



THE NEWSLETTER
KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

SECOND QUARTER 2008



From the desk of the President

Our 2008 KWVA State Convention, held in Tampa, was very successful, both in information and fellowship.

Our speakers were outstanding with an Admiral one day and a Marine Corps "Bird" Colonel at our banquet on Saturday.

I outlined my two primary goals for 2008 - again making the "Wounded Warrior Project" Number 1 and Membership, Number 2.

Our Chapters raised \$3777 for the Wounded Warrior Project and approximately \$16,000 was raised in Deland by the Complete Parachute Solutions Golf Tournament and Sky Diving in June. I represented the KWVA at both functions and had the privilege of making my 151st jump with 15 Wounded Warriors who had lost an arm or a leg or both.

As I stated last year, I firmly believe there is no greater cause for our Chapters than to help these young men and women in their time of need.

My only disappointment for my first term in office was that not all chapters send a representative to our Council and State meetings. This is your association and it is only as strong as it's membership's participation. Bob Balzer



Ken Cosgrove displays his Veteran of the Year plaque for Carol Becker after his presentation as the Eddie Ko Award as the Department of Florida Veterans of the Year. Ken gets the \$200 and also gets \$100 for his Chapter. [Chapter 153]

In 2003, Ken spearheaded the building of the KWV memorial at Veterans Park, Deltona Florida. He continues to use his skills in design and construction to oversee the project on a weekly basis.

He is an active member of the veterans' community education project and finds time to teach art to local children as well as the men and women at the assisted living facility for veterans. Ken is unassuming, but always ready to help.

Convention 2008

The 2008 Florida Convention in Tampa is history. A few of the more interesting pictures and comments are included in this issue which has been held off until post-Convention.



Pictured above are a contingent of officers and wives from Korea stationed at MacDill AFB with the Central Command. Seated are Eddie Ko (who arranged the group) and National President Lou Dechert. Immediately to Mr. Dechert's left is Major Kay Kim retired from the ROK and currently President of the KWV Association of America. Major Kim is a member of Chapter 180 (Texas) and Chapter 188 (Florida).



Ted Trousdale accepts the award for Tom Roberts, Chapter 173 - Mid Florida for one of two outstanding newsletters noted for the year. The other award was collected by Richard Mellinger for the Nature Coast (Chapter 174) newsletter.

The above Newsletter awards were instituted by President Balzer based on his observations from the various submittals noted by him throughout the year. It was not announced as a competition and was not intended as one.

TIDBITS FROM THE CONVENTION

Council Meeting (Friday)

Lou Dechert, National President was in attendance throughout the Convention and spoke briefly at the Friday Session.

The other highlight of the Friday Session was the decision by the Council to recommend the Citrus County Chapter's Bid for the Plantation Inn as the site of the 2009 Convention.



Pictured on the front lawn of the Plantation Inn are the members of the planning committees from the Department and the Citrus County Chapter. From L-R Bill McCraney, Richard Arcand, Laurie McCraney, Joan Arcand, Rita Butler, Hank Butler, Bob Barker, Flo Barker, Neville Anderson and Joyce Anderson

General Membership Meeting The meeting was opened with a presentation of the colors by Freedom High School Color Guard (See Below)



A surprise visitor, Admiral Leroy Collins (ret.) USN, current Director of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA) was presented to the group thanks to Charley Price, our Liaison for Legislative Affairs.



Admiral Leroy Collins

Richard Mellinger was also the recipient of a special certificate from President Bob Balzer for his Chapter's efforts in raising money for the Wounded Warrior Program



Plaque designed and prepared by Bob Balzer

Murdoch Ford, our event host and his crew from Chapter 175 received applause for their moving presentation of the P.O.W. Table Ceremony.

Banquet

A total of 109 members and guests attended the banquet. Eddie Ko introduced eight members of the Korean Army (ROK), along with their wives. The ROK officers are stationed at Central Command (MacDill AFB).

(See photo on Page 2)

Among the notables were: Kimi Springsteen and spouse, Jim; Lou Dechert, President of National KWVA and the guest speaker, Colonel P. Roberts, USMC, also from Central Command.

NOTES ON CHAPTER ACCREDITATION

Jake Feaster submitted the following excerpt from the *Graybeards*:

Graybeards Vol 21#3 May-June 2007

Reference: National Bylaws and Standard Procedure Manual

1. Every Chapter member is a member of National with the exception of those members who joined prior to October 5, 2005.
2. *Every Chapter has at least 12 Regular members in good standing with National.
3. Every Chapter and Department is conducting and reporting elections.
4. Every Chapter and Department has submitted copies of charters, petitions, bylaws and state incorporation.
5. The Graybeards will not publish news or pictures from any Chapter or Department who are not in compliance with membership and reporting requirements. Any news or pictures submitted will be placed in a file until compliance can be verified.

