



Vol. 2 Issue 8

38th Parallel

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

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Courtesy Combat Camera

Dozens of wreaths were laid at National Cemetery of the Pacific, more commonly known as the Punchbowl, during a POW/MIA ceremony on Sept. 20 that honored families of Korean War veterans.

DoD and VA pay tribute to Korean War families

Thirty-one years ago Jeanne Dobbs made her first visit to the Punchbowl in Honolulu when a friend asked her to go to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii.

"I stood at the bottom of the memorial and read the stone," said Dobbs, daughter of Korean War veteran 1st Lt. Gilbert Dobbs. "Then I read the names of the people and I kept going up the steps and up near the top on the right side there he was. Having just got here and after a few months later to be standing before my father ... it makes me wonder what brought me here."

Friday she returned to the Punchbowl Cemetery as one of more than 20 Korean War surviving families from Hawaii that the Department of De-

fense honored on POW-MIA Day. The ceremony on Sept. 20 was one of many the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee has hosted during the commemoration period, but the first with a special tribute to surviving families.

Dobbs, who was born in Germany, was raised in New York, her father's home state. She was a year old when Lieutenant Dobbs, an Air Force pilot with the 8th Bomber Sq., was listed as Missing in Action in North Korea in 1951; but, she felt close to her father long before the ceremony.

"My mother kept him alive a long time," she said. "He was around the house. She had pictures of him every-

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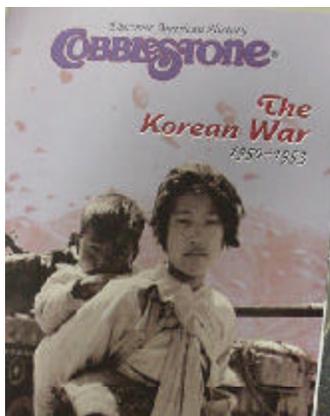


Contents in the 38th Parallel are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. Visit our web site at www.korea50.mil to learn more about Korean War veterans.



Courtesy Combat Camera

A veteran holding the POW/MIA flag waits on the flight line at Hickam Air Force Base during a ceremony Aug. 23. More remains of Korean War veterans were returned Sept. 28.



**38th Parallel
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Army lab wants DNA samples

The DNA the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii uses to aid in their identification of unaccounted for service members is Mitochondrial DNA (MtDNA). It is only passed along the maternal line.

This genetic material will be used to help determine the identity of remains recovered from Korea.

Family members who do not have a DNA sample on file are encouraged to do so by contacting the appropriate branch below:

U.S. Army
Casualty and Memorial Affairs
Operations Center 1-800-892-2490

U.S. Marine Corps
Casualty Branch 1-800-847-1597

U.S. State Department (for civilian unaccounted-for): 202-736-4988

U.S. Navy
Missing Person Section (POW-MIA Affairs) 1-800-443-9298

U.S. Air Force
Missing Persons Branch 1-800-531-5501
Mortuary Affairs 1-800-531-5803

The MtDNA testing is done at the Armed Forces DNA Identification Lab in Washington, D.C. The CILHI is a division of the Armed Forces DNA Identification Lab.

For more information contact Ginger Couden, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii at (808) 448-8903 ext. 109.



Courtesy photo

John Roloff receives his Republic of Korea Korean War Service medal.

Minnesota remembers its veterans

“Today ends the war for me,” retired Marine Sgt. John Roloff said after he joined 237 other Korean War veterans in receiving recognition for actions taken more than 50 years ago. The veterans were presented the Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal (ROK KWSM) at one of the largest presentations of the medal in the nation July 28 at Fort Snelling, Minn.

“It’s long overdue,” said Roloff. “I’m just glad I’m still alive to receive it. The war’s finally over for me now, honestly, it’s finally over. I can put it behind me now.”

Most veterans who send for the medal receive it in the mail. The Gen. John W. Vessey chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) didn’t think that was any way to receive a medal. Chapter president Jim Anderson signed up the group as commemoration partners and organized the event. The rest, as the saying goes, is history. *(Story and photos by Bill Geddes)*

2002

Commemoration Events

AARP ROK-KWSM

Presentation ceremony

San Diego Convention Center
San Diego, Calif., Sept. 11

Air Power Day

Osan Air Base
Osan, Republic of Korea
Sept. 14

POW/MIA

Commemoration Ceremony

National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl)
Honolulu, Hawaii, Sept. 20

Joint Service

Regional Commemoration

Tampa, Fla.
January 2003*

Joint Service

Regional Commemoration

San Antonio, Texas
February 2003*

Joint Service

Regional Commemoration

Detroit, MI
March 2003*

Armistice Day Ceremony

Washington, D.C.

July 27, 2003

**date to be determined*

Attention Teachers!

