



Vol. 2 Issue 9

38th Parallel

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

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SSG Tim Volkert

Lee Ann Ghajar, historian with the Women In Military Service for America Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C., eyes the exhibit of Korean War Veteran nurse and photographer Nancy Crosby. See Page 5 for the story.

Next stop: Tampa Bay

The Department of Defense will host the nation's first Korean War commemoration ceremony for 2003 with the city of Tampa on Jan. 18 at the Tampa Convention Center.

"We know first hand of the tremendous spirit of patriotism and the strong support for the military and veteran populations that abound in Tampa and the region around Tampa Bay," said retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Nels Running, executive director of the Korean War Commemoration Committee. "We look for the Tampa ceremony to give a terrific jump start to the culminating year of the Korean War's 50th anniversary commemoration."

The ceremony begins at noon on Jan. 18 and will be followed by a reception. Veterans and other attendees will see the presentation of the Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medal to five Korea War veterans, each representing his or her respective branch of service.

The Republic of Korea originally offered the medal in 1951 to United

Nations forces serving in Korea and adjacent waters, but U.S. law prohibited service members from wearing foreign military awards. By the time Congress changed the law in 1954, the Armistice was in effect and most veterans had returned home. The Department of Defense approved wear of the medal in 1998.

More than 1.8 millions Americans who fought in the Korean War are authorized to receive it. Deceased veterans' next of kin also may apply for the medal.

Veterans and surviving family members may receive the medal by calling Randolph Air Force Base, Texas personnel office toll free at 1-866-229-7074.

In addition to its strong military presence, Tampa Bay's cultural diversity, military resources and mild winter weather make the city an excellent location for the event. As a result, the committee is expecting a large turnout.



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Committee closes in on CP goal

After breaking the 10,000-member barrier in the summer -- the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6599 in Seattle became the 10,000th Commemoration Partner in August -- the Committee is closing in on eclipsing 11,000 commemoration partners in 2003.

With the 50th anniversary of the Armistice roughly eight months away, the 11,000-member mark is in sight and appears well within reach. That number

is significant considering the fact the much celebrated World War II commemoration had 11,000 partners in its four year span.

Although the Korean War Commemoration is scheduled to end on Veterans Day in 2003, July 27 will be the cutoff date for receiving commemoration partner applications.

In the meantime, potential partners may be lurking in the state of Florida as

the Committee prepares to honor veterans in Tampa on Jan. 18, 2003 at the Tampa Convention Center by hosting a commemoration event with the City of Tampa.

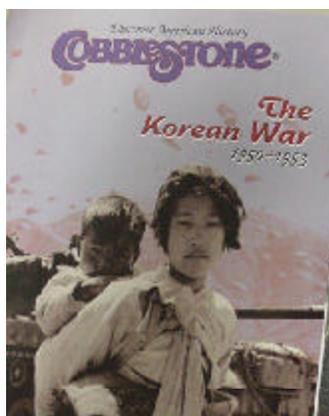
Florida has one of the highest numbers of Korean War veterans of any state in the nation with more than 250,000. It is also the home state of two Korean War Medal of Honor recipients.

Oregon remembers

The Rogue Valley Chapter #257 Korean War Veterans Association of Medford, Ore., remembers not only its veterans, but the families of veterans. Some of the members pictured in this picture are widows who received the Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medal on behalf of fallen veterans.



Courtesy photo



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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.

South Carolina high school student captures essay writing contest

Editor's note: Earlier this year Congressman Jim DeMint of South Carolina sponsored an essay contest about the Korean War. Below is one of the winning essays written by Kevin Joel Ledford from the Greenville, S.C. area. The essay is a tribute to his grandfather, Joel Ledford, who entered the Army at the age of 17 and was injured during the defense of the Pusan Perimeter.

A true veteran, in my eyes, is someone who has a love for their country and family. Someone who is willing to die for his or her country, and someone who, no matter what it takes, will go out or his or her way to help someone in need. If only people knew what the men and women of past wars and battles went through, so that we can freely do the things that we want to do.

My grandfather, Joel Ledford, is a Korean War veteran. I can call my grandfather this because he was willing to give his life to insure the safety of others. My grandfather is a man of honor, a man who would go anywhere to fight any battle. He is a man that would do anything for his country. The think I like most about my grandfather is that he was such a strong man, spiritually and physically. My grandfather was always doing everything he could to help me grow into a strong person.

I can remember times when I was younger, going over to his house and helping him do yard work. He would always make me march like a soldier, stand at attention like a soldier and would do, and he would make me march back out. At the time, I thought all of these things were dumb and that there was no point in the. But now I know he was just

trying to help me become a strong individual.

