



the morning calm



Newsletter of Ch. 173 Mid-Fl Korean War Veterans Assoc. (KWVA)
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Joe Kittinger

Famous parachutist key speaker at Veterans' Day celebration



Orlando resident Col. Joseph “Joe” Kittinger shown above making his record-breaking skydive will be the featured speaker at Sanford on Veterans’ Day, Nov. 11.

Kittinger holds many altitudes jump and balloon records, including the famous and record-breaking free-fall on August 16, 1960.

He made the final jump from the Excelsior III at 102,800 feet. Towing a small drogue parachute for initial stabilization, he fell for four minutes and 36 seconds reaching a maximum speed of 614 miles per hour before opening his parachute at 18,000 feet. He also set historical numbers for highest balloon ascent and for fastest speed by a human being through the atmosphere.

On his first high-altitude jump from 76,000 feet the year before was a near-disaster when an equipment malfunctioned causing him to lose

consciousness. The automatic parachute opener saved his life.

Vietnam Veteran

Colonel Kittinger is a Vietnam veteran, having served three combat tours, flying a total of 483 missions. He was shot down on May 11, 1972 and spent 11 months as a “guest” in the Hanoi Hilton. He retired from the Air Force in 1978 and is active today in the field of space activities. He is the recipient of numerous awards.

Also on hand will be The Submariners who will conduct the Two Bell Ceremony and Hank Howard will play taps. The Sanford Police and Seminole County Sheriff’s Office will furnish the color guards and firing squads.

The program begins sharply at 11 a.m. There will be ample parking available at the courthouse and Sanford City Hall. The best advice is to get there early and assure you of a good parking space.

more news.....



Commander’s Message

Fellow members, we need your help! We are going into a very busy membership year with lots of events coming up. Two big ones in particular – Veterans Day and Christmas – are events to look forward to. Although there will be no parade at Sanford this year, there will be a good program with Col. Joe Kittinger as the guest speaker, followed by a lunch at Fleet Reserve 46, and the awards ceremony in the afternoon at Post 19.

The weekend before that we will be conducting fund raisers possibly at three different locations and here's where we need your help in "manning" the tables. Just contact John Stelling and let him know you're available. Even if you can't stay too long, drop by for a few minutes. It's a rewarding experience. Read more about it in this issue.

These fundraisers have enabled us to do something great – reduce your chapter membership dues. All about this and more at our October 21 meeting. See you there.

- Chuck Travers, Commander



Flash.....

Membership dues reduced...

The Executive Board at its Oct. 7 meeting voted to reduce the chapter annual dues from \$18 to \$10.

The action was presented by Treasurer Bob Johnson, who said in light of the success of recent fund-raising success, he felt that it would be commendable to take this action.

With the reduction on chapter dues, total National and local dues will be \$35 rather than the current \$43. National dues will continue to hold at \$25 annually.

Bob reminds members that when they receive their national dues reminder card, return the card with your dues and he will file the renewals.

The new annual dues will take effect immediately.

Chaplain's Reflections

Trick or treat...Trick or Treat..." With all the hideous advertisements and store displays, I am reminded of this doorstep greeting so commonly associated with Halloween (Oct. 31). This year it edges its way up to Nov. 2 when each of us has a vote on the politicians who will either trick or treat

us based on their ideas and kept promises. We owe it to our state and country to give each candidate a serious analysis.

The calendar then offers us November 11th, Veterans Day – when our nation pays tribute to the sacrifice and service of all veterans, living and dead. We then have the special feast of Thanksgiving – a day on which we turn to God counting all our blessings. I would like to share a personal prayer with you:

Our father, thank you for the night, Thank you for the Light, Thank you for the way. – Amen.

A good prayer to open and close our days.

Please pray for Vic Haas, who had heart surgery on Oct. 7 in Columbia, S.C. Thanks and God bless.

-Tim Cullerton, Chaplain

Chapter 173 officers running for DoF slots

Chapter 173 members Charlie First and Commander Charles "Chuck" Travers have thrown their hats in the political ring for positions in the Department of Florida (DoF) KWVA.

First, currently serving as First Vice President of DoF, and Judge Advocate of Ch. 173, will run for the top spot, while chapter commander Travers will seek the third vice presidential slot.

Minutes of Sept. 16

The regular monthly meeting of Chapter 173 was held at VFW Post 2093 <> Commander Chuck Travers called the meeting to order at approx. 1215 hours. All officers were presented or accounted for. Twenty-two members were in attendance. Commander Travers reported chapter membership at 84 members <> He also announced that Kit Frazer, president of the National Gold Star Wives of America, had been accepted as the first honorary member of the KWVA. Kit later presented gold star coins to members. <> Treasurer Bob Johnson presented the financial report and noted that with the results of the Memorial Day fund raisers held at two Publix stores, in Maitland and Altamonte Springs, the treasury was beginning to look good.

The report was approved by the membership. <> Announcements were made of upcoming fund raisers.<> Commander Travers presented recommendations by the Executive Board concerning changes in the by-laws affecting elected officers.

The membership by a majority vote approved the proposed by-laws change.

(See related story below on changes). <> Commander Travers also announced that nominations for chapter officers would be accepted at the October meeting. <> Commander Travers reported on various upcoming activities, including Veterans Day activities in Sanford, and medals presentation ceremony to be held at VFW Post 19 in the afternoon. <> The meeting adjourned at 1320 hours.

Changes announced in election of chapter officers positions

At the September general meeting, the chapter membership approved by a majority vote several changes to the bylaws affecting several positions and terms of service.

