



Vol. 2 Issue 5

# 38th Parallel

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

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*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

**At the Carl T. Hayden Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Phoenix James McEachin talks to Mary Papa, wife of Joe Papa, who served in Korea. McEachin, key note speaker for the commemoration event on May 4, visited patients on May 3.**

## Guest speaker praises and inspires vets at regional event

When the jump team from Yuma, Ariz., fell out of the sky from an Air Force C-130 they were amazed. When So Hee performed her folk dance they were captivated. When F-16s roared across the sky in a missing man formation they were awestruck.

But when the keynote speaker told the audience what the Korean War meant to him, veterans were inspired.

Korean War veterans at Steele Indian School Park in Phoenix Ariz., gave James McEachin a standing ovation after the actor, author and fellow veteran praised soldiers, sailors airmen, Marines and coast guardsmen who put their lives on the line 50 years ago.

“If this country’s ideals and principles are to stand, they will do so only on the firm foundation of resolve and sacrifice,” McEachin said. And that is why you, the Korean War veteran, will always have a reason to hold your head high.

McEachin, who served with the storied 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division during the Korean War, went on to say how the war was largely ignored by the national media and other groups, but reminded the veterans that “still, you were there willing to sacrifice all.”

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## Phoenix from Page 1

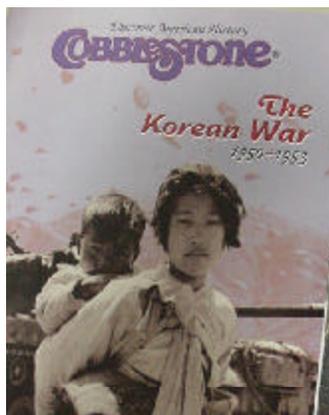
McEachin also said that the Korean War was an internal battle that the U.S had to overcome.

"It seems like ancient history now, but it also parallels the thought of democracy to recall that not only was Korea a brutal and costly war ... it was America's first war wherein there was integration in the ranks, disproving an altogether spurious notion that when it came to serving the high ideals of this country there is a difference when it comes to the shade of the skin.

"In combat you stood as Americans, shoulder to shoulder. You defended this nation's ideals without fanfare or expectations."

A Purple Heart recipient, McEachin remembers people like his patrol leader 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Henry Schenk who "went down fighting until there was nothing left to give." To the survivors who heard him at Indian School Park, McEachin said that they rescued a country that was on the ropes and going down for the count.

"Take pride in yourself veterans, it was a job well done," he said.



**38th Parallel  
Editorial Staff**

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

*Maj. Ernest Parker (USAR)*  
Chief, Media Operations

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

## Norfolk host city symposium

As part of a three-year international commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War, the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation in partnership with Old Dominion University is sponsoring a two-day International Historical Symposium to be held on the university's campus on June 26-27, 2002.

The symposium theme, "Understanding and Remembering," captures the intent to commemorate the Korean War's impact on the world and to pay tribute to those who served. The two-day series of seminars will feature speakers who will present original papers on various aspects of the war, as part of "Hampton Roads Remembers" a three-year retrospective on the war. The symposium is the latest in a series of commemorative events that began in 2000 and are sponsored by the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation.

The keynote address will be given on June 26 by retired four-star General Frederick J. Kroesen. Retired General Paik SunYup from the Republic of Korea will give the luncheon address also on June 26.

Registration for the event is \$25 per person. While seating is limited, good seating is still available. For more information about the symposium, call Mary Denyes at the MacArthur Memorial at 441-2965 or visit [www.norfolk.gov](http://www.norfolk.gov) and click on Korean War Symposium.

## Hymn to a departed Veteran

You fought in air, on land and sea  
You fought our fight for liberty,  
In battles lost and battle won  
Your courage shining as the sun.  
Your inspiration and your pow'r  
Sustained us through our shining hour.

You were our strength through weary days  
Of conflicts long in every phase.  
Old friends and new are gathered here  
To say, "Good Bye" to someone dear.  
Another comrade's passed away  
We wish him Godspeed on his way.

Your tour of duty's at an end,  
As we say "thank you," Comrade, Friend.  
To other worlds you now may soar,  
Meet other comrades gone before.  
Our prayers are with you in your quest.  
God grant you now eternal rest.  
Amen. Amen. (Submitted by  
*Harvin Abrahamson*  
Commander VFW Post 10171  
Cedarburg-Grafton)



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

## Long awaited recognition

Arnold E. Kirk talks to reporters in the Pentagon on April 24 after he received the Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medal. The ceremony was a surprise event set up by his daughter. Kirk, who celebrated his 74<sup>th</sup> birthday April 22, served in Korea from September 1951 to June 1952. He was never awarded any medals for his service during the Korean War, but through the work of his daughter, Wanda, was honored 50 years later and received the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, United Nations Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon in addition to the Korean War Service Medal. The Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White and Defense Attaché for the Republic of Korea Young Han Moon presented Kirk with a gift from the Republic of Korea.

