



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. (Bill) Norwood, President

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Senior Vice President,

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Betty Sitler
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President's Message From the newly elected President: **"The 2011 reunion has passed, but the memories will last".**

It was great to see our many friends who attended the reunion this year but those many familiar faces missing from our ranks also saddened us. Although our numbers were small compared to previous years, it was evident that the bond of friendship formed many years ago under those extreme difficult conditions does still exist even yet today. My only regret is that I did not get to spend more "one on one time" with each person. It seemed that there was always something to do that occupied my time.

Dedication is the key to success of any organization and ours is no exception. While space will not permit us to mention by name all those dedicated members who worked the hospitality bar, the raffle table, the 50/50 drawing and the other activities that made the event a success, we are most grateful. Peggy Sullivan, Jo Ann Siebert and Ruth Powell deserve special recognition for all their time spent at the raffle table. Incidentally, although Ruth Powell is an officer of The National American EX-POW, she is also one of us. Her husband was a POW in Korea. Thank you for all your help, Ruth. Linda Bruseau was not only my on site "go-for", she was a great help to me throughout the year in arranging the color guard, photographer, special guest and other matters. Thank you, Linda. I could have not done it without your help.

Betty Sitler did her usual fine job in planning and performing a most appropriate memorial service dedicated to all those we left behind in Korea and the 49 we can account for who passed away during the past year. Thank you, Betty.

Our Chaplain, Norman Hale, delivered his usual effective spiritual message as he has done for the past 35 years. You have made a difference, Norman. Thank you for your dedication.

There were certainly some very nice items at the raffle table this year, which brought in a substantial amount of funds to our operating account. Our friend, Charles Montano, stepped forward with his usual "three big bills" which always draws a lot of interest.

Judy and Charles Egresitz arranged a large donation of sweets from Hershey Candy Company, including those favorite Tootsie Rolls, Hershey Candy Bars and Chocolate Kisses – more kisses than passed out at a "red neck wedding".

The Weber family delivered cases of treats which were donated by The Quaker Oak, enough cookies, Granola Bars and other treats to last the entire week. There were other donations far too numerous to mention. Thank you friends for your efforts.

I do not feel it is necessary to report in this letter the amount of funds contributed, but if any member wishes to know any particulars, feel free to contact me.

In regards to the attendance this year, our records reflect 219 persons registered, including family members and friends, along with only 61 EX-POW's. A total of 188 persons attended the banquet. There were 17 present at the surviving spouse breakfast.

Some changes were made in our operating procedures this year. The number of Board Members was reduced from 9 to 5, which means that we did not need to elect a board member this year. The newly elected officers to serve a one-year term are as follows: 2nd Vice - Jack Chapman, 1st Vice - David Mills, Senior Vice - Gordon Madson, and yours truly, Bill Norwood - President. Frances Champagne will serve as treasurer when we get our ducks in a row.

The current Board of Directors are: Eugene Johnson, Carlos Lugo, Cindy Chapman, Judy Egresitz and Gary Johnson. Two board members' term will expire in 2012. If you are interested in serving on the board, and we encourage you to do so, please advise the Nomination Chairman.

It was decided and approved by the Board that we will revert back to selecting a reunion site one year in advance instead of two. Therefore, a site for the 2013 reunion will be announced at Omaha. If you have a location that you would like to recommend for the 2013 reunion, send your recommendation to Elliott Sortillo, Site Selection Chairman, and he will present it to the site selection committee for consideration. This is your chance to bring our reunion to your favorite city so get your recommendation in early for consideration.

It was also decided that beginning in 2013 the official reunion dates will be reduced to four (4) days instead of the full week of seven (7) days. Most of our members only stay the four days, Wednesday thru Saturday anyway. However, we hope to negotiate the lower room rate to apply for the full week to benefit those who may choose to stay.

We had only two first timers in attendance this year, **Richard Perez** from Eugene, Oregon and **Michael DeArmond** from Clifton, Virginia. At first Richard seemed lost but he soon became one of the guys and seemed to enjoy himself. Michael did not stay around very long and missed most of the activities. Welcome aboard guys. We hope to see you at Omaha next year.

Our past President, Lloyd Pate, became ill and had to leave Norfolk early but I am happy to report that he made the trip home fine and is doing well. We wish Pate the very best.