Jake also noted the "ALL UNACCREDITED CHAPTERS AND DEPARTMENTS AND NON-NATIONAL MEMBERS WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM THE KWVA WHEN IT RECEIVES A NATIONAL CHARTER"

Where can men over the age of sixty find younger, sexy women who are interested in them?

Try a bookstore, under fiction.

CHAPTER REPORTS

The following are *excerpts* from the various Chapter reports submitted at the Convention:

Chapter 014 – Suncoast

Membership continues to grow as our programs and Memorial receive more attention.

We have 35 volunteers at the VA Hospital at Bay Pines.

Our Color Guard has presented the colors at the Tampa Bay Rays baseball games on five occasions and the Honor Guard has performed 47 final military rites at Bay Pines National Cemetery, local cemeteries, churches and funeral homes since Jan 08.

We present our specially designed Korean War Medal to local ROTC and Boy Scouts. Recently we helped a Girl Scout troop distribute over 920 boxes of cookies at the VA Hospital.

The Memorial Day ceremony at the Korean Memorial, Freedom Lake Park, Pinellas Park was outstanding with more than 300 guests and friends on hand.
President – Clarence Dadswell

Chapter 016 – Col. Alice Gritsavage

The year 2008 began with a membership of eight (8). We are now up to twenty-four (24) members. Our goal has been, 'working on membership'.

We have also added ten bricks with members names on them to the pedicels in Veterans Park recently and hope to do more. We are also looking into ways to help veterans in our area.

President- Robert Schloss

CHAPTER REPORTS CONTINUED

Chapter 153 – Central Florida

On April 4th some of our members attended the Veterans Recognition Day at Gemini Springs Park, Debarry. This is an annual event sponsored by the Debarry VFW.

Chapter 153 donated \$500 to help World War II Veterans attend the Volusia Honor Air trip to Washington D.C. Held on May 17th. The trip, sponsored by Deland Rotary clubs provided an opportunity for several of our members to volunteer to assist with physically handicapped veterans to make the trip go smoothly. The trip was planned to view the war memorials from WWII, Korean and Vietnam and the Arlington National Cemetery. President Bob Balzer said it was the trip of a lifetime.

On April 17th several of our members attended the Emory Bennett Ceremony at the park in New Smyrna Beach. Ceremonies included a 21-gun salute and a missing man flyover. The Emory Bennett family was presented with an American flag by Russell Powell an active veterans affairs person, who organized the event.

President – John E. Horrocks

Chapter 158 - WR Charette MOH

In addition to reviewing the Chapter bylaws, updating membership rolls, and gathering support for the KWVA Code of Conduct (to send to National) we held a Rose of Sharon at Sam's Club.

We attended the Florida Southern College annual awards luncheon as a contributor to the Nursing Program and donated \$300 to the National Korea War Museum for a bronze plaque in honor of members of Chapter 158.

President – Bill McCraney

Chapter 169 – Lake County

Art Canale states: Chapter 169 has been outstanding in performance with shows with local groups and Lee Greenwood, recording artist of 'God Bless the USA'. Art is actively pursuing the Veteran Memorial at Leesburg's Fountain Park. He will be Executive Director and Founder when his term as Chapter 169 President expires on 31 December.

President – Art Canale

Chapter 173 – Mid Florida

The Chapter meetings have been changed to the facility at Merrell Gardens with a high turnout of members.

Also, the Chapter is developing a Challenge coin to be sold to members as a fund raiser and a "present" to guest speakers.

A Saturday matinée movie program will be held one weekend a month, as a new fund raiser for members and guests. The films will be military-oriented.

Secretary – Bill Russell

Chapter 174 – Nature Coast

From January to April the Chapter auxiliary -donated to hospice (Lopez (MOH) Nursing Home, Wounded Warriors and the Salvation Army.

Members attended the Chapter sponsored Navy Junior R.O.T.C. Program and put 1200 flags on Veterans graves in Florida Hills.

The Chapter also sponsors the Veterans Memorial Day Show for the 2nd grade at Chocachaitle School.

Donations for this period totaled \$4,733.

Commander – Richard Mellinger

CHAPTER REPORTS CONTINUED**Chapter 175 – Baldomero Lopez MOH**

We dedicated the Baldomero Lopez MOH monument at the Ed Radice Park in Tampa on November 11, 2007

In addition, we have visited nine schools, held a picnic on Memorial Day at Ed Radice Park, finished the Chapter DVD and have a web site under construction.

We were/ are the host for the 14th Annual Department of Florida, KWVA Convention on May 9,10 and 11th at the Clarion Hotel in Tampa.

We have contributed \$1800 to VA at Haley Hospital; the B Lopez Nursing Home and local school programs.

President – Fred Gossett

Chapter 188 – South Lake County

Membership, scholarship and the Veterans Day Celebration and Car Show filled most of February

A new system of membership cards is being implemented with initiation certificates for all new members.

