



# 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. (Bill) Norwood**

### OFFICERS

William K. Norwood, President

Gordon Madson  
Senior Vice President

David Mills  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Jack Chapman  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President & Editor,

Paula Norwood, Secretary  
(7-4 Daily)

Frances Champagne, Treasurer

Norman Hale, Chaplain

Arden Rowley, Historian

Edward Sheffield  
Nomination Chairman

Elliott Sortillo  
Site Selection Chairman

Betty Sitler  
Memorial Chairperson

Vernon Ray, SGT of Arms

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all my friends, this will be the last newsletter before we meet at Arlington for our annual reunion. For those who may have misplaced their March newsletter, I will repeat the pertinent information regarding the plans for the reunion.

The reunion dates are **July 21 – 28, 2013**. Our host hotel will be **The Doubletree Crystal City located at 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA**. Unfortunately, the room block has been filled at the Doubletree, but we have negotiated a contract with a nearby hotel for a limited number of overflow rooms at the same price (**\$109.00 plus tax**). Parking will also be at the discounted rate of **\$10.00 per day**.

For those who plan to attend but have not registered yet, we suggest you call the Doubletree **first** at (703) 416-4100 (refer to group code KWE) and check for vacancies due to cancellations. If there are no vacancies at the Doubletree, contact the overflow hotel: The Crowne Plaza Hotel located at 1480 Crystal Drive Arlington, VA; phone (direct) 703-416-1600 and refer to Group Code KOR for the event dates (July 23- 28, 2013). The cutoff date is **July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013**. We emphasize that there are only a limited number of rooms available at the \$109.00 rate. If you plan to attend the reunion and have not already registered, we suggest you do so right away; otherwise, you may be quoted a much higher rate.

The Activity Registration form in the March newsletter listed our banquet on Saturday night. **This was in error**. The banquet will be on **Friday** night and the dance on **Saturday** night.

There is a remote possibility that the DOD will pay for transportation to the Saturday 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony tour. We were not aware of this when our registration form was sent out. If this happens, those who have paid the \$28.00 bus charge will be refunded.

**The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala** tentatively scheduled for Saturday night has not been finalized as of this date. This is a non-

association function but we will attempt to have the information available at the hotel for those who may wish to participate.

Our committee has been working diligently to make this reunion a memorable event by arranging some special entertainment and also selecting a special memento to be presented to each EX-POW's in attendance at the banquet. The ladies will also receive a token of appreciation for their efforts in "rescuing" the guys. Be sure to attend the banquet and receive this unique gift.

Don't forget the group photo to be taken on Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. The time and location will be posted on the bulletin board. Each P.O.W. in the group photo will receive a free copy of the photo on Friday at the banquet. The photographer will be accepting orders for additional copies of the group photo.

The surviving spouse brunch is expected to be an enjoyable function this year with some added activity. If you are a surviving spouse and have not already made plans to attend, contact Peggy Sullivan at (*note: the area code shown in the March Newsletter is incorrect.*)

When we view the taps section of each newsletter we are saddened by the passing of so many of our buddies, and this year is no exception as we mourn the passing of our good friend and two-time Association President, Lloyd Pate. Lloyd was truly a loyal American, a good soldier and a true friend. He will be sadly missed by those of us fortunate to have known him personally for so many years. I was in Florida and unable to attend the memorial service but my thoughts were, and still are, with his family. Carl Weatherman, Phyllis Badke and others attended the memorial service.

I was asked to do the eulogy of another good friend, Joe Ford, who passed away March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Melvin Taylor and Emmett Harrison also attended the memorial service. Joe was presented with the Purple Heart on January 19<sup>th</sup> before his passing.

Dewey Brewer, one of the 12 members who attended the first reunion in 1976, passed away January 14, 2013. I was not made aware of his passing until later, otherwise I would have been there. Now there are only three of the charter members left.

An effort is being made to encourage the U.S. Postal Service to issue a **forever** postage stamp **honoring the POW/MIA Flag**. Postage stamps have been issued honoring movie stars, politicians and even animals, but nothing honoring those still waiting to come home. We encourage you to write to the following and express your views. Write to: Pat Donahue 471 L'Enfant Plaza S.W. Washington, D.C. 2026-0004 c/c Postmaster General, U.S. Postal Service.

