



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

Fred Liddell

As I write this column for the December newsletter, Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving are just around the corner. Usually around Thanksgiving time I think about what I came home to and what our guards went back to. I have wondered if any of them and the Camp Officers are still alive. But not for long. We need to be thankful for what we came home to. Even our ranks are dwindling and we have a lot to accomplish.

Our plaque dedication at Andersonville will be on Friday 18, 2009. The Rolling Thunder will be sponsoring our plaque dedication. Hopefully it will be ready in time. This will be done in conjunction with Rolling Thunder festivities, which are well worth attending. They usually put on a show and their ceremonies are very impressive. If you intend to attend *please let Jack Chapman, Bill Norwood or myself know*. The dedication is by invitation only, and Rolling Thunder are going book the motels in the area. Further details will be provided in future newsletters.

For our annual reunions, we have certain perks given us depending on our room count: meeting rooms, reduced bar and meal rates, hospitality room, set up for our dance and a lot of little things we would normally pay for become free depending on that room count, so please try to stay at the host hotel.

Another item of interest, please get your picture taken for the Reunion Book. The more people that get their picture taken the more free pages Elliott has to put our pictures in, we had to pay \$800.00 this year for additional pages. You don't have to buy a book or any pictures, so have your picture taken to get the count up. The Denver Reunion Book, has

continued on page 6

Korean War POW/MIA Report (JPAC)

Our friend, Phillip A. O'Brien, OSD-DOMO submitted the following update on recovery and identification work.

Just a quick note to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. A lot has happened this year and we're expecting even greater events in 2009. In passing, I'm writing a bit before the Presidential Election, at the end of October. More on that in a moment! Meanwhile, so far in 2008, Joint POW Accounting Command (JPAC) has successfully identified the remains of 17 service members from the Korean War and sent them home to their families. About 10 others have completed their laboratory work and are now being presented to families. We don't consider an identification "done" until the family had been advised and the remains are formally accepted.

continued on page 3

Sick Call

COSSIN, Carl V.
ESTESS, Morris L.
HALL, James K.
HIBDON, Robert E.
HINOJOSA, Jose A
GRANGER, John S.
KAY, Clarence K
LONG, Norman L.
RABY, Dick
SHEFFIELD, Jamie
SMITH, J.B.
WEATHERMAN, Betty

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Taps

AVJIAN, James R. , died 04/15/08. He is survived by his wife, Kim, and four children. *He served with C Co. 38 Inf. 2 Div. Camp 1.*
COOK, Raymond died 05/18/08. He served with C Co. 38 Inf. 2 Div. Camp 5 & 4.
DARLING, Richard W. date unknown. *He served with C Co. 5 Cav. 1 Cav. Camps 5 & 4.*
ELLIS, Alfred O. died 2007. *He served with 82 AAA BN 2 Div Camps 2A & 5.*
HARTWELL, Leonard P. died 10/20/08. *He served with H & S Co. 2 Eng. C. Bn. 2 Div. Camps 5 & 3.*
HEDLUND, Harry F. died 08/02/08. He is survived by his wife, Bettie. *He served with 29 BS, 452 BW, USAF. Camps 2 & 5.*
JURGENS, Homer A. died 03/09/08. He is survived by two

Chaplain's Corner

Norman Hale, Chaplain

Hello to all our friends and families! We hope all of you are feeling well. We are all fine. We wish each and every one of you Happy Holidays and good health.

I want to tell you some things from Psalm 27:14 "Waiting on The Lord" Do you realize you can never be too dependent upon God? In fact, He desires that you be fully dependent upon Him—that you ask for His wisdom, strength, and provision in even the smallest details of your life.

The world we live in teaches us to be self-sufficient—to pull up our own bootstraps, to face up to life's challenges, to not buckle under when the going gets tough. We've been so conditioned by this kind of thinking that we hesitate to make our needs known to our brothers and sisters in Christ, and even to God Himself.

You bring God great pleasure when you place your responsibilities, your decisions, your dreams, your family, your possessions—everything great and small—at His feet, asking Him to guide your every step in every matter. The more you depend upon Him, the more He is able to bless you! May God bless you all.

This and That

From the Nominating Committee: This year all position are open: President, First Vice, Second Vice and three board members. Please let the Nomination chairman know sixty day in advance or before the first of June if you would like to fill one of these positions. Your resume, the position you desire, and why you would like to fill it should be sent to the Nomination chairman, Donald Denny, email to: jdldenny@aol.com.

