



# Morning Calm



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Much on the plate

## Members start new season off with a big bang!

Well, not really with a big bang...but at least with a good turnout of some 30 enthusiastic members and guests.

Commander Chuck Travers called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Due to a scheduling problem, there was no lunch so the session was able to get underway right away. The minutes of the last meeting in June were approved; treasurer's report given by Treasurer Bob Johnson with an optimistic note and it was approved by the membership.

Chuck commended Member Joe Guglich on the wonderful job over the summer of building our website ([kwvachapter173.org](http://kwvachapter173.org)).

Commander Travers announced the upcoming chapter hosting of the DoF Fall Council meeting to be held at the Altamonte Hilton and urged members to attend, especially volunteers to assist in hosting the meeting. Second Vice Commander Tim McKenna volunteered to be the speaker at the conclusion of the POW/MIA Freedom Ride that had been scheduled for the same day.

New member Clyde McKinnon was welcomed into the chapter. Clyde had served with the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Wolfhounds in Korea.

Chaplain Cullerton asked for assistance in keeping updated on members and families in sick bay.

Judge Advocate Charlie First initiated the call for elections. Bob Johnson announced that he would remain as treasurer, but would need some assistance. Member Roy Dempsey has been appointed finance officer to assist Bob with the chapter's financial affairs.

Tim McKenna, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, announced that he would remain in that position and Bob Johnson nominated Dick Padgett, who indicated that he would consider accepting the nomination. Joe Guglich was also nominated

and accepted for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, replacing Ed Posada, who has elected to step down. The remaining officer positions are appointed by the Executive Board. (Note: these will be considered the official minutes of the Sept. 20 meeting and should be voted on accordingly. – Bill Russell, Secretary).

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Search goes on-but slowly;

Over 7,900 still missing

## Marine missing in action from Korean War identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced [today](#) that the remains of a serviceman, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

On Dec. 2, 1950, Marine Pfc. Richard S. Gzik, of Toledo, Ohio, and the other Marines of M Battery, 11th Artillery Regiment, 1st Marine Division, came under attack on the west side of the Chosin Reservoir.



*Marine Corsairs strike Chinese positions in the Chosin Reservoir area. (USMC photo) cont...*

During this battle Gzik was killed in action and his remains were buried alongside the road leading to Hagaru-ri. Later that month, the withdrawal of U.N. forces from the Chosin Reservoir region made it impossible to recover

Gzik's remains.

In 1954, United Nations and Communist Forces exchanged the remains of war dead in what came to be called "Operation Glory." All remains recovered in Operation Glory were turned over to the Army Central Identification Unit for analysis. Those which were unable to be identified, given the technology of that time, were interred as unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii -- the "Punchbowl."

#### **Advances in technology is aid**

In 2012, analysts from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) re-examined the case records and determined that advances in technology could likely aid in the identification of unknown remains as Gzik.

Once the remains were exhumed, scientists from JPAC used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, including dental records and radiographs, to validate Gzik's identification. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously buried as unknown. [Today, 7,947](#) Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. (*From U.S. Dept. of Defense news release*)

Writer Bob Kerr, writing in the July 22 edition of the *Providence (R.I.) Journal*, reported on the belief by a number of people with some fairly concrete evidence that there are still surviving POWs out there, and ..."it is unforgivable that we have left these people behind," exclaimed Bob Egan, a Korean War veteran who has worked for years to get people to listen. (*See further commentary on p. 5*)

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## **Nancy Travers voted "Member of the Year"**

The chapter's dauntless Sergeant-at-Arms, Nancy Travers, who keeps the chapter "together," as nominator Bill Russell put it, has been selected as the chapter's "Member of the Year"

The title is the first to be awarded to an associate member. Normally, the award has been presented to veterans, but the board had previously decided that associate members would also be eligible for the title.

She will receive her award and citation at the December Christmas Party, prior to

festivities. The award also makes her an automatic contender for the coveted Eddie Ko Award, presented by the Department of Florida at its annual convention.

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## **Commander's Message**



**Chuck Travers**

Comrades,

Well, we are back to having our General Membership meetings. First one went very well and was attended with about 25 members. I want to "Thank" all that came out and hope you continue coming and hope that more of you show up. The meetings are a way for putting out information that needs to be and can socialize with your fellow buddies.

We have opened up nominations for the following positions: Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, and Treasurer. Your board has been nominated to stay on in those positions. Nominations will be taken every month through November and will close at the November Meeting so please step up to the plate and run or nominate someone to take over the reins. As a member it is your right and duty to help out any way that you can so please help out and have a voice. At our December Christmas Party we will have a vote to elect our incoming board and then our Christmas festivities.

