



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

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Association President's Message:

Greetings to all my friends throughout the country who are in good health and enjoying life. Also, my wish is for better days ahead to those who are in ill health or troubled otherwise. We also share the grief with those who have lost loved ones, some who were very close to us and will be sadly missed. It's always sad to view the Taps list and find a special friend on the list that we have lost contact with over the years. That's why we urge all those who are able to do so to attend the reunion each year and renew that friendship before it is too late.

Liz and I, along with the Sortillos, visited our good friend Luis Lugo in September. Luis is in poor health but he still has that survival instinct that pulled him through those difficult times in Korea. When the will to live kicks in, humans can do amazing things. Say a prayer that Luis will soon regain his health and enjoying life again. *(Note, our friend Luis passed away on November 19, after this article was submitted for print.)*

Our good friend Pat Quinn is still struggling with a prolonged illness, but Pat is also a fighter, who refuses to give up. Remember Pat in your daily prayers.

After much negotiating, the 2012 contract for Omaha has been finalized and signed. As always, we did not get all we wanted, but we feel the final agreement is acceptable. Please keep in mind that the number of rooms in our block is limited and you must make your reservations early in order to be assured of a room. **PAY STRICT ATTENTION TO THE CUT OFF DATE, WHICH IS JULY 8TH 2012.** All pertinent information relating to reservations is listed on the back cover of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing some new faces at Omaha.

Two board members term will expire this year and must be replaced or re-elected. If you are interested in serving on the board contact the nominations chairman, Ed Sheffield, and make him aware that you would like to be considered as a

candidate for the Board of Directors. Ed's address is

. The Association officers who have served one term in office must also be elected and candidates are being accepted for these positions. Contact Ed if you are interested.

As everyone should be aware, 2013 will be the 60th anniversary of the date most of us were released from that hell hole in Korea. What a joyous time; a time to celebrate. With this in mind, and considering that a location for our 2013 reunion will be selected at Omaha, we would like some input regarding a proposed location to celebrate this special occasion. This should be someplace where we can plan some special activities to mark this memorable occasion. Once the location has been selected, I will appoint an entertainment committee to plan something really special for our 2013 reunion. But, we really need your help.

Elliott Sortillo, the site selection chairman along with the committee, selects a city from the proposed locations received from our membership and directs Armed Forces Reunions, our designated planner, to find a suitable hotel in that city and negotiate a proposed contract with the hotel that will best accommodate our requirements. Our committee will then select the hotel they feel is satisfactory and will give us the best offer.

You can help make this a memorable occasion by submitting a site proposal that you feel would be appropriate for this event, explaining why you feel this location would be preferable and the local activities that are available. You would also be expected to serve as the site representative. Send your recommendations to Elliott Sortillo, Site Selection Chairman,
Email address, .

As those of you who attended the Andersonville event this year will attest, this was the best ever. Rolling Thunder did their usual superb job in planning and executing the activities. Guys, if you feel that you did not get a proper welcome home party, the Andersonville event will certainly fill that void. I urge all former POWS to attend this event at least one time in your life.

A delegation from our association will be placing the wreath again at the Tomb of the Unknown on Memorial Day next year. Willie Freeman has performed this most honorable task the past two years and he will probably be there next year, but I feel certain Willie would welcome some assistance. If you would like to participate in this ceremony, let me know in advance and we will make the arrangements and advise you of the details.

As you will note from this writing, our mailing location has been changed here to Tennessee. Our editor, David Mills, is in the process of moving to another state and he is not certain when he will be re-established. Therefore, we moved the mailing permit to prevent any interruption in mailing the newsletter. All news items should still be sent to Jack Chapman or David Mills for publication.

We are still wasting funds on mailing newsletters when this could be done at no cost, providing we have the members email address on record. If you have email and are still receiving the newsletter by postal service, please notify Jack Chapman and he will send your copy electronically. This is of great importance and we need your co-operation. If you do not want your email address published notify Jack and he will remove it from the master list and only use it for mailing purposes.

