



THE NEWSLETTER
 KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
 DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

WIN TER 2011



Photo By T. Thiel
 From the President

This being my last remarks to you, I want to thank each and every member of the Department of Florida for their support during the past two years.

Your attendance made the Council meetings the best. I hope you will continue your support to the incoming officers

Remember 6, 7 and 8 May for the State Convention in Ocala. A lot of time and planning has gone into making sure you have a great time, good food, and an outstanding program.

Thank you again for your support

Jim

60th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION AT TAMPA

Murdoch Ford and Eddie Ko of the Tampa Chapter acted for the hosts and arranged the luncheon for all Korean Vets in Florida



Part of the opening ceremonies was the posting of the colors by a color guard from Chapter 14, Saint Petersburg.

The hosts for the luncheon at the Doubletree Hotel were the Kim family from Hillsborough County and close friends of the guest of honor, the Defense Minister of South Korea.. One of the unique features of the luncheon was the attendance at each table of an officer and his lady from the foreign officers attached to McDill AFB Central Command. We [editor and wife] had a French Colonel and his wife and they were delightful.

CHAPTER REPORTS

[The Chapter Reports submitted at the Council meeting during January 2011 are shown and edited below.-Editor]

Chapter 14 – Suncoast Chapter - E. DeWitt, President

Our Honor Guard has been very busy at the Bay Pines National Cemetery with approximately 20 funerals. We continue to support Hospice at the VA Hospital. We also were the lead Honor Guard in the Pinellas Park Christmas Parade. We continue to volunteer at the VA Hospital with approximately 50 members. We are second only to Dallas in volunteer hours in the VA system for KWVA.

Chapter 124, - Osceola County - John Rallis, Representative

John Rallis stated that he and a few others were revive the Chapter. Of the 17 members on paper, only five are currently active.

Chapter 153 -South Florida – Don Smith, Representative

Elections were held in October 2010 We also held a Luau at Veterans Park and members unveiled the Vietnam Wall at the Park followed by a dinner at VFW Hall 8093 and they attended the Veterans Day Parade in Deland. The “Toys for Tots” program was a huge success and was followed by a well-attended Christmas Party.

Chapter 155 – Cape Coral – Bob Hebner, President

Due to our involvement with the Veterans Foundation we have increased membership from 62 to 88. They [Veterans Foundation] have a Visitation Program for assisted living and nursing home patients which is very well received. We made a Bylaws change to increase terms of office to two years. We have to thank the wives of the

membership for taking charge of the Social Program and a wonderful catered Christmas party

Chapter 158 - Charette MOH -Charles Appenzeller, bh President

The many activities of the Chapter included fund-raising, at the SAM'S Club in Winter Haven, providing the library with a Korean War display, marching in the Veteran's Day parade and a Christmas luncheon.

Chapter 169 – Lake County – Harold Sievers Reporting

The Chapter was involved with the Veterans' Memorial, Pearl Harbor Day and our Annual Christmas Party. We attended two funerals at Bushnell National Cemetery.

Chapter 173, Mid Florida, John Stelling Reporting

The Chapter was involved in many community activities for Veterans Day Programs. Chuck Travers was named Veteran of the Year and Bill Russell received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Christmas Dinner. Joan Arcand, Department of Florida Secretary won the Cruise Raffle. The Chapter also participated in the “Wreaths Across America” program, reduced its membership fees and was a candidate for Organization of the Year.

Chapter 175 Murdoch Ford, President

The 60th Anniversary Dinner on October 9th featured the Defense Minister of South Korea, who was overwhelmed with a turnout of 220 KWVA Vets, 46 Chosin Few and 227 guests for a total of 493 attending. Eddie Ko and I can not tell you how pleased we were with your support.

The Chapter donated \$2000 to Liberty Manor, a home for our homeless vets and a member donated tools and his expertise in a

program to teach the men in attendance wood working skills. He also got Home Depot to provide an utility shed and air conditioner for the project..

Member Colonel Kim, in charge of the Korean delegation at McDill visited seven schools with a message of how America has aided Korea and restored their freedom.

Chapter 188 Maxine Parker, President

The Chapter participated in a Fourth Annual salute to veterans and sponsored the 11th Annual Veterans' Day Celebration and Car Show in Clermont, which is always a great crowd pleaser

Attended the ceremony at the Weirsdale Carraige house to honor Korean War veterans and joined with the Marine Corps for the disposal of worn flags at the Clearbrook RV Park.

Chapter 189 – No Report

Chapter 192, Crystal River, President- 'Hank' Butler

The Chapter participated in the "Wreaths Across America", wreaths to be placed at the Bushnell National Cemetery.

Three of our members attended the 60th Anniversary program in Tampa..

November was a busy month with attendance at a Fair, a Parade, A Massing of the Colors and 'Veterans in the Classroom' where three members spoke to 22 classes.

Chapter 199, 'Skip' Hannon, President

Chapter members were interviewed by the Bradenton Herald as we commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War. Three members were featured in a front page photo story on the June 25th edition. We also attended a regional dinner at the Rusty Pelican in Tampa sponsored by West Central Florida Korean Community.

After a quiet summer our September meeting featured nominations-planning the

annual picnic-advising members to attend the celebration at the Doubletree Hotel hosted by Chapter 175.

Annual charitable contributions were made to various local schools and charitable agencies totaling \$1400.

Chapter 200, Henry Moreland, President

The Chapter attended the Veterans Day Parade and put in many hours at the Lake City Veterans Hospital. We had our Annual Christmas Party together with members of the Korean Community.

Mr. Moreland also commented favorably on the singers at the last convention held in Bradenton.

