



Morning Calm



Publication of Ch. 173 Mid-Fl. Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) Volume 15- November 2012

SANDY DIDN'T STOP US - *Soldiers of the 3rd Inf. Reg. "Old Guard" continued to stand guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, despite recent Hurricane Sandy. The tomb has been guarded continuously since 1937. (Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army, provided by Tony Cartlidge)*



Veterans Day Celebrations Noted

By the time you read this, Veterans Day has already been observed. Perhaps you attended one or more of the many ceremonies in the Central Florida area, especially at Sanford on Nov. 10 which Chapter 173 hosted, or the special event held at the Altamonte Mall on Veterans Day.

Charlie First, DoF president and chapter member, was the guest speaker at Veterans Park in Sanford during the Nov. 10 activities. This was followed by a special luncheon held at VFW Post 8207 in Longwood. (Cont. on page 2...)



Charlie First (above) was the guest speaker at the Sanford event while Bill Russell (below) addressed a Veterans Day audience at the Altamonte Mall.

Morning Calm editor and chapter secretary Bill Russell, addressed a gathering at the Altamonte Mall on Sunday, the 11th, sponsored by the Mall and the Altamonte Springs Police Department. Russell also represented Korean War veterans and the chapter at Lake Brantley High School on Nov. 8,

and Ed Posada attended an event at Colonial High School.

Many restaurants in the area offered free meals to veterans and their families. (see page 3)

The symbol behind the red poppy

The red field poppy that we see each Veterans Day came to be known as an internationally recognized symbol of Remembrance. Its relevance and significance was the result of the unforgettable poem, "In Flanders Fields," by Major John McCrae, a Canadian Army surgeon who tended the wounded at the Battle of the Ypres Salient in Belgium in 1915.

From its association with poppies flowering in the spring of 1915 on the battlefields of Belgium, France and Gallipoli this vivid red flower has become synonymous with great loss of life in war.

Yet the scope of the poppy and its connection with the memory of those who have died in war has been expanded to help the living too. It was the inspiration and dedication of two women who promoted this same "Memorial Flower" as the means by which funds could be raised to support those in need of help, most especially servicemen and civilians suffering from physical and mental hardship as a result of war. (Below: Poppies grow in a British cemetery in Europe.)



Chapter Quartermaster Ted Trousdale receives a Blue Star Flag from Peggy Cone, National Security Chairperson, Orlando Memorial Unit 19, and Blue Star Flag presenter. Ted has a grandnephew now serving in the Armed Forces.

WHAT HAPPENED

AT THE OCT. 18 MEETING?

Commander Travers called the meeting to order after a time allowed for lunch to be served and consumed. The minutes and treasurer's report were quickly approved and we moved on to other subjects.

An important point that Commander Travers brought up was the fact that effective Jan. 1 if you are not a member of the national organization you are no longer a member of the chapter. Fortunately, only a few of these are remaining, but nevertheless that is the rule.

Commander Travers pointed out that officer nominations are still open, and if you want to serve, you still have time to nominate yourself. Some have agreed to serve if necessary. Chuck will continue as commander; Joe Guglich has agreed to replace 1st vice Ed Posada; Tim McKenna has agreed to continue; and Bob Johnson has also accepted to continue, however with the help of Roy "Curley" Dempsey who will take over some of the brunt of the financial responsibility. Nominations will close at the November meeting, with election at the December Christmas outing before festivities get underway.

The commander reminded members of the upcoming Veterans Day activities weekend. He announced that the Sanford event, to be hosted by Chapter 173 will not contain a parade but a

ceremony at Veterans Park and the featured speaker will be Charlie First, coming back following knee surgery several weeks ago. Also, he announced that Bill Russell, secretary and morning calm editor, will be the guest speaker at a special Veterans Day event on Sunday Nov 11 at the Altamonte Mall, sponsored by the Mall and the Altamonte Springs Police Dept. (Note: Luis Roman, whose father was with the 65th Infantry Regiment, will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Event will get underway at 2 p.m.).