We are still confronted with the cost of return mail, which is another unnecessary expense. If you move and do not send us a new address, the mail is returned and we must pay the first class fee. If you change your address for any reason, please notify Jack Chapman and avoid that extra fee. If your mail is returned more than once your name will be put on the inactive mailing list and you will not receive the newsletter again until we receive a current address.

Elliott and Sandy Sortillo are putting together the memory book compiled at the Norfolk reunion and it should be mailed to those who ordered a copy before the end of the year. The Sortillos do a magnificent job of putting together the memories of the good times each year. I have a copy of each book produced through the years and I often flip through the pages and reminisce about the good times enjoyed with special friends, many who are no longer with us.

Elliott requested that we include the following in the newsletter: "We are looking for a new person (persons) to continue the reunion memory book. With the exception of Baton Rouge in 1990 and Sacramento in 1995, I believe we have done them all since Dayton in 1983. It's time for some new blood to step up with new ideas".

The Sortillos have certainly paid their dues and deserve a break. They will be a "hard act to follow", but now it's up to us to keep the "ball rolling". I will expect someone to volunteer to take charge of this very important part of our reunion. A reunion without a memory book would be like a story without a story book. I will wait to hear from someone who will agree to take on this task. This could be a fun project for someone who has the time.

Veterans Day is approaching and will be past by the time this letter is received. It is my hope that everyone will pause and reflect on this very special day and what it means. There is no doubt that we would be speaking a foreign language today except for the sacrifices of our veterans. As a veteran, you should stand tall and be proud with the knowledge that you have made a difference.

The holiday season will soon be upon us, a time for happiness and celebrating with our families. But for those of us who were deprived of that opportunity for as many as three years, it is also a time that we remember the sadness associated with our prisoner of war experiences; a time when an extra spoon of sugar, a bug free bowl of sorghum, a small portion of rice crust from the cooking pot or a small piece of turnip in the soup was something to celebrate. I often wonder what happened to all that meat and vegetables featured in those propaganda articles. It sure did not reach our camp or we would not have experienced those awful stomach pains associated with hunger.

As we celebrate the holiday season we must remember to honor the pledge we made not to forget our buddies we left behind in Korea and the many we have lost since returning home. May they Rest in Peace.

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year to each of you is my wish. Until next time,
Bill Norwood

Chaplain's Corner

Greetings to all our EX-POW friends and families! Hope this day is finding you in good spirits. The holidays are coming up real fast. We wish you good health and happiness throughout the year. There is a poem I read that I would like to share with you for the holidays. It is by C. Jane Hunt: In Jesus' Name: When there is no one you can turn to-- No one who seems to care, And your heart, so full of sadness, Seems more than you can bear-- When the winter seems to linger on, And no signs of spring appear-- Let not your heart be troubled, Nor your mind be full of fear, For the one who gave His life and love, For you is always near. All you have to do is ask Him, And His grace will see you through-- No matter how impossible, the problem seems to you. May you find joy in the gift of this tiny baby who has the power to change our lives forever.

Your Chaplain, Norman Hale

Korean War POW/MIA Report (JPAC) We're still losing friends, but I have a story to tell on one... a very helpful story. Dr. (Capt.) William R. Shadish was captured on 1 December 1950 when the 9th

Infantry Medical Station was overrun by Chinese forces near Kunu-ri. He was a good man, and he was with us at several annual meetings.

As POWs were bundled up from around Kunu-ri, groups formed and moved by night. Most of these men were from 2nd Infantry Division, but there were others, as well, from 24th and 25th Divisions which had fought farther west near Ipsok. Around Christmas Eve, men began to collect at a large Mining Camp, soon known as Death Valley and now marked as Pukchin-Tarigol. Dr. Shadish, and others from the Medical Company, had tried to treat men en route. At Pukchin-Tarigol, he had no real facilities or medicines, but at least they were in place with a little shelter.

Men lived, men died. Dr. Shadish did what he could, and kept what notes he could on names and dates. A large group marched out in January 1951, arriving at Camp 5 in Pyoktong a few days later. Dr. Shadish and the last men at Pukchin-Tarigol walked or were carted out in March 1951, also arriving at Camp 5 after a few days. Friends helped Dr. Shadish to keep his list hidden, and at war's end, the list came out, like "Johnny" Johnson's from Tiger Group.

