



# Korean War Ex-POW

## ASSOCIATION®



The Forgotten War June 1950 - July 1953

**Died: 36,568**

**Wounded: 103,284**

**MIA: 8,177**

Founded in 1976 by William K. Norwood

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### President's Message

from Franklin "Jack" Chapman

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2006.

Our annual reunion is fast approaching and we are looking forward to seeing everyone in Nashville, Tennessee. If you have not made your reservations, the cut off date is June 22, 2006. Reservations received after this date will be processed on space and rate availability. The suggested tours look very promising, see enclosed insert. I would like to request if you are not fully handicapped, please save the handicap rooms for those who are in a wheelchair. *Thanks.*

I would like to express my appreciation to Edmund Reel for the hard work he has done over the past several years as our Nomination Chairman. Ed mentioned at the San Antonio, Texas, reunion that he was retiring. *Thanks Ed, for a job well done.*

### Korean War POW/MIA Report (JPAC)

Steven Thompson of JPAC reports the lost of a former member of JPAC. Marine SSgt Kenneth Pospisil of Andover, MN was killed in action in Iraq during combat actions on December 14, 2005.

*Our friends, Phillip A. O'Brien OSD-DPMO and Steve Thompson, JPAC, submitted the following update on recovery and identification work.*

The really big item for all of us is the continuing effect of not having teams in North Korea. Later this year, maybe, we honestly don't know. But for now, even with other unrelated work around the world, we have a few extra anthropologists at hand. That means more table work and more identification. Three categories:

Of the 867 official Unknowns from the Korean War, one is at Arlington. Of the 866 from the Punchbowl, seven have now been exhumed, of whom 2 have been identified. Both are Marines who died in the Chosin Reservoir campaign. Requests are now in work to exhume 2 others.

Meanwhile, of the 208 caskets returned by the North Koreans during 1990-1994, 16 have now been identified. From Chosin Reservoir: 2 men; one, Cpl Edwin C. Steigerwalt, was a short-term POW who died en route to Kanggye. Five other POWs from the Suan POW Camps have been identified: Cpl Leslie Ray Heath, SFC Walter Leroy Hood, PFC Ross William Katzman, Cpl Arthur Leo Seaton, and PFC John Morrise Washington.

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## Sick Call

Please notify me if you know someone that is sick, it is the only way we can let our membership know.

Harold (Red) Sitler

Donald Bittner

Val J. Cale

Johnny Johnson

William Crews

Floyd Espinoza

James Ball

Tom Lyke

## Taps

**CONTREARAS**, Ernest E. died 2/22/06. Association President, 2002-2003. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis, and children. *He served with A Co, 5 Cav, 1 Cav Div. Camp 1.*

**COSTIN**, Herbert L. died 8/11/05. *He served with F Co. 21 Inf, 24 Div. Camp 1.*

**DR. ESENSTEN**, Sidney, died 2/7/06, one day before his 83rd birthday. Dr. Esensten was helpful to many POW's in North Korea. He is survived by his wife Gloria, and sons. *He served with Med. Co. 27 Inf, 25 Div. Camps 2 & 5.*

**FABOR**, Albert "Dean" died 11/26/05. He is survived by his wife, Rachel L. *He served with D Co. 1 Cav.*

**FOMBY**, Roy N. died 2/10/02. *He served with C Co. 35 Inf, 25 Div. Camps 5 & 4.*

**GODSEY**, Raymond N, died 6/28/04. *He served with A Btry 15 FA Bn, 2 Div. Escaped.*

**INGALSBEE**, Claude H. died 9/8/2005. *He served with F Co. 9th Inf. 2 Div, Camps 5 & 3.*

**McLAIN**, Jacob S. died 12/28/04 at the age 91. *He served with C Co, 38 Inf, 2 Div. Camp 5 & 4.*

## Chaplain's Corner

Norman Hale, Chaplain

Hello to my buddies and families. Hope all are doing fine. I hope you are all doing well as I am. The time goes by so fast. When we meet, I feel like I have missed seeing half of you. I want you all know that I always keep you in my prayers. I am looking forward to seeing each of you in Nashville. In Proverbs 18:24, the Bible says, "There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." I would like to leave you with prayer: Our Father, we thank Thee for friends who believe in us and pray for us, friends whose faith in us makes us better than we otherwise would be. Our father, we pray for each of our buddies and their family, the leaders of our great nation. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

## This and That

**PURPLE HEART BILL:** HR 2369 "Honor Our Fallen Prisoners of War Act" now has 104 co-sponsors in the house and S 2157 in the Senate has just one co-sponsor. Your help is urgently requested so that those men who died while a Prisoner of War will be awarded the Purple Heart Medal. This medal will, of course be presented to the next of kin. Please contact your Senators and Representatives and ask that they sign on.