Other reports included one by Dick Padgett, who is heading up the 60th Anniversary Commemoration event to be held at Veterans Park in Sanford on May 27, 2013. Certificates of Appreciation will be presented to those who have applied for the award.

Commander Travers also reminded members of the upcoming Christmas party. Roy Dempsey is taking reservations, at \$10 per person. Tim McKenna and Kathy Alessandri, who did such a wonderful job last year will be heading up the Christmas Committee again this year.

Outside of several ‘good of the order’ comments,” which I failed to record, the meeting was adjourned with the closing prayer by Chaplain Tom.

(Submitted as official minutes of the Oct. 18 meeting and to be voted on at the November meeting – Submitted by Bill Russell, Secretary.)

Many restaurants offered free meals during Veteran’s Day

Among the two dozen or so restaurants in the Central Florida area that offered free meals on Veterans Day included the Olive Garden, Applebee’s, the Golden Corral, T.G.I. Fridays, and Hooters.

Outback Restaurants, however, honors veterans with a free meal from the period Nov. 13 to Dec. 31. Be sure and show some military I.D. or proof as veteran.

A number of other venues offered various discounts on Veterans Day for such items that included travel, car care, clothing and shoes, etc.

News & Notes:

Commemorative Stamp

Thanks to the efforts of Ruben Estrada, Co-Chairman of the Borinqueneers Stamp Committee, a

resolution was introduced by New York State Senator Bill Larkin honoring the 65th Infantry Regiment and encouraging the issuance of a commemorative stamp by the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC). The Resolution was adopted by the NY Senate (No. 5375) on **June 19, 2012** and by the New York Assembly (No. 1602) on **June 20, 2012** >> **The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO)** will meet with individuals who have family members missing from the Vietnam War, Cold War, Korean War or World War II on December 1, 2012 in San Juan, P.R. If you have a loved one missing from the Vietnam War, Korean War, or World War II, and would like more information about them, contact the applicable branch of service: Army, **1-800-892-2490**; Marine Corps, **1-800-847-1597**; Navy, **1-800-443-9298** or Air Force, **1-800-531-5501**. For additional information about this program and the U.S. government’s mission of the fullest possible accounting of our MIAs, visit the DPMO web site at: www.dtic.mil/dpmo >> **Welcome Beatrice King to the chapter as a new Regular Member.** The wife of lifetime member Bill King, she served in the Air Force as a medical technician from 1951 to 1956.

Chaplain’s Reflections

November Thoughts

By Chaplain Tom Cullerton

Looking at November one cannot help but seeing ahead the very special holiday of Thanksgiving. While it is not a religious feast per se, it is a national treasure that rings true in our hearts and families. >



Except for poor, ol’ Mr. Turkey, the theme of the day is in giving thanks for all blessings. Any prayer this month should begin with an expression of sympathy for all the victims of Hurricane Sandy, thankful that we were spared and sympathy for their hardship and suffering. Then we have the presidential election out of the way.

A more civilized tone is back on the airways. If God was national chairman of either party, all the millions spent for advertising could have covered the needs of our sick, our wounded and our homeless. Let us pray that the two party system will see the importance of uniting with our president and help get our country headed in the right direction.

Bill Russell brought honor to our chapter and to reminding an Altamonte Mall vet day audience of all the sacrifice helping South Korea become the free and stable country its people desired. KP in the food court did not materialize for those not wearing their Korean War Vet hats and attire. Thank you, Bill.


We welcome back Charlie First, Gil and Mary Harris and Jack Miller from their hospital stays. Where would we be without them??? Let us nightly pray for each other - and see every day as our personal Thanksgiving to God for our blessings. As John 14 tells us, "Do not let your hearts be troubled, In my Father's house there are many mansions...I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am, you also may be." All praise to Him.

Veterans invited
ITSEC conference set for December

The Information/Technology Security Evaluation Criteria (ITSEC), the world's largest modeling simulation training conference, is inviting veterans to attend the up-coming 2012 Conference, to be held at the Orlando Convention Center on [December 3-6, 2012](#).