For the names he wrote down, we will always be grateful, but we have made even better use of Dr. Shadish's list. You see, not everyone captured from around Kunu-ri, or Kujang, or Ipsok, spent time at Pukchin-Tarigol. Some passed the foot of the valley, and went on to Sambakkol, where 8th Cavalry and 19th Infantry POWs had stayed a month before. Others went up Kanggye, before marching west to Camp 5. And one small group was taken to Dandong, now Antung, in China, before returning

This is where the list becomes vital. Between other POW debriefs and Dr. Shadish's list, we have a really good idea of who stopped at Pukchin-Tarigol and who died there. We also know of many other deaths en route. Indirectly, Dr. Shadish's list has already helped us to identify SFC George W. Koon, SFC Jack O. Tye, Sgt Mitchell A. Wallace, and Sgt Preston M. Burgess, all of whom had died just short of Pukchin-Tarigol. Their remains were recovered by a JPAC team operating from the Unsan battle zone, at sites off the northern edge of the fighting area

Next year, we hope to make even better use of Dr. Shadish's list. We have already held talks with the North Koreans, and it's very likely that U.S. teams will be back in North Korea after the Spring thaw in 2012. Still too soon to say anything more about that, but hold a good thought and say a prayer. This promises to be a very interesting year. Best to all! Phil O'B [703-699-1222]

NEWS RELEASE. U.S.-North Korea Conclude POW/MIA Talks No. 895-11, October 20, 2011

The Department of Defense announced October 20, 2011 that the United States and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) officials reached an arrangement to resume recovering the remains of American servicemen missing from the Korean War. The three-day talks held in Bangkok were led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs Robert J. Newberry. His negotiating team included representatives from across the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the U.S. Pacific Command and the United Nations Command-Korea.

The arrangement calls for U.S. teams to work in two areas in North Korea, Unsan County, about 60 miles north of Pyongyang, and near the Chosin/Jangjin Reservoir where more than 2,000 soldiers and Marines are believed to be missing. Accounting for Americans missing in action is a stand-alone humanitarian matter, not tied to any other issue between the two countries.

The operations in North Korea are expected to begin next year and will mark the first since 2005, when the U.S. halted missions due to increased tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Prior to that time, U.S. specialists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command conducted operations in that country

for 10 years, recovering remains believed to be more than 225 servicemen since 1996. Of the approximately 83,000 Americans missing from all conflicts, more than 7,900 are from the Korean War with 5,500 of those believed to be missing in the DPRK.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Willie Freeman (frequent donor), Tom Lyke, Joe Tarbuck, for Association Operating Funds. Elise Arnold, Hal and Cindy McNair in memory of Patsy Spirey. Bill & Liz Norwood, Elliott & Sanda Sortillo, Jack & Claudette Chapman, in memory of Richard C. (Dick) Rook. A donation from the ROOK family and friends, to Friends of Andersonville in memory of Richard Rook. Donation made to Alzheimer's Association by Bill and Liz Norwood, Jack and Claudette Chapman in memory of Luis E. Lugo.

SICK CALL: Henry (Hank) Leerkamp, Billie Joe Harris, Patrick Quinn, Dennis Pavilik. Willie Freeman and Dallas Mossman are both home from the hospital and doing well.

TAPS:

BETTINGER, Stephen L. died, Dec 1, 2010. He served with the 336 FIS, 4 FW, USAF. He was captured on July 20, 1952 and returned during Big Switch on September 5, 1953. Cp 2b. He is survived by 7 children. Information received from son, John.

