



Morning Calm



Publication of Ch. 173 Mid-Fl. Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) Volume 16-Jan

2013

Ole' Santa makes his annual visit

It was a gala event at The Christmas Party

It was certainly a gala event at the Christmas Part at Post 2093 on Dec. 20, albeit there was a slight delay in serving the meal, but when it arrived it was surely enjoyed by all, great with all the trimmings.

It was a good opportunity to get to know your fellow members and friends better while 2nd Vice Tim McKenna finished up his Toys for Tots boxes and distributed some gifts before Santa's arrival.

And sure enough Santa made his highly vocal HO-HUM annual visit, making his rounds distributing gifts with the help of his able helper, Tim.

Three lucky winners received a three-minute body massage from Linda Martin and in addition there were many other prize winners of gifts as seen in the on the table in the photo below.

However, before the festivities began, one piece of business was concluded, the voting of the new slate of officers (or I should say the reaffirming of the current executive board with the exception of Joe Guglich being selected as 1st Vice, replacing Cathy Alessendri, The newly elected board will be sworn in at the membership meeting on Jan. 17. After that, it was all Santa's day. Your photographer was on hand to catch a few snapshots of the celebration.



Members, family and friends were welcomed to Post 2093 with the beautifully decorated table at the entrance. Prizes to be distributed were lined up on the table waiting for the lucky recipient's name to be called. That's Linda Martin in the background, preparing her massage chair, and Tim McKenna, further back getting ready to make a distribution of t-shirts which he displays above honoring the National Guard for its service to our country.



And finally old' Santa arrives, dispensing his good cheer and gifts for all. Afterwards, Santa posed for pictures and hugs for all, and assuring all that he would return next year.

Push on for one in Washington
**Memorial for Korea
 service veterans
 erected in Seoul**



Korean War DMZ Memorial in Seoul

In the current issue of *The Graybeards*, there is a story by Jeff Brodeur announcing the erection of a new memorial in Yongsan Garrison in Seoul honoring the sacrifices of American servicemen and Katusas who were KIA in Korea since 1954

KWVA President Jim Ferris and Brodeur are interested in replicating it or creating something similar in Washington. Brodeur reports that a new KWVA Korean Defense Memorial Committee has been established by unanimous vote to accomplish this.

Members of the committee include Col. William Weber, president of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation. He has offered to put those Korea Post-1954 casualties on the Wall of Remembrance, with possibly a replica of the memorial in Seoul on the glass panels of the wall. Col. Weber presently has a bill in Congress (H.R. 2653) to erect the Wall of Remembrance.

What can you do? Contact your congressional representative to support this bill since any future Post War Korea 1954 Veterans Memorial has been put on the back burner until passage of H.R. 2563.

NOTE: Between 1955 and 1994, 92 Americans died in hostile actions along the DMZ or elsewhere in and around the Korean peninsula. – VFW Magazine Oct. 2012.

**Ron York represents chapter at
 wreath laying ceremony at
 Greenwood Cemetery**

The Annual Wreaths Across America ceremonies were held Dec. 15 at numerous cemeteries across the country. Chapter member Ron York represented Chapter 173 at Orlando's beautiful Greenwood Cemetery. Active duty people from Army, Navy, Air Force, and the Coast Guard made brief talks and placed their special wreaths, followed by wreath placements by each of the veterans' organizations.

Chapter 173 donated four wreaths, which Ron placed on sites within the cemetery's section containing only veterans.

Ron noted that he was disappointed in the absence of any local news media, and said that not a single speaker gave any background on the annual wreath events, which began at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia in 1992 when Morrill Worcester, who has a 4,000-acre forest of balsams, shipped truckloads of the wreaths from Maine.

The tradition soon spread across the country, with individual shipping companies providing the trucks. Incidentally, Ron said that anyone who has never been to Greenwood Cemetery should go for a quiet visit. "It is quite beautiful," he said.

CHAPLAIN'S REFLECTIONS



A replica of the Memorial in Washington

Korean Vets honored at Rose Parade

Six Korean War veterans were honored at the 2013 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California when they rode on a special float sponsored by the Defense Department.

The intent, according to the Defense Department was to draw attention “to the veterans of a war often considered forgotten” by sponsoring a float in the annual parade in commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War.