SURVIVING SPOUSES: Veterans Benefit Improvement Act of 1996 allows the surviving spouse an entire month of compensation for the month in which the veterans dies. It also authorizes payments of accrued benefits for up to two years (instead of one) in the event of the Veteran's death before final adjudication of a claim. SECTION 1318, Benefits for survivors of certain veterans rated totally disabled at time of death. SECTION 1318(3) the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999, and the disability was continuously rated totally disabling for a period of not later than one year immediately preceding death.

There is no means test to qualify for the VA Widow's benefit, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). For compensation it does not matter what your income or assets are.

Contributions

Denver Queen City KWVA Chapter;
DAV Chapter 7 Lakewood, CO;
Tom Lyke; R.W. Radke; Eugene Inman;
Robert Toomey to our Operating Fund.

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Korean War POW/MIA Report (JPAC)

continued from page 1

Those identified this year include both battlefield losses and POWs who died en route to permanent camps on the south bank of the Yalu River. They also include men whom our teams recovered in North Korea through 2005, and remains turned over by the North Koreans in 1990-94 and 2007. I expect the pace to pick up in 2009 for a couple of important reasons. Those identified this year were “tabled” one at a time in the main laboratory at JPAC on Hickam Air Force Base. Several of these men came from group burials, with initial examinations and “re-articulations” of the skeletal remains done on three or four tables. But then those tables had to be cleared, to enable other identifications, and the final work was done on one table, one man at a time.

Early next year, JPAC will open a new, secure, expansion facility just across the fence at Pearl Harbor. A special, temporary laboratory will be set up there, and the open room will have as many working tables as we need. Large group burials, including those from the Unsan Battlefield, the Suan Bean Camp and Suan Mining Camp, and the Chosin Reservoir area can be brought over. The temporary storage cases can be re-opened, and as many as five or six tables used to re-articulate the remains of several men. Identifications will still be done one at a time, out of respect for the men concerned, but they will follow much more rapidly, one after the next, and with no need to interrupt work as other high priority needs arise. This is a dream come true for the anthropologists at JPAC. They will still be scheduled for field work, here and there around the world. But when they return to JPAC, they know that they will have the tables they need to complete identifications already begun.

This leads to a couple of other questions. What about exhumations from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, “the Punchbowl?” To date, 11 have been done with six identifications. The question of table space has affected this process, as well. But right now, laboratory work on the seventh man is nearing completion, and several other exhumations are planned for 2009.

The next, obvious issue, when will our recovery teams go back into North Korea? This question has not been forgotten. Those who know the issue well are looking at it closely. If we do return to North Korea, it may be first to the Unsan battle zone, where a previous base camp was located, but none of us knows for sure. We hope to hear more about this in 2009. Events will unfold at their own pace.

continued on page 5

Taps, cont.

daughters, Jill Cavanagh and Dawn Sommer, and three grandsons. He served with *HVY Mtr Co. 23 Inf. 2 Div.*

KONKLE, Howard E. date unknown. He served with *5 Cav, 1 Cav Div. Camp 1.*

NIELSEN, Harry L. died 08/01/06. He is survived by his wife. He served with *8 FBW, 36 FBG. USAF.*

PEASNER, Thomas R. Jr. died 10/1970. He was survived by two daughters and a son.

RODRIGUEZ, Ernestina, wife of Jose, died 08/25/08. She is survived by Jose, a daughter and a son.

SIMPKINS, Thomas J. date unknown. He served with *K. Co. 160 Inf. 40 Div. Camp 2b.*

STORY, Roy died 2006. He served with *H & S Co. 2 Engr C Bn, 2 Div. Camps 5,3,2,1.*

STOKES, Henry J. died 09/13/08. He served with *F Co. 38 Inf. 2 Div. Camps 1 & 4.*

TESTON, Ottis C. date unknown. He served with *1 Co. 38 Inf. 2 Div. Camps 5 & 4.*

THOMPSON, Jackie Ray died 1978. He served with *E Co, 38 Inf. 2 Div. MIA: 12/03/50, Ret'd: 8/25/58 Camp 3.*

TRUDO, Donald, died 1995. He is survived by his wife. He served with *Hq Co 31 Inf 7 Div. Camps 1 & 4.*

WOOLWORTH, Jean, wife of Carl, died 2008. She survived by Carl.

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Keep us in the Loop

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

Jack Chapman. Tim's email is csmcasey@charter.net; Jack's email is jackkpw@yahoo.com.

Taps, cont.

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Nationwide Compensation Seminars

Of the 26 million veterans currently living, only a handful are aware of the benefits that are eligible to them. An even smaller number are aware of how to obtain their benefits. As a result, U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs announced today they have developed a traveling Benefits Team that will host seminars around the country.