## Army Lab wants DNA samples

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

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

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

## 2002 Commemoration Events

Korean War Symposium  
Naval Aviation Museum Foundation  
Pensacola, Fla., May 9-10

Memorial Day Wreath Laying  
Ceremony  
Korean War Veterans Memorial  
Washington, D.C., May 27

50th Anniversary Wreath Laying  
Arlington National Cemetery  
Arlington, Va., June 25

Korean War Symposium  
Old Dominion University  
Norfolk, Va., June 26-27

Korean War Veterans Association  
National Convention, Washington,  
D.C., July 23-28

Musical Tribute to Korean War Vets  
Daughters of the  
American Revolution  
Constitution Hall, Washington, D.C.  
July 27

Armistice Day Ceremony  
Korean War Veterans Memorial  
Washington, D.C.  
July 27

Regional Joint Service Commemora-  
tion Oklahoma City, OK, Aug. 3

Disabled American Veterans  
National Convention  
Dallas, Texas, Aug. 9-14

AMVETS  
National Convention  
Louisville, Ky., Aug. 10-17

American Legion  
National Convention  
Charlotte, N.C., Aug. 23-29

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
National Convention  
Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 24-30

# Second regional sparkles in Phoenix

Cinco de Mayo weekend didn't cloud the Department of Defense regional Korean War commemoration in Phoenix, Ariz., on May 4. Veterans came to Steele Indian School Park at the Carl T Hayden Veterans Affairs Medical Center and saw a host of attractions that left them awestruck.

From the military vehicles on display on the ground to the cargo and fighter aircraft performing in the sky, veterans the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee's second regional event was a sight to behold.

In addition to a Korean dance performance, free fall exhibition, missing man formation flyby, and wreath laying, five service members, representing every branch of service, received the Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medal — all to remember, honor and thank the 1.8 million veterans who served under the United Nations banner.

The day brought back memories and a humbling disposition (mood) for those who remembered their experience in Korea with their comrades.

"Today is a matter of pride," said veteran Pete Martinez who was a part of the 483<sup>rd</sup> Troop Carrier Wing. "When you see people here today who are 70 and 80 years old saluting that swells the heart."

"I just appreciate being a part of this," Ellis Hughes, a four-year Air Force veteran who served in Korea with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Wg., under 5<sup>th</sup> Air Force, said. "Going over there was the highlight of my life."



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

**So Hee performs for the Korean War Veterans at The Carl T. Hayden Veterans Affairs Medical Center's Steele Indian School Park in Phoenix, Ariz.**



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

**Static displays of military vehicles were on display at the park.**



*Ssg Robert Timmons*

**James McEachin, Pat Harvey, and Patrick Chorpensing, share a moment after Arizona's veterans home near the park was named after Harvey's husband, Medal of Honor recipient Ray Harvey.**

# KWVA President happy last regional belongs to Oklahoma City

The first state to become a Korean War commemoration partner will host the last regional commemoration for 2002. That suits Harold Mulhausen just fine.

"I'm glad we're having it. Being the last city doesn't make any difference to me," said Mulhausen, who served with the Marine Corps Reserves' 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion in 1950. "We're getting a little older now and whatever we can do to recognize the veterans. I'm all for helping out."

The Committee's commemoration program is a grassroots effort to get touch all 1.8 million Korean War veterans from national level down to the individual in communities across the America. These partners, from schools to local government to private companies to veteran service organizations have sponsored thousands of events this year and contribute immeasurably to an increasing awareness about the Korean War.

Mulhausen, president of the Korean War Veterans Association's Oklahoma Chapter 89, is doing what he can to spread the word. He hopes the flyer advertising the Aug. 3 event attached to his chapter's newsletter in April will give the veterans a better chance to attend the regional. As a member of the Chosin Few and part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Reunion. Mulhausen also hopes his connections will help bring veterans in the surrounding states such as Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico and Kansas, to Sooner country.

"The problem for many is getting around," Mulhausen.

Oklahoma has strong ties to the Korean War. Its 55,000 veterans of the war make up nearly a fifth of state's total veteran population. Only seven other states have a higher percentage of Korean War veterans. The Sooner state is also home to the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Museum in Oklahoma City. This museum documents the historic performance of the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, one of only two Guard divisions (40<sup>th</sup> ID in California being the other) to fight in the war. Oklahoma also has rich roots in Native American culture. The 45<sup>th</sup> 's

lone Medal of Honor recipient, Charles George, was an American Indian.