Our good friend Lee Merworth who passed away on February 12, 2013 was featured on the Nancy Grace TV show recently as an "American Hero"; a most deserving tribute to our buddy.

Gerald Cavagnaro, Joe Ramirez and his son (Brigadier General Ramirez), Paul Roach, Ray (Mike) Dowe, Robert (Bob) Wood, Robert L. (Bob) McGreevy, Herbert A. Miller, William J.(Bill) Richardson and Virginia Mayo, widow of Walt Mayo (Ex-POW), and others attended the ceremony at D.C. recently in which Father Kapaun was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Thank you guys for making it known that we care.

Korean War EX-POW Willie Freeman was the guest speaker at Andersonville Georgia National Historic Site on April 6, 2013. Freeman was captured February 12, 1951 during the Hoengsong Massacre battle and held captive until August 19, 1953. "Atta boy, Willie".

Ed Fenton, assisted by family members, will post the wreath at the tomb of the Korean War unknown at Arlington this Memorial Day. Thank you, Ed, for your dedication.

Edmond Reel will appear and be interviewed on PBS on Sunday May 26, 2013. We'll be watching Ed.

If anyone knows where Johnnie Johnson's original list is located, the Andersonville National Historic Site is interested in obtaining it for permanent display there. The contact person at Andersonville is [beers@nps.gov](mailto:beers@nps.gov) or [EricLeonard@nps.gov](mailto:EricLeonard@nps.gov).

The KBS (Korean National Broadcasting Network) is seeking information from former POW's to be included in a documentary when finished will be shown to the Korean people to remind them of the sacrifices endured by American Soldiers in defense of their freedom. They will be sending a film crew to America to document the interviews. They are especially looking for Ex-POW's captured during the early stages of the war and captured by the North Koreans. If anyone is interested in taking part in an interview contact Mya Kim at [yuhaa15@gmail.com](mailto:yuhaa15@gmail.com) for further details.

In viewing the registration roster I am happy to report that our good friend and Medal of Honor recipient, Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura will be with us this year. It is indeed an honor to have Hershey back with us after such a long time. I am excited and look forward to visiting with him again.

We normally do not promote books (except those written by our own Arden Rowley) but there is a recent publication that I feel deserves mentioning. The title is "Cold Days in Hell"- American POWs in Korea. This book was written by William Clark Latham Jr. who has attended our reunion a number of times and interviewed some of our members, who are also mentioned in the book. If you want to see the facts in print, this is the book to read. You may order a copy at: **1-800-826-8911 or Email: [hollie.estrige@tamu.edu](mailto:hollie.estrige@tamu.edu)**. The cost is \$32.00.

I have been asked to publicize the State of Alabama POW/MIA Recognition Day to be held on September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Alabama State Capital in Montgomery. The Governor of Alabama will attend and take part in this ceremony. Those of you residing in Alabama and the surrounding states that can't attend the Andersonville, Georgia event on that date should support and plan to attend this ceremony. The contact person is **Don Westwood** at 11963 Balsam Ct. Spanish Fort, AL. 36527, email: [danson50@gmail.com](mailto:danson50@gmail.com).

Enough said for now. Hope to see you at Arlington in July. Bill Norwood, President

### **Chaplain's Corner:**

Hello to everyone! I hope that all of you will be able to attend the reunion this July. It will be good to see all of you and let us remember the ones among us that are unable to make the trip and pray for them daily. God has really been good to let us meet for this many years. We should give Him the praise for that. If we have ever needed prayer to be answered it is now for our country and our people, but we know that God is still in control.

