

Incoming Mail!!



*The Korean War Veterans Association
Department of Florida*

*President - Fred Shear Editor - Gord Bennett
April - 1998*

Presidents Message

DEPARTMENT MEETING

Saturday, 25 April 1998 - from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It will be at AMVETS Post 15, 2024 S. US 1 - Fort Pierce. Located on the East side of US 1 next to the Donut Circus, just North of Virginia Ave. Lunch will be provided by the Treasure Coast Chapter.

BE SURE TO HAVE A DELEGATE WITH VOTING POWERS AT THIS MEETING.

DIRECTIONS - Turnpike Exit 152 (or) I-95 Exit 65. Go East on Route 70. At Orange Blossom Mall bear right at fork onto Virginia Ave. to end (US-1). Turn left. Post 15 on your right. If you miss the fork, turn right on US 1. AMVETS on your left. AMVETS phone : 561 464-7751, in case you get lost.

STATE CONVENTION -

Two sites are available. The Inn on the Lake, at Sebring, (where the 1st convention was held in 1995) and the Radison Resort Hotel on the beach at Fort Pierce. We will be inspecting this one in conjunction with the meeting, so please arrive on time.

THE CONVENTION SITE WILL BE CHOSEN AT THIS MEETING.

NATIONAL CONVENTION -

The Department has secured a block of rooms at the Best Western Tyson's Corner Hotel. This hotel is a short walk (2 blocks) from the convention headquarters at the Sheraton Premier. The room rate is \$65.00 a night, double. You must make your own reservations, (first come, first served) by calling 1 800 828-3297. Make sure you identify yourself as a Korean War Veteran from the Dept of FL.

(continued next page)

President's Message (Continued from page 1)

DEPARTMENT DUES

Once more, this matter will be discussed at the Department meeting. We will also discuss what action, if any, to take concerning non-paying chapters. Extensions can be requested, and reasonable excuses will be decided by the attendees.

OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED

By-laws revisions - Fund raising - Tallahassee monument progress - Korean-American Appreciation Day - and an agenda for our delegates to bring to the National convention.

THE YEAR OF THE EAR

No other Department in the country can boast of it's own **AUDIOLOGIST SERVICE OFFICER**. Dr. Glen McCormick PhD, has agreed to represent our Department in this capacity. Recently retired from the Veterans Administration Medical Center at West Palm Beach, Dr. McCormick has been working closely with me, and the Dept. of FL on helping veterans get the maximum help and compensation for their hearing loss. It is our intent to expose and correct the many inequities in the **RATINGS AND ADJUDICATION** process, which often negates all the good done by the medical staff. To further awareness of this program, Dr. McCormick proposes that the Dept. launch a "YEAR OF THE EAR" campaign. More details will be forthcoming. In the meantime, for information concerning hearing loss (and claims to the VA concerning hearing loss) contact Dr. McCormick at his home - 561 745-1795. All other claims should be directed to our Dept. Service Officer, Dr. V. Mathew Rao at 561 451-8772. For maximum effectiveness and minimum aggravation...

CONTACT YOUR SERVICE OFFICER BEFORE FILING YOUR CLAIM!

Fred Shear - President - Dept of Florida

The Sunshine State Chapter and The Wm. R. Charette MOH Chapter

The Sunshine State Chapter made a presentation to the Wm.R.Charette MOH Chapter, Lake Wales, of a copy of the 1997 edition of the book, "British Forces in the Korean War". The book was inscribed "In view of the very close friendship developed between the Wm. R. Charette MOH and the Sunshine State Chapters of the Korean War Veterans Association, bearing in mind that there are several "comrades" who are members of both Chapters- the Sunshine State Chapter wishes to present this book to the Wm.R.Charette MOH Chapter for retention by their Historian and this 30th day of March 1998".