Recruiting continues to be a problem and some solutions unique to Chapter 200 were advanced.

Chapter 210, Mickey Tutolo, President

Chapter 210 revised their bylaws. They also combined their Executive Board meeting to just prior to the monthly membership meeting.

Every quarter, the Chapter has a social gathering in lieu of the meeting.

The Memorial Plaza was dedicated on November 11, 2010 and we continue to visit the local schools as part of the Tell America program.

Chapter 267 Gen J. Van Fleet, Dick Davis, Commander

Mr. Davis began by announcing the fact that it was his birthday.

Of the 17,000 veterans in Alachua County the KWVA Chapter (267) is the Number 1 membership doing things for veterans in the area.

The October Homecoming Parade for the University of Florida drew approximately 100,000 people; the Chapter was represented by about 25 people marching the parade. . We honored Duane Dewey, Medal of Honor winner and Sergeant McQuinn, POW We also visited schools for the Tell America

Program. Additionally the Commander is closely involved with the ROTC at the University of Florida. And we do classes for them.

We also go out to the hospitals in the area. We have a color guard and we also help with the ROTC drill team

Several members volunteer at Veteran's homes in the area and run fund raisers to help put "flags in every classroom".

We also support our homeless veterans at local Centers.

Don Sherry (Chapter 267) also added a request for support for the new Fischer House to open at the VA Hospital. The Chapter is requesting support (money) donations for this new 21 suite facility

[Mark your calendar for National Medal of Honor Day for Duane Dewey, USMC, on Saturday, March 26 starting at 3:00 P.M. At the American Legion Post 16. Come and honor a true American hero.

Refreshments will be served afterwards. Uniforms are encouraged. Contact Don Sherry for updates]

Chapter 318 Vincent Abbate, President

Mr. Abbate offered congratulations to all speakers.

As the newest Chapter, he reported that his Charter has been received dated June 10, 2010. Chapter 106 donated a plaque to the new chapter which was placed on Merritt Island and dedicated on June 25th – a former North Korean MIG pilot was the guest speaker. Attendance was about 350 people.

COMMENTARY

Due to the various sizes of Chapters, I cannot print in full every report. I try to pick items of greatest interest such as a different program and incorporate it into the report

2012 CONVENTION AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

Starting with the Fall meeting this year (Fall 2011 the Council Meetings and the 2012

Convention will all be held at the Plantation Inn in Crystal River

Council Meeting #2, 2011 -Evaluation Notes-- We had a good turnout and had sufficient room in the meeting room. Everyone appreciated the coffee and pastries and ate them all. Lunch in the dining room was excellent – No complaints there!

Reports continue to be a bit too long. Remember to report on three events 'special' to your group.

Also, all preferred being introduced by Chapter and Unit. We'll do that again.

Convention 2011 (May 6-7-8, 2011) Since the Department of Florida is hosting the Convention, we will not have the usual Convention book filled with ads from the local community. We are asking Chapters and members to become sponsors and patrons and boosters. Flyers covering this effort have been sent to all Chapter Presidents recently..

LATE FLASH- Laurie McCraney is looking for seven story tellers to amuse, entertain, etc. at the Friday night dinner at the Ocala Elks Hall. First seven callers win!

Election of Officers for the Department of Florida for 2011-2012

Nominations Chairman, Bill McCraney reports that nominations for the Department are now closed and the following slate has been submitted.

President	Charlie First – Orlando
1st Vice President	Bill Shibler – Groveland
2nd Vice President	Bob Hebner- Cape Coral
3 rd Vice President	John Stelling – Apopka
Secretary	Bill Sarver – Lutz
Treasurer	Joan Arcand St. Peter

As as there is no opposition, the President will direct the Secretary to cast one vote for the slate at the KWVA Convention General Meeting at the Hilton, Ocala on May 7, 2011.

Memorial – May 8 (Sunday Morning)

Chaplains are requested to provide a list of their deceased since last Convention for presentation at the Memorial Service. The list is needed no later than May 1, 2011.

Assessment letters have been mailed to all Presidents and Treasurers. The annual assessment is \$2 per member of your Chapter and is due 1 January 2011.

R.I.P.

Joseph Firriolo

Joe died on TUESDAY< March 1, 2011. Services were held on March 8 at Holy Flower Church, Hollywood, Florida.

Joe was the founder of Chapter 15, Eddie Lyons in Fort Lauderdale. He was the Third Vice President of the Department of Florida in 1997, Second Vice President in 1998 -1999

He was Secretary in 2002 and Second Vice President in 2003-and 2004 having served with Presidents Edwards, Shear, Gaffney and Feaster.

Joe and wife, Stella, were always attendees at Council meetings and our Conventions. He was an early member of the Association (#5842) and had many friends throughout the Florida Chapters and the rest of the country.

Joe was an Army Medic.

The Department of Florida has sent flowers and cards Our prayers and thoughts are with Stella and family.

Just a Reminder

All Chapters must be up to date with Florida Incorporation and be sure your letter for tax exemption is for an 501 -c-19 which identifies the Chapter as a non-profit Veterans group.. There are monetary penalties for not renewing on time. Call R. Arcand for further information.

Association Convention

The Annual Convention for the Korean War Veterans Association is scheduled in October 2011 at the Marion Hotel in Quincy, Mass. For those of you not familiar with the Boston area, Quincy is on the South Shore and south of the city on Rte 3.

There is plenty to see in Boston and it boasts some of the best restaurants in the country. Be sure to have haddock, fried clams and cannoli in the North End. [per a Bruins Hockey fan]