Teachers using *Cobblestone* magazine special edition dedicated to the Korean War can find a Teacher Activity Guide for that edition on the Cobblestone Web site

www.cobblestonepub.com/pages/TGCOBBKoreanWar.html.

If you have additional questions or have not received your classroom set of *Cobblestone*, contact JO1 Martha Kennedy-Lindley, education program coordinator at 703-602-4153 or email: Martha.Kennedy-Lindley@hqda.army.mil.

San Diego hosts Sept. 11 ceremony

Joe Barreras got so excited on Sept. 11, the occasion nearly brought him to tears.

“Oh, I get so emotional at times,” said Barreras. “My family is here and I always dreamt that I’d love to have a group like this with my family around. I’m 72 and I don’t know if anything like this will happen again.”

While the nation mourned in memory of the terrorist attacks of a year ago, Korean War veterans in southern California rejoiced in celebration. Barreras was one of more than 350 Korean War veterans who received their Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal at the San Diego Convention Center downtown.

The event was part of AARP’s annual national seminar where San Diego was the 2002 host city.

For Barreras, who left from San Diego to serve in the war with the Army’s 2nd Infantry Division, the ceremony was a dream come true. The 2nd ID suffered heavy losses during the war and although he did not recognize many of the veterans in attendance, that minor detail did not make the day any less significant.

“I’ll carry this with me as well as the days I spent in the army for the rest of my life,” Barreras said. “We (2nd ID soldiers) lived together as a group for two years, but it seemed like a lifetime. I can’t tell you the color of my tie, but I can tell you what some guys looked like, even down to their moles. The memory is still there.”

As the sunset formed a backdrop for the occasion, the executive director of the Department of Defense 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee expressed his gratitude to the veterans and their family members.

“I am deeply honored to be here this evening and



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

The executive director of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, Ret. Air Force Maj. Gen. Nels Running, was a key speaker at the event.



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Joe Barreras, in the center with the Korean War Hat on, talks to a friend at the San Diego Convention Center.

supremely grateful to the AARP,” retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Nels Running said. “Fifty years is a long time... The Korean War is not forgotten. I have asked many of you who are veterans of that war and I’ve not found one who admitted to forgetting about it for a single moment. I’ve asked many families, they have not forgotten.... Welcome home.”

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where and she talked about him a lot.”

With his name inscribed on the Courts of the Missing, the ceremony reaffirmed the feeling Dobbs had of her father all along.

“I guess you could say I didn’t know him, but I am certainly proud of him,” Dobbs said, who came to the Aloha State in 1971 from New York. Then 22 years old, she traveled 6,000 miles to teach school kids and has made Hawaii her home ever since. “For the country to do this for him in his memory, I am very proud of that.”

Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. Leo Mackay Jr., praised the veterans and families for their service and sacrifice.

“They fought not for the glory of war, but for the prize of freedom,” Mackay said. “Today in this place we rededicated ourselves to obtain a full accounting of our missing brothers in arms.

“Let me personally say to you — the families of the missing — that as role models of dignity and purpose in the face of great adversity, you have proven yourselves of great credit.”

More than 800 unknown service members are interred in the U section of the cemetery. More than 8,100 service members are listed as missing in action from the Korean War.

Family survivor can relate to Sept. 11 tragedy

ARLINGTON, Va., Sept. 26, 2001 — Eva Bernice Dunham knows the feelings of the families of those still missing from the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. She's lived those feelings for 50 years.

From atop a hill in Arlington National Cemetery here overlooking the Pentagon, the sister of a Korean War MIA stood in a daze as she watched the black smoke fill the sky that sad day. She had been participating in a burial ceremony with the "Arlington Ladies," a group of volunteers that helps out at services.

"I heard the explosion and my first thought was of the atom bomb," she recalled. "I stood in amazement! We were preparing for our second funeral that morning. Navy Chaplain (Father) Lewis Brown said, 'We will go through with this,' and the family gathered around him."

Smoke filled the sky as the backdrop and sirens screamed throughout the services. Dunham said she thought to herself, "God preserve us." Still stunned, with a blank feeling inside, she feels a concern for all the people — all the lost lives and those affected by the terrorists' horrific act.

More than 50 years have passed since Nov. 2, 1950, when Dunham and her parents were notified by telegram that her brother, Army Pfc. Charles Henry Lord Jr. of the 1st Cavalry Division, had been captured by communist Chinese forces along the Yalu River during the Battle of Unsan.

Lord died in POW Camp 5 deep in North Korea on July 22, 1951. His remains are still missing.