In Ezra 8:18, it says "Be encouraged, the good Hand of God is upon us." We are grateful to Thee, Eternal God, whose almighty hand controls the years, that Thou doest guide Thy children along the difficult and lengthening paths of life. Grant us the joy and satisfaction, as we look back over the years from time to time, of seeing clearly that the good Hand of God has ever been upon us. Thus

strengthened and encouraged, may we then look forward with confidence and cheerfully take up again the tasks that are ours. In Jesus name, Amen. Drive safely, Norman Hale

### **DPMO Report:**

On 11 April 2013, a long journey came to an end. Capt/Chaplain/Father Emil J. Kapaun [Hq/8 Cavalry, POW 2 November 1950, death reported on 23 May 1951] posthumously received his Medal of Honor from President Barack Obama. Nine surviving POWs who had known him were there, alphabetically: Gerald "Bob" Cavagnaro, Richard A. Caverly, Ray Michael Dowe, Jr. Robert L. McGreevy, Herbert A. Miller, Joe E. Ramirez, William J. Richardson, Jr., Paul A. Roach, Jr., and Robert Stephen Wood. Father Kapaun's nephew, Mr. Ray Kapaun of Pilsen, Kansas, received the award on his behalf, and several other family members were present, as well.

Father Kapaun was among the 8th Cavalrymen captured at Unsan when their positions were overrun by massive Chinese forces. He was taken at the 3rd Battalion Command Post, where he had stayed behind to help care for the wounded, actually on 5 November. Marching northward, he did all that he could for the men around him, first at the holding point of Sambakkol and then at Camp 5 at Old Pyoktong on the south bank of the Yalu River. In an act of continuing sacrifice, he knowingly exhausted himself, and finally passed on 23 May 1951. We know that he died at the Pagoda Sick House, and that he was buried behind it, not across the back water arm that extended behind Camp 5 on its north side.

His remains have never been identified, but do we have them now? Some bodies were returned after war's end during Operation Glory, including about 560 remains from Camp 5. All but 75 men from this group were identified at Kokura, Japan, in 1954-56, and returned to their families. The 75 were then among the Unknowns buried at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP) in Honolulu, Hawaii, in May 1956. In recent years, we have done exhumations from NMCP, and among others, we have identified six men from Camp 5. Beyond all of that, the North Koreans returned an additional 208 containers with U.S. remains during 1990-94, and 21 of these were from Camp 5. Five additional Camp 5 identifications have come from this group.

Work continues. The 208 containers from 1990-94 are in a respectful, working storage above ground, so the scientists at Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) can examine them freely. We will not request an exhumation from NMCP unless there is good, probable cause, meaning well done preparations for a likely identification. The rules are different, we're making progress with both groups.

It's not just a case of Father Kapaun's remains. As we fine-tune good methods, other identifications will surely follow. Very often, an identification "here" will suggest a name from "there." As many of you already know, Father Kapaun is also under consideration for beatification and sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church. This question is outside our venue, but there's no harm in simply wishing a good man, an exceptional man, well. He and his companions, either returned from Camp 5 or still resting at Camp 5, are a very special responsibility. Efforts at resolution continue...

The Sambakkol [125 30 45 E, 40 34 33 N] and Camp 5 [125 26 00 E, 40 37 30 N] sites are still intact, and you can look them up. Go to Google Maps, satellite mode, punch in the numbers, and zoom in! At Sambakkol, huts extend up and down the valley—not a single point. At Camp 5, the old back water arm is now partially dry land above the lowered river level.

Best to all!

**DONATIONS:** Anthony Jerek , Walter Gilfedder , Donald Donner, Thelma Kager, in memory of Lloyd Pate. Murphy-Borelli Klumker, No. 7, Disabled American Veterans, Lakewood, CO. Irene Shore, Dora White Head, Willie Freeman, Phyllis Badke, Gary Oliver, in memory of Lloyd Pate.

**DECEASED:**

**BREWER, DEWEY A.** , died March 21, 2013. He served with "I" Co. 5th RCT, 24 Division. He was captured on April 4, 1951 and returned during Big Switch on August 8, 1953. Camp 1. Information received from his son, Dough. Dewey was one of the original members of the Association that met in Louisville, KY in 1976.

**CREEL, SHELBY C.** , died during the month of March 2013. He served with "C" Co. 19 Inf. 24 Div. (Tiger Group). He was captured July, 16, 1950 and returned during Big Switch on August 26, 1953, Camps 3 & 7. Theresa Rogers and family, Herman Naville and family attended his service.

