

The Department of Florida

News

The official publication of the Department of Florida, Korean War Veterans Association, by and about its members. <http://dfl.kwva.org>



Teaching what 'veteran' means



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Harold Sievers* with Olivia Park (left) and Carey Williams, two of his Adopt-a-Kid "children." (*DoF and Chapter 169 Chaplain)

"Local Veterans in the Adopt-A-Kid, Adopt-A-Vet program show and teach children what veterans mean" by Blair Townley, LAKE Magazine, permission granted.

It all began with a question asked by a teenager to veterans holding a
(Sievers Continued on page 4)

Minutes of Council Meeting, Ocala, FL, May 6, 2011



CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Bradford at 1:30 P.M.

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Chaplain Harold Sievers

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sergeant-at-Arms, Mickey Tutolo.

WELCOME

Welcome message by President Bradford. Mr. Bradford reinforced the rules for speakers. He noted that we were taping the meeting for the Secretary President thanked all for coming. He welcomed all and hoped it would be a happy event for all.

REMARKS

Association President William MacSwain was then introduced by President Bradford. Mr. MacSwain thanked all for the invitation to attend the convention. He gave a progress report of happenings on the National level. He noted that the biggest challenge is to get a change in Washington to recognize Korean Service members via the IRS. Representative Sam Johnson (Texas) will introduce an appropriate bill into the House. It will be a slow process.

Mr. MacSwain remarked that the Association is nothing without the Chapters and Departments.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

All officers and appointed officers were in attendance. Chapters not represented were 014, 015, 016, 017, 106, 110, 124, 159 (suspended) 189, and 318. There are 22 Chapters on record in Florida.

REPORT OF QUORUM

A quorum was reported by Secretary Arcand (3 officers and 8 Chapters required).

"TAKE A CHANCE"

First Vice President Charlie First explained the "Take A Chance" program. The chance is for a dinner for two at the Convention banquet. He would be around to pass out chance tickets.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 15, 2011 COUNCIL MEETING

A motion to set aside the reading of the minutes was offered by T. Thiel, 163 and B. McCraney, 158. Motion carried. A motion to approve the minutes provided was made by B. Hebner, 155 and seconded by B. McCraney 158. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer R. Arcand gave a brief reading of the Finances to date. Questioned by B, Hebner on the absence of the CD value on the report, Mr. Arcand stated it was an oversight and gave what he felt were true values. Motion to accept amended report by B. Hebner, subject to audit. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

The Secretary reported notification of the deaths of Joe Firriolo and Joe Madeline. Cards and flowers were sent.

OLD BUSINESS

January 2011 Orientation. Some dissatisfaction with the program was reported. It seems that some of the membership would prefer a more "hands on" approach to the management problems of a Chapter.

Web Site – Tom Thiel gave an in-depth report of the status of the Department Web site.

Bylaw Amendment – A third reading of the proposed bylaw change was offered by Judge Advocate Bill McCraney. [Copy attached] Essentially, the amendment allows the Secretary of the Department of Florida to become an 'appointed post' reporting to the

Remember Sacrifices, by Hank Butler, Commander, 192.



On Wednesday, July 27, 2011, we world.

observed the signing of the armistice between the United Nations and the North Koreans. The armistice was signed 58 years ago. North Korea is still a menace to the world, and has never honored the armistice.

South Korean and American lives have been lost along the DMZ, located near the 38th parallel between the Koreas, since July 27, 1953.

Between June 25, 1950, and July 27, 1953, United States casualties are reported as follows: 54,236 dead, 103,000 wounded, 8,177 missing in action, 7,000 prisoners of war, of which 51 percent died in the prison camps. Three hundred and eighty-nine POWs were unaccounted for. Some remains have been identified since these numbers were published, and these numbers are subject to other reports.