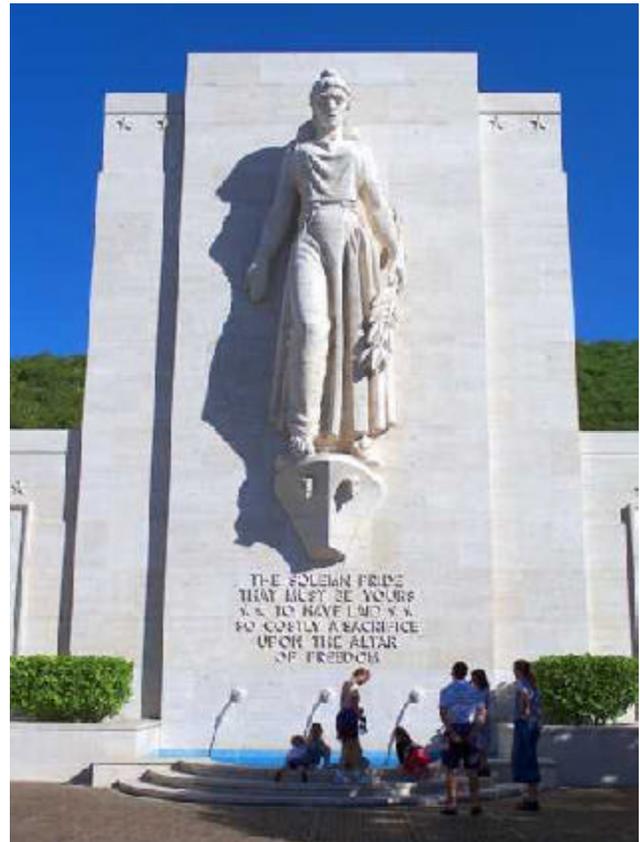
Ten days after the terror attack, Dunham attended the 22nd annual National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at the national cemetery's amphitheater. "[The] service was beautiful, remembering all our POW and MIAs from past wars, and recognizing, too, America's most recent (losses)," the Jacksonville, Fla., native said.

Army Secretary Tom White, host of this year's remembrance, said of America's obligation to a full accounting of its service members, "We must free families from the prisons of uncertainty."

Guest speaker Orson G. Swindle III, once a POW held by the North Vietnamese, said the families and friends of America's more than 88,000 missing servicemen from all wars deserve closure, a full accounting.

"They deserve nothing less, and that speaks volumes," said Swindle, a commissioner on the U.S. Trade Commission. "Never has it been more important than now to show our resolve, renew our commitment, during this current and future clandestine war.

"Families know firsthand the agony and suffering, the sacrifice, anger, frustration, the faded dreams," Swindle told the audience. "They tell us that life must go on, the grief



Courtesy photo

Korean War veterans were honored at the Punchbowl Cemetery in Honolulu on POW/MIA Day.

will end, but these losses will forever change our lives."

Shortly after the ceremony, Dunham said, "It would be easy to give up, but we as Americans don't. We are strong as a nation and we'll go on." She has advice to those who lost family members or friends on Sept. 11.

"The only way to get through hard times — times one cannot understand — is through faith. Faith gives us peace. The grief of not knowing for a long time is painful," she said.

"I know pain. God is my hope. Look to God. He is a spirit we can (reach) any time — all the time. He has been my strength, my hope.

Another parallel is the absence of a body to return to the family, she noted. "Most troubling is not having a place to mourn, a place to bring flowers, a final resting place," she said.

Dunham has been an Arlington Lady since 1985 and has assisted at countless funerals in past years. The volunteer service makes her feel useful, she said. Every funeral is different, but the funerals on Sept. 11 were her most memorable. It was her 73rd birthday. (*Peggy Marish-Boos is from the DoD POW/Missing Personnel Office in Arlington, Va.*)



Air Force Maj. Bennie Umstead helps two American Legionnaires sign up their Auxiliary Posts as Commemoration Partners during the recent American Legion convention in Charlotte, N.C. At the convention, more than 150 new Commemoration Partners signed up to help the Department of Defense 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee thank and honor all 1.8 million Korean War veterans.

SSG Robert K. Timmons

Chosin Few veterans honored by Marines

On a bright, hot and sunny summer day in July, 60 veterans of the Chosin Reservoir gathered at St. Clair Shores, Mich., for their annual picnic. Members from Indiana, Ohio and Michigan reminisced about times and friends long past, to renew acquaintances and to remember those who were no longer with them.

A stirring ceremony began the day's activities as a list of the departed members was read to the chime of a bell. The playing of taps followed a 21-gun salute by the VFW Honor guard. The ceremony ended as a small group of Highland bagpipers played "Amazing Grace." They then led the Chosin Few members and their spouses to a picnic area playing both the Army and Marine Corps hymns.

Within a few minutes after the ceremony, the members of the Chosin Few were treated with an unexpected sight. Roaring up the road was a Marine Corps LAV-25, driven by MSgt. Paul Kopjoe, MSgt. Marty Blosser, and retired GySgt. Mike Rouser. All three of these Marines work for different organizations aboard the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, Michigan.