He passed away about a year ago and now I regret not being with him mo9re and not listening to him when he was just trying to t o help me.

With the hot sun beating down, my grandfather and numerous other brave soldiers wee defending the Pusan Perimeter, starting each day without knowing whether they were going to live, so that the people of South Korea could be protected against communist aggression. Joel R. Ledford was a squad leader who made sure that everything he did was for the safety of his men and the good of the country.

During one of the battles, he was out on the battlefield and was shot in the head. He was lying there on the ground unconscious when all the American soldiers were picking up the wounded when the battle was over. The men walked past my grandpa thinking he was dead when another soldier a few yards away told the people that my grandpa was alive. If it was not for that one man and the grace of God, my grandfather would have laid there and died.

Because of being shot in the head, my grandfather faced problems for the rest of his life. He started getting unhealthy as he got older. About a year ago, he died from his liver failing. I thank God every day for my family, especially my grandpa, because in my eyes he died for his country and his family.

The Korean Was is also called the Forgotten War. That really upsets me when I hear people call it that because soldiers like my grandpa should never be forgotten. They made a sacrifice that many of us would never make today.

2003 Commemoration Events

**Joint Service
Regional Commemoration**
Tampa, Fla.
Jan. 18

**Joint Service
Regional Commemoration**
San Antonio, Texas
March 8

**Joint Service
Regional Commemoration**
Detroit, Mich.
March 22

Armistice Day Ceremony
Washington, D.C.
July 27

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.

Flight engineer receives flying cross

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (Nov. 15, 2002) — For the second time in his career, a former Air Force flight engineer has been awarded one of the service's highest combat honors. Only this time, the honor came 50 years after the fact. John D. Goolsbee Sr., a retired senior master sergeant, was awarded his second Distinguished Flying Cross Nov. 14 during a ceremony at the Air Intelligence Agency here.

The San Antonio resident previously received the DFC in 1945 during World War II. Like his first DFC, Goolsbee earned this one for his participation in a single mission.

During the course of that mission on Sept. 17, 1952, Goolsbee, then a technical sergeant assigned to the 38th Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, and 11 other crewmembers on board an RB-50 reconnaissance aircraft flew 14 hours over the Franz Joseph Archipelago in the Soviet Union, collecting sensitive intelligence data.

The mission, classified at the time, was one of many conducted during the Cold War era at the direction of President Harry Truman in an effort to counter a potential threat to the United States by the Soviet Union.

As Maj. Gen. Paul Lebras, AIA commander, presented Goolsbee the medal, he lauded him for his efforts and called him a hero.

"The legacy of men like Senior Master Sergeant Goolsbee is largely unheralded," the general said. "They served in silence, with no expectation of public recognition, content with just getting the mission done. So, it's only fitting that today we honor this fine American hero. It is because of people like him that we won the Cold War and made the world a better place.

Goolsbee was ecstatic to receive the award.

"You do me great honor," Goolsbee told a crowd of about 150 people. "Now our story kept classified for 50 years can be told."

In recalling the events of that mission, Goolsbee remembers severe weather and an almost aborted mission.

"We took off in zero-zero weather," he said. "And at one point we lost 700 gallons of our 1,000-gallon reserve fuel, due to a faulty fuel pump in one our drop tanks. So, we had to have a quick huddle to see if we could still accomplish the mission.

"I knew I had to do my best cruise control problem to date if we were going to get through this mission successfully. If we had aborted, there would have been no second attempt to fly the mission. The president of the United States had signed off on this mission and we wanted to see that it was completed."

Goolsbee and his crew finished the mission successfully, but were unable to be recognized for their efforts due to the mission's classification. It was not until the fall of the Soviet Union and the declassification of the mission by



The distinguished flying cross is one of the highest military aviation medals in the U.S. military.

former President Bill Clinton in 2000 that Goolsbee or anyone on his crew was able to talk about it.

"Once we flew the mission, everything was removed from the aircraft and we never discussed it again," Goolsbee said. "With the declassification of it two years ago, we are now able to let our good works be known."

Goolsbee was accompanied to the ceremony by friends, family members and several of his former RB-50 crewmembers, including his former aircraft commander, Lt. Col. Roy Kaden, whom he credits for receiving this award.

"If it were not for Lieutenant Colonel Kaden's devotion to duty and tenacity to see that his crew was recognized, this ceremony would not have happened," Goolsbee said. "He worked diligently for two years to see his men recognized after 50 years."

Besides the medal presentation, the AIA honor guard rifle team performed a special tribute for Goolsbee.

He also was presented an American flag and a scarf and coin from Lt. Col. Kurt Kramer, commander of the current-day 38th Reconnaissance Squadron at Offutt AFB, Neb., the unit in which Goolsbee was assigned.