Korean War Veterans Chapter Citrus 192 meets the first Tuesday each month (except July and August) at 1 p.m. We meet at the VFW Post 10087, Beverly Hills, FL. We have 32 regular members and 19 auxiliary members. Citrus 192 was chartered in 2001 and members attended the meetings in Citrus Hills. Seventeen members have died since our charter was recognized. Currently, 18 members are U.S. Army veterans, seven members are U.S. Navy veterans, five members are U.S. Marine Corp veterans, and two members are U.S. Air Force veterans. Five members are Purple Heart recipients, and one member is a former POW.

Any Korean War veteran who would be interested in joining our Chapter Citrus 192, please call Hank Butler at (352) 563-2496, Bob Hermanson at (352) 489-0728 or Neville Anderson at (352) 344-2529.

The Korean War has been called "The Forgotten War." Please help our country to never forget what our nation sacrificed to prevent communist expansion in the

My heartfelt thanks to all military veterans in Citrus County and the United States of America. God bless America.

Herman (Hank) Butler Jr., LTC
(Retired AUS)
Commander, Korean War
Veterans Citrus 192
Crystal River

In The Citrus County Chronicle, 2011 date uncertain.



Members of KWVA Citrus 192 participated in an Independence Day presentation entitled "Celebrating Freedom," an annual program by the First Baptist Church in Crystal River, FL. We presented the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard flags during the one hour program.

Standing left to right are: Navy CPO Reggie Thurlow; Air Force COL Jim Hembree; Coast Guard LT Kerry Keith; Marine Corps SGT. Chuck Spikes (First Vice Commander-KWVA Citrus 192); Marine Corps SGT Walt Malowski; US Army LTC Hank Butler (Commander KWVA Citrus 192).

Chaplain's Column, by Harold Sievers

(*Sievers* —Continued from page 1)

POWs (Prisoner of War) fundraiser in The Villages — "Does POWs stand for People Out of Work?"

What emerged from that question has led to countless children learning about the sacrifices of America's brave veterans along with a bond built forever between veterans and children.

The program, Adopt-A-Kid, Adopt-A-Vet, brings veterans to elementary schools in the tri-county area (Lake, Sumter and Marion) to tell students about their branch and years of service, concluding with the students writing an essay about their veteran's service.

The hope is that children will learn more about wars that shaped their country while recognizing the efforts made by the nation's beloved veterans.

"The veterans just love the program because it's great to see these kids get acquainted with all these branches of service," says Harold Sievers, Korean War veteran and President of the Veterans' Memorial Park Association in The Villages.

"Now they know about veterans and are respectful towards them."

History Through Their Stories

The program was first introduced to fourth graders at The Villages Elementary School in 1999. Around

4,240 students have participated in the program in its almost 12-year history, having since expanded to include fourth and fifth grade.

Typically veterans visit the children at their schools. One veteran is placed with every group of three to five children.

The veterans become designated as the children's "veteran," talking about their service experience and showing artifacts/photos while answering their questions.

The children in each group would then write an essay describing "their" veteran's service, with awards given by the Veteran Memorial Park Association for exceptional essays.

"It may seem very unusual to see a veteran and a fourth grader coming together but it's not unusual now for some young man or woman to come over and thank me for my service. It shows me that what we veterans did we didn't do in vain," Harold concludes.

"Adoptive" Grandparents

Although the program was created to teach children about their nation's history, Adopt-a-Kid, Adopt-a-Vet has helped to building lasting friendships between the retired veterans and young children.

Several of their past "children" have stayed connected with "their" veterans, and have even invited



them to graduations, sports games and other activities. Harold was even made an honorary assistant coach of a local soccer team, attending every game with his "Mr. Harold" uniformed T-shirt.

What is more significant is seeing their lessons impact the children and change their perspectives towards veterans.

"I was at the soccer field in my uniform and was walking back to my car when a little 12-year-old girl stopped me. She extended her hand and said, 'I want to thank you for your service to our country.' It's what we teach to the kids to say when they see a veteran," Harold says.