**FORD, JOSEPH**, died March 28, 2013, . Joe served with B.Btry. 15FA. Bn. 2 Div. He was captured on February 13, 1951. He was returned during Big Switch, on August 13, 1953. Camp 1. He is survived by his wife, Martha Jane McGinnis Ford, two sons, two brothers, two sisters, three grandchildren. Interment was at Rutherfordton City Cemetery with Military Honors provided by the Rutherford County Honor Guard. Dean Baughn and Bill Norwood officiated. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Baptist Church; Building Fund; P O Box 839; Rutherfordton, NC 28139. Guest book at [www.mcmahansfuneralhome.com](http://www.mcmahansfuneralhome.com), McMahan's Funeral Home & Cremation Services in charge of arrangements. Bill and Liz Norwood, and Jean Denny attended the funeral along with other friends in the area.

**GALIZA, CHARLES L.** , died December 12, 2012. He served with E. Co. 7<sup>th</sup> Inf. 3<sup>rd</sup> Div. He was captured on April 25, 1951 and returned during Big Switch on August 27, 1953. Camps 1, 2, & 3.

**HARRIS, Billy Joe**, died, May 15th. 2013. Survived by wife Peggy, daughter Connie, two brothers, three grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren. A daughter Patty preceded him in death. Cancer was the cause of death. He served with Hq. Co. 38<sup>th</sup> Inf. 2 Div. He was captured on February 13, 1951 and returned during Big Switch on August 14, 1953. Camp 1.

**PATE, Lloyd**, died 3/20/2013. Past President of the Korean War EXPOW Association. Survivors include his wife, Juanita, three sons, one daughter, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Lloyd served with K. Co. 19<sup>th</sup> Inf. 24 Div. and was captured on January 3, 1951. He was returned during Big Switch on August 19, 1953, Camps 5, 3, 2 & 1. At the family's request, memorials may be made to the Korean War Ex- POW Association, 909 Wisperwood TR. Cleveland, TN. 37312. Norman Hale, Willie Freeman, Carl Weatherman, and Phyllis Badke attended the service.

**MERWORTH, Lee**, from Mena, AR passed away on February 12, 2013. Nancy Grace published a report of his death during her national T.V. program on March 12 as "An American Hero".

**Wright C. Leon**, C.L. and Annie Wright reported the loss of their 45 year old son who passed away on March 4th, 2013.

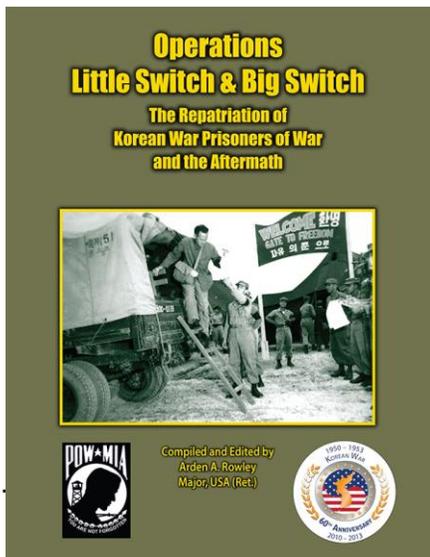
# Operations Little Switch and Big Switch: The Repatriation of Korean War Prisoners of War and the Aftermath

By Arden A. Rowley, Maj. USA (Ret)

Arden A. Rowley became a prisoner of war while serving with the 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division on 1 December 1950. During the next 33 months he was interned in five POW camps in North Korea, experiencing and witnessing, first-hand, the harsh conditions and treatment meted out by the North Korean and Communist captors. He was repatriated in Operation Big Switch on 18 August 1953.

There are many scattered accounts of the repatriation of Korean War prisoners of war in Operations Little Switch and Big Switch (April and August-September 1953). This account of those two operations is a compilation of many writings, articles, statements and photographs giving a complete and cohesive account of Korean War POW repatriation by which thousands of POWs of both sides gained their freedom. *Operations Little Switch and Big Switch: The Repatriation of Korean War Prisoners of War and the Aftermath* is the most complete account of these operations under one cover. The publication of this book coincides with the commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of these events. Maj. Rowley is the Historian of the Korean War Ex-POW Association.

