



Incoming Mail!!

The Korean War Veterans Association
Department of Florida

President - Fred Shear Editor - Gord Bennett

December - 1997

President's Message

Thanks to all of you who were kind enough to send cards and call with congratulations on my election. I will do my best to justify your faith in me.

As I mentioned at the convention, my primary goals are to unify, improve and expand our Department. Your input is crucial to accomplishing this. If there is something you don't like, let me know. By the same token, if you feel we are heading in the right direction, let us know that too. Without your support, moral and financial, we cannot go anywhere.

NEWS ITEMS

The Lt Richard E Cronin Chapter donated a gas powered golf cart to the VAMC at West Palm Beach on 13 Nov. Pres Fred Shear and V.P. Joe Firriolo represented the Dept. and congratulated the Chapter. **TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A KWVA CHAPTER HAS DONE THIS IN FLORIDA.**

The Korean War Memorial fund for the Tallahassee monument has little more than \$20,000.00 in it. *We must increase our efforts!!*

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THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT KISSIMMEE AT 1000 ON 24 JAN.98

Special rates for KWVA members are \$35.00 a room, **if you register in advance**, and identify yourself as a member attending the meeting. The meeting is planned to end at 1500 hrs.(3 P.M.) All Dept officers and Chapter presidents (or their designated representative) are asked to attend. This is where your chapter has the opportunity to actively participate in the Dept. A specific amount of time, no more than 60 minutes unless we have more, will be allocated to proposals for changes. These must be voted on at the next convention. The Dept. Treasury books will be audited at this meeting,

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and a report made to the members when it is completed, possibly at a later date.

For reservations- Shoneys/Quality Inn

Rte 192, Kissimmee FL

Christine Theophilus - 407-870-7374

Don't forget to identify yourself, and book in advance.

Remember the benefit packages we have obtained for our members: Dental, Vision, Travel, prescriptions! Take advantage of them and be sure your members are aware of them by mentioning it frequently at your meetings. You, your members, and the Dept. are the sole beneficiaries. We hope to negotiate more in the future.

Three New Chapters have come on line.

Wm. Cherette MOH Central Florida

Robert MacLean, President.

KWVA Chapter 153 at DeBary,

Tom Gaffney, President.

Florida Gulf Coast, Walter Dugan, Treas.

In closing, I want to wish all of our members a joyous, healthy and happy holiday season. Happy Hanukka (24 Dec.) and Merry Christmas (25 Dec.) to all!

Fred L. Shear

Beware of GI life insurance hoax.

An insurance hoax that has created administrative problems for the Dept. of Veterans Affairs for more than 40 years has resurfaced in the Miami newspapers and probably will hit your area soon. The article contains what appears to be a legitimate offer telling veterans they are entitled to a dividend on the GI insurance they had while in the service. The VA Regional Office & Insurance

Center in Philadelphia reports veterans and active duty personnel nationwide have received fliers, including return forms, from groups or individuals offering veterans assistance in applying for the dividends or in answering questions they might have. Fees range from \$2 to \$15 for each request. The articles falsely claim dividends from veterans life insurance are available to any veteran who applies. The articles go on to claim specific dollar amounts a veteran would receive, depending on the length of service. The phony applications and fliers claim the dividends have been recently authorized by Congress. In fact, there is no such dividend for veterans who do not keep their insurance in force, nor a rebate for active duty personnel. No such legislation has been approved or proposed by Congress. As in the past, the hoax applications are unwittingly printed in magazines, newspapers and newsletters, or distributed in handbills. The hoax has caused wasted efforts by thousands of veterans, active duty personnel and dependants, and has generated needless labor and mailing expense by the VA. Legitimate insurance dividends are automatically paid, usually on the anniversary date of the policy, to approximately 3 million veterans with active policies in 4 GI life insurance programs. No application is needed to receive the dividend payment. The VA is determined to stop the perpetrators of this hoax, who are trying to make a profit at the expense of veterans. If you have any questions, please contact the Veterans Service Office most convenient to you.

William. E. Charette MOH Central Florida Chapter



Florida's newest Chapter swears in the Officers.

President - Robert A. MacLean
1st Vice Pres. William A. Gibson
2nd Vice Pres. Joseph Noto
Secretary Verlin "Buck" Rogers
Treasurer Roberto Suarez
Judge Advocate Marcel P. Kirwan
Chaplain Carl F. Gielow
National Service Officer - William A. Gibson

The Charter Members of the Chapter are in alphabetical order -

William E. Charette	David W. Hanson	Peter H. Palmer
John G. Edwards	Valdor W. John	Glenn V. Reynolds
Leo E. Fell	Marcel P. Kirwan	Verlin "Buck" Rogers
William A. Gibson	Robert A. MacLean	Roberto Suarez
Carl F. Gielow	Joseph Noto	Leonard B. Wenzel

BE PREPARED

In time of serious sickness and/or death of a spouse, the following information may be necessary to help secure any benefits due the surviving spouse. Use this handy checklist to ensure that this information is readily available. It is recommended that these documents be placed in a safe location such as a safety deposit box. By taking these precautions, you will be doing yourself and your family a great favor.