The Benefits Team is responsible for visiting those areas of the country where there is a high concentration of veterans. Traveling from city to city, the Benefits Team will help veterans understand the benefits process, how to navigate through governmental bureaucracies, how to develop strategies that will surely manifest in benefits for veterans, and connecting veterans with the right people and organizations to get the compensation process started.

Go to <http://www.veteranprograms.com/id974.html> for more information. (reprinted from VA press release)

Updates

Purple Heart For Those Who Died In Camp

On October 6, 2008, Department of Defense announced the approval of a Purple Heart for those who died while a POW since December 7, 1941.

Family members with questions about this change in regulations may make contact with the respective branch of service. It is not known at this time if family members beyond mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers and children of the POW would be able to apply for this medal.

ARMY: Military Awards Branch, 703-325-8700.

NAVY: Navy Personnel Command, Retired Records Section, 314-592-1150.

AIR FORCE: Air Force Personnel Center, 800-616-3775.

US MARINE CORPS: Military Awards Branch, 703-784-9340.

Those who were killed in POW camp and who have been awarded a Purple Heart would not qualify for this additional award. Those wounded in camp and who were awarded a Purple Heart for that wound and who died of other causes later on in captivity should qualify for this additional award.

COMPENSATION: I have talked to many Ex-POWs who still are not rated at 100% permanent, many have the **unemployability** rating at 100%. Those rated at 100% permanent and whose other disabilities add up to at least 60% automatically receive "House Bound." This means additional dollars in your VA Check. For an Ex-POW, including an allowance for the wife, his check would be for \$3062.00. This will increase by 5.8% as of 1 December 2008.

If you are among those losing out it is recommended you reopen your claim for PTSD by sending a very short note with your C-number and SSN to your VA Regional Headquarters. Ask them to reopen your claim for PTSD because your condition is getting worse. They will set an appointment at your local VA Hospital via C&P and that will give you a shot at increasing your disability to 100% permanent. If you do not have enough other disabilities to add up to 60% then reopen a claim or open a new claim for one of your disabilities.

– both updates submitted by Shorty Estabrook

AWARD: Edward G. Hays, after 50 plus years, finally was awarded his Purple Heart. MSgt.(Ret) Henry (Hank) Leerkamp presented the Purple Heart to Edward. Congratulations, Edward.

ELECTED: Kenny H. Hanson, has been elected as National Senior Vice Commander of the American Ex-Pows Organization. Kenny was captured on May 1, 1952 and returned August 26, 1953, he served with I Co 14 Inf 25 Div. Congratulations, Kenny.

APPOINTED: James H. Beaver has been appointed as National Chaplain of the American EX-POW Organization. James was captured on May 18, 1951 and returned August 28, 1953; he served with A Co 38 Inf 2 Div. Congratulations, James.

Korean War POW/MIA Report (JPAC)

continued from page 3

Oh, I'd mentioned elections. Friends from overseas had asked about ours, and the answer worth repeating. Our system is very unusual in that the election cycle is fixed. It happens every four years, plus a two-year mid-cycle for the House and some Senate seats. In most Parliamentary governments, elections can be called at different times, either to affirm a party in power or to replace it. Beyond that, our Electoral College system works to form clear majorities. Coalition governments among three or four parties may be common in other countries, but they are unheard of here. The upshot is that in January 2009, a new House, a refreshed Senate, and a new Administration will take up our work anew, as well as many other tasks. Ours is a nonpartisan question, ultimately it serves all Americans, so we'll be pretty busy regardless of specific outcomes. But this is a good time to remember our new President, whoever he will be, in our prayers. Ours is a necessary task, and in the sense of doing right by service members and their families, a joyous one.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

Hawaii Reunion

THE FINAL POW PROGRAM 2009, APRIL 5-11, 2009

This will be Easter Week so those of you that will be staying a few days extra, check with the desk for information about attending your choice of church service on Post or out of Waikiki.

Sunday, April 5: **Arrival**

Monday, April 6: **Picnic** on the beach at Ft. DeRussy, starting at 11:00am.

Tuesday, April 7: **Touring**. Early bus pick up at 5:45am, to Arizona Memorial. Boat around Ford Island, then visit Air Museum. From there go to Hickam Air Base, lunch at the Sea Breeze on the Beach. We are scheduled to be at the JPAC ID Lab at 1:00pm. Return back to Hale Koa by 3:30pm. Francis and Tommy will be the coordinators of these tours.

Wednesday, April 8: Free Day.

