



THE NEWSLETTER
KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

FALL 2008



From the Desk of the President

Dear Comrades: It doesn't seem possible that six months have already transpired in our 2008-2009 year. Now that most of you are back from your vacations, we can continue our good work on behalf of our veterans.

As of this writing, we have received a total of \$23,032.85 for the Wounded Warrior Fund plus approximately \$16,000 sent in by the Deland Skydiving Association where I worked as the President of Florida, KWVA, for three days

I cannot thank you enough for your support of the truly deserving thousands of men and women that are wounded in our current military conflicts.

I trust that every member has had a chance to read the account of Marine Sergeant Merlin German that was distributed at the Fall Council meeting and you will see why I'm so passionate about the Wounded Warrior Project.

Public law 110-254 – June 30, 2008 is the title assigned to the Charter for the KWVA. The complete text of the bill can be downloaded from the KWVA National website [www.kwva.org] along with commentary by the principal legislators and our then President Louis Dechert. The text is in Portable Document Format (PDF) a program which can be downloaded for free from the Adobe web site.

The most significant item was probably:
Article 120105 POWERS "The corporation has only those powers provided in its bylaws and articles of incorporation filed in each State in which it is incorporated."

Plans for the January 24th Council Meeting

The venue for the January meeting will be the DAYS INN in Clermont, FL

The telephone number for the hotel is (352)429-0483. Our host Chapter 188 by contacting Maxine Parker at (352)787-7417 or by e-mailing her at hog99ultra@aol.com.



Pool at Days Inn

We will meet in the Morrow Room which has been reserved from 9 AM to 4 PM. A check should be transmitted to the Department Secretary by January 16, 2009

Joan Arcand
5674 Bay Pines Lakes Blvd
St. Petersburg, Florida

Cost of lunch is \$15 per person.

The first event (9:30 to 10:30) will be set aside for a short indoctrination session for newly elected Chapter Presidents and/or their representatives..

The September Council Meeting

Highlights of the Fall Council Meeting at Spring Hill featured the transmittal of checks in the amount of \$21,598.06 to President Balzer for his Wounded Warrior Program primarily from the Spring Hill Community and Dr. Singh.

Judge Advocate

The Judge Advocate, Hank Butler reported that the KWVA now has a National Charter issued by Congress and that would probably mean changes in the near future in Chapter and Department Bylaws

Quartermaster

The Quartermaster, Dick Garfield, announced that he would be resigning effective with the January Council meeting. Eddie Ko, Korean Liaison representative, updated the assembly on the political situation in North Korea. He indicated the possibility of a citizen's revolt.

Historian

As of the 2009 Convention, we will be looking for a new Historian inasmuch as Kelly Goodblood has relocated to Maine and will no longer be able to help us.

Lost Chapters

Two chapters, Chapter 159 and Chapter 293 were dropped from the State rolls. The Pensacola Chapter disbanded and were advised to send in their charter. Chapter 159 has not responded for two years to any communication and has not paid any dues. After repeated attempts, the Department of Florida has suspended Chapter 159 as part of the Department and has notified KWVA National of our actions.

A raffle for the Swiss Army Mountain Rifle (Circa 1918) in mint condition was shown by Bill McCraney and Chapter Presidents were reminded that the limited tickets were sent out previously by the Secretary. The drawing will be part of the Annual Convention at Crystal River.



Victory Ship To Set Sail Nov. 8 for a 'Salute to Veterans' Cruise

Courtesy of the American Victory Mariners Memorial & Museum Ship

TAMPA, Fla. -- The World War II-era SS American Victory sets sail in Tampa Bay Nov. 8 for a "Salute to Veterans" cruise" Tickets are \$99 per person. The cost includes continental breakfast and box lunch. Boarding begins at 7:30 a.m. Departure is at 9 a.m. and return is at 3:30 p.m. The American Victory departs from behind the Florida Aquarium.

Tickets can be purchased by calling (813) 228-8766, online at www.americanvictory.org, by e-mailing amvic@americanvictory.org or visiting the ship at 705 Channelside Drive, Tampa, adjacent to the Florida Aquarium.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Convention of the KWVA just completed its 2008 meeting at the Sheraton-Waterside, Norfolk, VA. Attending from the State of Florida were Frank Cohee (National Secretary) and Jake Feaster (Membership) as well as Department President Bob Balzer, 1st V.P. Jim Bradford, Secretary Joan Arcand, Treasurer Richard Arcand, Immediate Past President Bill McCraney. Laurie McCraney and Becky Bradford accompanied their husbands.



Pictured are [l-r] President Bob Balzer; Department of Florida; National President, Bill MacSwain; Department of Florida Officers: Joan Arcand; Bill McCraney; Jim Bradford. - Standing behind the framed Charter granted by Congress

Some of us attended the Board of Directors Meeting where many items were considered and resolved. This was an important meeting inasmuch as this was the first time a formal meeting was convened for the purpose of making the KWVA comply with the requirements of the new Federal Charter.