Seeing the benefits of the program come to life has encouraged the Veterans' Memorial Park Association to continue with Adopt-a-Kid, Adopt-a-Vet, even noticing other veteran organizations in and outside of Florida taking part in the program.

It's about teaching more children uninformed about their nation's history that freedom is not free, but a sacrificial gift brought forth by courageous veterans.

Extracted with permission from LAKE Magazine, July 2011.

Bryant "Woodie" Wood, Jr., "If I'm gonna die, let me die trying."

As a part of the 24th Infantry Division Association's effort to gather information about its 1,005 unaccounted for Korean War MIAs and POWs, Bryant "Woodie" Wood, Jr., one of our fellow KWVA Members from Chapter 16 (Ocala), provided his recollections of events that unfolded July 1950 in the "Land of the Morning Calm."



Woodie and Dottie Wood

were dug in on the river bank on the other side.

The first guy they captured was Roger Zunk. He was in my squad. They came across the river and got him. They took him back to the other side of the river. He screamed for us, and all. Still brings nightmares if I think about it hard.

The following is a small segment of Woodies' statement as recorded by Merry Helm, 24th Historian. The full context as well as materials about the total 24th IDA effort, are available at: http://24thida.com/POW-MIA/00_POW_MIA_home.html

Woodies' statement

Let me just tell you the story of what happened, and then you decide. You can talk to some of our other people and decide whether my information is of value.

I know there's something to it, because I saw it with my own eyes.

When you were in a spot like we were in, we got overrun up there. They just wiped us out and killed everyone they came to.

We were dug in on the bank of the Kum River up there where they blew the bridge. They blew the

bridge, I don't know – about the 12th or somewhere like that – of July (1950). Map of area at: http://www.koreanwar.org/html/korean_war_maps_results.html?map_url=SNK_MAP_7_1500W

So then, on the 16th the Communists had moved way down south of us. They came up behind us. Because we were the only people there, you know, the 24th Division. At that time, we had nobody to guard back behind, all around us. But anyway, they came in on the rear of us.

Now understand, the artillery is set up in the rear seven, eight miles behind us. They wiped out our artillery before they came up and got us infantry. I was dug in on the river bank along with the rest.

I know Company A was there, because I was in Company A, 19th Infantry Regiment. We were dug in on the river bank. That was our front line unit. The Communists,

In a couple days the push came. They came in on us. The G-2 said there was 97,000 coming in. So, there was what – about 5,500 of us, see? So they wiped us out there in two days.

I was on the river. I got machine gunned there in a rice paddy. Took three slugs in my right arm. Blew off pieces. I could not fight anymore, so I laid there. I went to sleep. Before I went to sleep, I heard the North Koreans fixing bayonets and killing everyone they came to.

Like I said, our company was on the riverbank. The reason I keep going back to that river thing, I had struck up the mountain to where that priest [Father Herman Felhoelter] was that got killed, the one with all the wounded guys he was waiting with for our troops to rescue.

I could have waited with them, but

(Woodie Continued on page 6)



(**Woodie** Continued from page 5)

I didn't. I backed off the hill and I went back into the river. I figured if I got in that river, I can go downstream. I can float. I can't do anything else. I don't know how far down the river I went, but I went almost to where the artillery was, back there, and I came out.

All my time in the river, I saw bodies. I couldn't tell who they were in the night, but I saw 'em all in that river. I saw 'em that day! And I just figured it was whoever got killed in there.

It was about, I guess, midnight or one o'clock in the morning when I got out of the river and on the bank. I was just about half-dead. I'd been bleeding all that night.

I saw trucks and tanks and stuff up on the ridge. I came out of the river there, and I ran into two boys. One of them was blind – got shot in the head. And another guy. I was helping them. When I saw the trucks, I didn't know who was on them.

So, I hollered out to see if it was Americans. When I did, I got an answer with a .50-caliber. It was like lightning bolts coming down, the tracers.