Besides the two DFC medals, Goolsbee is also the recipient of the Air Medal with 10 oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the European Theater of Operation Medal with five battle stars, the American Defense Medal, the American Theater of Operation Medal, and the World War Two Victory Medal.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to any person, who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. armed forces, distinguishes himself for heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight.

(Tech. Sgt. David Donato Air Force News)

Pen and Picture

Navy nurse's hobby documents 'Forgotten War'

For half a century Nancy Crosby's Kodachrome slides and diary entries remained stowed away in a box, destined to become lost in time.

She said she didn't think anyone had interest in them but her. She couldn't be more wrong.

As a nurse aboard the Navy hospital ship USS Haven during the Korean War, Crosby documented her daily life taking pictures and notes. Her collection of memories became an exhibit at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

The exhibit is a look back into the Korean War, focusing on the men, women and equipment. It documents views of the fallen service members arriving at the hospital ship for treatment and doctors and nurses working feverishly to save lives. The expressions of both the hurt and the healers in the midst of war reflect through the lens one image at a time, one sentence at a time in Crosby's work.

In one photo, baseball hall of famer Ted Williams stands on the deck with baseball glove in hand. Crosby documents how Williams stayed aboard a few extra days after he recovered from illness to sign autographs and help brighten the spirits of the injured men and the crew of the ship.

With pictures of nurses visiting the towns and orphanages with impoverished children amidst backdrops of run-down shacks and dirt roads, her exhibit also captures the compassion of American service members.

The photos were "discovered" by Navy Medical Department Historian Jan Herman while he was interviewing Korean War veterans for a book he is writing. After hearing about Crosby through some of his contacts, he interviewed her and she told him she had a box of old photos she had taken during her time aboard the ship.

When Herman found out that Crosby had kept a diary of her Korean War service and donated it to the Women in Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc., he began talking with the WIMSA members. Together, they decided to create an exhibit using the diary and photos as a tribute to Korean War veterans. The exhibit seemed fitting since the Department of Defense is currently commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Korean War.

While Crosby said she had no idea her collection of mementos would be used in this way, she said she is happy that her exhibit is helping pay tribute to Korean War veterans and will help educate people about what this generation of Americans accomplished.

"I was floored," Crosby said. "I am overwhelmed and



Courtesy photo

Nancy Crosby, left, was a nurse aboard the USS Haven during the Korean War.

very excited and pleased about it. I hope other people who have photographs to submit will do so. "The Korean War was swept under the rug for so many years."

Ghajar and Herman both couldn't agree more about the worth of this exhibit and other Korean War commemoration events.

"We recognize what they did was valuable," Herman said. "They were heroes and this is an opportunity for us to recognize them while they're still here. We have a tendency in our culture to recognize people after they're dead. But those people never get the joy of knowing that anybody ever appreciated what they did." (SSG Tim Volkert)

Editor's Note: The exhibit will be on display at the Commemoration Ceremony in Tampa, Fla., Jan. 18, 2003. For more information about the exhibit and how to request the display for viewing at your organizational event, call WIMSA at 1-800-222-2294 or e-mail them at wimsacura@aol.com.

Joint effort

Kyoung Suk Lee from the Fort Worth, Texas Korean Association, sings “America the Beautiful” at the North Farrington High School football game in Dallas, Texas on Oct. 19. More than 70 Korean War veterans were honored by receiving their Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medal.

Retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Nels Running, executive director for the Dept. of Defense 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, was one of the guest speakers.



(Courtesy photo)

Marine dresses the part, salutes vets

Sergeant Tim A. Chambers, legal clerk for the Chief Defense Counsel of the Marine Corps, and Partner with the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee toasted over 30 bottles of sparkling apple cider to the veterans on Memorial Day weekend in Washington, D.C.

Along with toasting to the veterans (while wearing a full Korean War uniform worn on the front lines) he had a display of the history of the Korean War and passed out flyers, posters, bookmarks, coins, pins, cd's, stickers, and informative packets pertaining to the Korean War.

Chambers would tell the crowd “They say it’s the forgotten war, but not in our hearts, and I pray not in yours!”

Chambers, a Silverton, Ore., native, first started volunteering for the Committee about two years ago, then decided to apply to be a partner for the committee so he could put his own events together to honor the Korean War veterans by educating the public, and informing the veterans about the Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medal that was approved by the Department of Defense in 1998 to be given to all veterans of the Korean War, or to their next of kin.