Six Korean War veterans were selected to ride on the \$247,000-flowered float, a replica of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington. Among the six veterans was famed author and actor James McEachin (*see story in next column*) and Hiroshi Miyamura, who received the Medal of Honor for his actions as an Army corporal in Korea but says many of his comrades drew little thanks.



- Army Staff Sgt. Hiroshi H. Miyamura, Medal of Honor recipient for valor in combat near Taejon-ni, South Korea, April 24, 1951, while serving with Company H, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. (Courtesy National Archives)

“This is the parade they never got,” Defense Dept. Col. David F. Clark said. Clark is director of the 60th Anniversary Commemoration Committee.

Please receive this as a post-Christmas prayer and reference that is both timely and appropriate as we kickoff a New Year in God's earthly kingdom - one that is daily ravaged by mankind but still stands in His creative splendor.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. We thank Him for being here with us **today** and always. He asks us, expects us, to say what is on our minds, never to hesitate asking for His blessing or involvement in life's problems. Pray for the people who lost their lives and homes in the devastation of hurricane Sandy, and the children now in heaven with the adults who lost their lives in the Newton, Conn. Sandy Hook school bloodbath. Let us honor and share in the grief of the people there, praying for them. Let us hope our government finds a way to better control assault weapons.

Please bless the health and needs of our sick or needy or homeless. Let us daily remember in prayer and tribute our veterans, those fallen and all others who have served our country.

Help all of us achieve a more deep and meaningful relationship with You and each other. Thank you for the life you have given us. Our greatest Christmas gift was the love and compassion You have shown us. Help us always to think, to speak, to act, giving glory to your Holy Name. Christmas and the New Year are your gifts to us. May our gratitude grow in this life and the next. Amen. --Tom Cullerton, *Chaplain+KWVA Chapter 173*

Famed actor/author member of Rose Parade Float



McEachin reads a narrative on the conflict at a Department of Defense salute to the Korean War in 2003. (-Wikipedia)

As mentioned earlier, James McEachin was one of the six Korean War veterans, along with Medal of Honor recipient Hiroshi H. Miyamura, selected to ride on the Korean War Veterans float in the 2013 Rose Parade.

But many may not know he holds an accomplished career in acting with well over 150 film and television credits to his name to include being the first African-American man to have his own show on NBC, *Tenafly*. McEachin worked beside such greats as John Wayne, Bette Davis, Clint Eastwood, Burt Reynolds, and Sidney Poitier.

As a young man, James McEachin served in the U.S. Army, before, and then during, the Korean War. Serving in King Company, 24th U.S. Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, he was wounded (nearly fatally) in an ambush and left for dead. McEachin was rescued by a young blond soldier who carried him for many miles over treacherous terrain and enemy gunfire to safety before disappearing from his life forever. McEachin was one of only two soldiers to survive the ambush; the fate of his rescuer is unknown. He is the recipient of the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

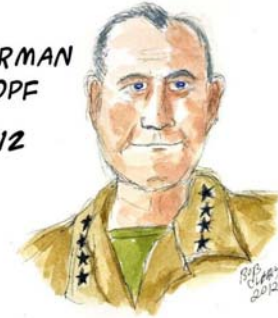
In 2003 McEachin acted in an 8-minute heart-warming and award-winning film short starring himself and David Huddleston entitled "Reveille." Posted on the internet in

May 2006, this patriotic film short with no dialogue speaks volumes and quickly garnered over 3 million viewers and a mass of heartfelt fan letters. The many responses led to the development of the 2007 GI Film Festival Best Film Short, *Old Glory*, and the character of The Old Soldier would later develop into the play *Above the Call; Beyond the Duty*.

McEachin is also an award-winning author. In the 1990s, he semi-retired from acting to pursue a writing career. His first work was a military history of the court-martial

of 63 black American soldiers during the First World War, titled *Farewell to the Mockingbirds* (1995), which won the 1998 Benjamin Franklin Award.^[2] In 2005, McEachin produced the award-winning^[3] audio book *Voices: A Tribute to the American Veteran*.

**GENERAL NORMAN
SCHWARZKOPF
1934 - 2012**



Retired General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, credited with leading U.S.-allied forces to a victory in the first Gulf War, died Dec. 27, 2012 at age 78. The man who Defense Secretary Leon Panetta called "one of the great military giants of the 20th century" died in Tampa, Fla., where he lived in retirement, the Associated Press reported.