I took off like a helicopter, I went straight up the hill. I don't know how I got to the top. I got up there and got into a crater – one of those 155s that blew out at the top.

Communist troops came up there

hunting me. Six of them. I led them away from them two guys, you see? Where they wouldn't bother them. They'd have to come hunt me. Because I'm a backwoods boy anyway.

I jumped in that crater, and I just rolled up, and I didn't hardly breathe. The North Koreans came real close to me and they stopped. Had a smoke. Had a talk. I could have touched them. I'm wondering "Why don't you guys go?" Because I couldn't start a fight with them. I wasn't able to fight. They went one way. I went the other.

I had told those two boys before hand – I pointed out the light of Taejon, and I said, "You follow that light. If we get separated, you go toward that light. Cross those mountains and go toward that light. You'll come out there." I don't know if they ever did or not, because I never saw them after that.

It has always been in my mind, if that darn river goes to the ocean, or it goes somewhere where it's backing up water – I don't know what the terrain is of the other end, see? I don't know where the Kum ends at or what it dumps into. I just know a lot of bodies went in that river. And wherever they went, I cannot tell you. I don't know.

Because the Communists would kill you – like that priest, he said he'd stay there with that group. They had an article in the 24th *Taro Leaf* about that a few months back.

I thought if I had waited with them, I'd have been one of them, you know. Dead. But they said they'd leave them and come back? You never leave anybody. You don't leave 'em. I'm telling you.

I hid beside the road, and the next morning I saw these people coming – about 70 people together, and I didn't know who they were. We called them gooks – the communists. I didn't know if it was gooks or our guys, you know? There was a major, he was the leading the group. Americans! I hollered, and this sergeant came over there and found that I was there. And this sergeant, he helped me because I was just about gone. I didn't know him, but he helped me.

We started walking. Then the major stopped the column and said, "We're going to have to leave all the wounded behind, we'll send someone back for you."

That sergeant said, "You're not going to leave anybody. We don't leave anybody. We all stay, or we all go. We are not leaving anybody!" Because they never come back, see?

They were moving so fast on us, if you hold back, you're gone. They'll knock you out. That's what happened to preacher (priest) up there where I said I'm not waiting. I won't wait. As long as I can move, I'm not waiting.

If I'm gonna die, let me die trying.



(Minutes Continued from page 2)

President and having all the privileges and responsibilities of an elected officer. A motion to accept the change was made by C. Travers and seconded by C. First. Motion carried.

Department Council Meetings and Convention for 2011-2012 –

President Bradford noted that contracts have been signed to hold all three (3) meetings at the Plantation Inn, Crystal River on September 24, 2011, January 25, 2012, and Convention May 14, 15, 16, 2012.

A deposit of \$1000.00 (Check no 1447) was made on 2/8/11. Chapter 192, Citrus County will be our host. Hank Butler spoke of the amenities and hoped for a large attendance.

Announcement of Slate of Officers-Chairman Bill McCraney

Nomination Chairman Bill McCraney gave the following election results for the 2011-2012 period:

- President, Charlie First, Ch. 173
- First Vice President, Bill Shibley, Ch. 188
- Second Vice President, B. Hebner, Ch. 155
- Third Vice President, J. Stelling, Ch. 173
- Secretary, B. Sarver, Ch. 175
- Treasurer, J. Arcand, Ch. 014

The election will be concluded 5/7/11 at the General meeting. He thanked these members for accepting the positions.

GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORDER

Directions to the Ocala Elks Club and the Veteran's Park were given to all.

Memorial services were announced for Sunday at 8:00 A.M.

Members were reminded to bring their meal tickets to all venues.

A survey report of the January 2011 meeting was made by Secretary Arcand.

Door prizes provided by members were distributed by the wives.

The 50/50 went to M. Ford (\$82.00) which he donated to the Department.

Past-President Bob Balzer gave a detailed report on his involvement with the

Wounded Warrior program.