Our next reunion will be at Omaha, Nebraska during the week of July 29 – August 5th, 2012 at The Omaha Marriott. The rate is \$89.00 per night plus tax. All pertinent information relating to reservation and other matters will be posted in upcoming newsletters

On a sad note, a special friend and long time supporter, Patsy Spivey, from Augusta, Georgia, passed away August 5, 2011. Her family designated our Association to receive memorial contributions. What a great honor indeed.

I consider it an honor to be elected as the leader of our brotherhood once again and I will do my very best to keep things on track, but I will need your help. I need your suggestions, advice, criticism where warranted, and above all your participation in the decision making process. I will count on everyone to do their part.

I LOVE AMERICA AND THE FREEDOM IT AFFORDS

Sincerely, Bill Norwood

Chaplain Corner

I want to say Hello to all Ex-POW'S and their family. I enjoyed seeing all of you that were in Virginia this year and I missed seeing the ones that did not make it. We hope that everyone made a safe trip home. We had a wonderful time and the entertainment was great this year. We missed seeing a lot of you at the Sunday morning service and we would like to thank the women who played the piano and sang. They did a great job.

My prayer today is taken from Corinthians 11: 5; 7. Our Father, make our faith grow stronger as the years pass and we realize, more and more, that we must walk by faith, rather than by sight. Help us to depend on Thee for necessary things, at the same time using to the fullest the ways and means given unto us for procuring these things. In the midst of an unbalanced and insane world, keep Thy people sane and balanced, lest we ourselves miss the way and hinder, rather than help, in our efforts to serve God. In Jesus name. Amen

Your Chaplain, Norman Hale

Korean War POW/MIA Report (JPAC)

Dear Friends,

During this last year, we've lost several good friends, including PFC Wayne Archer "Johnny" Johnson of Tiger Group, early in June. Those closest can tell his story best, but I can add a little, looking from the outside in. Johnny Johnson was captured on 11 July 1950 while serving in L Company, 3rd Battalion of 21st Infantry. He made his way north to Seoul and Pyongyang. At Pyongyang, a total of 52 men from Tiger Group printed their names on black boards in a school house where they were held, before continuing north to Manpo in September. Another group of POWs which followed Tiger Group is far better known for using blackboards at Seoul and Pyongyang, but Tiger Group did it first, about a month earlier, at Pyongyang. We know that Johnny and a few friends were already trying to keep some notes, and this use of blackboards may have helped to make the idea of "names" even more solid in their minds. The list that they prepared gradually took shape afterwards, first in the Apex Camps from November 1950 through October 1951, and then at Camp 3 on the bay below Changsong, where most of Tiger Group was held afterwards.

Johnny Johnson was released from captivity during Big Switch on 29 August 1953. He returned to the United States aboard the transport, U.S.N.S. General W.M. Black (T-AP-135). Johnny was debriefed at some length aboard the W.M. Black, between 1 and 6 September 1953. He was an absolute "God send" to those taking notes. It's often been told that the "Johnny Johnson List" was little appreciated. But that does not tell the whole story. One of his debriefers recorded, "proved to be most cooperative in answering questions. He has a list of 449 men who were killed or died while captive. He will make sworn statements"

Now his work began in earnest. Johnny Johnson wrote, and wrote, and wrote. A great stack of blank forms was placed before him, and using his list as a guide, he began to fill them out. He reported the passing of many friends on individual Armed Forces Far East 545s, "Returnee Report on Death of an Individual in Captured Status." I'm still working through these forms. They provide much the same information as his original list: name, serial number, unit, date of death, and, very importantly, home town back in the United States. These forms were later re-transcribed by typing, and several copies were made, so that other debriefing NCOs and officers could compare them with reports from other returning men.

Together, Johnny Johnson and a few friends had a fine collective memory for names. Now the process that built the list was given full play. Some names were unique. Some were remembered by several men. But one of the greatest services that he provided was to sort through similar names. He knew the differences, by home town, by unit, and sadly, by place and date of death. Friends had helped to feed him information, and he had kept it faithfully, often memorizing. Johnny Johnson and his friends did not simply report, they differentiated. Among the men whom he positively identified were three who had died on the train en route from Pyongyang to Manpo, and several others who had joined Tiger Group later, after it had arrived at the Apex Camps, and even a man who died aboard the barges that took survivors from the Apex Camps down the Yalu River to Camp 3. This is a gift that keeps on giving . . . and I, among many others, am very grateful. Best to all! Phil O'B