Mulhausen's unit left for Korea on Aug. 3, the same date as the regional commemoration. And though his tour, which ended in November 1951, was more than 50 years ago, his vision of his experience as a young man in combat is far from distant.

"I carried a bazooka," Mulhausen said. "When you're in a combat area it's not easy. I was right out of high school. I didn't attend boot camp. Determination and faith in God got me through."

The Committee and Mulhausen look forward to seeing veterans who returned home after the war, travel to Oklahoma City and rekindle spirit and friendship that the



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

**Michael Gonzalez, curator for the 45th Infantry Division Museum in Oklahoma City, speaks to visitors.**

past two commemorations in Savannah, Ga., and Phoenix, Ariz., brought to their veterans and families.

Center stage for the commemoration ceremony is Oklahoma City's Coca-Cola building in Bricktown, located next to the SBC Bricktown Ballpark where the Oklahoma Redhawks play. The event begins at 10 a.m. For more information call the Committee's public affairs office at 703-602-6841.

**The Committee's next regional commemoration event is in Oklahoma City on Aug. 3.**

# Land of Lincoln gives degees to vets

The Illinois passed a bill to allow school districts in the state of Illinois to issue high school diplomas to honorably discharged veterans of World War II and the Korean War who left high school before graduating to serve in the Armed Forces.

Diplomas may be issued posthumously and their surviving family members of these eligible veterans should also apply.

If the veteran attended a Chicago Public School, veterans (or family members) should contact:

Mr. Wilfredo Ortiz  
CPS-Office of High School Development  
125 South Clark Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago 60603  
773-553-3540 ph  
773-553-3542 fax

Otherwise, they should contact the local superintendent of the high school district or Regional County Superintendent if the school district no longer exists.



## Commemoration Partner puts Air Force to work

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 51 from Spokane, Wash., ordered 250 Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medals for its members. Dick Hazelmyer, in Lester Guidry-like fashion, spearheaded the project.



Guidry is the veteran from Lafayette, La., who first made headlines when he personally delivered applications to Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. The Air Force is the lead agency for all U.S. service members who earned the medal. When Guidry arrived at Randolph shortly after the commemoration period began in 2000, his package was the first and largest group processed by the Air Force.

After a story in the local newspaper about the service medal was published, applications came to Hazelmyer's post. He is planning to hold a medal presentation ceremony on Veterans Day.

## Whitley County partners add name to memorial list

Whitley County, Ind., will unveil its Korean War Memorial on Memorial Day. The 2 p.m. ceremony honors the five Whitley County men who died during the war and all other veterans of the county who served.

The following five men who gave their lives during the war will have their names etched on the memorial:

David J. Debolt  
William G. Joy  
Glen G. Kemery  
Gene R. Ruby  
John J. Wasson

The six-foot high memorial includes four pictures and a poem titled "We Remember" by M. Garvey.

The memorial is located at the Court House Square in Columbia City, Ind. The project, completed ahead of time, was scheduled to be completed by July 2003.



## This Date in History

**May 15, 1951:** The British 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, returned to Hong Kong, relieved by the King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

**May 15, 1952:** Air Force First Lieutenant James H. Kasler, 4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing, became the war's 15th ace after downing two MiGs.

**May 12, 1952:** General Mark W. Clark succeeded General Matthew Ridgway as commander of UN forces. General Ridgway replaced the retiring General Dwight Eisenhower in Europe.

**May 10, 1951:** The Battle of Bunker Hill began with action by the 38th Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division.

**May 9, 1951:** Three hundred and twelve Air Force, Marine, and Navy planes hit Sinuiju Airfield in one of the largest air raids of the war.

**May 8, 1951:** The North Koreans charged the United Nations Command with the use of germ warfare.

**May 6, 1951:** British-equipped volunteer troops from Ethiopia arrived in Korea, the men hand-picked from Haile Selassie's Imperial Bodyguard. Ethiopia was the 17th country to come to the assistance of the Republic of Korea.

**May 6, 1953:** Planes from the carriers *Princeton* and *Valley Forge* blast a mining area northwest of Songjin, causing numerous secondary explosions and destroying buildings and a main transformer station. The heavy cruiser *Saint Paul* and the destroyer *Nicholas* fire on coastal supply routes and storage areas.

**May 5, 1953:** The battleship USS *New Jersey*, the cruiser USS

*Bremerton*, and the destroyers USS *Twining* and *Colohan* destroy troop shelters, caves, concrete ammunition bunkers, and an observation post.