Thursday, April 9, Ceremony at: Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific, starting at 10am. We will have lunch prepared, then return back to Hale Koa by 1pm.

Friday, April 10: **Good Friday**. We will have our banquet in the Hale Koa Waikiki Ballroom, starting at 4:30pm, with no host cocktail and Korean Variety Entertainment. Our program will be about us for we want to know what went on in the miserable camp life.

Saturday, April 11: **Departure**

– submitted by Tsuyoshi (Nick) Nishimoto

Veterans Records

Veterans can now permanently store their service medical records (SMR), legal records, or military records in the VA's new, user-friendly, Records Archive Division (RAD).

Using RAD, veterans can also gain access to their records with promptness and accuracy. According to VA statistics, it can take a veteran up to six months to get their records after a request has been made. Using this service, a veteran can receive their records in three business days or less. Rather than contacting multiple agencies to request records, a veteran can now make one stop and have their records faxed or mailed to the agency of their choice.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA) entitles veterans to have copies of their medical records on request. Through RAD, veterans have access to any of their personnel records stored with speed, efficiency, and accuracy. A veteran can also request to have their records sent to any agency or provider in a timely manner. Veterans may also supply contact information to their providers and have them fax records to RAD for immediate security and storage.

Go to <http://www.veteranprograms.com> and click on "Records Archive Division".

(reprinted from VA press release)

We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

From the Chapman family

President's Message

continued from page 1

been completed and send to the printer. Thanks to Elliott and Sandy Sorti Ilo for their hard work.

Bob Toomey had a change of address and forgot to tell us. When I forwarded his copy of the newsletter, he sent a card and donation for the postage, which I forwarded, to our Treasurer. Thanks, Bob and hope to see you in St. Louis.

Please remember Hawaii is coming up in April. If you have never attended, this is a very exciting and emotional time, especially the Identification Lab. A good friend of Obie Wickersham and mine, who we buried at the Mining Camp, has been identified. I was showed a dog tag of his a couple of years ago, but thought it was the one I put in my pocket to bring back. The Chinese took it away from me the next day. Since the JPAC people haven't been able to get into the camp area to search for remains, I wasn't very optimistic. Steve Thompson recently called one evening and told me the good news. Patrick Arthur is coming home finally.

I hope everyone has a great and Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please let us know of anyone who is sick or deceased.

A Single Tear

Too weak to cry,
Only one tear left.

The eye that shed that tear
Now closes and sheds no more.

That tear is now as silent
As the body that gave it life.

-- Shorty Estabrook

Looking for Information

Wilkes, James (J.T.): Deana is trying to locate information on James who was either a P.O.W. or was wounded in battle and died in Washington DC or the Philadelphia area, around the early 1950's. She can't find him on any of the military indexes.

Geyer, William Norbert and Bradley, William C.: Robin has been trying for some time to locate any information regarding an Ex-POW, by the name of William Norbert Geyer. He mentioned her missing Uncle, William C. Bradley, in his debriefs and she is wondering if there may be a family member who she can speak with. Her Uncle was a medic in the same medical unit as Geyer (who was a Master Sergeant in Medical Company, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division). He reported that her Uncle died of pneumonia on December 15, 1950. Mr. Geyer mentioned two other POW's George W. **Crawford** and Jackie N. **Carveau** who attempted escape with him in August of 1952 and returned to Camp 2.

Hillen, PFC James William: Marlene is looking for anyone out there that might remember her uncle and know what really happened to him? He served with 19th Regt. 24th Div. was on the Tiger Death March.

Ivanushka, Michael: Aaron is the grandson to ex-POW Michael Ivanushka and is looking for anyone who knew him or may have any photos of him.

Thompson, Jackie Ray: Randy is searching for information about his father. He was captured 12/2/50 and held at Camp 3 then released by exchange 8/25/1953. He died in 1978.

Lorenzo, Capt. Michael J; Pickett, Theodore; Chester, Earl: COL. Ali Denizli, Turkish Ex-Korean POW, is seeking information on these P.O.Ws or any POWs from 2 Division that was with the Turkish POWs.

Bishop, Danny M: Doug is looking for anyone who knew his uncle, Danny Bishop.

Ross, Tommy Eugene: W.A. Ross is seeking information on his brother, Tommy. Tommy was a Medic with the Ambulance Platoon, Medical Company, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Div. He was taken prisoner while tending his wounded comrades near Kunu-ri, North Korea, on December 1, 1950 and died on or around March 31, 1951 in Camp 5.