**ATTENTION WIVES:** If your POW husband goes before you do, be sure to have some input with the Doctor about what goes on the death certificate. Even if your husband is 100% service connected, the cause of death might not be listed as one of the items that he is service connected for and the repayment for funeral expenses would then only be \$500. A service connected death repayment is \$2000. Also, be sure that the funeral director is told that this is service connected (if indeed it is) and when the funeral director fills out Form 21-530 to file for reimbursement from the VA he will know to check the "yes" box in number 11 where it asks "Are you claiming that the cause of death was due to service?" *Received from Betty Harlan.*

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:** Chairman Donald Denny needs candidates for 1<sup>ST</sup> Vice, 2<sup>ND</sup> Vice and Association President. Members whose term expires this year must let Chairman Denny know if they plan to seek re-election.

## Contributions

- Larry Casilac in memory of Bud Barker
- Rodney Baker and Neil H. Arnspiger for Operating Funds
- Sheri Ellis, in memory of her father, Walter Spivey
- Dr. William R. Shadish in memory of Major General John L. McLaughlin

## Korean War POW/MIA Report (JPAC)

*continued from page 1*

Also identified are 2 men from the area above the DMZ, 4 aircrew members from a B-29 bomber, 2 men in the Unsan battle zone, and 1 POW working north from Death Valley to Camp 5, SFC Richard Joseph Cabrel.

Between 1996 and 2005, we recovered over 220 sets of remains from throughout North Korea, of whom 26 have been identified: 10 from the Unsan battle zone, 8 from around Kujang, 1 from around Kunu-ri, and 7 from Chosin. We have also identified 1 pilot whose remains were recovered from the Yalu River in Dandong, China. Two of the men from near Unsan were short-term POWs: Cpl Richard Celestine Wasinger from the Unsan battle itself, and Sgt Mitchell Allen Wallace who was a Kunu-ri POW working through the area when he died at a near by village.

The long and the short of it is that we are not just collecting and identifying battlefield deaths. A total of 9 men who died as POWs have now been sent home to their families, and we hope that many others will follow.

Steve related, JPAC is launching a team to South Korea in March for a month of investigations. Chief Warrant Officer Keith Davis, who you remember from the 2004 reunion in Ft. Mitchell, will be leading the investigations. Our hope is to identify sites for recovery operations at a later date. We are also planning to go back to South Korea in August to conduct recoveries and additional recoveries. We currently have two scheduled for excavation in August and our investigations will hopefully add more sites to our recovery list.

We are also developing a lead on a South Korea burial location for a short-term POW. I can give you more information on this case later as things unfold.

Phillip also mentioned that, Mr. Bob Newberry was appointed Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs in January 2006. A new man and a good man, we'll miss those who have come before, but we'll be doing great things with him on board.

### Keep us in the Loop

If you move, or no longer wish to receive the newsletter, or if you are going away for the winter, **please** notify Tim Casey or me.

*Remember, if you did not receive your December newsletter, perhaps it is because you were temporarily away or changed your address without letting us know.*

If you would like to receive our newsletter by email in pdf format, please email me at [fjchap@aol.com](mailto:fjchap@aol.com). If you choose this option you will no longer receive a print copy.

## Taps, cont.

**MOORE**, Russell M. died 9/27/04. *He served with B Co. 38 Inf. 2 Div. Camp 1.*

**O'CONNOR**, Joseph L. died 4/23/05. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie. *He served with Hq. 3 Bn, 8 Cav, 1 Cav. Camp 2 & 5.*

**RICHARSON**, S.D. died 10/26/03. *He served with B Co, 35 Inf, 25 Div. Camp 5 & 4.*

**Brigadier General, REID**, Ernest, USMC, died 12/27/05. He is survived by his wife. He was captured on November 29, 1950 at Hell's Fire Valley. *Camp 2 & 5.*

**ROWE**, Frank L. died, 11/16/2005 at age 85. *Company A. 19 Inf, 24 Div. Camp 3.*

**RYE**, Jay died 1/5/06. During WWII, he was captured by the Japanese and was on the infamous Bataan Death March in the Philippines. He was captured during the first few days of the Korean War. *He served with K Co. 34 Inf, 24 Div. Camp 3 & 7.*

**SHAWE**, Hamilton Bruce died 12/25/02. He is survived by his wife Bettie L. *He served with 8 TRS, 49 FBG, USAF. Camp 2 & 5.*

**SHOUSE**, Robert E. died 1/11/02. *He served with G Co. 19 Inf, 24 Div.*

**SYKES**, Leroy, died 2/20/06. *Camp 5.*

**TANNER**, Douglas A. He is survived by his wife, Jinny and children. *He served with B Co, 31 Inf, 7 Div. Camps 1 & 4.*

**WERTH**, Edwin A. died, 7/9/2001. He is survived by his wife, Frieda. *He served with 2 Recon Co., 2 Div. Camp 5.*

**WITT**, Johnnie, died, 7/4/04. *He served with G Co, 38 Inf. 2 Div. Camps 5, 3, & 4.*

## Taps, cont.

**YORK**, Georgia died 12/19/05. She was survived by her husband Edmund York.

**YORK**, Edmund D, died 2/5/06. He is survived by his children. He served with *L Co, 23 Inf, 2 Div, Camp 1.*

*Information received from their son John.*

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*Correction to December Newsletter:*  
ZACHERELE, Alarich, was the  
Commander of the 2nd Engr C Bn,  
2nd Div. not in USAF as stated.

