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38th Parallel

A publication to remember, honor and thank the Korean War Veterans



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Staff Sgt. Heather Moody from the Air Force Personnel Center checks a Korean War veteran's application to receive a service medal. With the commemoration almost over, veterans are urged to apply.

Nation commemorates armistice

The National Salute to Korean War Veterans July 26 at the MCI Center in downtown Washington, D.C., is one of several events slated for June and July.

A three-day commemoration in the nation's capital beginning July 25 kicks off the Armistice Weekend salute followed by a historical wreath laying at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on July 27, 50 years to the date the armistice

between the United Nations and North Korea was signed.

In June, the anniversary month of the start of the war, there will be several ceremonies in Washington, D.C. A musical tattoo on June 25, at the Ellipse near the White House, will honor Korean War veterans in this final year of the Korean War commemoration.

Continued on Page 2

First Korean War Unknown Identified

(WASHINGTON, D.C. — May 21, 2003) The remains of a Korean War U.S. Marine buried as an “unknown” have been identified and returned to his family. He is Pfc. Ronald D. Lilledahl of Minneapolis, Minn. This marks the first unknown serviceman from the Korean War to be identified.

On Nov. 28, 1950, Lilledahl’s unit, Company C of the 7th Marines, was



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

A sentry passes Arlington National Cemetery’s Tomb of the Unknown during a wreath laying ceremony there.

surrounded by Chinese forces on the west side of the Chosin Reservoir and cut off from supporting units. During a seesaw battle throughout the day, Lilledahl reportedly was struck and killed by enemy fire and buried in a shallow grave. In the ensuing withdrawal, Co. C, was unable to retrieve all of its dead, including Lilledahl.

Following the armistice, the North Korean government returned remains believed to be those of U.S. servicemen, but forensic technology at the time was unable to make positive identifications on more than 800 of those. They were interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as The Punchbowl, as “unknowns.”

In 1999, the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii (CILHI) exhumed two of the Korean War unknowns for the purpose of possible identification. Between 1999 and 2002, CILHI scientists submitted 10 bone or dental samples to the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory

but no usable mitochondrial DNA data could be extracted from the remains.

Broadening their search effort, CILHI researchers uncovered a postage-stamp sized chest X-ray in Lilledahl’s medical records at the National Personnel Records Center. The scientific staff enlarged it many times and was able to show very strong consistency with the remains.

The final piece of evidence confirming his identity came from a new computer program recently developed by CILHI, which allows scientists to compare dental remains to a vast database of almost 40,000 dental patterns seen in the U.S. Lilledahl’s were unique among the entire database, lending tremendous weight to the significance of the match.

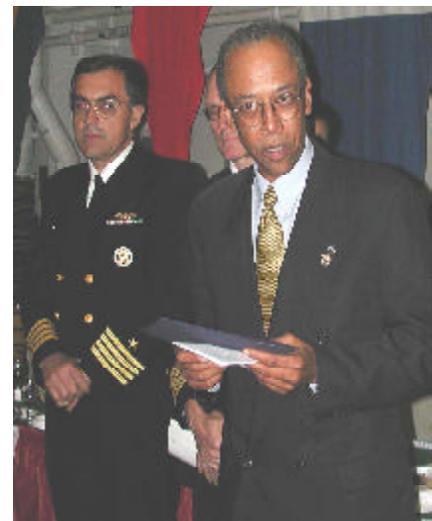
Annual negotiations led by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office since 1996 have enabled CILHI teams to conduct 25 operations in North Korea, recovering what may be 178 remains of Americans. More than 8,100 are still missing in action from the Korean War. *(Courtesy DoD)*

Armistice from Page 4

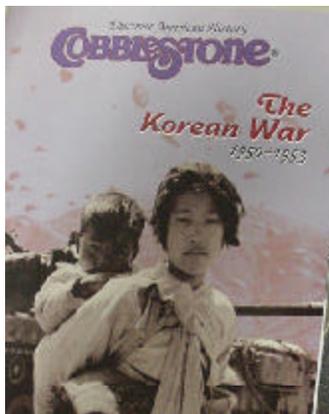
The tattoo, hosted by the Military District of Washington, is part of a two-part ceremony. The Department of Defense 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee and the Red Cross will host the grand opening of an exhibit June 25 at the American Red Cross Visitors’ Center in downtown Washington, D.C., at 12:30 p.m.