REPORTS FROM THE CHAPTERS\

THE CHAPTER REPORTS AT THE FALL COUNCIL MEETING ARE HIGHLIGHTED HERE:

Chapter 14

The Honor Guard performed final military rites at Bay Pines National Cemetery and local cemeteries with memorial services and 39 interments.

We presented colors for the Tampa Bay Rays, Memorial Day at the Elks Hall as well as at our Memorial in Freedom Lake Park on June 27, 2008

The Chapter supports the R.O.T.C. Program at Dixie Hollins High School and sent three students to a National Leadership Program. We are extremely active at the Bay Pines Medical Center with 40 members volunteering on the shuttles, patient visits, tasks in various departments. We folded 120 American flags for presentation to the Hospice programs.

About 20 members attended the annual Korean Presbyterian Church as honored guests at the buffet/entertainment in June.

Chapter 153

President Horrocks reported activity on June 14 [Flag Day] at the Deltona Veterans Park. With a follow-on memorial service June 25th at the same park to honor the Korean War Veterans and Chapter members who have died.

Chapter 153 (Cont'd)

The 4th of July saw the Chapter members at the Lake Helen parade. Ken Cosgrove, our Veteran of the Year showed up with a jeep and a lot of militaria for use in the parade. On July 6th, Department President Bob Balzer joined with Chapter members at the annual Stetson Baptist Church Concert in Deland, Florida and Bob presented a plaque to the Church in appreciation of the wonderful program.

July 27th and September 2nd saw Memorial services at the Deltona Veterans Park.

Chapter 158

Summer for Chapter 158 started with a great party on Memorial Day.

In June, July and August there were fund raisers to support the Chapters activities.

Formal support for the **Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command** was promised to aid their efforts to bring everyone home.

The Chapter has become a sponsor of the Summerlin Military Academy in Polk County and has already donated money for the flags needed.

Plans for Fall include joining the Polk County Veterans' Council for Veterans Day. Bill McCraney has been named M.C. For the event.

Chapter 169

President Art Canale reports that the Chapter Board of Directors has been elected and installed. Art is stepping down to become the President of the All Veterans Memorial at Fountain Park in Leesburg. This latter group represents the approximately 37,000 veterans in Lake County and surrounding areas. Harold Sievers will also join the group as an Advisor. The phone is 352-314-2100 for those living in the area.

The Chapter was strongly represented in following at the Veterans Memorial Park:

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY May 15, 2008

MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION May 26, 2008

FLAG DAY – June 14, 2008

INDEPENDENCE DAY – July 4, 2008

NATIONAL KOREAN WAR VETERANS

ARMISTICE DAY – July 27, 2008

REMEMBRANCE DAY – 9/11, 2008

Chapter 173

Bill Russell drafted the following for presentation by Ted Trousdale representing the Chapter for Tom Roberts. We hope Tom and Marian get well soon.

Two significant events were observed by the Chapter. One was the June 25th Anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War and the latter was the July 27th observance of the Armistice. It was noted that Governor Crist had a Korean War Proclamation delivered for the events.

The Chapter has shifted its meeting place to the American Legion Post 19 in Orlando, primarily for convenience of members. Plans ongoing at the time of the meeting were participation in the Korean Armed Forces Day celebration and the Sanford, FL Annual Veterans Day Parade on November 8, 2008

Chapter 174

Richard Mellinger reported the following activities for the host Chapter.

May 3, 2008 - Donated a check to Central High R.O.T.C. For expenses and equipment. Also awarded ten R.O.T.C. Cadets medals, certificates and a small cash award.

May 21, 2008 – Donated a check to Hernando/Pasco Hospice; donated a check to Lea's Prayers and Postage; donated a check to "Love Your Neighbor". September 1, 2008 – Donated a check for yarn to the Ladies Auxiliary to crochet afghans for Hospice and Veterans' Nursing Homes.

Chapter 174 (Cont'd)

September 6, 2008 – Held a Korean War 55th Anniversary Dinner/Dance and entertainment to commemorate the “Cease Fire” in Korea. Presented a check to DOF President Bob Balzer for the “Wounded Warrior” project for \$19,053.06.

Chapter 175

Fred Gossett reported the following activities for the Baldomero Lopez M.O.H. Chapter:
 May 26, 2008 – Memorial Day Ceremonies at Ed Radice Park
 May 30, 2008 – Honor Guard for the Memorial Day program at the Lopez Veterans Home.
 June 14, 2008 – Flag Day fund raiser for our Veterans helping Veterans.

Chapter 175 (Cont'd)

June 20, 2008 - About 20 members attended the annual Korean Church dinner in Saint Petersburg.
 July 4, 2008 – Conducted flag retirement ceremonies at Lakeshore Villas and did a POW/MIA table presentation.
 August 30, 2008 – Participated in another fund raiser for Veterans Helping Veterans
 9/11, 2008 Participated in 9-11 Memorial at Veterans Park on route 301.
 Donations for the period were
 \$1000 – Lopez Veterans Nursing Home
 \$1000 - James Haley VA Hospital
 \$200 - to Support Our Troops

Chapter 188

On June 10, 2008, Chapter President Charlie First attended a meeting of the Central Florida Veterans, Inc. where District Congressmen and Senator's reported progress in lobbying President Bush on Veterans Hospital Orlando. Funds in the amount of \$648 million were subsequently

released in time for ground-breaking by July 30.

