), in conjunction with the United Nations Partisans Infantry Korea, honored 19 of the American SF veterans who trained South Korean soldiers during the Korean War.

During the awards ceremony in the Heritage Auditorium of the Maj. Gen. Robert A. McClure building here, each of the veterans was awarded a United Nations Partisan Forces Honor Medal

and a certificate of appreciation from Brig. Gen. Frank Toney, U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) commander.

“It’s an honor for me to be a part of this ceremony,” Toney said to the veterans. “You are truly part of our lineage and history. We truly appreciate everything you did for our country and making us free and our children free, and living up to our motto, ‘De Oppresso Liber’.”

In January 1953, 60 officers and 15 enlisted soldiers from the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Carson, Colo., were levied for assignment to special operations units in Korea. Their mission was to train South Korean troops in special operations.

The South Korean soldiers SF trained became members of guerilla, partisan and aviation units. They conducted raids and escape and evasion missions, including the pilot recovery of an estimated 14 American and British airmen. They controlled offshore islands that provided safe havens for radar sites and agent infiltration. These activities served to tie down more than 75,000 North Korean security forces, posing a constant threat to their rear areas.

Retired Col. Doug Dillard, UNPIK chairman and ceremony speaker, has been trying to track down the estimated 500 to 700 Special Forces soldiers who served in the units. He has located 300 so far and is determined to find the rest.

“I got involved about three years ago when the 50th Anniversary got started,” Dillard said. “I wanted to gain recognition for U.S. vets as well as

Korean veterans because there are hundreds still in North Korea, and we don’t know what their status is.”

The veterans were pleased to be recognized, but also enjoyed seeing each other after so many years.

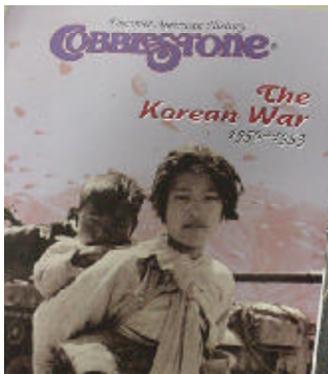
“I’ve seen three or four people I’ve known for 50 years or so,” said retired Col. Charles Allen, special operations Korean War veteran. “I think it’s really great.” Allen retired in 1972 after serving as installation commander of Camp MacKall, N.C.

“It’s about time, and it’s kind of exciting even for me,” said Allen’s wife, Anita. “I know how long he’s been thinking about this. He has said for years that it’s too bad veterans of Korea have been forgotten.”

“It’s great. It gives me a sense of great pride for the work we did over in Korea,” said another veteran, retired Maj. Joseph Johnson. Johnson spent 20 years in the Army and retired from the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

The Korean War Veterans Foundation, 8240 Army Unit, United Nations Partisan Infantry Forces, Korea, a group of approximately 4,000 veterans from South Korea, established the U.N. Partisan Forces Honor Medal for Korean troops. American soldiers who were part of the U.N. Partisan Infantry Forces, Korea, between January 1951 and July 1953 also are eligible to receive the medal. This award is not a government-sanctioned medal, but is civic in nature.

For more information please write to Col. Douglas Dillard, U.S. Army (ret.), 12114 Longridge Lane, Bowie, MD 20710.



38th Parallel
Editorial Staff

Maj. Gen. Nels Running (USAF Ret.)
Korean War Commemoration
Committee Executive Director

Col. Jeffrey Douglass (USMCR)
Chief of Staff

Maj. Ernest Parker (USAR)
Director, Media Outreach

Tech.Sgt. Michael A. Dorsey (USAF)
Editor

The nation will honor
Korean War Veterans on Memorial Day
with a concert on May 27 at the Capitol
West Lawn in Washington, D.C.

Principi: We will make a difference

WASHINGTON, March 14, 2001 — Calling himself a veterans' activist, Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi vowed to conduct a major top-to-bottom review of his department's health care and claims processing systems and its use of information technology.

Principi promises to make a difference.

"If we don't improve benefits and services after four years, I'll consider my tour a failure," he said, in a recent interview with the American Forces Information Service. The new secretary is a Vietnam combat veteran. His wife was a Navy nurse in Vietnam.