Schwarzkopf, called "Stormin' Norman" because of his reportedly explosive temper, led America to two military victories: a small one in Grenada in the 1980s and a big one as de facto commander of allied forces in the Gulf War in 1991.

Schwarzkopf's career was one of steady but unspectacular advancement. After serving with combat units, and in Berlin in the early 60s, he received a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Southern California, and taught at West Point. He volunteered for duty in Vietnam and then, after another tour at West Point, returned there as a combat commander, winning three Silver Stars, most notably for leading the rescue of a unit trapped in a minefield, and saving the life of a wounded soldier who had triggered a mine. His nickname was earned as he screamed hot-tempered orders for more helicopters to help the evacuation.

Plans set for 60th Anniversary Celebration in Sanford

The Executive Board is working on plans for this and the final year of the 60th Anniversary Commemoration in Sanford in conjunction with the Memorial Day parade and event.

Chapter 173 is hosting the Memorial Day event and has set up a schedule of events for the day, beginning at 10

a.m. with the parade and program at Veterans Park featuring a guest speaker. This will be followed by lunch at the Sanford Civic Center (at this writing) and then wrapping up with the special awarding by the Defense Department of the 60th Anniversary Certificate of Appreciation to veterans.

All times are subject to change, but at this moment they remain as stated.

An important note to chapter veterans – if you wish to receive a Certificate of Appreciation at the commemoration program in Sanford, you must complete an Official DoD Certificate of Appreciation Form. The forms will be made available by the chapter's 60th Anniversary Chairman Dick Padgett at the Thursday, Jan. 17 membership meeting.

Commander's Message



Chuck Travers

Comrades,

I want to thank everyone for the faith in letting your Board of Officers continue as your leadership. We along with you can keep this Chapter on top. I look forward to seeing more of you at our meetings. With your ideas we can keep this Chapter afloat. We have many things happening this year so keep reading the *Morning Calm* to stay abreast of what is coming up.

The big event this year is hosting the KWVA 60th Anniversary Celebration. This year we have the honor of having DoD coming down and issuing Certificates of Appreciation honoring all the Korean War and Service Veterans. Look for more information as the date comes closer. *Yours in Comradeship, Chuck Travers*

Commentary

Don't let 2013 be the end of the Korean War Commemoration?

Although July 27, 2013 will end the official period of the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration, will that be the end of the Korean War Remembrance? Will it become once more the "forgotten war?" **NOT IF WE LET IT.**

The Defense Department has, and is, doing a superlative job in projecting and preserving the image of the Korean War. One of the highlights in my opinion was the recent Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day when a float, depicting a replica of the Korean War Memorial

in Washington was included in the parade, featuring six veterans aboard the float (stories printed herein). It was very dramatic and a beautiful salute sponsored by the Department of Defense. And it appeared to have been well received by the fans standing along the route. So

let's applaud the Department of Defense 60th Anniversary Commemoration Committee and its director, Colonel David F Clark, for their enduring cause in our benefit when they visit us on Memorial Day to award us with Certificates of Appreciation.



Get one for your car. Only \$3

And, say, when you go out in public, wear your Korean War Veteran hat, or something symbolic on your clothing, or be sure and put Joe Guglich's nice sticker on your bumper or window that salutes Korean War and Service Veterans. –B. R.

Coming up...

Jan 17 -Membership Meeting, 11 A.M. at VFW Post 2093, 4444 Edgewater Drive, Orlando FL. Lunch orders at 11:15 A.M. and eat at 11:30 A.M. **Meeting starts at NOON Sharp!** Elected Officers installed.

Chapter Member of the Year Award presented.
Ed Burford, Sem. Co. Service Officer is guest speaker. Bring your questions with you.

Jan. 26 – DoF Council Meeting, Altamonte Hilton Hotel, Altamonte Springs.

Feb. 2 – Chapter 173 Exec. Board working/luncheon meeting, Casselberry Veterans, 11 a.m.

Feb. 20 – Due date for Call for Elections for DoF officers for the 2013-14 term. Offices open – President, First, Second, and Third Vice Presidents, and Treasurer. Letters of Declarations of Candidacy must be in NLT Feb . 20.

Feb. 21 – General membership meeting, VFW Post 2093, Edgewater Drive. 11 a.m.

May 3rd – 5th Department of FL KWVA Annual Convention, Hilton Hotel Altamonte Springs, FL

May 27 - 10 A.M. Step Off for Memorial Day Parade in Sanford with program (s) to follow. Certificates of Appreciation to be awarded Korean War veterans.