Upcoming dates to keep in mind are: November 6<sup>th</sup> (voting day for your President), November 10<sup>th</sup> (Veterans Day Services in Sanford), and November 11<sup>th</sup> (Veterans Day Services at Altamonte Mall starting at 2 PM. Our own Bill Russell will be guest speaker), and November 11<sup>th</sup> (Our last fundraiser of the year at Publix). As you can see we have a lot going on and can use all the help to carry it all off without a hitch. Pitch in and show up. I know all the excuses there are like I'm too old, I don't drive, I'm handicapped, and I have other plans. Well, if you all take a look at your boards' members, we are all in the same boat and have other plans that we would rather go to but we put it aside to help keep "YOUR" Chapter together. And not

fall to the wayside like other Chapters are doing. But, it is getting harder for your board to keep doing all the work for the same reasons that you are giving us for not helping. So, PLEASE step up and give us a break.

Yours in Comradeship  
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### Sabres – Up and Away



*F-86 Sabjets lift gear up and head for Mig Alley, five minutes airtime away and combat against the Russian Mig-15s One of many photos taken by Dick Padgett during his tour at K-13 at Suwon with the 36<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber Squadron..*

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#### At the Cancer Benefit Event

## SEA SCOUTS

### TO THE RESCUE

On October 6, the Casselberry Veterans hosted a “Breast Cancer Awareness Event” that included a car wash followed by a chili cook off. The cost was \$10 per entry. Proceeds of the event were donated to veterans program at Hospice of the Comforter Foundation.

Assisting in the program was a group of young volunteer sea scouts, the Centurion



*The Sea Scouts pose with their certificates after assisting with the Cancer Benefit event at Casselberry Vets. (Photo by Bob Johnson)*

Battalion, US Naval Sea Cadet Corps sponsored by American Legion Post 112 in Winter Park.

The Centurion Battalion was established in 2002 as a unit of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, is a charitable non-profit 501(c) Florida corporation. Adult officers and instructors are unpaid volunteers who donate their time. The corps is for ages 13-18 and is designed to build into each cadet the sense of patriotism, courage, self-reliance and leadership. They are not a part of any scholastic system.

Each individual cadet participating in the benefit event will receive Certificates of Appreciation from our chapter.

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## Damaged military records under careful restoration

What is the most important military document you should have in your or your families’ possession that provides information about your active service – your Form DD 214, generally referred to simply as “the 214.”

#### **Major effort by NPRC**

Well, thanks to the National Personnel Records Center of the National Archives, it is going to a major effort to make sure you have that information, despite the enormous fire that destroyed the sixth floor of the former location on July 23, 1973.



At the Department of Florida KWVA Council Meeting in Altamonte Springs last month, Jake Feaster, KWVA Assistant Secretary, told the audience of the continuing work of the National Archives in its effort to restore burned and water-damaged military records including the DD 214, and new methods it is employing.



*This aerial view of the 1973 fire gives you an idea of the intense conflagration that consumed the sixth floor of the NPRC building in St. Louis. (Photo courtesy Wikipedia.)*

The fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) outside of St. Louis on July 1973 destroyed 80% of Army records between 1912 and 1960, and 75% of Air Force records between 1947 and 1964.

Following the fire the NPRC immediately went into action. As part of the reconstruction effort, the NPRC established a "B" registry file (or Burned File) to index the 6.5 million recovered records. So too, the NPRC established a separate temperature controlled "B" file area to protect and safeguard the damaged records. Later, in April 1974, the NPRC established the "R" registry file (or Reconstructed File) to further assist with reconstruction efforts. Since then, staffers have placed all newly reconstructed records into the "R" registry file and stored them in an area separate from the "B," or burned files.

Eric Voelz, an archivist with the NPRC in St. Louis, described the newest method of recording the data, which had previously been mentioned by Jake Feaster. It consists of a scanning of the "B" document file, providing information that might have otherwise might have been overlooked. These documents are

very fragile, burned, scorched, damaged by water making it a very sensitive operation, he added.

As previously noted, the DD 214 is probably the one form most requested since it provides a discharged veteran vital information about his service, certainly one of the most important documents a veteran could have.

One can only highly praise the work of archivists at the NPRC for this delicate work.

For more information about the work of the National Archives and the NPRC, go to [wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com).

### Ohio ruling overturned

## **Military personnel overseas will be able to cast vote**

Military personnel serving overseas will be able to cast their vote in the 2012 election. There was some question that the President had disallowed such voting, but a check of the internet proved otherwise. A search by Chaplain Tom Cullerton indicates that overseas absentee ballots from our troops are presently acceptable for the 2012 elections.