- _____ Veterans DD-214 and discharge papers
- _____ Branch of service, and serial number
- _____ Date of enlistment, and place
- _____ Date of Discharge and place
- _____ Social Security Number
- _____ Social Security Papers and Information
- _____ VA Claim Number
- _____ VA Office where Veterans Records are Maintained
- _____ VA Compensation Amount and Type
- _____ Birth Certificate
- _____ Marriage Licence and/or Divorce Decree
- _____ Wills - (Name & address of attorney who drew them up)
- _____ Real Estate Records (Loan papers or Titles)
- _____ Automobile Records (Loan papers or Title)
- _____ Government Life Insurance (Policy number and Amount)
- _____ Other Life Insurance (Company Name - Policy Number - Amount)
- _____ Name of Bank, and account numbers (Checking - Savings -
- _____ Attorneys Name - Address and Telephone Number
- _____ Accountants Name - Address and Telephone Number
- _____ Investment Counsellors Name - Address and Telephone.

Notice to all FL KWVA Chapters - Please make copies of these pages and distribute to your members.

Important Information From your Veterans Service Officer

Dr. Vito Matthew Rao

Telephone - 954-968-5567 Fax - 954-968-5574

Documents Required To Apply For Benefits. A common problem is that the widow(er) does not have, or cannot find the documents required to apply for benefits. The burden of proof of entitlement to various benefits is the individual applicants responsibility. Prepare yourself - obtain now what you may require later. Check the following listing.

Birth Certificate(s)

For retiree - spouse and dependant children.

Marriage Certificate(s)

To include any previous marriages of the retiree and/or spouse.

Divorce Decree(s)

To include any previous divorce of the retiree and/or spouse.

Changes in Name

Court order changing name of retiree, spouse or dependant children.

Discharge Certificate

DD Forms 214 covering all periods of active service.

Retirement Orders

A Death Certificate must accompany any claim filed

for benefits and entitlements after the death of a retired member

These documents are required for Social Security benefits, VA entitlements, SBP/RSFPP claims, Retired Pay, life insurance claims, vehicle registration, property deeds, joint bank accounts, etc.

If you require military documents, or need to obtain a copy of your military record(s), write to :- **National Personnel Records Center - Military Personnel Records -**

9700 Page Ave. St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

The Court of Veterans Appeals (COVA) was established in 1968 solely that millions of veterans and their dependants would have the right to judicial review of decisions from the VA, yet none of the present judges ever represented veterans in an advocacy role before being appointed to the court. All six of the judges currently sitting on the court are former government employees. In fact, no veterans lawyer has ever served on the court. The result is that the point of view of veterans' advocates is not articulated during the deliberations of the "veterans court" Veterans may rightly ask whether they are receiving truly independent judicial review when one side, the government, has the exclusive power to appoint judges and uses that power to monopolize the court by excluding veterans' advocates from the bench.

Notification of Annual Assessment

A proposal by the Executive Council that a levy of one dollar (\$1.00) per member be assessed against each Chapter to help provide operating expenses for the department was approved by the membership at the annual business meeting on 25 Oct. 97.

An operating budget not to exceed \$2500.00 in expenditures by the department was also adopted at this meeting. These expenditures are to be for, but not limited to, copying, mailing, telephone and other incidental costs such as sympathy flowers, but will *not normally* cover travel, lodgings, meals or other expenses of any officers in the performance of their duties. The by-laws allow previously authorized travel expenses, which has not, and probably will not, occur without a huge increase in our income.

The Dept. Officers wish to bring to the attention of the chapter members that this assessment against slightly over 500 members, as determined by a compilation at the meeting, covers only twenty percent of the budget.

Support of department fund raising efforts is essential Please support your department.