**May 3, 1951:** The US Navy's Air Group 19 conducted an air strike on the Hwachon Dam with twelve flack-suppressing F4U Corsairs and eight AD3 Skyraiders armed with Mark-13 aerial torpedoes. This was the first use of these weapons since World War II.

**May 3, 1952:** Air Force Capt. Robert T. Latshaw, Jr., 4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing, and Major Donald E. Adams, 51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing, became the thirteenth and fourteenth jet aces of the Korean War.

**May 3, 1953:** The first contingent of the Canadian 25th Infantry Brigade arrived in Korea commanded by Brigadier John Meredith Rockingham, CBE, DSO. The brigade included the 2nd Field Regiment of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment, and the 2nd Battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment, a French Canadian infantry unit.

**May 3, 1953:** Operation Little Switch, the exchange of 6,670 Communist and 684 UN Command sick and wounded prisoners, was completed.

**May 2, 1952:** The Communists rejected UN proposals over questions of voluntary repatriation and proposed to withdraw the nomination of the Soviet Union from the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission if the UN Command agreed the forcible repatriation of 132,000 prisoners in exchange for 12,000 held by the Communists. Admiral C. Turner Joy rejected the

proposal on behalf of the UN Command.

**May 2, 1953:** The Communists proposed sending non-repatriated prisoners to the members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission. The UN Command insisted that prisoners should be held by neutral nations in Korea.

**May 1, 1951:** The first phase of the Chinese Spring offensive was halted north of Seoul.

**May 1, 1951:** 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.

**May 1, 1951:** 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.

**April 28, 1951:** The 1st Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers, arrived and relieved the 1st Battalion, Argyle and Sutherland Highland Regiment, in the 27th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade.

**April 25, 1951:** Eighth Army was pushed back twenty miles. The volunteer battalion from Belgium and Luxembourg was cut off but fought its way to safety after a twenty-hour siege. Members of the battalion had high praise for the support provided by US Marine Corsairs.

Corporal John Essebagger, A Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, became the Korean War's 63rd Medal of Honor recipient.

# HONOR ROLL

## A Salute to veterans during Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

While many Asian-Americans served with distinction in the Korean War, three American soldiers received the Medal of Honor. Two of these men were members of the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division: Corporal Hiroshi Miyamura of Company H, a Nisei soldier born in Gallup, New Mexico, and Sergeant Leroy A. Mendonca of Company B, a native of Honolulu.



Sergeant Hiroshi Miyamura, a repatriated prisoner of war, is congratulated by Brigadier General Ralph M. Osborne as he is told he will receive the Medal of Honor. (*National Archives*)

On the night of April 24, 1951, Miyamura's unit occupied a defensive position near Taejon, South Korea, when it was attacked by the enemy. As the enemy force overran the Americans' position, Corporal Miyamura, a machine-gun squad leader, leaped from his shelter and, in close hand-to-hand combat, killed 10 of the enemy with his bayonet. After the first attack, while Miyamura administered first aid to the wounded and ordered the evacuation of his men, the enemy dealt another savage blow. Miyamura delivered devastating fire with his machine gun until he ran out of ammunition. He then bayoneted his way to a second gun emplacement and covered the withdrawal of his unit with machine gun fire until his ammunition was depleted. Miyamura killed more than 50 of the enemy before he was severely wounded and later captured. He spent 28 months as a prisoner of war and was released in August 1953. Word of his Medal of Honor was kept secret during his time in captivity for his protection.

Sergeant Leroy Mendonca's platoon of Company B had captured Hill 586 near Chich-on, North Korea, on July 4, 1951. A large enemy force assaulted his platoon during the night, and Mendonca volunteered to remain in an exposed position to cover the platoon's withdrawal. Under heavy enemy fire, he fired his weapon and hurled grenades at the enemy.

When he ran out of ammunition, Mendonca used his rifle as a club and his bayonet in hand-to-hand combat. It is estimated he killed 37 enemy soldiers before falling mortally wounded. Mendonca's bold action stalled the crushing enemy assault, protected his platoon's withdrawal to secondary positions and enabled his unit to repel the attack and retain possession of its key hilltop position.

Private First Class Herbert K. Pililau of Company C, 23d Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division, another Hawaiian native, also received the Medal of Honor for gallant action. On Sept. 17, 1951, Pililau's platoon was defending key terrain on Heartbreak Ridge near Pia-ri, North Korea, against succeeding waves of enemy troops. Almost out of ammunition, his unit was ordered to withdraw, and Pililau volunteered to cover the withdrawal. He fired his automatic weapon into the charging enemy ranks, threw all of his grenades and finally closed with the enemy in hand-to-hand combat with a trench knife and bare fists until he was mortally wounded. When the position was later retaken, more than 40 enemy dead were counted in the area that Pililau had defended.