In Memorium

Michael Handy, right, director of the mayor’s office of veterans affairs in New York City, and strong supporter of the Korean War Commemoration, passed away May 31 at his home. He was totally committed to military veterans. Handy was a driving force behind the New York City Veterans Day Parade in 2000. Services were held for Handy at the Intrepid Air and Space Museum June 3. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg as well as former mayors Rudolph Giuliani and Daniel Dinkins were in attendance among Handy family and friends.



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey



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Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Red cross honors vets

Shown here on the battlefield during the Korean War, the Red Cross goes in harm's way to serve service members in time of need. The Department of Defense 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee and the Red Cross will host the grand opening of a Korean War exhibit June 25 at the American Red Cross Museum Visitors' Center in downtown Washington, D.C., at 12:30 p.m. The exhibit will include representation from all 22 nations that served under the United Nations banner to stop communist aggression from North Korea more than 50 years ago. The grand opening will also include a wreath laying ceremony in the Red Cross courtyard and remarks from distinguished Korean War veterans. The event is part of a day-long salute to Korean War veterans. There will be a military musical, or Twilight Tattoo, at 7 p.m., on the Ellipse near the White House. For more information call 1-866-KOREA 50 or 703-604-0820.



Post Office to Unveil Korean War Stamp

The U.S. Postal Service will honor Korean War veterans when it issues a new first-class stamp July 27 depicting the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C. The date is 50 years to the day the United Nations and North Korea signed at Panmunjom, North Korea, an armistice ending bloodshed on the battlefield.

The memorial, with its 19 statues in symbolic wedge formation on patrol, includes a 41-panel granite wall with more than 2,000 etchings of pictures of services members who fought.

Korean War vets receive 'welcome home'

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — The black-and-white photo looks wrinkled and battered, but the expression is golden: a soldier and a boy with confident, friendly smiles.

It was circa 1952. The Korean War had wound to a nasty stalemate: bloody battles waged over Korea's mountains with neither side gaining. Americans and South Koreans — with soldiers from 20 other countries — fought to repel the North Korean invasion.

About 15 miles south of Seoul, Cpl. Herman Cupp was stationed at an airstrip called K-13. A heavy equipment mechanic, Cupp spent five months there building hangars with an Army unit specially assigned to the Air Force.

Cupp, now 68, remembers a Korean boy who helped around the camp, running errands for cash to feed his family. After the war, the photo was tossed in a box and Cupp became a mortician in the civilian world.

"I always thought about the boy and what happened to him," Cupp, who is retired in New Tazwell, Tenn., said in a telephone interview.

Cupp was about 18 when the photo was taken. He looks young and tall next to the boy. For a half-century, the boy was in effect nameless; the photo was one of hundreds taken of

U.S. service members and Koreans who united for battle but separated after hostilities ended.

This time, however, the soldier's son, Sgt. John Cupp, picked up the quest to find the boy he'd wondered about when he first saw the photo as a child.

The sergeant, a journalist with the 2nd Infantry Division's public affairs office, brought the photo with him to Korea in September.

"All kinds of things pop into your head," Cupp said. He wondered how the boy is doing now. "Is he alive? What kind of work does he do?"

John Cupp gave the photo to a journalist he knew through his work. The Donga Ilbo, a national Korean newspaper, published it Dec. 23.

The calls came flooding in, Cupp said. Then, Cupp said, the challenge became to match fuzzy memories with fuzzy memories. His father remembered giving the boy a raincoat, but not much more.

"He asked me one day about some protection," Herman Cupp said. "I gave him a raincoat."

When the boy returned the coat, Herman Cupp smelled a rank surprise.

"That was one of the ways he remembered who I was," Herman Cupp said. "In the raincoat, he had left a piece of dried fish. When I came back to the States, I had a problem eating fish."