Dressed in Korean War-era garb, Marine Corps Sgt. Tim Chambers challenged all non-veterans to “go thank a veteran, and not when it was just convenient for you. Not just on Memorial Day or Veteran’s Day.” In reference to his volunteer experience he said, “I have never been more appreciated than by our veterans. They treat the junior enlisted as if they were in the trench with them so many years ago. There is no better feeling.” (Courtesy photo)



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

This Date in History

Nov. 21, 1950: The battleship USS *New Jersey* was recommissioned and re-entered active service under the command of Capt. David M. Tyree. On this same day in 1952, the *New Jersey* was relieved in the Korean Theater of operations.

Nov. 20, 1950: The 60th Indian Field Ambulance and Surgical Unit arrived at Pusan to join the UN forces in Korea.

The 41 British Marine Independent Commando, with 14 officers and 221 other ranks, joined the U.S. 1st Marine Division at Hungnam. Forty-one Commando, which had earlier seen action at Kunsan as part of a diversionary raid in support of the Inchon Invasion, fought with distinction at Koto-ri in the Chosin/Changjin Reservoir campaign.

Nov. 18, 1951: For the first time in the Korean War, MiG jet fighters were destroyed on the ground in North Korea by two F-86 Sabres in a strafing run.

Nov. 17, 1952: Naval air forces of Task Force 77 began a two-day bombing campaign targeting

Hoeryong on the Tumen River in North Korea.

Nov. 12, 1951: The battleship USS *New Jersey* fired its 3,000th 16-inch round of the war as it completed its first tour of duty in the Korean theater of operations.

Nov. 9, 1950: Lieutenant Commander William T. Amen, piloting an F9F Panther, downed a MiG-15 and recorded the first jet-to-jet aerial victory in U.S. Navy history.

Corporal Harry J. LaVene, a tail gunner on a RB-29 over Sinuiju, became the first aerial gunner to shoot down a MiG-15.

Nov. 8, 1950: Air Force 1st Lt. Russell J. Brown recorded history's first jet-versus-jet aerial victory as he shot down the first MiG-15 of the war. Lieutenant Brown was flying an F-80C Shooting Star out of the 51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing.

The Korean Service Medal was authorized by Executive Order 10179. Some 1.7 million U.S. service members were eventually awarded this medal for service in Korea and its

contiguous waters between June 25, 1950 and Jan. 31, 1954.

Nov. 5, 1950: General Douglas MacArthur ordered a heavy air offensive over North Korea, including the Yalu River bridges at Sinuiju. This order was in violation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff directive forbidding bombing within five miles of the Yalu River.

The 452nd Bombardment Wing (Light) sent its B-26s on their first combat mission. The 452nd was the first all-reserve USAF to enter combat in Korea.

Nov. 4, 1952: Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected President with 55 percent of the vote. On the eve of the election he had announced that if elected he would go to Korea.

Nov. 4, 1950: The first incendiary bombs used in the Korean War are dropped by B-29 Superfortresses of the US Air Force's 98th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on the city of Chongjin in northeastern Korea.

HONOR ROLL

Raymond G. Murphy

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Organization: U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Reinforced).

Place and date: Korea, Feb. 3, 1953.

Entered service at: Pueblo, Colo.

Birth: 1930, Pueblo, Colo.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a Platoon Commander of Company A, First Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced), in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea on Feb. 3, 1953. Although painfully wounded by fragments from an enemy mortar shell while leading his evacuation platoon in support of assault units attacking a cleverly concealed and well-entrenched hostile force occupying commanding ground, Second Lieutenant Murphy steadfastly refused medical aid and continued to lead his men up a hill through a withering barrage of hostile mortar and small-arms fire, skillfully maneuvering his force from one position to the next and shouting words of encouragement.

Undeterred by the increasing intense enemy fire, he immediately located casualties as they fell and made several trips up and down the fire-swept hill to direct evacuation teams to the wounded, personally carrying many of the stricken Marines to safety. When reinforcements were needed by the assaulting elements, Murphy employed part of his unit as support and, during the ensuing battle, personally killed two of the enemy with his pistol. With all the wounded evacuated and the assaulting units beginning to disengage, he remained behind with a carbine to cover the movement of friendly forces off the hill, and though suffering intense pain from his previous wounds, seized an automatic rifle to provide more firepower when the enemy reappeared in the trenches.

After reaching the base of the hill, he organized a search party and again ascended the slope for a final check on missing Marines, locating and carrying the bodies of a machine-gun crew back down the hill. Wounded a second time while conducting the entire force to the line of departure through a continuing barrage of enemy small-arms, artillery and mortar fire, he again refused medical assistance until assured that every one of his men, including all casualties, had preceded him to the main lines. His resolute inspiring leadership, exceptional fortitude and great personal valor reflect the highest credit upon Murphy and enhance the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