Deaths in the Korean War family

Sadly, we report the following deaths of Korean War veterans:

William F. Odell, Jr., Winter Park died Nov. 17 He was 77. He attended Mount Holly H.S. in Mount Holly, N.J., but enlisted in the Navy at an early age in 1950 at the start of the Korean War. Odell was a radar operator and was a recipient of the Korean War Service Medal and Air Crew Badge with Gold Star, among other medals. He was not a member of Ch. 173.

Herbert Kellom, 83, Orlando, a member of Ch. 173, died Dec. 27 at Ocoee Health Center at the age of 83. He spent his entire working career as a CDL. truck driver.

Bill Coleman, who died Dec. 13, and although not a Korean War veteran, should be remembered nevertheless, for his advocacy for the new Orlando VA Medical Center under construction at Lake Nona, expected to open this year. Coleman was a World War II paratrooper with the 101st Airborne Div. and later spent a year as a prisoner-of-war. He was 87.

A 1953 Event

60 Years ago this month...

Jan.20 - Dwight D. Eisenhower is sworn in as the President of the United States. In his inauguration speech he makes no policy announcements about the Korean War, but he pays tribute to "American life given in Korea for a free world."

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**IN MEMORY OF 13 CHAPLAINS KILLED IN ACTION (KIA)
OR DIED IN NORTH KOREAN PRISONER OF WAR CAMP**

Tom Campbell, 6/2012

Don't forget to check our website;
kwvachapter173.org

Directors & Officers
Commander
Charles "Chuck" Travers 407 252-7447
CRTravers@yahoo.com

1st Vice Commander
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Robert D Johnson, E Co. 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry
Division, DEC 2, 1952 – DEC 15 1953
33rd Infantry Regimental Combat Team & JWTC Panama
Mar 20, 1954 – Jan 31 1958
HQ 21st Direct Support Group Camp Red Cloud, Korea
January 69 – December 1969 (*Expires 04-14*)



Ted Trousdale, YN1, USN ('51 - '56), Sub Squadron. 5 &
Amphibious Forces, U.S. Pac. 7th Fleet.; C N O Ofc, the
Pentagon; JUSMAG, Thailand. 3/2014

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252-7447 (home) gunship442@aol.com or CRTravers@yahoo.com

OUR NEXT EVENT WILL BE HELD THURSDAY JANUARY 17th 2013= 11AM AT VFW 2093,

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Vic Haas, USAF (Retired) 20th Air Force (*Exp 1/2015*)
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Punchbowl, Korea, April '52 – Jan '53 (*Expires 12/12/2014*)



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R. D. "Jack" Miller, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat
ea3

Korea, 5th Special Forces Group Vietnam, (Exp 11/2013)

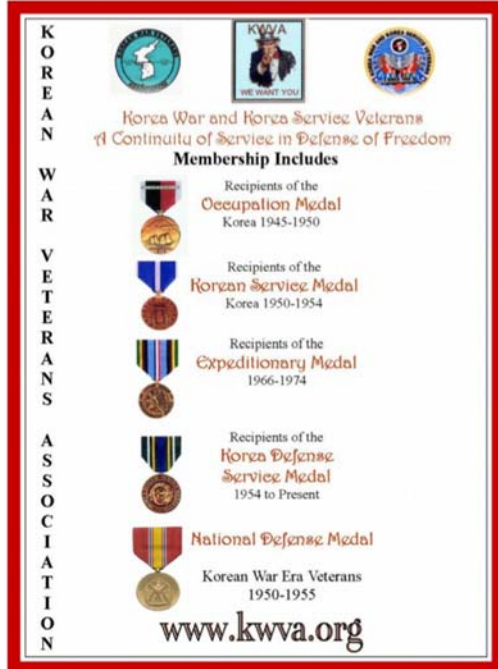
In Memory of 1LT. Robert McGovern - Medal of Honor
KIA Jan 20, 1951 – In Honor of A Co 5th CAV Regiment –
1st CAV Division – Presidential Unit Citation 1/30/1951)
Exp. 6/2014)

Bill Russell "Korean War Historian" (Exp 12/2013)

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Korean War, Korean Era and Korean Service Veterans



Bill Russell - Editor

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of Chapter 173, Mid-Fl Korean War Veterans
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See you at the MEETING, 11 a.m., at VFW
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