Money has been raised for many projects,, some of which included a grant for the local K-9 corps, a poker run for 100% disabled Vietnam veterans, the Christmas Parade fund, the Rose of Sharon fund raising and recruiting for new members.

The President is coaching board members in running membership meetings to encourage future Chapter Presidents
President – Charlie First

Chapter 192 – Citrus County

Robert Hermanson replaced Rita Butler as Secretary bringing the Chapter into compliance with Nationals latest rulings.

Neville Anderson requested all American flags purchased by government offices be made in the U.S. A. when he spoke to the Citrus County Commission and the Florida Veterans Commission. Both

presentations were well received and will probably be carried out by all government agencies in Florida.

The Chapter also collects non-perishable food items which are donated to the Coalition Food Pantry which supported 85 veterans' families.

WE sponsor three high school Junior R.O.T.C. Programs with certificates and awards.

A motion was passed on May 6th to host the Department of Florida the 2009 State Convention at the Plantation Inn in Crystal River
Commander – Hank Butler

Chapter 199 - Manasota

We posted the colors at nine (9) Pirates Spring training games and collected canned goods and non-perishables for the Community Food Bank.

In addition, we finalized the Veterans Day Scholarship Program at Braden River Middle School.

We attended the Veterans Council with Congressman Vern Buchanan regarding Veterans' benefits. President – Gene Gillette

Chapter 210 – Brevard County

Our color guard presented the colors on four occasions and we formed an Honor Guard for bereavement ceremonies.

We established an on-line newsletter and a speaker forum for elementary and high school students.

The Chapter also continued to support the Brevard County Veterans Museum and have erected a temporary Korean Memorial. A formal dedication will be announced at a later date. President T. J. Snyder



CHAPTER REPORTS CONTINUED

Chapter 267 – General Van Fleet

Don Sherry was awarded the Volunteer Veterans Award at the Third Annual Alachua County Veterans Award banquet.

We hosted our 2nd M.O. H. reception for our friend and member Duane Dewey at our home. Many family and friends attended. It was noted that Duane has been honored by two Presidents, H.S. Truman and G.W. Bush.

We visited University of Florida and the Santa Fe Community College with four members of our Tell America program and hung 136 yellow ribbons at our Korea-Vietnam Wars Memorial for Memorial Day. Commander – Dick Davis

HONORING DONATIONS

Richard Mellinger e-mailed your editor and asked that we mention the generosity of Doctor P. Singh and his staff at Access Health Care. Members of his staff passed the hat for \$43 and Dr. Singh put up \$500 which put the Chapter well on its way to a record donation for the Wounded Warrior program

[EDITOR] The point, I feel, is that when we find this kind of community support for our programs, we must make the most of it, Including any recognition we can provide. Many businesses and groups greatly value a simple plaque or certificate they can display.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 24th Infantry “Victory” Division Association will hold its 62nd Annual Reunion to honor its fallen heroes, renew old acquaintances, and make new friends on September 17-21, 2008 in Springfield, Mo. Everyone who has ever served in the 24th, including any unit ever assigned or attached to it,, is welcome at the Reunion, which will

be held at the Hawthorn Park Hotel (Doubletree at time of reunion)
2431 North Glenstone Ave.
Springfield, MO 65803-4735
Reservations Tel 417-831-3131
or contact Tom Thiel 352-357-3943
tthiel5@concast.net

MEETING SCHEDULE

Currently, the state-wide meetings for the next fiscal year (2008-2009) are as follows:

1

SEPTEMBER Council Meeting

Nature Coast, Chapter 174

September 20, 2008

10:30 A.M.– 4:00 P.M.

V.F.W. Post 10209

Spring Hill, Florida

2

JANUARY Council Meeting

South Lake County Chapter 188

January 24, 2009

10:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Clermont. Florida

3

15th Annual Department of Florida Convention

Citrus County Chapter 192

May 8, 9 and 10 2009

Friday 1:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Saturday 10:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Banquet 6:00 P.M. Cocktails

7:00 P.M. Dinner

Sunday 9:30 A.M. Memorial Service

Plantation Inn & Golf Club
9301 West Fort Island Trail
Crystal River, FL 34429

Received as we were going to press:

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FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

June 6, 2008

The Department of Florida
The Korean War Veterans Association
Secretary Joan M Arcand
5674 Bay Pines Lake Blvd
St Petersburg, FL 33708

Dear Joan,

I have 18 days remaining on this tour of duty, the toughest I have ever pulled. Before leaving I wanted to express my gratitude to the Department for the courtesy and support which you have shown for me, and the Association, through these four years.

Please express my thoughts to the great Department. This year was a great Convention and I will certainly miss you all in the future. Please keep up the great work.

Thank you and always best wishes.

Louis T Dechert
National President, KWVA/Us
Chairman of the Board