Col Maultsby, Charles W. : GARY C. MEEKER, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.) is writing a history of USAF aerobatic teams. Col Charles W. Maultsby was a pilot on the Thunderbirds in 1958 - 1960 and also POW during the Korean war, having been shot down in a 35th Fighter Bomber Squadron F-80 on 5 January 1952. He is asking our assistance in learning more about Col Maultsby's experiences during his captivity.

If you have any information for any of these people, please email them via webmaster@koreanwarexpow.org.

Andersonville, GA, September 18-20, 2008

The "Welcome home" event was held at Americus, Georgia. There were 72 EX-POWs in attendance, which included 13 Korean War Ex-POW's along with their spouses.

Rolling Thunder did a fantastic job in planning the event and it was an experience that will long be remembered by all those in attendance. The activities included a 12 mile parade from Americus to Andersonville National Historic Site led by hundreds of motorcycles and classic automobiles. Ex-POW's and family members were invited to ride on the bikes and classic cars. A number of guys and gals, took advantage of the opportunity. Needless to say this was quite a spectacle, but a lot of fun.

A ceremony was held at the Andersonville Museum during which time a plaque was dedicated by the 42nd Rainbow Division of WW2. Rolling Thunder has already agreed to **sponsor** our plaque dedication next year. Further details will following in upcoming newsletter.

A banquet was held on Friday night at the downtown historic Windsor Hotel. The Ex-POWs were honored guests. On Saturday, a country cookout was enjoyed by all those in attendance. Once again, the Ex-POW's were honored guests. I would once again like to emphasize that the entire event was sponsored by the Rolling Thunder -- the lodging, the banquet, the cookout and all other activities. Rolling Thunder is certainly to be commended for their efforts and, above all, their concern.

It is our hope that many of our members will make plans to attend the event next year and experience a long overdue honor. Plans will be announced as they materialize.

– submitted by Bill Norwood

In attendance at Andersonville were: Bill and Liz Norwood, Bo and Carol Bolinsky, Fred and Francis Liddell, Thomas and Rochelle Sealey, Jim and Audrey DeLong, Les Todd, Fred Tucker, Elliott and Sandy Sortillo, Bill Allen, Carl Bafs, Nancy Razvoza, and Vernon Ray.

Letter from GM of Denver Doubletree

We received this letter from Richard Feasel, General Manager

First of all I want to thank you and the wonderful group of Korean War Ex-POW members that visited with us in August. It was an honor and privilege to host such a distinguished group of Americans.

We all have talked about how much we enjoyed your group.

Every member was warm and so appreciative, which makes all of us want to try harder to exceed your expectations. I have been in the hospitality business for a number of years and can truly say your group provided us with great morale and enthusiasm.

Email Newsletter

If you have internet access and would like to receive your newsletter via email rather than through the mail, email our editor at webmaster@koreanwarexpow.org, please include your name, mailing address, and email address.

The newsletter is sent in Adobe pdf format. All you need to access the file is Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available for free from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat>

Returned Newsletters

We had approximately 100 of the September 2008 newsletters returned, due to change of addresses, unable to forward and deceased. Total cost to the Association was approximately \$120.00, which includes initial mailing, returned postage and re-mailing.

Veterans Day

There were four Ex-POW's in the Veterans Day Parade in San Antonio, TX: Jose Hinojosa, Jose Rodriguez, Jimmy Chavez & Oscar Cortez.

Las Cruces, NM Veterans Day Parade Marshall's were Korean War Ex-POWs Paul A. Roach Jr. and Franklin Jack Chapman.

St. Louis Reunion

We are planning four tours for the reunion: a city tour, Stone Hill Winery, Hermann & Paddlewheeler Dinner Cruise, and Kimmswick Historic Tour. These are still in planning stage and may change.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.

Board of Directors

Term Expiring 2009

Roy Farley
Ed Fenton
Dennis Pavlik
Eugene Johnson
Carlos Lugo (*replacing Lloyd Pate*)

Term Expiring 2010

James Ball
Cindy Chapman
Shorty Estabrook
Betty Sitler
Edward Smith

Term Expiring 2011

James DeLong
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Vernon Ray

2009 Reunion of the Korean War Ex-POW Association

Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet
St. Louis, MO

Sunday, July 26 – Sunday, August 2, 2009

For reservations, call (314) 878-1500

Meet Us in Saint Louis!

The Armed Forces Reunions will be handling our reunion as in the past. Call (757) 625-6401, make sure you mention the Korean War Ex-POW Association.

Rates are \$109.00, plus tax. Questions can be addressed to Fred Liddell or Jack Chapman.