



THE NEWSLETTER

THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Department of Florida



From the Desk of the President

Our Department of Florida Council meeting in Clermont was very informative with a lot of new ideas and information.

The months are flying by so plan your trip now for our KWVA State Convention in Crystal River at the Plantation Golf Resort and Spa on March 8-10, 2009. Let's have the largest turnout in the history of the State. This is a beautiful facility and the wives will have opportunities to do many things.

Make sure you fill out the new form for the Eddie Ko "Veteran of the Year" award. The method of selection has been changed according to the wishes of our members.

New officers will be elected for 2009 and installed at the Convention in May. Bill McCraney, Past DoF President, is Chairman of the Nominating-Election Committee and can be contacted at 862-533-7374.

Thanks to all KWVA members who have made my 2007-2009 term of office a success with your hard work and dedication on behalf of needy veterans and others.

In Comradeship

Bob Balzer



Back in September, when the Rays were running for the American League pennant Joan Arcand, Joe Slatton and your editor presented the colors at the first winning game in the American League playoff series. The Boston Red Sox didn't know they were dealing with the formidable chief of Chapter 14's Honor Guard..

This was the Rays first win in the successful run for the pennant.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

I forgot to tell you that our new National KWVA President has accepted our invitation to attend the Florida Convention 2009 at Crystal River. Make sure you get your reservations in early and attend the cocktail party in his honor on Saturday night.

A packet of notices and forms was mailed to each Chapter President on 6 February 2009. Please review as there are some time-sensitive deadlines. Please respond to the Secretary as appropriate.

A big thanks to all Chapter Presidents for responding to the request to forward election results to the Secretary. A new roster of DoF officers as well as Chapter Presidents will be in the mail by the end of February.

A big thank you to Alice Pinette and Ruth Moreland for their help with Registration at the Council meeting. The highlight was the distribution of gifts at the end of the Council meeting. Maxine Parker, the new President of Chapter 188, was our hostess for the event.

The National KWVA at the Norfolk meeting stated that all Chapters are required to have an EIN number, be incorporated in their own state and have liability insurance.

This comes from IRS require-

ments and results from the fact that we are now a chartered organization.

Are you concerned with what you see as problems at National that affect you and your Chapter? George Lawhon has an email where you can air your complaints or suggestions. Write before February 25 as George is re-vamping the National Bylaws and Procedures Manual. He is fair and open to all suggestions. His e-mail is: george@lawhorn.org.

The Secretary requested that all Chapters send the names of deceased members to the Department of Florida Chaplain. His e-mail is: colsievers2@aol.com

Dick Garfield has resigned as the Department Quartermaster effective February 2009. The Department has decided to no longer sponsor this program. Once the final inventory is complete we will accept requests from Chapters interested in this money-making program. Call Bob Balzer at 1-386-822-9068.

The following Chapters were represented at the January Council Meeting.

- 016 Alice Gritsavage
- 158 W.R. Charette M.O.H.
- 169 Lake County
- 173 Mid-Florida
- 174 Nature Coast

- 175 Lt. Bartelomo Lopez M.O.H.
- 188 South Lake County
- 192 Citrus County
- 199 Manasota
- 200 North East Florida
- 210 Brevard County
- 267 Gen Van Fleet

There were 13 out of a possible 21 present. We hope to see many more at the Convention at Crystal River this May.

Eddie Ko, DoF Korean-American Liaison, reported that the Korean economy is suffering along with the rest of the world. Further, he noted some of the money sent to North Korea was being used to upgrade the North Korean Army, and that the Army has become aggressive. Eddie also mentioned that President Obama indicated a willingness to open talks with North Korea, but Mr. Ko, and many South Koreans, feel that it is a "lost cause" and the U.S. should stand firm. South Korea will stand firm and is happy with its democratic life system.

Members concerned with the Eddie Ko Award will be pleased to learn that a new system of evaluation has been developed where the submittals are read "blind" by the board and scored against fixed criteria. Therefore, the winner will not be selected by lottery—it was approved by the Council Meeting.