He said the VA's entire system is being examined to ensure the needs of active duty service members are being met when they become veterans and file for benefits. For instance, he said, smarter use of modern technology is critical to VA.

"We spend about \$1.5 billion a year on information technology, but the outcomes are not anywhere near commensurate with the investment we make," Principi noted. "We need to be smarter about how we procure technology and how we use it."

He said taking up to two years to reach a decision and abstract theories of veterans benefits and healthcare are not acceptable. "I want practical, hands-on solutions as to what we need to do better to provide high-quality, timely evaluations on claims," he emphasized. "I want to ensure we have uniform access to high-quality healthcare."

"If we don't improve benefits and services after four years, I'll consider my tour a failure,"

Anthony J. Principi

The Department of Veterans Affairs operates 172 medical centers, 134 nursing homes and more than 800 community and outpatient clinics that treated more than 620,000 inpatients last year and provided for 36.4 million outpatient visits.

Principi said he's looking forward

to feedback from a national telephone survey of veterans concerning VA services. The project started in February and will run through August. He said the results, expected in 2002, will help the government plan future programs and services.

VA officials expect the survey to help them follow trends in the veterans population; compare veterans who use VA services and those who do not; study the delivery of VA benefits; and analyze VA policies.

The survey contractor, Westat Inc., is asking veterans about health, disabilities, military background, education and the need for services, such as medical care, housing and education assistance. The interviewers will sample 20,000 veterans.

"We'll make a difference," he promised. "We'll strengthen the bond and trust that absolutely must exist between the people who serve the nation and the 219,000 dedicated people in Veterans Affairs who provide services to them." (AFIS)



Tech. Sgt. Michael A. Dorsey

Spreading the word

Korean War veteran Ray Donnelly speaks to visiting high school students from Ocean City, Md., at the Korean War Veterans Memorial this past winter. Donnelly was explaining to the students the survival ratio of soldiers who served. More than 36,000 American service members died in the Korean War. The memorial, located on the Mall in Washington, D.C., was completed in 1995. Korean War veterans are encouraged to educate as many people as possible on their experience in the "Forgotten War."

Nurse recalls Korean War service

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 30, 2001 — A half-century has passed since retired Army Maj. Julia Baxter worked as an operating room nurse in a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, or MASH, in war-torn South Korea.

The 80-year-old veteran remembers when more than 1,000 wounded soldiers were backlogged waiting for care in the yard outside the hospital.

“We worked eight hours on and eight hours off for about a month before changing to 12 hours on and 12 hours off,” said Baxter, who received the Army’s Bronze Star for her wartime service.

A Department of Defense’s Womens History Month ceremony hosted March 15 by Charles L. Cragin paid tribute to Army nurses like Baxter who served in the Korean War. Within days of North Korea’s June 25, 1950, attack on South Korea, Cragin told the audience, 57 Army nurses were deployed to Korea to care for wounded American and allied soldiers.

Cragin, acting under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, invited Baxter and her husband, retired Army Col. Daryle Baxter, to attend the Pentagon ceremony on behalf of her Korean War counterparts.

“We don’t have an opportunity to thank the nurses individually, but I thought we could symbolically thank all of them who served by thanking you,” Cragin told Baxter. He presented her with a certificate and a crystal Pentagon etched with the logo of the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Equal Opportunity in recognition of her Korean War service.

Baxter entered the Army Nurse Corps in April 1945 from Asheboro, N.C. She served in hospitals in the United States, Frankfurt and Berlin, Germany, and Tokyo. She went to

Korea on July 6, 1950, with the 8055th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, as a first lieutenant and was later promoted to captain.

Each day, she was reminded of the brother she’d lost in World War II.

“When I first went to Korea,” Baxter said, “each soldier that came in the operating room seemed like my brother. It took a little while to get over that. We did a little crying, then got back to work.”

After about five months in Korea, Baxter went back to the Tokyo Army Hospital where she assisted doctors with plastic surgery and orthopedics for two years. In 1957, while stationed in Iran, she met her husband, an Army captain, and was married in 1958. She became pregnant and was discharged in 1959.

“In those days,” she said, “you couldn’t stay in if you were pregnant.”