Of all who called, Chong Sul-nam stood out. He remembered not only the raincoat but also much about the airstrip at Suwon. During the war, his older brother was a gate guard on base.

Soon after, Chong began working on base too, shining shoes, cleaning and running errands for soldiers. In return, he got about \$20 a month, with



Courtesy of U.S. Army

Army Sgt. John Cupp stands next to Chong Sul-nam, who posed with Cupp's father as a boy, below, during the Korean War. Cupp was able to find Chong after forwarding the photo to a South Korean newspaper.

extra food and uniforms.

Now, the 63-year-old Chong runs a hardware store in Suwon, the same town where he met his friend 51 years earlier. Chong said he'd like to meet Herman Cupp.

But Herman Cupp recently battled prostate cancer and has diabetes. He said he can't travel to South Korea.

"I'm sorry to hear that he has cancer," Chong said. "I really appreciate him trying to find me."

They may meet soon anyway. A civic group in Tongduchon, host to U.S. Army Camp Casey, has offered to pay \$2,000 for Chong to go to Tennessee. The group wants to show its gratitude to Herman Cupp and the U.S. soldiers who served in the war. Kim Il-young, head of the Tongduchon branch of International People to People, said he appreciated Cupp fighting for Koreans.

Chong said he's interested in traveling to the States to meet the elder Cupp and is working out the details with the group. For Cupp, a meeting would bring a bit more closure to a war he rarely spoke about after he returned to the States.

"I had a good duty there on the front lines as far as being in the service," Cupp said. "I hope that boy can get over here." (*Courtesy Stars and Stripes. Choe Song-won contributed to this report.*)



Courtesy of Sgt. John Cupp

Cpl. Herman Cupp and Chong Sul-nam in Suwon, South Korea, circa 1952. Sgt. John Cupp, son of Herman Cupp, submitted this photo to a national Korean newspaper in search for the anonymous boy who posed with his father during the Korean War.

Korean War veteran spends life looking for others around the globe

As Richard Gallmeyer lay in a hospital bed for three months recovering from major surgery, the faded, black-and-white photographs of his Korean War battle buddies were what kept him going and gave him his will to live.

“Those are what kept me alive,” he said. “I told my wife that ‘if I ever get out of here, I want to find my buddies.’”

After returning home in the fall of 1994, Gallmeyer did just that and today has a database filled with more than 23,000 names and addresses of Korean War veterans from all branches of service.

In the fall of 1994 he formed the nonprofit organization named Korean War Veterans Reunion, Inc., and has spent the last eight years researching and compiling his list of Korean War veterans so fellow service members have a way to find each other. In his initial year, his list grew to 3,000 and has been growing rapidly ever since. He is an organization of one and cannot keep up with the information coming in.

However, he said he hopes to find a sponsor in his home city of Virginia Beach, Va., to provide him a location to continue his life’s work and for volunteers to help him keep up with his ever-expanding list of veterans looking for each other. For now, Gallmeyer keeps plugging away at his list in his home, which doubles as a miniature museum of the Korean War. Walls dressed with Korean War photos, maps, flags and letters that scream volumes about the story of war. Photo albums sit on his coffee table containing more images, documents, assignments and, menus from unit holiday dinners evoking memories of military men and women who fought for their country.

While striving to help Korean War veterans get in touch with each other, Gallmeyer said it was great to see the Department of Defense honor them during the 50th anniversary of the war and to help educate people so that they would not become service members who fought in a forgotten war.

“After all these years, we’re finally being remembered. What else can I say?”

Gallmeyer doesn’t look back at the darkness of war, he spends his life looking for those who were lucky enough to make it home, and each year he sponsors a reunion for all Korean War veterans to get together, to be a family again. For the past eight years, his reunions have brought together thousands of Korean War veterans and their families from across the country.

This year, for the ninth annual reunion, he is having a Christmas dinner in Laughlin, Nev. He said this dinner will be the first sit-down Christmas reunion that most of them

could not enjoy 50 years ago. He laughs as a 3x5-inch black- and-white photograph where tired, ragged men sat on the ground drinking from their tin canteen cups with a tank looming ominously in the background takes him back to his time in Korea.