Commemorative Stamp For MASH Units

Warren Zundell MD has proposed the issuance of a commemorative stamp by the US Postal Service, honoring the many MASH units that saved so many lives by treating and operating on casualties in the field. A lot of soldiers owe their lives, or at least the preservation of their limbs, to a MASH Unit. You can help. Write to:-

**Postmaster General
US Postal Service
Washington DC 20260**

And tell them you want them to issue a stamp to commemorate MASH.

Col Alice Gritsavage Chapter

Meets at VFW Post 4209 in Ocala. Next meeting Tuesday 28 April. 6 p.m for coffee, and 7 p.m for the business meeting. Annual elections will take place at this meeting. Money has been raised to erect a Korean War Veterans marker for the new veterans park in Ocala.

Members of the Chapter will be visiting Col Alice at the nursing home in Daytona Beach on her birthday, April 8th.

Treasure Coast Chapter

John Bowman elected Chapter President. Vice Pres. - Bob McCaffrey.
The Chapter meets at AMVETS Post 15, 2024 S. US 1 in Fort Pierce.
The Chapter will be hosting the State Convention in October.

Capital City Chapter

Elections will be held at the meeting on 7 June.

Two international commemorative medals, the NOBEL PEACE PRIZE MEDAL and the U.N. 50th ANNIVERSARY MEDAL, may be available to veterans of the war in Korea. Applications have been requested, and more information will be made available as it is received.

PFC Emory L. Bennett Memorial Chapter #153

Meets second Wednesday of month. @ 2:00p.m. - VFW Post 8093 in Debary FL

††† **Sue Noto** - 1937-1998- at home, 24 March. Wife of Joseph Noto Sr., member of the Wm.R. Charette MOH Chapter KWVA. Members of the Chapter were joined by members of the Sunshine State Chapter, and the local VFW Post Honor Guard, for a Memorial Service, 29 March. Joe Noto served with the 187th Airborne RCT in Korea, and recently experienced an emotional reunion with Dave Hanson, who had also served with the 187th. Dave had believed Joe had been KIA in 1951.

Vietnam vet feels like "Rocky" after liver transplant

Stuart - Bob Strasser is making a remarkable recovery for someone who was sent home to die from liver cancer just a few months ago. "I can't stop smiling, it's unbelievable" a jubilant Strasser said after receiving a liver transplant Jan. 12. "I feel like doing a Rocky" he said, referring to the triumphant scene on the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum in the first movie. "I got a perfect match." Wounded and decorated in the Vietnam war the 50 year old former Marine—"Actually, I'm 44 days old," he quipped— was close to dying when he got word a liver was available. He credits Vito Rao retired physician in Boca Raton for getting him through the process required to get onto a transplant waiting list. Rao is the National Service Officer for the Marine Corps League Southeast division and heard about Strasser through a fellow leaguer. "I tried to determine what could be done for him," Rao said during a recent visit with Strasser. "I knew he was pretty destitute at the time, he had no visible means of income, he was as close to desperate as you can get." Strasser, who was on 100% Social Security disability, yet he had no health insurance. "My experience told me that when someone has 100% disability and is receiving SSI benefits, he automatically qualifies for Medicare, in spite of his age." Rao said. So they applied for Medicare insurance, and got it. Strasser's \$300,000.00 liver transplant was covered, and he went through the system to get onto the waiting list. Both fault the VA for not playing more of an advocacy role in Strasser's case, but Rao said it was "horrendous" that Strasser was given another appointment six months down the road at the Riviera Beach VA office. "That was like a death sentence, because frankly, he couldn't survive six months," he said. "He was approximately two weeks from just terminating." Rao wants to help others who don't know where to turn. "There are some very fine organizations that do a lot of work in this area." Rao said. "But a lot of people don't know how to find them." Rao also said the public needs to be more aware of just how desperately organ donations

are needed. He said Strasser was one of the lucky ones. His donor was a 71 year-old Tampa man "who had heart trouble, and a perfect liver." For referral information, call Dr. Rao in Boca Raton at (561) 451-8772. The University of Miami Organ Procurement Organization is at (305) 243-2892, or (800) 232-2892 in south Florida

Taps † † †

St. Pete Times - 2 April 98

HAROLD WILSON, 76, a Marine who won the Medal of Honor in the Korean War, died Sunday in West Columbia S.C., of lung cancer. Mr. Wilson was cited for heroism during an enemy attack April 23-24 1951. Although wounded in an arm, a leg, his head and shoulder, he rallied troops, delivered ammunition and administered first aid as attackers swarmed his platoon's position. When the final attack was repulsed at dawn, he walked unassisted a half-mile to an aid station.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old, age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,

We will remember them.