Veterans interested in attending the ITSEC Conference should contact Peggy Eby at: tagman229@aol.com or call 407-678-5799 no later than November 23, 2012 so ID badges can be made for you. Bus transportation will be made available, with departure area and times to be announced.





The President of the United States
in the name of The Congress
takes pleasure in presenting the
Medal of Honor to

**The Unknown Soldier
Korean War**

AN ACT TO authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to the unknown American who lost his life while serving overseas in the Armed Forces of the United States during the Korean War.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America assembled, That the President is hereby authorized and directed to award, in the name of Congress, a Medal of Honor to the unknown American who lost his life while serving overseas in the Armed Forces of the United States during the Korean War, and who will lie buried in the Memorial Amphitheater of the National Cemetery at Arlington, Virginia, as authorized by the Act of August 3, 1956, Public Law 975, Eighty-fourth Congress

Approved August 31, 1957, Public Law 85-251
Eighty-fifth Congress

Unknown soldiers awarded Medals of Honor

Each Unknown Soldier of our past wars – World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam, were awarded the Medal of Honor by the President. Above is the citation awarded the Korean War Unknown Soldier.

There is no one interred in the Vietnam tomb due to the fact that the original veteran interred in the tomb, became indetified and had to be removed and re-buried in Arlington Cemetery under his name. The tomb will remain empty as a symbolic representative of all unknown Vietnam veterans. The Medal of Honor is still retained with the tomb.

Commander Sez...

Comrades,
Nancy and I hope everyone is well and getting ready for Thanksgiving with friends and family. Then Christmas will be upon us and then New Year. Where has the year gone? Only yesterday was the start of 2012 and now we have 50 days left of the year. The years seems to fly-by faster and faster. >

Also, remember you're electing your new board at the Christmas Party. They will be running the Chapter for the next two years. Nominations will close at this coming General Membership Meeting. Please, let's all turn out for these two meetings and show your officers that you will be behind them. Remember too, that your board-of-officers will be putting on quite a spread for your Christmas Party and I even hear that Santa will be there. I hope you all come and enjoy yourselves and follow comrades. Bring your family and have them meet your fellow comrades-in-arms and enjoy the festivities. This is all being given to you and your family. Come out and enjoy.

Starting in January we will be gearing up for what the New Year has to bring. In closing, Nancy and I want to wish everyone "Good Health", "Happy Thanksgiving", and a "Very Merry Christmas

*Yours in Comradeship,
Chuck Travers, Commander*

WWII & Korean vets

Honor Flights take veterans to Nation's Capitol

A group of Korean War veterans recently gathered at Port Columbus, Ohio, one morning before dawn. The group swapped stories the way those only of a certain age can.

On legs less steady than they once were, the men and women boarded a plane headed for Washington D.C. with no idea of what was waiting for them.

They were showered with applause and gratitude for their bravery for fighting on the side of freedom as they boarded their Honor Flight.

Honor flight began in 2005 as a way to bring World War II veterans to Washington to experience their memorial. As the veteran population has aged, the focus has shifted to include veterans from the Korean War.

Chapter Member Ron York, also a World War II veteran, attended one of the Honor Flight excursions to Washington recently. On the one-day journey, which started quite early from OIA, the veterans visited many memorials including the new WWII Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Ron reported that "it was a terrific trip." (Cont. next column...)

Honor Flight is part of a national network that includes Honor Flight Central Florida which carried Ron's flight to Washington.

The flights are sponsored by various donors. For information on flights scheduled for 2013 you can check out their website at www.honorflightcentralflorida.org or call 407 362-1229 for schedules and application information

Christmas packages on the way

Joe Mattei of K.I.S.S. (Kids in Support of Soldiers, has reported that Christmas packages went out in a recent mail. "We wanted to make sure their packages got there before Christmas as there are some presents inside each package," Joe reports.

The next packaging event will be on Dec 1st. If you think of anything to put into the next package, please let us know.

"Thank you so much for everything you two do for us. It is greatly appreciated," Joe told the *Morning Calm*.



Christmas packages have always been welcomed by troops no matter where they are. This picture was taken during WWII in Europe.

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