With the annual reunions and his ever-growing list of Korean War veterans, Gallmeyer said he cannot stop what he began eight years ago.

“It’s something I have to do,” said the 75-year-old Gallmeyer. “I just can’t stop anymore. If I didn’t have anything, I could look forward to death, and that’s no fun. What I have to look forward to is finding Korean War veterans.”



Staff Sgt. Tim Volkert

Richard Gallmeyer looks at albums of photographs at his home in Virginia Beach, Va. The Korean War Veterans Reunion, Inc. 9th Annual reunion will be Dec. 8-11 at the Ramada Express in Laughlin, Nev. For more information about the event or the organization, contact Richard Gallmeyer at 1-800-523-4715 or via e-mail at msg1gal@aol.com. Information about the reunion can also be found online at www.koreanwarveteransonline.org

Nation's Capital hosts two POW-MIA family updates

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) family support team puts together monthly "Family Updates" to resolve uncertainties by illuminating the facts and informing the family members of American missing. The monthly meetings in different geographical areas throughout the United States greatly assist families in understanding the U.S. Government's effort to achieve the fullest possible accounting of our missing in action – from all wars.

Washington, D.C., will host two meetings -- June 25-28 at the Hilton Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Va., and July 25 and 26 at the Hyatt Hotel in Crystal City.

Since the program began, DPMO has met with thousands of family members representing hundreds of cases. Each meeting averages close to 100 family members representing dozens of cases. Approximately, 30 percent of the cases represent Vietnam-Era, while 60 percent represent Korean War era, and 10 percent represent World War II and Cold War eras.

The team's efforts have heightened the public's awareness of government accounting efforts. Representative family comments point to the fact that these meetings are very informative and helpful. To participate in this program, contact your respective [service casualty office](#). Please view the current [schedule for family update meetings](#). (Courtesy DPMO)

Family Update Schedule

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
Jan 18	- San Francisco, CA
Feb 22	- Birmingham, AL
Mar 22	- Houston, TX
Apr 26	- Detroit, MI
Jun 25-28	- Washington, DC *
Jul 25-26	- Washington, DC *
Aug 23	- Seattle, WA
Sep 20	- St. Louis, MO
Oct 18	- Jacksonville, FL
Nov 22	- Phoenix, AZ

* - Family updates held in conjunction with the annual government briefings

Freedom is Not Free

I watched the flag pass by
one day

It fluttered in the breeze.
A young Marine saluted it,
And then he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform
So young, so tall, so proud,
With hair cut square and
eyes alert,
He'd stand out in any
crowd.

I thought how many men like
him
Had fallen through the years.
How many died on foreign
soil?
How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes
shot down?

How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were
soldiers' graves?
No, freedom is not free.

I heard the sound of "Taps"
one night,
When everything was still.
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many
times
That "Taps" had meant
"Amen,"
When a flag had draped a
coffin

Of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the
wives,
Of fathers, sons and hus-
bands
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard
At the bottom of the Sea
Of unmarked graves in
Arlington.
No, freedom is not free.

*Cadet Maj. Kelly Strong
Air Force Junior ROTC
Homestead Senior High School
Homestead, Florida - 1988*



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

This Date in History

June 11, 1951: Elements of the 3rd Infantry Division captured Chorwon.

Rear Admiral A. K. Scott-Moncrieff, Commander of British Naval Forces in Korea, announced that Royal Marines from the cruiser HMS *Ceylon* staged a hit and run raid on the coast of Korea far behind communist lines.

June 6, 1951: UN naval aircraft, along with U.S. Air Force and Marine reinforcement, flew 230 sorties against enemy troop concentrations and supply lines in the central and western sectors.

June 6, 1952: Operation "Counter" began as the 45th Infantry Division launched a two-phased series of attacks to establish strategic outpost sites in the Old Baldy area. The 45th Infantry Division seized 11 outposts west of Chorwon.