June 30th saw a luncheon hosted by Major Kay Kim, ROK Army which was attended by Chapter Officers.

Honor guard activity was heavy from Independence Day through July 11th. On the 4th, the City of Groveland was presented with new flag.

Throughout the summer months the Chapter actively collected money for the Annual Car Show which is the Chapters' main fund raiser. The goal set was \$6500 for pre-show collections.

Chapter 192

Although Citrus County does not meet in the summer (July and August), May and September produced the following activity: May saw the Chapter presenting each of the three Junior R.O.T.C. Programs with a check and a certificate to last year's JROTC recipient. Also, the current outstanding cadet's name was engraved on the plaque the Chapter presented last year.

Also in May, the Chapter sponsored a hole for the Citrus County Veterans Foundation Golf Tournament fund raiser.

June saw a Korean War display by the Chapter for Flag Day at Fort Cooper State Park. A large crowd saw an outstanding program which included many area veterans' groups.

Tickets are now available for the Chapter's Annual Christmas Ball to be held December 6, 2008 at the Elk Club in Hernando. Hank Butler has tickets at \$30 each for the program, good food, and a band for sancing. Plans are going forward to host the 2009 State Convention to be held at the Plantation Inn May 8 -10, 2009. **See Page 6 for details**

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

**KWVA CHAPTER 192
Hosting the 2009 DOF Conference
At
Plantation Golf Resort & Spa
Crystal River, FL May 8-10, 2009**

Theme: "WE HONOR PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS"

The hand outs you have received will point out many of the amenities of the conference site. The staff at the Plantation Inn has assured me that this will be a memorable one.

Room rates for the dates of the Conference, May 8th – May 10th, will be \$99.00 per night. If you prefer to arrive earlier than May 8th or extend your stay later than May 10th, your room rate for any of the days before or after Conference dates will be only \$89.00.

We will have a complementary hospitality room which will be open at 12:00 noon on Friday and at 7:00am on Saturday and Sunday.

Free parking is available, with room rental, for cars & boat trailers. The boat ramp is also free. We have many exciting activities available (see list) that will help to make your stay memorable.

This year's theme is to honor our Purple Heart recipients.

Chapter 199

The Chapter activities included the Memorial Day ceremonies with color guard participation and a wreath to our POW/MIA and fallen comrades.

The Color Guard also participated in the dedication of the new Veterans National Ceremony in Sarasota.

Donations during the period were made to the Red Cross and the Wounded Warrior programs.

A dialog has been started with the Braden Middle School for presenting a scholarship to the student with the best essay on community veterans.

The Honor Guard has also conducted services for deceased Chapter 199 members.

We have also started an ongoing advertisement in the local newspaper to attract new members.

Chapter 200

The Chapter donated flags for the Community Hospice Program: attended the Memorial Day ceremonies honoring the Purple Heart recipients.

And, we said a fond farewell to **Kelly Goodblood** and her family as they have relocated to Maine.

Chapter 210

President Snyder reports the following activity since the Convention:

The Chapter co-sponsored with the Brevard Veterans Council to present \$2000 scholarships to nine (9) deserving recipients.

The Chapter Color Guard performed at the Scholarship ceremony

Every Thursday during the period, a Chapter member performed "Manager on Duty" at the Brevard County Veterans Museum.

Chapter 267

Beginning with post-Convention, activities for the Chapter included:

May 17, 2008 – Seven teams solicited donations for the Rose of Sharon raising over \$1600

May 24, 2008 – Ten members and their wives put out yellow ribbons on the trees near our Korean and Vietnam War Memorial to honor the 136 county residents who didn't come back.

May 26, 2008 – Provided an Honor Guard and a seven member rifle squad for Memorial Day at the VA Hospital on Archer Road.

June 8, 2008 – Forty-three members and their wives attended the annual Night of Celebration for the Korean War Veterans hosted by the Korean Baptist Church of Gainesville.

June 14, 2008 - The Flag Day ceremony at Santa Fe college was well attended by Chapter members.

July 4, 2008 – Independence Day was celebrated by marching in the Micanopy, FL parade.

July 19, 2008 – Furnished a Color Guard and attended the Ground Breaking for the new addition to the VA Hospital.

Chapter President Dick Davis is conducting a fund raiser for a **one of a kind** Heisman Helmet, autographed by Steve Spurrier, Danny Weufel and Tim Tebow, the three Heisman trophy winners from the University of Florida. Tickets are \$10. Dick has been offered \$5,000 for this helmet but it is reserved for the lucky ticket holder. The money will go solely to worthy veterans organizations and causes in our area.