



THE NEWSLETTER

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Fourth Quarter - 2006

MESSAGE from the President



Bill McCraney

My appreciation to Eddie Ko, for establishing the DoF Annual Veteran of the Year award. Eddie is a member of Chapter 175 and a long time friend of the Korean War Veterans. His gift has given us not only the means, but also the inspiration, to honor Chapter members who distinguish themselves by service to their Chapter. In my opinion, an award like this is long overdue. We all have outstanding members in our Chapters and, as we all know, they seldom get the praise they deserve. However, even though it is right and just to pay honor to those who are always there when we need them, we also need to be able to adopt an appreciation for those members who do not fall into this category.

I remember a time when I often fretted about the fact that in Chapter there were always only a handful of members who seemed to do all the work. The ones who were willing to hold an office, to chair a committee, to lead or work for a Chapter project. I was aware that this was true for most organizations, not just the KWVA, but that didn't make me any less angry. Many times I was ready to just throw up my hands and quit. Fortunately, over time I came to view "membership" from another perspective. While it is clearly true, that Chapter survival is often dependent upon those handfuls of extraordinary members, we need out other members too. Those members who attend meetings and provide fellowship but who never or rarely work on a project or join in Chapter functions, those members who seldom attend meetings let alone participate in Chapter activities, but who nevertheless support our goals and, on occasion, help with Chapter financial needs, and then, of course, we have those members in name only who do none of the above.

However, we need to remember that lending one's name to an organization is no small thing. We need each one, because each one is a KOREAN WAR VETERAN, a bond that we must honor forever. So often these days, I speak with Chapter Presidents who are very discouraged because no one will run for office and so few will actually do the work required to maintain a Chapter. It is difficult, and many hard working members are near burn out. However, if you are one, consider that maybe that is your calling, and God bless you and thank you for answering the call. If you are NOT one, consider changing your commitment to your comrades, even a little would be of great service.

I also see a great need among too many of our members to stop complaining, to stop being so critical and to stop being disrespectful to each other!

So, while we are selecting the recipient of the Eddie Ko award, perhaps we all can make an effort to renew our pride in who we are and in what we did and continue to do. Our time together for today and for whatever tomorrows we have left, is worth the effort

**BILL MCCRANEY, PRESIDENT
KWVA DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**

News from the Chapters

From Charette MOH Chapter **158**

We are looking forward to hosting the Winter DoF Council Meeting on January 27 in Winter Haven. The Admiral Inn at Cypress Gardens is a great hotel and the food is very good. I know they will do a good job for us, and, by the way, we really got a good room rate from them! [Get your reservations in early!] You know January is the Big Season for Cypress Gardens and the rooms are much higher than our rate. We hope that you will be able to stay and visit the Gardens before or after the meeting. This is the best time of the year to do so.

We hope to maintain or top the attendance records we have been setting for Council Meetings! Ask your President for a reservation form for lunch at \$13.00 each. Bring your wife!

Also, we are holding a raffle for two passes to Disney. Actually four (4) passes, two at each drawing. These would make a great gift or a great getaway. Proceeds benefit the Chapter 158 Nursing Scholarship Program.

If I can be of any assistance, or answer questions about the meeting, please let me know.

Jim Bradford, President, Chapter 158
863-293-3055

SEE YOU IN JANUARY!

From Lopez Chapter **175**

None of the twelve months are inactive or idle times for the Lopez Chapter, but I suppose November is one of our busier and more demanding months. Thus far, we have participated as the Honor Guard at the funeral services of a Korean War Veteran. For the full week of November 6-10 we have gone into nine classrooms with the School Program/Tell America. The

students in the area schools welcome and appear to enjoy our visits. We try our best to impress upon these students the value of veterans.

On November 11, we held a fundraiser at 9:00 A.M., a visit to perform services by our Honor Guard at the Lopez Nursing Home in Lutz at 11:00 A.M. After a lunch with the Veterans at the Nursing home, we traveled to Ed Radice Park in Citrus Park for KVV Memorial Service. Afterwards, we had a cook-out with ribs, chicken, etc. A choir from the local Korean church sang patriotic songs and the affair was well attended.