On 31 January at the Brevard County Veterans Memorial Center, an award ceremony was set up with a Korea Group known as Good Work Korea, Inc. to present Medallions of Appreciation to Korea War veterans.

Pictured is Nelson Ruiz of Titusville, a Life Member of the KWVA and Chapter 210. after receiving the Medallion. President Bob Balzer was also present for the ceremony.

MONUMENTS

After several months of negotiation with the Pinellas Park City Council the model (mockup) of the Chapter 14 Memorial has been refurbished and suitable plaques arranged for a presentation scheduled for February 25 in the Park Street Station, an historical landmark that has been remodeled by the City with a train car and station and other exhibits of significance to the growth of the city.

The refurbished model from Chapter 14 is pictured in the next column



Your editor recently visited Chapter 155 down in Coral Gables. Lo and Behold! They have completed a beautiful monument [8 tons of Alabama granite] which sits with other monuments in Coral Gables' Eco Park. If you are in the vicinity, the memorial area is well worth the visit.

Chapter 155 Memorial



EXCERPTS FROM CHAPTER REPORTS

[Note: These are highlights only. The complete reports are filed with the minutes of the Council Meeting and will appear in those minutes when distributed for the Council Meeting preceding the Convention at Crystal River this May]

Chapter 16, Alice Gritsavage. Jake Feaster reported as an unofficial representative of this Chapter. They are working hard with the Chapter but are having some difficulties.

Chapter 153, Central Florida. Although they did not attend, John Horrocks filed a routine report which highlighted a "toys for tots" effort and a Christmas Party where the Chapter officers and auxiliaries were installed.

Chapter 158, W.R. Charette MOH. The Chapter held a first "Drawers Drive" where they collected new men's and ladies underwear for Veterans at the VA nursing home in Tampa. It was rated as successful and worth repeating.

An incident of the Winter Haven library exhibit set up by the Chapter is worth telling. It seems that Chapter President Bill McCraney received a frantic phone call from a frightened librarian. She said a man who called himself a "demolitions"

expert advised her that the hand grenade on display was a "live one." Bill pointed out that the grenade had a large hole in the bottom and, of course, no fuse. She was not comforted in the least, so finally, Jim Bradford, who lives nearby, went over like the KWVA "Bomb Squad" and got the thing. Jim will now be known as the hero of Winter Haven and Bill McCraney as the "Mad Library Bomber."

The rest of this period was routine with a Christmas Party and a trip to Summerlin Military Academy on Veteran's Day.

Chapter 169, Lake County Chapter 169 elected Tom Thiel President in their November election along with officers Joe Gruber, Charlie White and Ted Morford.

Bill Taylor, Sr. died in November and was interred at Bushnell National Cemetery with the Chapter's Color Guard in attendance.

Membership in National KWVA has now risen to 75%. The Christmas Party was held again held jointly with Chapter 188; officers from both Chapters were sworn in to the new

posts.

Chapter 173 Mid-Florida Chapter. Now meets at American Legion Post 19 on Lee Road in Orlando. Tom Cullerton, Chaplain was selected as the Chapter Eddie Ko award candidate.

Notable among the various meetings and celebrations was a special ceremony the Chapter members attended put on by the Vietnam and All Veterans Coalition of Central Florida honoring Korean War Veterans. A tree was planted and a plaque placed in the memorial garden of the National Vietnam War Museum in Orlando.

Chapter 174 Nature Coast. Activities for the period included: "Hold Horse Race" at the Baldomero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home; donations for the Thanksgiving Dinners given out by VFW 10,209 and donations to the Salvation Army as well, for both Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets; other seasonal donations for "Hospice," "Christmas Angel" and "Love Your Neighbor" programs for the needy.

Chapter 175 Baldomero Lopez M.O.H. An unique item in

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Chapter 175's list was the development of a members DVD showing the Chapter's history and recollection of many of the members of their time in Korea.