Such a claim stems from the fact that the President sued the state of Ohio in August over new rules for early voting designed to benefit members of the military only, saying the extra hours should be available to **all** (accent provided by the author) voters. That lawsuit prompted claims by Mitt Romney and aides that the Obama campaign is targeting military voters -- a false claim. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth District recently ruled in favor of the President to allow *all* voters to vote early.

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## **Chaplain's Reflections**

### ***THE GOOD DAYS VERSUS THE OTHERS.***

As we get older, we sometimes wonder about the adage "With age comes wisdom." We see the words, yet wonder about the wisdom. We expected it to be a gift, yet in reality has not really worked out quite that way for everyone. We hear so much about Parkinson's and dementia; we pray that our minds will always serve our best interests.

We have trouble remembering people's names or what we have read in a book. We fall asleep watching a ballgame or some program on TV. We turn too much to television, instead of praying or reading or just getting outside in the sunshine stretching our legs. We say "Why walk, when I have a car?"

What would life be like without prayer? Thanks to our God, we have what is regarded as the greatest prayer ever written. We all know it to be the Our Father. Help for all our problems and weaknesses can be included as we pray "Give us this day our daily bread." There is another very special prayer of wisdom left for us by St. Francis - The Prayer for Peace. It belongs in each of our homes and in our wallets or purses.

Lord, make me an instrument of Your Peace  
*Where there is hatred, let me sow love;*  
*Where there is injury, pardon;*  
*Where there is doubt, faith;*  
*Where there is despair, hope;*  
*Where there is darkness, light;*  
*Where there is sadness, joy.*

O Divine Master, grant that I may seek not so much to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life, Amen. -- Praise God, a great prayer for us to say for each other. - *Tom Cullerton, Chaplain KWVA Chapter 173.*

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**Briefly speaking...Member Dick Padgett** is the planner behind the upcoming 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration event to be held in Sanford on May 27. Certificates of Appreciation by the Secretary of Defense will be awarded to those who have made application. If you haven't, you should get in yours in ASAP...**the DoF Council** meeting held in Altamonte Springs recently was a success with a good turnout – next meeting is scheduled for January, also at the Altamonte Hilton...**the recently held "Operation Standdown,"** where homeless vets are assisted with various services was another good turnout with over 300 attending, including our own Tim McKenna and Cathy Alessandri...and speaking of Tim and Cathy, they are heading up our Christmas Party

entertainment, et al this year...**don't forget the Chapter October** meeting is scheduled for Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at Post 2093 on Edgewater Drive...**Sick call report- Gill Harris** is recovering from a triple by-pass and **Charlie First** (as of this printing) is recovering from a major knee replacement...good to see **Jack Miller** at this month's Exec. Bd. Meeting...hope to see all back in action soon. – B.R.

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### Commentary

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW??

The story on page one about identifying the remains of Pfc. Richard Gizik, and his recent burial at Arlington Cemetery, is just one closure in the search for the over 7,000 U.S. personnel still missing. But the search goes on.

One of the persons who has forefronted that search, and carried out his own personal hunt for his missing brother, is Bob Dumas.

On August 24, 1953, Corporal Roger A. Dumas, an American prisoner of war, was about to step across Freedom Bridge into the UN's Freedom Village, when at the last moment, the Chinese took him and others away and refused their repatriation to the UN. Where they were taken and why are unknown, but according to one account, Corporal Dumas was last seen alive in a Pyongyang prison in 1957, four years after the war.



*An American POW is welcomed back. Many others did not make it.*

Numerous sightings have been made, not only in North Korea, but also in China and Russia. What are they doing there? And why haven't those governments surrendered them over? And what is our government doing about them? North Korea has allowed only a few

remains to be recovered over the years and that has been difficult.

So the question arises – are any Korean War prisoners still living? And if so, where are they? Most Korean War veterans are, at the youngest, would be around 80, it’s unlikely than any are still living.

**Search continues**

However, in all fairness, it should be said that the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Missing Personnel Office continues to search for missing personnel, but it may be a losing cause since cooperation with China and Russia remains their greatest challenge.

The question of accountability goes all the way back to 1953 when it’s interesting to note that President Eisenhower did not seek a resolution to the non-returnee question. Rather, he ignored it and didn’t want anything that might hinder Operations Little and Big Switch.



*President-Elect Eisenhower sharing 1952 Thanksgiving Day with frontline troops. (U.S. Army photo)*

So what is the truth? We will probably never know. The objective of all the POW/MIA families is seeking the truth about their loved ones. “It is not revenge they are seeking,” someone once said, “but rather to find final closure to their long-suffering grief.”

They should have at least that much, especially the family of Corporal Dumas, who was once only a few steps away from freedom.

- *Bill Russell*

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