CONTRIBUTION: Dick Rook and Rob Rook in memory of Richard (Dick) Raby. Fred and Frances Liddell in memory of Richard (Dick) Raby and Homer Harvey. Shirley & Curtis Wong in memory of LT. Col. William Shadish, MD. Phyllis Miller in memory of Reinhart E. Miller. Willie Freeman, frequent donor. Denver

Queen City Chapter KWVA annual donation. **Lloyd Pate** memory of Leola (Lee) Cicak, Diane Cicak's Mother. **Sherry Ellis** in memory of her Father, Walter P. and Mother, Patsy Spivey. The following made donations in the memory of Patsy Spivey: **Nancy Moore, The Dickerson Family, Kleinschmidt Associates, Marianne Frye, Joe & Margaret Hurt, Phyllis Badke, Mr. & Mrs Kendall Todd, Mrs. Morene Sheriff, McNeely & Huges Family, Carl Weatherman, Janice Christopher Family, Larry Carter Jr Family, Gail Crawford, Lloyd Pate. Frank Iannantuono, operating fund.**

SICK CALL: **Dennis PAVLIK, Dick ROOK, Tim CASEY, John TOTH. Harley COON**

TAPS:

ABBOTT, William H. died March 1, 2011. He served with Hq. 3Bn. 31st Inf., 7th Div. He was captured on Dec 1, 1950 and returned during Big Switch on Aug 12, 1950. Cp 1.

COLBEY, Earl N. died 8/22/2011. He served with Med. Co. 21st Inf., 24th Div. He was captured on July 5th, 1950 and returned during Big Switch on August 23, 1953. Cps 3 and 7. NFI.

DELGADO, Tarsicio is deceased. He passed away May 19, 2007. He was in the Korean War and was a POW-MIA for 2-1/2 years. He served with G.Co. 14th Inf., 25th Div. He was captured on March 1, 1951 and returned during Big Switch on August 26, 1953. Cp2b. He is survived by his wife.

GRAPE, Mrs. Bobbie S. Passed away Aug. 22, 2011. She was a veteran of the US Army. While serving her country she sang with the USO. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Grape, who was a prisoner of war in Korea. Survivors include four children. Bobbie was buried with military honors. Bill and Liz Norwood attended the funeral.

HICKEY, Billy G. He served with C.Btry.38th FA, 2nd Div. He was captured on Nov 30, 1950 and returned during Big Switch on Aug 25, 1953. Cps 5 &3. He died in 2009, as reported by his wife, Mrs. Hickey.

HINOJOSA, Jose A. (Lil Joe) passed away at Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital, 7/26/2011. He served with "E" Co. 23rd Inf., 2nd Div. He was captured on 07/24/1951 and returned during Big Switch on 8/28/1953. He is survived by his wife.

JACKSON, George R. Died on April 5, 2010. He served with Baker Company 31st Infantry, 7th Division, and was captured on 11/30/1950 and returned during Big Switch on 9/5/1953. He is survived by a daughter, Darlene Fowler.

JOHNSON, John Lee, died May 13, 2011 He served with the 2nd Division. He was captured on Feb 13, 1951 and returned during Big Switch in August, 1953. Cp 1. He is survived by his son, daughters and grandchildren. Information received from his daughter Mary B. Johnson

JOHNSON, Wayne Archer (Johnny). In Tribute by Shorty Estabrook. JOHNNY was promoted to Glory on 1 June, 2011 at He was 79 years old and one of the youngest of the Tiger Survivor group. He had a massive stroke which he never recovered from. He had been tube fed for a number of years and now he suffers no more. He leaves his beloved mother who is more than 100 now and 2 brothers and 1 sister. Johnny was a member of L Company, 21st Infantry Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division that was on Occupation duty in Japan at that time. When the Korean War broke out the units of the 24th were rushed to Korea to meet the onslaught of the North Korean Army. They were out gunned and outnumbered and soon they suffered many casualties and many were captured. Johnny was among those captured during the early days of July 1950. During captivity Johnny thought that someone had to keep a list of the men who died or were shot so the next of kin back home would know what happened. He found scraps of paper and bits and pieces of pencils and kept his valuable list. Johnny could have been shot for doing that. He accomplished this in secret. He had no idea how important this list would become. The "LIST" grew to over 500 names during his imprisonment. This "LIST" also contained the date, places and causes of death and information of home town etc.