BENEDICTION

A benediction was offered by Chaplain Sievers

SALUTE TO THE COLORS

Sergeant-at-Arms Mickey Tutolo presided over a salute to the colors

ADJOURNMENT

President Bradford adjourned the meeting at 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Joan M. Arcand, Secretary

Members by Chapter DoF *

CID	Chapter	Active Mbrs	Other Mbrs **	Total Mbrs
14	Suncoast	56	0	56
15	Eddie Lyon	15	0	15
16	COL Alice Gritsavage	18	1	19
17	LT Richard E. Cronan	41	0	41
106	Treasure Coast	18	1	19
110	Miami-Dade	19	0	19
124	Osceola County	6	0	6
153	Central Florida	32	0	32
155	Florida Gulf Coast	28	0	28
158	William R. Charette (MOH)	26	0	26
159	Sunshine State	34	0	34
169	KWVA of Lake County	65	0	65
173	Mid-Florida	63	6	69
175	LT Baldomero Lopez (MOH)	42	0	42
188	South Lake County	31	1	32
189	Central Florida East Coast	19	1	20
192	Citrus County	33	0	33
199	Manasota	41	5	46
200	North East Florida	17	1	18
210	Brevard County	25	1	26
267	GEN James A. Van Fleet	39	0	39
318	Indian River County	38	0	38
TOTALS		706	17	723

** includes Honorary, Associate, etc. members

* Source: Association Membership Database



DOF FALL COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday September 24, 2011 at 10:30 AM
The Plantation Golf Resort & Spa
9301 West Ft Island Trail
Crystal River Florida 34429

LUNCH RESERVATION FORM

Please attend and Mail this form and your check to:
KWVA DOF c/o Joan Arcand, Treasurer
5674 Bay Pine Lakes Blvd, St Petersburg, Florida 33708

Deadline for Reservations is September 22, 2011
Sorry, we are unable to make any refunds if cancelled after September 20

PLEASE PRINT THIS INFORMATION

Member Name _____ Chapter# _____

Title _____ (As you would like it on your 10 badge)

Phone _____ email address _____

*My (National) Association dues are current _____
Signature _____

Guest Name _____

The Plantation KWVA room rate is \$99 + tax and includes complimentary breakfast. Deadline for reservations is August 24
Phone 352-795-4211 TOLL FREE 800 632 6262

Saturday noon lunch: number of persons ___ X \$ 18 = Total \$ _____

Please Order:

All lunches come with salad, vegetable, rolls, coffee, tea and dessert.

Macadamia Nut Crusted Chicken _____

Broiled Tilapia in White Wine and Lemon _____

Section for DOF Treasurer to complete:

Check # ___ Amount \$ ___ Date received ___ National membership confirmed by database _____

Maxine Parker new Department of Florida Secretary



President First recently announced that he had appointed Maxine Parker to be the new DoF Secretary replacing Bill Sarver,

who resigned.

Maxine, who is from Leesburg, more recently completed a stint as Commander of the KWVA Chapter 188 in Clermont.

We welcome Maxine and thank her for agreeing to serve in this important role, and thank Bill and Ginny for their service too.

Note that a bylaws revision was approved at the Convention in Ocala in May making the Secretary position an appointed one. ###

The DoF WEBSITE: <http://dfl.kwva.org> (Council Report, Sept. 24)

By Tom Thiel, Webmaster

The website is operational on the Association computer server in Charleston, IL at no cost to the Department other than creating the site.

I did that on my own computer at no cost to the Department with my own copy of Microsoft's Expression Web 4.0.

I used one of their business templates, and just substituted our content for

theirs. EW creates a standards-compliant web site that most any web person can readily take over so that you will not be bound with an albatross should I no longer be able.

The site is functional, not shiny with waving flags etc.

The nine primary content buttons (also referred to as pages or maybe menus) are arranged vertically along the left margin; they are titled: **Home, About DoF, Officers, Membership,**

Chapters, Reunion, Newsletters, Contact, and Links.