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Web Sites

Department of Florida: <http://www.seflin.org/kwvafi>
 North Korean News: <http://www.kcna.co.jp> (Propoganda/DPR News)
 The Korean Project: <http://www.koreanwar.org> (New for "onramp")

PLEASE NOTIFY FRED SHEAR OR PETER PALMER OF YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IF YOU GO ON LINE IN THE FUTURE. AS YOU KNOW, IT IS A CHEAPER AND FASTER MEANS OF COMMUNICATING.

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 the first week of May. Normally, the newsletter will be issued around the first of every month. Please send your submissions to

Gord Bennett - Editor

"Incoming Mail"

11300 124th Ave. N. Lot 13 Largo, FL 33778-2718

The Korean War Veterans Association

Department of Florida

1225 NW 21st St. Apt 502, Stuart, FL 34994-9322

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Officers and Appointments

as of 1 Nov 97

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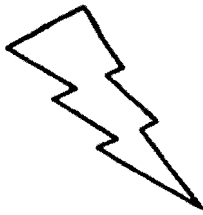
Largo, FL 33770-2756

1-0-288-1-813-584-7143

Treasurer - George L. Spitzer

6028 Dusenburg Rd.

Delray Beach, FL 33484-1550



Good News !!!

For anyone planning to attend the festivities in Washington the end of July, some very attractive accomodation rates have been negotiated at The Best Western Tysons Corner Hotel. Details in President's Message, page 1.

NEWS FROM SOME OF THE KWVA CHAPTERS IN THE DEPT OF FLORIDA

The Sunshine State Chapter

Florida's newest chapter is growing in leaps and bounds. With well over 50 members already, membership is growing apace. A number of top entertainers have volunteered their time and talent, to put on a variety show, to benefit the chapter. The show will be at "Show Offs" in Seminole Mall at 2:00p.m. on Sunday, 10 May - Anyone wishing tickets can contact Public Information Of-Hanson at 813 328-1028. A fairly active social calendar is being planned for the chapter.



We are having a "farewell to Snowbirds" party at our April meeting, and a number of smaller events are being planned by the members. The Chapter newsletter the "~~—38th Parallel—~~" is now in production, and has been well received. The Chapter Honor Guard paraded for the first time in the Seminole Pow-Wow parade, to many accolades. The Chapter meets on the 2nd Wed. of the month at 7:00p.m., at American Legion Post 252, Seminole.

Reunions

15th RSM USAFSS Japan, Korea
1950-1954

3rd annual reunion - Sep.10-Sep.13/98
Holiday Inn Ocean Front
1300 No. Atlantic Ave.Cocoa Beach FL
[407] 783-2271

Contact - James Bramwell
1-610-544-5143
1-610-243-7511

E-Mail JB87N66@Erols.com

Editors note:

If you know of any other unit reunions coming up, let me know and I can pass on the information to the other chapters.



I Goofed

(probably)

See if you can find any mistakes.

Your Editor

The Korean War Veterans Association

Department of Florida

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

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(cont next page)

Please Note: There may be ammendments in addresses etc. for Department and Chapter officers. **Check for any changes.** Use the current list in this issue of The Incoming Mail, and disregard previous issues.

Officers and Appointments (cont.)

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Eddie Lyon Chapter

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Suncoast Chapter

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Sunshine State Chapter

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

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Florida Gulf Coast Chapter

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