Johnny told debriefing Officers of his list and a note was made of it but no one seemed interested in it, but he held onto it and would never loan it out not even to the FBI. Then, during the summer of 1996, Johnny told a group of other Tiger Survivors about his list at a reunion in Evansville Indiana. Work began immediately on making a list of all the Tiger Survivors including the living and the dead, the soldiers and the civilians. With the help of Command Sergeant Major Tim Casey and Johnny's list, the entire group of Tiger Survivors, were accounted for. CSM Casey noticed that a note had been made when Johnny came home about the list and Casey notified the Department of the Army. Before long, Johnson was awarded a Silver Star Medal. There were 835 people, including 81 multi-national Civilians, with the Tiger Survivors. 58% died in captivity and are still there in North Korea. Johnson's list is now a treasured document and will be donated to the POW/MIA Museum at Andersonville, Georgia, at the Andersonville National Historic Site. I never heard Johnny swear during all the time I have known him. He is a straight arrow. Burial on Thursday 9, June 2011 at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery at San Antonio, Texas. A donation to the Andersonville POW/MIA museum in lieu of flowers is suggested.

PREWITT, James William 86, passed away, June 18, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Mary Margaret Ballew Prewitt; children, Jeannie Jones , Elizabeth Ann Roberts, Kathy Prewitt , James D. Prewitt; step-children, Penny Ballew of Barnardsville and Eric Ballew of the home; brother, Haim Q. Prewitt, Jr. and 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Bill and Liz Norwood, Emmitt Harrison and Jane Ford attended the funeral of Jim Prewitt . In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to American Ex-Prisoners of War, 3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40 • Arlington, TX 76010-5396.

SHADISH, William R. LTC (Doc) passed away 24 May, 2011. He had lung cancer. He served with Hq. 2BN, 9th Inf. 2nd Div. He was captured on 12/01/50 and returned during Big Switch on 09/05/53. He was held in Camps 2 and 5. He is survived by his wife Karen and had several children from a previous marriage.

SANPEI, Clifford M, died. Date unknown. He served with B.Co. 35th Inf. 25th Div. He was captured on 11/27/1950 and returned during Big Switch on 09/05/1953. NFI.

SPIVEY, Patsy, widow of Walter Spivey and Mother of Sherry Ellis, died Friday, August 5, 2011, after a short illness. Patsy will be remembered as a strong supporter of our Association and a fun person.

WERSAL, Florian G. died 11 May 2011. He served with B.Btry, 235th FA Obs Bn, IX Corps. He was captured on July 14, 1953 and returned during Big Switch on August 24, 1953. NFI.

ROLLING THUNDER: On Tuesday May 24th, 2011, Rolling Thunder TN. Chapter #2 sponsored a meal at Harley Davidson in Chattanooga, TN for the riders in route to the DC Memorial Day parade. There were 800 members in attendance from all across the country riding bikes that extended 3 1/2 miles on the highway. Many American and POW flags were flying from the bikes which made a beautiful sight. Bill and Liz Norwood participated in preparing and serving the meals. Our good friend, Willie Freeman, rode with Rolling Thunder in the parade at DC prior to posting the wreath at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldiers.

INFORMATION: In the June 2011 newsletter under TAPS, Charles Rickenbach is listed. His brother, **Adam Rickenbach** was also captured and was with the Tiger Group. He was shot during the Tiger Death March on November 4, 1950. He was in L Company of the 34th/24. Charles was also in the 34th and they served together in the Occupation of Japan. When the 34th was divided up and a third Bn was added to the 19th. Charles was assigned to M Company of that Regiment at capture.

COLOR GUARD, Memorial Service . Several people wanted the address of the military personnel that performed the MIA/POW table ceremony at our memorial service in order that they may send a thank you card. The following is the address, 633 MSG/CC Attn: Col. D'Alfonso 45 Nealy Ave, Ste 206, Langley AFB, VA. 23665

KEEP US IN THE LOOP: If you have moved or no longer wish to receive the Newsletter, please notify Tim Casey or Jack Chapman. Tim's phone number is or email him at . Jack's phone number is or email him at . This helps to save postage for returned newsletters. THANKS

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September 2011 Newsletter

**2012 Reunion of
The Korean War Ex-POW
Association®**

**Marriott Regency Hotel
10220 Regency Circle
Omaha, Nebraska 68114-3706
Sunday, July 29- August 5, 2012**

The rate is \$89.00 per night plus tax.

For reservations, call:

1-402-399-9000

You need to identify our Association