LOPEZ Chapter officers elected for 2006-2007 are:

President	Fred Gossett
1 st VP	Jim Smith
2 nd VP	Bill Sarver, Jr..
Secretary	Clarence Clifton
Treasurer	Sam Hayes
Chaplain	Joe McDermott
Events Coordinator	Murdoch Ford

Our membership is growing and our meetings are well attended.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Council Meeting January 27, 2007

Admiral Inn, Winter Haven

Annual Council Meeting and Convention
May 11 and 12, 2007

Kenilworth Lodge at Sebring

RULES FOR THE EDDIE KO AWARD

1. Prior to April 15, 2007, select the one among your membership who will be your OUTSTANDING VETERAN. The selection process may be any that you deem appropriate, but should take into account the following:

The recipient should be a person who demonstrates behaviors that are consistent with the DoF Code of Ethics. (See the DoF Manual)

1. and which are supportive of the Korean War Veterans Association
2. Present the award, and celebrate the occasion in any manner deemed appropriate. (Anything-from a certificate or plaque to a dinner in his/her honor to assistance with Convention expenses).
3. Submit a letter to the DoF Judge Advocate, Richard Arcand,, (email is acceptable) which identifies the recipient's name, address, phone, e-mail and Chapter, and which also explains why he/she was selected. The JA must receive this letter no later than April 30, 2007



The wind at Pinellas Park was chilly

Please encourage your **OUTSTANDING VETERAN** to attend the DoF 2007 Convention for at least the General Meeting and evening banquet on Saturday, May 12, as all **OUTSTANDING VETERANS** will be honored at the Convention. The winner of the award will be chosen by lot from the approved letters/e-mails submitted.

Richard Arcand, DoF, Judge Advocate
5674 Bay Pines Lake Blvd
St. Petersburg, FL 33708
Tel 727-392-5648
e-mail richard.arcand@verizon.net

PICNIC SEASON IS FALL

The PICNIC Season is here and the weather has not been helpful so far. The annual bash for Chapter 199 at Coquina Beach on November 16th was reported to be GREY and somewhat COLD. Everybody pitched in, however, and the reports were that a good time was had by all.

Chapter 14 celebrated on a WINDY day at Freedom Lake Park (Pinellas Park FL) on 4 November . Again, everyone was bundled up to stay warm. The ribs were great!

CALL FOR ELECTIONS

Gene Gillette has issued the required "Call for Elections" and it is reproduced as Page 4

BOOSTERS WILL BE NEEDED For the DoF CONVENTION See Page 5

TELL AMERICA Program

Hello to the Chapter Chairmen of the TELL AMERICA Program. "Remember Korea"

The State developed a program several years ago to reward school children who wrote winning essays after you presented your program to them on Korea.

Each year the Department of Florida offers a monetary award for the best essay. So far, NO ONE has claimed the honor.

A program profile was sent to each Chapter for both middle and high school participation about three years ago.

We know the Chapters have programs as we see them published in the **Graybeards**.

Lets make this year a banner year for our students. Encourage the Essay Program and be prepared to share a "winner" with all of us.

Joan Arcand - Coordinator



KWVA THE DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
CALL FOR ELECTIONS
For DoF Officers for the 2006-07 Term

OFFICES OPEN FOR ELECTION:

President
First Vice President
Second Vice President
Third Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

LETTERS OF DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY

Must be sent to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee by email, fax or US mail. The letter must be postmarked or electronically dated **NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 20, 2007.**

LETTERS OF DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY MUST INCLUDE:

1. Your name, address, email address (if applicable), and phone #.
2. Name and # of KWVA Chapter(s) in which you hold membership.
3. Title of the office you are seeking.
4. Your resume.
5. Positions or offices held in the KWVA, (Chapter, State and National).
6. Positions or offices held in other organizations.
7. National KWVA membership number.
8. A request to the Chairman to confirm receipt of your letter.

Send to:

CHAIRMAN GENE GILLETTE
DOF NOMINATING COMMITTEE
1407 39th Street W.
Bradenton, Florida 34205
941-746-4440
GilletteRedMan@aol.com

***KWVA THE DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
NEEDS BOOSTERS!***

***TO ALL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS:
WE HOPE YOUR CHAPTER WILL CONSIDER
BEING A BOOSTER***

FOR THE FLORIDA KWVA 2007 CONVENTION/REUNION!