When Baxter returned to the States, she became an occupational health nurse with the federal government. After retiring, she became a teacher in Fairfax County, Va., and later retired from that job.

“I’m 80 years old and I’m still working as a substitute teacher in a special education school — the Pulley Vocational Career Center in Fairfax County, Va.,” she noted.

Baxter is pleased DoD honors its military women.

“They’ve done so much for the country and it’s about time they should be honored for their contributions,” she said. “I’ve lived in the best of times and the worst of times and it was such an honor to be here today.”



National Archives

Flight nurses 2nd Lt. Betty Louise Davis and 1st Lt. Marjorie Mortenson prepare stretchers outside the tent hospital at Freedom Village in Munsan-ni, Korea. The photo reflects working environment that retired Army Maj. Julia Baxter experienced during the war.

A caring attitude

One member of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee believes that little things can make a big difference.

Instead of the cylinder-shaped tubes previously used to mail posters, the committee now prepares its products for shipping in a rectangular-shaped cardboard box. According to Staff Sgt. Rebecca Tester, noncommissioned officer in charge of the committee's fulfillments warehouse, the box is easier to open and remove the posters.

"Poppin' the tops off the circular tubes was hard for me to do," said Tester in her concern for veterans and family members with arthritis and other ailments that can affect a one's strength. "This is a lot less cumbersome and reusable."

Tester came across the boxes by accident. Visiting the Air Force History Office at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., to pick up Korean War commemoration products, she noticed the boxes and quickly realized their value.

The rest, as they say, is history. Now a permanent item of the packaging inventory, the boxes are a sure indication that the committee cares about its veterans — right down to the shipping box. (*Committee Public Affairs Office*)



Did you know...

- There are more than 4,250 Commemoration Partners to date.
- Every state in the union has a Commemoration Partner.
- Twenty-four of the Commemoration Partners are abroad, representing 17 countries.
- More than 1,200 products are shipped around the country and abroad each month.



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Fleet Week in New York

Medal of Honor recipient, Navy pilot Capt. Thomas Hudner gives the thumbs up as grand marshal of the Nations Parade in November. The city will host the Navy's Fleet Week in conjunction with Memorial Day.



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Talking military

People from all walks of life visit the "Under One Banner" exhibit inside the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Memorial theater in Norfolk, Va. The exhibit, reflecting the 22 nations serving under the United Nations banner in Korea, will be on display until October.

HONOR ROLL

Rank: Captain

Organization: U.S. Air Force, 8th Bombardment Squadron, 3d Bomb Group.

Place and date: Near Yangdok, Korea, Sept. 14, 1951.

Entered service at: Baltimore, Md.

Birth: 1920, Baltimore, Md.

Citation: Captain John S. Walmsley, Jr., United States Air Force, a member of the 8th Bombardment Squadron, 3d Bomb Wing, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty near Yangdok, Korea on 14 September 1951. While flying a B-26 aircraft on a night combat mission with the objective of developing new tactics, Captain Walmsley sighted an enemy supply train which had been assigned top priority as a target of opportunity. He immediately attacked, producing a strike which disabled the train, and, when his ammunition was expended, radioed for friendly aircraft in the area to complete destruction of the target. Employing the searchlight mounted on his aircraft, he guided another B-26 aircraft to the target area, meanwhile constantly exposing himself to enemy fire. Directing an incoming B-26 pilot, he twice boldly aligned himself with the target, his searchlight illuminating the area, in a determined effort to give the attacking aircraft full visibility. As the friendly aircraft prepared for the attack, Captain Walmsley descended into the valley in a low level run over the target with searchlight blazing, selflessly exposing himself to vicious enemy antiaircraft fire. In his determination to inflict maximum damage on the enemy, he refused to employ evasive tactics and valiantly pressed forward straight through an intense barrage, thus insuring complete destruction of the enemy's vitally needed war cargo. While he courageously pressed his attack Captain Walmsley's plane was hit and crashed into the surrounding mountains, exploding upon impact. His heroic initiative and daring aggressiveness in completing this important mission in the face of overwhelming opposition and at the risk of his life, reflects the highest credit upon himself and the U.S. Air Force.



John S. Walmsley, Jr.