CONNOR, Mary, (widow of Alfred J. Connor Sr.) died in April 2011. She is survived by 5 daughters, 1 son, several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

DOMENECH, Jaime O. 81, was Promoted to Glory on June 8th, 2010 in his native Puerto Rico. Jaime was a member of C Company, 21st Infantry Regiment of the 24th Infantry Regiment. He was also with Task Force Smith and went with his unit from Japan to Korea and was captured on the first day of fighting, 5 July 1950. In captivity he was a member of the Tiger Survivors and was returned during Big Switch on 23 August 1953. For many years he worked as a benefits counselor for the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Puerto Rico. Jaime wrote a book (ghosted) entitled, "Trapped in Hell." This is our country; this we'll defend. -- Shorty the Tiger. Camps 3 & 7.

ELLIOTT, Marilyn, wife of Donald Elliott, died 11/16/2011. She came through open-heart surgery in good shape, bad lungs for a long time. After the operation, her lungs started filling with mucus; she eventually ended up with respiratory failure & pneumonia.

LUGO, Luis E, died November 19, 2011. Luis (Escribano) Lugo was born in Puerto Rico. He was drafted in the Army on November 20, 1950. After completing Basic Training in Puerto Rico, he was shipped to Korea on April 13, 1951. He was assigned to "F" Company, 2nd Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment and arrived in Korea around the middle of May, 1951. He was captured on August 19th, 1951 and returned during Big Switch on August 18, 1953. He was in Camps 3 & 1. He had been ill for some time. Funeral service for Luis was on Friday, November 25. Family has requested, in lieu of flowers, that a donation be made to the Alzheimer's organization in your area. If there is no organization in your area, then please donate to the national organization. He is survived by his wife, Alida, 4 sons, 8 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Luis, Alida, and son, Carlos, have been regulars at our annual reunions. Luis was buried with full Military Honors. To say that Luis will be missed is a great understatement. Cindy, Claudette and Jack Chapman attended the services.

McQUADE, Alfred died April 5, 2011. He is survived by his wife. He served with Hq Btry 38FA Bn, 2 Div. He was captured on November 30, 1950 and returned during Big Switch on August 14, 1953. Camps 5 & 3.

PENA, Enrique, of POB 3464, Brownsville, TX 78523-3454, died June 4, 2011. He served with 25 Recon Co. 25 Div. He was captured on April 1, 1951 and returned during Big Switch on August 6, 1953. He is survived by his wife. Cp 5.

ROOK, (DICK) Richard C. died October 11, 2011. He served with B.Co. 38 Inf. 2 Div. He was captured on May 18, 1951 and returned during Big Switch on August 26, 1953. Cps 1 & 4. He is survived by his wife, Joan, three sons and two daughters, 15 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. Dick and Joan had been married for 62 years. To say that Dick will be missed is a great understatement, for he was truly dear to all of us that were fortunate enough to have known him and enjoyed his friendship for so very many years. Cindy, Claudette and Jack Chapman attended the funeral services. The family requested that donations be made in Dick's memory to the Korean War Ex-POW Association, 909 Whisperwood Trail, Cleveland, TN 37312-4727.

STONE, Willis Junior, died October 27, 2011 peacefully in his sleep at the Nursing Home he was in. Information received from Junior's son Buck who notified the Clifford L. Petrey. He served with Heavy Motor Co. of the 31st Inf. 7 Div. He was captured on Nov 30, 1950 at the Chosin Reservoir and was returned during Big Switch on August 6, 1953. He is survived by his wife, (Lena),
2 sons and a daughter.

SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE: When a Veteran dies, inform the Veterans Administration at **1-800-827-1000**, and apply for all VA benefits that surviving dependents may be entitled to. Also, advise Social Security at **1-800-772-1213**, and apply for all benefits available; such as burial allowance, monthly Social Security benefits, and/or Medicare.

Identified: GAITAN, Jimmie Jimenez Pfc, Clearing Company, 2nd Medical Company, 2nd Infantry Division was captured on 13 February 1951. He died sometime in May 1951 at Camp 1 at Changsong. His nephew, CSM Frank Leota (Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army Pacific) visited JPAC on November 22, 2011 to receive the remains and serve as military escort for his uncle's final trip home. Services were held Saturday, November 26, 2011 at Fort Sam Houston. --Stephen Thompson

P.S. Although he would never admit it, our buddy Phil had his hand in this identification all the way from his office in Washington DC. Korean Ex-POW's Jimmy Chavez, Martin Guerrero ,Oscar Cortez and his wife attended the burial service. His coffin was carried on a caisson; it was a very solemn and beautiful ceremony. He is finally resting on American soil. May he rest in Peace.