This publication is 250 pages and is an 8 1/2" X 11" hardbound edition with Smythe-sewn binding and matte, acid-free pages for superior photo reproduction.



### Features:

- Truce Talks and the Prisoner of War Question
- Operation Little Switch (Release of sick and wounded POWs)
- Operation Big Switch (Release of balance of POWs)
- Handling of Prisoners Not Wishing to be Repatriated
- Aftermath of the Prisoner of War Experience
- Korean War "Unknowns" and the "Missing"
- Personal Accounts of Little Switch Repatriates
- Personal Accounts of Big Switch Repatriates
- Freedom Village (United Nations Reception Center)
- Operation Glory (Return of deceased POWs' remains)
- The Turncoats (21 Americans who stayed with the Communists)

---

### Book Order Form

#### Operations Little Switch and Big Switch:

The Repatriation of Korean War Prisoners of War and the Aftermath

Available by mail order for \$65.00 (plus \$5.00 shipping)

Send orders to Arden A. Rowley, 1041 E 9<sup>th</sup> Drive, Mesa, AZ 85204.

For phone orders call: 480-964-9444

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_





**KOREAN WAR EX-POW ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM**

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to **ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.** in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. **You may also register online and pay by credit card at [www.afr-reg.com/koreanwarexpow2013](http://www.afr-reg.com/koreanwarexpow2013)** (3% convenience fee applies). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before **June 26, 2013**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

**Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.**  
**322 Madison Mews**  
**Norfolk, VA 23510**  
**ATTN: KOREAN WAR EX-POW ASSN**

<b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b>	
Check _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Nametag Completed _____

<b>CUT-OFF DATE IS 6/26/13</b>	<b>Price Per</b>	<b># of People</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><u>TOURS</u></b>			
WEDNESDAY: Washington After Dark Tour	\$ 28		\$
THURSDAY: Evening Parade Marine Barracks	\$ 28		\$
SATURDAY: 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony	\$ 28		\$
<b><u>MEALS</u></b>			
FRIDAY BANQUET <i>(Please select your entrée)</i>			
Prime Rib	\$ 45		\$
Chicken Piccata	\$ 40		\$
Vegetarian Lasagne	\$ 40		
Child's Plate (Chicken Fingers and French Fries)	\$ 20		\$
<b><u>Mandatory Per Person Reunion Planning Fee (non-refundable)</u></b>	<b>\$ 7</b>		<b>\$</b>
Total Amount Payable to <b>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</b>			\$

PRINT YOUR NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR NAMETAG: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST TIMER? YES \_\_\_ OR NO \_\_\_ ARE YOU THE EX-POW? YES \_\_\_ OR NO \_\_\_

IF YOU ARE NOT THE POW, PLEASE LIST YOUR RELATIONSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU CELEBRATING YOUR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN 2011? YES \_\_\_ OR NO \_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, ST, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)

Must you be lifted hydraulically onto the bus while you are sitting in your wheelchair in order to participate in bus trips?  
 YES  NO **(PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).**

EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL?  YES  NO  ARE YOU FLYING?  DRIVING?  RV?

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program.  
**CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).**  
 Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.

**KOREAN WAR EX-POW ASSOCIATION**  
PO Box 122  
Charleston, TN 37310-0122

**US Postage**  
**PAID**  
Charleston, TN  
Permit # 9

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

**Board of Directors**  
Term Expiring 2012  
Eugene Johnson  
Carlos Lugo

Term Expiring 2013  
Cindy Chapman  
Judy Egresitz  
Gary Johnson

**2013 Reunion of**  
**The Korean War Ex-POW Association**  
*July 21 – 28, 2013*

The DoubleTree by Hilton  
Washington DC—Crystal City  
300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA  
**(703) 416-4100 (group code: KWE)**

*Overflow hotel:*  
**The Crowne Plaza Hotel**  
**1480 Crystal Drive Arlington, VA;**  
**703-416-1600 (Group Code: KOR)**