It was decided arbitrarily that the assessment would be based on the number of members claimed by your chapter on 1 Jan. 98. **IT IS BASED ON THE HONOR SYSTEM.** We suggest that the assessment be paid out of your chapter treasury and recovered as you see fit. **THIS ASSESSMENT IS DUE BEFORE 1 MARCH 1998**

Please send in your assessments as soon as possible after determining it. A roster of members must accompany this to show who you are paying for. Send them to - George Spitzer, Dept. Treasurer.6028 Dusenburg Rd. Delray Beach FL 33484-1550
If there are any questions. call Fred Shear at 1-888-532-3891

USE ACCENT TRAVEL FOR YOUR TRAVEL NEEDS! YOU ARE HELPING YOUR DEPARTMENT!! 1-800-462-9296 - IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS KWVA

Notice to all KWVA Chapters in the State of Florida

In future issues of the "Incoming Mail" I would like to publish a short article from each Chapter. All that is required is a few lines to let the other Chapters know what you are up to. The date - time - and place of your meeting would be helpful, in case anyone would like to pay you a visit. Any information regarding social events, or fund raising ventures, could be beneficial to all. So give it some thought, and put something down on paper. The next issue will be coming out around the first week in January. This will be a few days later than usual, because of the holiday season. Normally, the newsletter will be issued around the first of the month. Please send your submissions to

Gord Bennett- Editor - Incoming Mail -
11300 124th Ave. N. Lot 65 - Largo, FL 33778

**The Korean War Veterans Association
Department of Florida**

1225 NW 21st St. Apt 502, Stuart, FL 34994-9323

E-mail: kvetfred@mc.seflin.org

**Officers and Appointments
as of 1 Nov 97**

**President - Fredrick L Shear
1225 NW 21st St. Apt 502
Stuart, FL 34994-9322
1-888-532-3891**

**1st Vice Pres- Joseph Firriolo
2510 NE 209th Terrace
North Miami Beach FL 33180-1044
1-0-288-1-305-931-6535**

**2nd Vice Pres - Dr. Ralph Levy
17599 Candlewood Terrace
Boca Raton, FL 33487
1-0-288-1-561-995-9962**

**3rd Vice Pres - Mort Rosen
6461 NW 2nd Ave. #516
Boca Raton, FL 33487-3052
1-0-288-1-561-998-2451**

**Founder/Past Pres- Emmett Benjamin
106 5th St. NE
Havana, FL 32333
1-0-288-1-904-539-9053**

**Immediate Past Pres - Jack Edwards
9330 89th Way N.
Largo, FL 33777
1-800-320-5262**

**Secretary - Peter Palmer
704 Citrus Ct. "The Bluffs"
Largo, FL 33770-2756
1-0-288-1-813-584-7143**

**Treasurer - George L. Spitzer
6028 Dusenburg Rd.
Delray Beach, FL 33484-1550
1-0-288-1-561-496-5151**

**Judge Advocate - Charles Carafano
1885 Van Allen Circle
Deltona Beach, FL 32738-4314
1-0-288-1-904-532-0534**

**Sgt-at-Arms - Frank Porvaznic
4955 NW 199th St. #96
Miami, FL 33055
305-620-6630**

**Historian - Amelia Carafano
1885 Van Allen Circle
Deltona, FL 32738-4314
1-0-288-1-904-532-0534**

**Public Information Officer
David W. Hanson
2559 15th Ave. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33713
1-800-593-2583**

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Officers and Appointments (cont)

Veterans Service Officer

Dr. Vito M. Rao

4970 SW 8th St.

Margate, FL 33068

1-0-288-1-954-968-5567

Editor - Incoming Mail

Gordon L. Bennett

11300 124th Ave. N. Lot 65

Largo, FL 33778

1-0-288-1-813-585-8717

**The following is a list of the KWVA
Chapters in the State of Florida.**

Capital City Chapter

Bob Fleig - President

2001 Old Augustine Rd. K101

Tallahassee, FL 32301

1-0-288-1-904-458-1980

Col. A. Gritsavage Chapter

C. Carafano - President

1885 Van Allen Circle

Deltona, FL 32738-4314

1-0-288-1-904-532-0534

Florida Gulf Coast Chapter

Walter Dugan - Treasurer

907 SE 17th St.

Cape Coral, FL 33990-2332

1-0-288-1-941-458-1980

South Dade Chapter

(Currently Inactive)

Lt. R.E. Cronin Chapter

Ralph Levy - President

17599 Candlewood Terrace

Boca Raton, FL 33487

1-0-288-1-561-995-9962

Treasure Coast Chapter

Fred Shear - President

1-888-532-3891

Wm. E. Charette MOH

Central Florida Chapter

Robert A. MacLean - President

11430 Camp Mack Road

Lake Wales, FL 33853

941-696-7091

Eddie Lyon Chapter

Ted M. Cedro - President

990 SW 111th Way - Davie, FL 33324-4129

1-0-288-1-954-475-2681

KWVA Chapter 153 at DeBary

Thomas W. Gaffney - President

624 Vespers Way

Orange City, FL 32763

904-775-8803

Osceola Chapter

David L. Conboy - President

4945 Spiral Way

St Cloud, FL 34771-7906

1-0-288-1-407-892-7409

Suncoast Chapter

Clarence Dadswell - President

4810 3rd St. North

St. Petersburg, FL 33703

813-522-6496