Sept. 27, 2011 SOLDIER MISSING FROM KOREAN WAR IDENTIFIED: The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced that the remains of U.S. servicemen, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to their family for burial with full military honors.

LINDSEY, Freeman, Army Cpl. 20 of Rockport, Ind., will be buried Oct. 1 in Pulaski, Va. On Nov. 29, 1950, he was assigned to 31st Regimental Combat Team in North Korea, when the 7th Division came under attack near Kaljon-ri, near the Chosin Reservoir. The unit was forced to withdraw to a more defensible position near Hagaru-ri, south of the reservoir. Following the battle, Lindsey was reported missing in action. After the 1953 armistice, surviving POWs said Lindsey had been captured by enemy forces in early December 1950, and died of malnutrition in captivity on Feb. 28, 1951.

Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea gave the United States 208 boxes of remains believed to contain the remains of 200-400 U.S. servicemen. North Korean documents, turned over with some of

the boxes, indicated that some of the human remains were recovered near Kaljon-ri where Lindsey was held as a POW.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used dental comparisons and mitochondrial DNA – which matched that of Lindsey's brothers--in the identification of the remains.

The families of these service members recently were briefed by their Casualty or Mortuary Offices.

Cpl. Theodore A. Reynolds, U.S. Army, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, was lost on November 2, 1950, in North Korea. His remains were identified in August.

Sgt. Lee D. Henry, Jr., U.S. Army, I Company, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Division, was lost on August 7, 1950, near the Naktong River in South Korea. His remains were identified on June 3, 2011.

Pfc. Henry L. Gustafson, U.S. Army, B Battery, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, was lost on December 31, 1950, near Hagaru-ri, North Korea. His remains were identified on June 3, 2011.

Pfc. John G. Lavelle, Jr., U.S. Army, B Company, 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, was lost in 1950 near Kunu-ri, North Korea. His remains were identified on June 2, 2011.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: The following information was received from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The following conditions are presumed to be service connected for those who were detained or interned for 30 days or more. (1) Osteoporosis (on or after, September 28, 2009, if PTSD is not diagnosed), If you have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD., (2) Avitaminosis, (3) Beriberi (including beriberi heart disease), (4) Chronic dysentery, (5) Helminthiasis, (6) Malnutrition (including associated optic atrophy deficiency), (7) Pellagra and any other nutritional deficiency, (8) Irritable bowel syndrome, (9) Peptic ulcer disease, (10) Peripheral neuropathy, except where directly related to infectious cause, (11) Cirrhosis of the liver.

AID AND ATTENDANCE BENEFIT FROM THE VA: Do not confuse this benefit with the Aid and Attendance for Housebound Veterans. This benefit is available to veterans who need care and attendance and includes the care and attendance supplied by a spouse. The veteran has to meet the time in service for a particular war but does not have to have served overseas. Applicant has to meet an asset test however your home and car is excluded. This benefit can be used by a spouse provided that spouse was married to the veteran at the time of the death of that veteran. Depending on your qualifications benefits can range from \$1,000.00 to \$23,000.00 per year. Try this web site for more information: www.avbg.org or contact your local VA.

CAR GRANT: In October the VA Car Grant was increased from \$11,000 to \$18,000. This one time grant is for service connection for vision impairment to both eyes to a certain degree, loss of a limb or permanent loss of use of a limb like both knees and or hips. Not many at the VA know about this benefit. The form needed can be obtained from the net.--Shorty Sez

KOREAN WAR EX-POWS CRUISE: We are going on a cruise February 26, 2012. We would like for you join us. Many EX-POWS could not make the July reunion. We are looking forward to seeing them on this cruise. Hope you can be with us. For more information call Billy Brown or e-mail, If you have any question on this please let me know. Thanks Billy

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