I decided on these categories by examining our Department Mission Statement.

Each of these primary pages has many content elements (or submenus or sub-pages); for example, the About DoF button has the following clickable submenus: **Meetings, KWVA, Reunion**

(Web Continued on page 9)



DOF NEWS

Publication frequency – Quarterly—See table for schedule.

Content, variable depending on events and content, but to include the following:

- President’s message
- Minutes – Annual member meeting, Council meetings and Board meetings.
- Council Chapter report summaries (subject to reassessment)
- Annual Convention reports
- Future events schedule
- Elections – Candidates, and forms
- Meeting registration forms
- TAPS
- Chaplain – material unique to DoF Chaplain responsibilities (might include TAPS)
- DoF Board Roster
- Feedback (letters to editor)
- Editor column
- Chapter submissions

- Special event reports

Your cooperation is critical

Keep ED appraised of future schedules

Adapt past communications to include using the News and Website as an integral means of appraising Chapters and members. i.e., no mass emails to members; we can send all members the newsletter via email.

Chapters supply content, stories, special events in chapter, etc.

Distribution

Electronic only – directly to all members on email

ISSUE	INCLUDES	PUBL DATE	DEADLINE
Winter	Jan - Mar	Mar 31	Mar 15
Spring	Apr - Jun	Jun 30	June 15
Summer	July-Sept	Sept 30	Sept 15
Fall	Oct-Dec	Dec 31	Dec 10

(Web Continued from page 8)

& Fellowship, Recruitment & Membership, PDF Files, Chaplain, Stories and Books, Getting Your Military Records, History, EX-POWs, and TAPS.

And in turn, each of these has many subpages themselves. In all there are about 280 computer files where a file may be a single page of text or a photo to an 800-page book.

For example, There is one 842-page book on the site. It is “South to the Naktong, North to the Yalu,” by Appleman.

I do not know how many actual pages are on the site.

The **Newsletter** button has as many

DoF Newsletters as I could find. Many came from a box containing Department history, but most of the material in that box turned out to be Chapter materials.

The actual amount of pages that I felt were directed to DoF history from this box amounts to about a ½-inch thick folder. Nevertheless, this included original Department newsletters and some other valuable and interesting content.

Please look at the Newsletters page and let me know if you have any DoF newsletters I do not have on the site; I would like you to send them to me to scan and put on the site. I will return them to you.

The Chapters Button is a place where

each Chapter may place material of value to your chapter members—your stuff.

So far, I’ve only gotten material from Hank Butler.

Content, the informational stuff that websites are built with, is the most serious problem with the website. Rather it is the lack of content that is the problem! Some officers have not even sent me your photos yet!

Another problem is the lack of user feedback. I have received two or three comments; it makes me wonder how many of you even look at it.

Finally, keep in mind that everything on the site is viewable to the entire cyber world! ###

DoF Executive Board

ELECTED

Charlie First, President/ 173

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From your editor

Tom J Thiel

Here we are nearing the end of Summer 2011, and looking forward to the Sept. 24 Council meeting in Crystal River. If you haven't registered yet, please do so now with the sheet on page 8.

I want to thank Hank Butler for supplying material for this letter and urge all Chapter and Department leaders to provide material for future letters.

Please look at Hank's Letter to the Editor (which I copied from the newspaper where it was published) with the view of doing the same in your local newspaper.

My experience with local papers is that they will pick you up more than you think. So when you do something in your

Chapter, let folks in your community know about it.

To our Department officers, the various VPs, please also provide me with items you would like to include.

My goal with the *NEWS* is to try to keep you apprised of what is about to happen, and of what has happened in Florida.

In order to do that well, or at all, I need to know what is going to happen or what has happened.

Please see the outline on page 9 for more on what I would like the *NEWS* to be.

If you have some ideas that I have not included please let me know.

Thank you all.

Tom Thiel