## Tiger News

The Tiger Chop Chop will be held Friday, July 28, 2006 at 5:30 PM in the host hotel. Cost will be \$35.00 per adult and \$17.00 for children 12 and under. *Contact Shorty for more information.*

## Your Help is Needed

**SEEKING INFORMATION:** Charles W. Shaw, nephew of Charles Wade Shaw, B/57 FA, 31 RCT., is seeking information on his Uncle who was perhaps captured, in November/December 1950 in or near the Chosen Reservoir. His Grandmother just turned 98 and would like information on her son.

**REUNION RAFFLE:** Audrey Delong has graciously accepted to take over the raffle at the Nashville Reunion. *Thank you Audrey*, she will need a lot of help. If you would like to help by donating items for the raffle or by helping staff the tables, please let her know.

**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE, WASHINGTON DC:** Two volunteers are needed to carry our colors. This is an out of the pocket expense for those wishing participate. Please let me know no later than April 30, 2006.

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INFORMATION.

## Hawaii Mini Reunion

The Mini Hawaii Reunion is set for April 2-10, 2006. Nick Nishimoto has 30 rooms blocked at Hale Koa Hotel. You must have a valid military ID card to register at the hotel. If you are interested, call the Hale Koa Hotel, under the name of POWs Hawaii Chapter, 1-800-367-6027.

## POW Trivia

Do you remember when the Chinese would assemble us and the "high commanders" would harangue us. We would have to huddle in the freezing cold and listen to speeches that were sometimes three hours long or more, counting the pauses for translation from Chinese into English.

Remember how we learned to tell how long a man would speak by the way he was dressed. If he wore a fur cap with a leather bill, he was just a little wheel and wouldn't talk very long. If he wore a fur cap with a leather bill and had a wrist watch and a fountain pen, he was medium-sized wheel and might speak for an hour or two. If he wore a fur cap with a leather bill, a leather jacket, had a wrist watch, a fountain pen and if he smoked tailor-made cigarettes and had a small boy bring him hot tea as he talked, he was a big wheel, probably straight out of Peking, and we might have to huddle there in the cold the better part of a day.

## For The POWs Of The Korean War

Gentlemen,

If I know anything about you, it's that most of you will probably chuckle to yourselves that I greeted you as "gentlemen." Please understand that I do so out of respect, and not to imply that your experiences had molded you into (literally) "gentle" men. If anything, I would imagine that your experiences added to a diversity, complexity and most of all an adaptability within you that many people could never understand, much less emulate. While I'm sure you can play the part of a "gentleman" at the drop of a hat, I believe you don't think of yourself in the way our society has defined that term. That you survived captivity by Communist North Korea tells me that, at least.

I am a Viet Nam combat veteran, and I have met the Communists face-to-face, but only briefly. Even those brief encounters shook me. That you survived captivity for years is amazing. I understand many of your brothers did not survive it.

How can we thank you? How can we repay you? Perhaps we cannot, no matter how hard we may try, no matter how much we say, do or give: how can it be enough? I believe that anything we do is not enough, and the treatment you may have received from the V.A. is just as often like a slap in the face as it is any balm to help you survive further. Perhaps even more often than not, for I am familiar with the workings of the V.A.

I will give my thanks. My sincere thanks. You fought for Liberty, for Freedom. The Freedom and Liberty that I, my family, children, friends and relatives enjoy. You put your lives on the line, put your futures on hold, indefinitely, to support Liberty and Freedom. I am eternally grateful for your sacrifice, your time, the parts of your life you had no choice but to give up, because you, too, believed in those ideals.

My thanks are not enough. Nothing can repay you for that sacrifice. Perhaps the most I can do is to continue to support your belief in Freedom and Liberty, by my service in the Army in the Vietnam War, and by how I raise my children to continue to support these ideals, and to respect them men, and the women, who put their lives and their futures on the line so that future generations could continue to live free.

An email from Ed Lesperance

The Korean War Ex-POW Association  
Newsletter - March 200

Franklin "Jack" Chapman, President

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## **2006 Reunion of the Korean War Ex-POW Association**

Sheraton Music City Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee

Sunday, July 23, 2006 - Monday, July 31, 2006

*For reservations, call toll free (800) 325-3535  
in the USA and Canada*

The airport shuttle departs the Sheraton Music City Hotel at 15 minutes prior to the hour and 15 minutes after the hour. It arrives at the airport on the hour and the half-hour. This service is provided complimentary between the hours of 5:15AM and 12:00 midnight. From the baggage claim areas at the phone bank call the hotel (button # 46).