They were cheered as they parked the vehicle, dismounted and opened the vehicle for display. While answering questions about the LAV, they also listened attentively to stories about the Chosin Reservoir and the Marine Corps of the 1950's. Mike Rouser commented that he was in awe at the "memories these guys have and the stories they have to tell."

More than one vet commented on what they could have done with a piece of equipment like the LAV-25. But the most poignant question came from the oldest veteran in



Courtesy photo

Veterans got a glimpse of an LAV-25 tank at the picnic.

attendance. At 83 years old, he wanted to know if there was a heater in the vehicle "as I'm still thawing out!"

Before leaving, these wonderful ambassadors for the Marine Corps made sure that time was spent with every veteran. As they talked, laughed, told war stories, posed for pictures, or just shook hands, these three Marines let the members of the Chosin Few know that they were not forgotten. Throughout the day, they presented every Korean War veteran in attendance with a Department of Defense Korean War Commemorative Pin to honor and thank them for their service. *(Randy Talbot, TACOM Staff Historian)*



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

This Date in History

Sept. 30, 1950: Major General William F. Dean, commander of the US 24th Infantry Division and still missing in action since the disaster at Taejon on 20 July, was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Sept. 29, 1950: In a ceremony in the National Assembly Hall while fighting still raged in the outskirts, Seoul was officially restored as the capital of the Republic of Korea. An emotional President Syngman Rhee called Gen. Douglas MacArthur “the savior of our race.”

Sept. 28, 1950: The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, arrived in Korea and joined the 27th British Brigade near Taegu. Australia’s commitment to the UN forces in Korea ultimately reached two infantry battalions, one aircraft carrier, two destroyers, a fighter squadron, and an air transport squadron. The Australians suffered some 1,400 casualties during their service in Korea.

Task Force Matthews, consisting of the 25th Reconnaissance Company and A Company, 79th Tank Battalion, liberated 86 half-starved American POWs in Namwon.

Sept. 28, 1952: At Panmunjom, the UN proposes three alternatives for a solution to the POW issue. The Communists categorically reject voluntary repatriation.

Sept. 24, 1950: In the south, Eighth Army’s 1st Cavalry Division took Sangju and Oksan. On the Incheon/Seoul front, the 7th Infantry Division entered Osan on a drive to link up with Eighth Army forces advancing from the south.

Sept. 23, 1950: A 160-person Red Cross field hospital unit from Sweden arrived in Pusan as part of the UN commitment to the war. Initially a 200-bed capacity hospital, it was soon expanded to 450-beds. After the fighting ended in July 1953, the Swedish Red Cross Hospital continued to render humanitarian assistance to the Republic of Korea until April 1957.

Sept. 22, 1950: Eighth Army completed its breakout from the Pusan Perimeter.

Sept. 22, 1951: The 2nd Infantry Division’s struggle for Heartbreak Ridge continued. By the time the battle was over on 15 October 1951, the division has suffered 3,700 casualties.

Sept. 14, 1951: Private First Class Edward Gomez, E Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, earned the Korean War’s 85th Medal of Honor.

Air Force Capt. John S. Walmsley, 8th Bombardment Squadron, 3rd Bomb Group, earned the 86th Medal of Honor of the Korean War.

Sept. 14, 1950: Sixty-two year old singer Al Jolson arrived in Korea to entertain the troops after paying his own way from the United States.

Sept. 13 - Oct. 15, 1951: The US 2nd Infantry Division seized Heartbreak Ridge at a cost of 3,700 casualties.

Sept. 13, 1951: The US Marine Corps conducted Operation “Windmill I,” the first mass helicopter resupply mission in military history.

Sept. 13, 1950: Task Force 77 struck Wolmi-do with naval gunfire in preparation for the amphibious assault against Incheon. Lieutenant David H. Swenson was killed aboard the destroyer *USS Swenson* when the North Koreans hit the ship with two-gun salvo.

HONOR ROLL



Jack A. Davenport

Rank: Corporal

Organization: U.S. Marine Corps, Company G, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Reinforced).

Place and date: Vicinity of Songnae-Dong, Korea, Sept. 21, 1951.

Entered service at: Mission, Kan..

Birth: 1931, Kansas City, Mo.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Squad Leader in Company G, Third Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced), in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Songnae-Dong, Korea, early on the morning of 21 September 1951. While expertly directing the defense of his position during a probing attack by hostile forces attempting to infiltrate the area, Corporal Davenport, acting quickly when an enemy grenade fell into the foxhole which he was occupying with another Marine, skillfully located the deadly projectile in the dark and, undeterred by the personal risk involved, heroically threw himself over the live missile, thereby saving his companion from serious injury or possible death.