**AND
IF YOU COULD TRY TO GET
AT LEAST ONE OTHER BOOSTER,
IT WOULD REALLY BE APPRECIATED!**

**KWVA CHAPTERS, INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, PLACES OF BUSINESS,
PROFESSIONAL OFFICES, CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS,
OTHER VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS,
AND ALL FRIENDS OF KOREAN WAR VETERANS
CAN BE BOOSTERS FOR**

OUR REUNION IN SEBRING

MAY 11-13, 2007

**BE A GOLD STAR BOOSTER FOR \$100!
A SILVER STAR BOOSTER FOR \$75!
A BRONZE STAR BOOSTER FOR \$50!**

AND

**A RED/WHITE&BLUE BOOSTER FOR \$25!
BOOSTERS ARE RECOGNIZED IN THE CONVENTION PROGRAM**

**CHECKS PAYABLE TO
KWVA DOF
SEND TO
JOAN ARCAND, DOF TREASURER
5674 BAY PINE LAKE BLVD
ST PETERSBURG, FLORIDA 33708**

**THANK YOU!
DoF Officers and 2007 Convention Committee**

Jerry Oldham from the Pensacola Chapter 293 sent in the following:

**Pensacola's Marine Trio
FRIENDSHIP FORGED IN WAR, PEACE**

**By Megan Kohr
Gosport Staff Writer**

Known as the "Forgotten War", June 25 [2006] represents the 56th anniversary of the start of the Korean War; but, for three Pensacola natives, the war will be remembered as time where serving one's country was part of an unwritten duty and patriotism was high.

The summer of 1948 was like any other for southerners: hot, lazy and carefree. World War II was over, life was good and the economy was booming - life was good. Little did this band of "brothers" know that this was the summer that would change their lives forever.

Kenneth Clark Sr., Joseph "Carl" Leary and Billy "Pete" Peterson, a trio of friends, decided to proudly serve their country and join the U.S. Military together. They faced the problem of which branch to sign up with. Clark and Peterson were leaning toward joining the Army, but it was Leary's persistence to join the Marine Corps that the boys decided to stick together and join Leary.

"I wanted to join the Marine Corps because I liked the uniforms," Leary said. "I liked the blue suits with the red stripe down the leg." However, joining the Corps was not an easy task. The boys went to Montgomery, Ala., for their military entrance physical, and Leary was too tall according to Marine Corps regulations. They were going to send him home, but Peterson and Clark refused to join without their friend. After reexamination, the boys were off to Parris Island, S.C., for boot camp.

These newly commissioned Marines were due for Korea. Peterson and Leary were in the same company but Clark was assigned to a different one. All with the First Marine Division, the trio arrived ashore Blue Beach off the coast of Inchon, Korea, Sept. 15, 1950. A little apprehensive and scared, Leary stated that he would go to Korea as long as there weren't any snakes.

Though reluctant to speak of their experiences in Korea, history shows that forces gathered for the Inchon invasion including the First Marine Division, the Army's Seventh Infantry Division, some South Korean units, amphibious ships and other Navy warships.

According to Naval Historical Center, the Marines quickly won the battle sweeping up to Seoul next. The First Marine Division continued to fight as casualties were high.

One instance Nancy Clark, wife of the late Kenneth Clark, said, "The only thing he really said was the bitter cold and how he 'never wanted to be bitter cold again.'" This was in reference to the Hanhung-Hungnam area of North Korea where temperatures reached 30 to 50 degrees below zero and a wind chill of -120 degrees was recorded. Here, the Marines were attacked as they fought for 17 days where they pushed to Chosin, North Korea.

The Chinese strength outnumbered the Marines six to one, and casualties were heavy. The Marines regrouped and fought their way to the sea. Major Gen. Oliver Smith is quoted, "Retreat hell. We're just attacking in a different direction."

Though the war was far from over, the Marines began staggering the rotation from the United States to Korea. Leary drew from a deck of cards and pulled the Queen of Hearts, which meant he was coming back to the states. Soon after him, Clark and Peterson followed suit.

Though finishing their work in other places, such as guard duty for Leary or guarding Harry S. Truman in Key West, Fla., for Clark, the trio would reunite again in Pensacola where they married and raised families, remaining friends to this day.

These boys served with pride and integrity, and though not looking for the same fanfare that World War II veterans received, Clark's family, Leary and Peterson have thrown their support to the Pensacola chapter of the Korean War Veteran's Association to construct a memorial in order to make sure this war is not forgotten.

Letting their experiences guide them in life and the rare loyalty to each other, this trio has demonstrated "once a Marine, always a Marine."



CLARK



LEARY



PETERSON