First of all, the membership approved recommendations by the Executive Board that the position of Secretary be changed to an appointed position, rather than elected, and that the office of Third Vice President be deleted. Another change in Article V was also approved providing that the terms of office for the Chapter President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, and Treasurer “shall be for two years or until their successors are elected.” Another change regarding the Secretary’s position is that while it is an appointed position, that person “shall have all the privileges and responsibilities as do elected officers.”

It should be noted that nominations for the elected positions are open but will close with the November meeting. In the meantime, those officers maintaining the current positions have been nominated and have accepted to serve another term

A minor change has been made in the board’s line-up. The positions of 1st vice, currently held by Tim McKenna, and that of 2nd vice, currently held by Cathy Alessandri, have been “flip-

flopped.” Tim has elected to move down to 2nd, due to his commitment with the Florida National Guard, and other matters. He will continue to serve on the board, however, as 2nd Vice.

BOY, DO WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

As Treasurer Bob Johnson has proposed and is going into effect, is the reduction in membership dues, as described earlier.

However, to do this we need to continue with our Rose of Sharon fund-raising activities. At the present time only a handful of members are handling these fund-raisers, thanks to John Stelling, who heads the program, Charlie First, Tom Cullerton, and others. (See the Commander’s Message).

This coming Veterans Day will be a busy one. In addition to the activities in Sanford, and the awards ceremony at Post 19 in the afternoon, the weekend before that, Nov. 5 and 6, we hope to have tables at two Publix locations and at the big Super K-Mart in Apopka. They will need to be manned.

Let John know if you can. And even if you can’t really commit yourself, simply drop by one of the places over the weekend and hang round for a while.

You’ll enjoy it also.

SOME CHRISTMAS NOTES

Yep, that’s right, believe it or not, Christmas is just around the corner, and your chapter is already making plans.

It will be held on Dec. 16, which is also the date of our regular meeting. Hopefully, not much business will be conducted so that we can get down to enjoying the festivities.

One of the highlights, outside of the appearance of the ole’ gent with the white beard, will be the raffling off a tremendous first prize – a cruise to the Caribbean for two. Also two fruit baskets donated by Publix will be raffled off. Tickets will be available soon.

The Christmas dinner will be \$10 per person and that covers just about everything.

First Vice President Cathy Alessandri is handling details and she reminds us that we need to have your reservations in by December 1.

KWVA logo for shirts available at great price

Charlie First has come up with a great-looking logo for golf/polo shirts or any shirt of your choice. He will have it on display at the October meeting, and for only \$10 you can have it embroidered on a shirt of your choice.

For your consideration, Haband Shirts has a great deal on golf/polo shirts where you purchase three for \$29.99, get a fourth one FREE. They have them available in a number of colors, probably most appropriately for us would be either aqua blue, white, or black, or others of your choice.

Information on ordering the Haband shirt will also be available at the meeting. You can also have your name stitched over the right breast. See Charlie at the meeting for further details.

IN BRIEF.....

Wreaths Across America program is taking orders for the program to be held at the Greenwood Cemetery in Orlando on December 11. Ch. 173 has pledged four wreaths, one per section with veteran's graves. There will be a need for volunteers to help lay wreaths. – Bob Johnson.

Kids in Support of Soldiers (K.I.S.S.) made over \$350 in sales and donations at the Memorial Day Parade.

Bob Johnson represented Korean War Veterans and the First Cav at the September meeting of the Seminole County Area Veterans Advisory Committee (SCAVAC).

Debra Smith, president of the Central Florida Chapter of Gold Star Mothers of America, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Chapter 173 at the September meeting "in recognition of honoring veterans that never came back home and the families of POW/MIAs.

DoF Council Meeting is scheduled for Sat. Jan. 15, 2011, at the Ocala Hilton, in Ocala. Ch. 173 will be represented.

Applebee's is offering a "Free Signature Entrée" meal to all active duty military and veterans on Thurs. Nov. 11. Wear something symbolic of your status to the restaurant.

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Awards decided at board meeting

The Executive Board, at its Oct. 7 meeting was faced with a dilemma, two candidates for "Veteran of the Year," Commander Chuck Travers, and Secretary Bill Russell. To resolve the tie between the two candidates, it was decided to

award Chuck with the "Veteran of the Year." A new award was established, the "Bill Russell Lifetime Achievement Award," and named Bill as the first recipient. The awards will be made at the December meeting.

Tampa Draws Big Crowd



Ch. 173 member Charlie First (center), new Life Member Sid Williams, and Alice Pinnette (Ch. 188) enjoy the festivities at the Commemoration Banquet held in Tampa on Oct. 9, hosted by Eddie Ko and the Kim Family Foundation. Also in attendance from Ch. 173 was Ted Trousdale..

(Photo by Carol Becker, Ch. 188)

Directors & Officers

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DIRECTORS

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Marian Roberts
Ted Trousdale

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR VETERANS & SPOUSES-

There is a fairly new procedure in VA law that allows a surviving spouse, or if none, surviving children, or if none, in certain cases the person who bore the expenses of last sickness or burial, to substitute themselves for the deceased Veteran Claimant within one year of the Veterans' death for the purposes of having the Pending Claim or Appeal of the Veteran processed to completion by the VA. In the cases of substitution by spouses and/or children, this "might" result in payment of back benefits by the VA if they decided to go ahead and approve the Claim. Please see the VA service officer near you for help if you are faced with this situation. VA's main website is www.va.gov; or call the VA Regional Office (toll free); (800) 827-1000.

**MEMBERS: DON'T FORGET NEXT MEETING
DATE IS THURS. Oct. 21
AT VFW POST 2093 4444 EDGEWATER
DRIVE, ORLANDO**