F-86 Sabres scored one of the greatest single victories of the war, destroying eight MiGs and damaging two others.

June 3, 1953: At Panmunjom, the prisoner of war question was resolved and the principle of voluntary repatriation accepted. This had proven to be the most vexing issue of the truce

negotiations. Large numbers of POWs held by the UN did not want to be sent back to North Korea or China. The issue was resolved when the two sides agreed to submit to neutral nation screening of the POWs to determine their preference on repatriation.

June 1, 1953: Air battles raging over "MiG Alley" produced five F-86 Sabre jet aces during this month, more than any other month of the war.

June 1, 1951: Operation "Piledriver" began as elements of I and IX Corps advanced toward the Wyoming Line, some 30 kilometers north in the "Iron Triangle." Eighth Army had pushed north of the 38th Parallel in most sectors. It was during "Piledriver," the last major UN offensive before the commencement of truce talks, that the UN forces reached the limit of their advance and the war of movement came to a close.

The carrier USS *Bon Homme Richard* and the cruiser USS *Los Angeles* entered Korean waters.

Far East Air Force places "MiG Alley" off-limits for all Bomber Command aircraft not accompanied by a fighter escort.

May 30, 1952: Far East Air Forces had flown 200,000 sorties in the Korean War during some 330 consecutive days of combat operations.

May 25, 1951: Eighteen U.S. Marines and one U.S. Army infantryman, captured during the Changjin/Chosin Reservoir campaign, were returned to UN control. The men were rescued by Task Force Hazel after an observation plane spotted a sign "POW 19," spelled out with wallpaper strips and, underneath, "rescue" spelled with shell cases.

May 25, 1952: ROK President Syngman Rhee declared martial law in Pusan and arrested members of the Korean National Assembly.

The USS *Iowa* made its heaviest attack to date against the industrial seaport of Chongjin.

May 23, 1951: Eighth Army advanced toward the Kansas and Wyoming Lines to the base of the Iron Triangle against stiffening enemy resistance. By the end of May, the communists had suffered 17,000 killed and an equal number were taken prisoner.

HONOR ROLL

Ola L. Mize

Rank: Master Sergeant (then Sergeant)

Organization: U.S. Army, Co. K, 15th Inf. Regt., 3rd Inf. Div.

Place and date: Near Surang-ni, Korea, June 10-11, 1953.

Entered service at: Gadsden, Ala.

Birth: Aug. 28, 1931, Marshall County, Ala.

General Order No.: 70, Sept. 24, 1954.



Citation: Master Sergeant Ola L. Mize, Infantry, United States Army, a member of Company K, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy near Surang-ni, Korea on June 10 -11, 1953. Company K was committed to the defense of Outpost Harry, a strategically valuable position, when the enemy launched a heavy attack. Learning that a comrade on a friendly listening post had been wounded he moved through the intense barrage, accompanied by a medical aid man, and rescued the wounded soldier. On returning to the main position he established an effective defense system and inflicted heavy casualties against attacks from determined enemy assault forces which had penetrated into trenches within the outpost area. During his fearless actions he was blown down by artillery and grenade blasts three times but each time he dauntlessly returned to his position, tenaciously fighting and successfully repelling hostile attacks. When enemy onslaughts ceased he took his few men and moved from bunker to bunker, firing through apertures and throwing grenades at the foe, neutralizing their positions. When an enemy soldier stepped out behind a comrade, prepared to fire, Sergeant Mize killed him, saving the life of his fellow soldier. After rejoining the platoon, moving from man to man, distributing ammunition and shouting words of encouragement, he observed a friendly machine gun position overrun. He immediately fought his way to the position, killing 10 of the enemy and dispersing the remainder. Fighting back to the command post, and finding several friendly wounded there, he took a position to protect

them. Later, securing a radio, he directed friendly artillery fire upon the attacking enemy's routes of approach. At dawn he helped regroup for a counterattack which successfully drove the enemy from the outpost. Sergeant Mize's valorous conduct and unflinching courage reflect lasting glory upon himself and uphold the noble traditions of the military service.