The period saw visits to ten schools and awards to two winning essays. The Chapter provided Honor Guard representation for Veteran's Day at Ed Radice Park, provided donations to the "Support Our Troops" mailing packages, and donations to the Hope Children's Home for Christmas. Buck Rogers installed the new Chapter Officers at the November meeting.

Chapter 188 Significant activities, in addition to hosting the January Council meeting, included: collections and support of the "Veterans Celebration and Car Show" at the Citrus Tower in Clermont, several Honor Guard activities including memorial services, The Vietnam Veterans planted a tree in honor of the KWVA, and the Annual Christmas party that included the swearing-in of new officers.

Chapter 192 Citrus County Citrus County Veterans Week activities and Chapter 192 participated in the Veteran's Fair

at the Crystal River Mall, massing of the Colors at a local church and marching in the Annual Parade.

The Chapter picnic netted a new National life member. In November and December, the Chapter presented US and City flags "Made in the USA" to the City of Inverness and US and County flags, "Made in the USA" to Citrus County.

A December Military Ball was a great success and drew more than 80 members and guests.

Chapter 200 North Florida. Participation in the usual Fall activities included the Veterans' Day Parade, Nursing Home visits, December 7th ceremonies, and groundbreaking ceremonies for the new cemetery in Jacksonville. The December meeting included members of the local Korean community.

Chapter 210 Brevard County. Activities included the hosting of the Goodwork Korea representative, Mr. Bang, for the presentation of the Korean War Appreciation Medallion for area Korea Vets (See Page 3). Chapter member Dr. Chyung Kim organized the event for the Brevard County Museum and the KWVA.

Chapter 267 General Van

Fleet. Participated in two important parades, the Annual University of Florida Homecoming Parade, and the annual color presentation for the 1,800 Bikers on Parade event on November 9, 2008. The Chapter has become the bikers favorite color guard as it has been with this group since their first "ride." The Bikers raised in excess of \$100,000 for local Red Cross and Veterans' organizations.

A good turnout was had at the Santa Fe College for the Tell America presentations. The treasury is \$11,000 richer as a result of the Christmas raffle of a Heisman Helmet, autographed by the three Heisman trophy winners from the UF.

The annual Pearl Harbor and World War II Recognition Day at the Veteran's Memorial Park was very well attended, thanks to the efforts of Dick Davis, who drew on many local groups to pay tribute.

Endnote: As is the case with all of the above reports, the Chapters here, and those who have not reported, all have done significant work in the community and their efforts can only enhance the position of the KWVA in Florida.

Make your reservation for the Convention NOW

KWVA DoF
CONVENTION 2009
REMEMBERING PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS OF THE KOREAN WAR
May 8, 9 and 10 at Crystal River
REGISTRATION FORM

Mail this form and your check to:
KWVA.DoF c/o Joan Arcand, Treasurer
5674 Bay Lake Blvd, St Petersburg, Florida 33708

***Deadline for Registration and meal reservations is May 4**

Full refund if cancelled by April 15
50% refund if cancelled by April 30
No refund if cancelled after April 30

*Please PRINT information

Member name _____ **Chapter#** _____

Title _____ (As you would like it on your ID badge)

Phone _____ **email address** _____

In keeping with the Convention theme, please let us know if you received the Purple Heart _____

If yes, where were you when you were wounded? _____ year? _____

Guest Name _____

_____ Please Ck here if additional guests, and indicate name(s) on the back of this form.

Registration fee: \$20 [required for member only; **subtotal \$** _____
no registration fee for guests]

Saturday noon lunch \$17/person; number of persons _____ **subtotal \$** _____

Saturday Banquet \$35/person, number of persons _____ **subtotal \$** _____

Total Amt of Check \$ _____

Please Order:

of NY Strip Steak dinners _____

of Chicken Marsala dinners _____

For DoF Office use only:

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____ Date received _____