

# THE WARRIOR

Volume 20 - Issue 6

JUNE 2010

Formed - February 1991



By Lee & Charlotte Henderson, Publishers / Editors

*Our Mission as Editors of the Warrior, is to Enlighten the Minds and Hearts of its Members!*



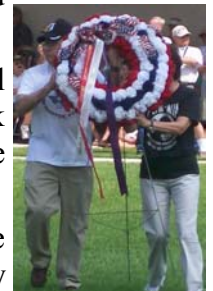
## MEMORIAL DAY...



Memorial Day in Houston, 2010, dawned sunny and warm, and as the morning continued, it became hot. The Fire Department Ladder trucks again had their ladders extended over the entrance, with an American flag hanging from the top of their arch. As always, there were flags flying along the entry roads in the cemetery, making for a Grand Entryway.

The ceremony was very moving and filled with wonderful speakers, including the key note speaker, Governor Rick Perry. This was the first time the Governor spoke at the Houston service and he was well received by the crowd.

There was the Parade of Colors, in which our men of the Lone Star Chapter, Bob Bighouse, Lee Henderson, Buddy Blair, Don Napp, Jim Duncan, Travis Riley, Bob Mitchell and Ted Maloy, marched. David and Frances Velasco proudly carried the beautiful Chapter wreath. Member Josh Flynn sang the *National Anthem* and a second, very stirring song "*Here in America*". Stoney Stone presented the POW/MIA Ceremony, and as always with the dignity it deserves.



There was a good turnout of members, wives and family members. We all sat together in a shaded section,

### 60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN AUSTIN

June 25, 2010

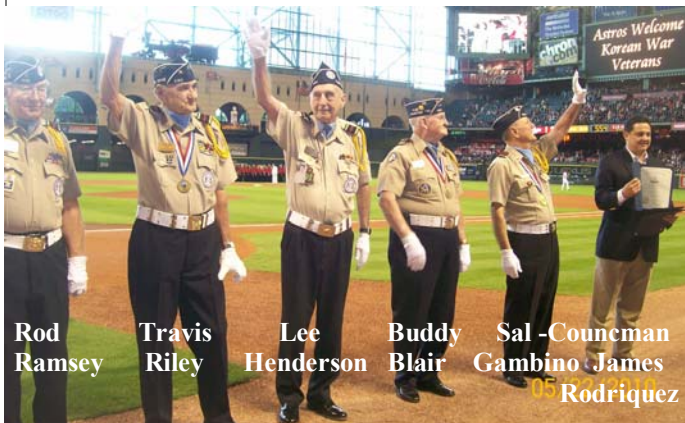
The 60th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War will be celebrated at the TLSC/KWV monument on the Capital grounds in Austin, Texas. Complete details are available on page 3 of this newsletter.

### JULY 24th CEREMONY AT BEAR CREEK PARK

July 24, 2010

The ceremony celebrating the end of the war in Korea will take place at the War Memorial in Bear Creek Park on July 24th, 10 AM. More information on this event will be published in future newsletters.

## 14TH ANNUAL "HONOR ALL VETERANS DAY" AT THE BALLPARK



Rod Ramsey    Travis Riley    Lee Henderson    Buddy Blair    Sal -Couneman Gambino    James Rodriguez

The five honorees were all given proclamations by Councilman James Rodriguez. This was a very proud and emotional moment for the men. Rod Ramsey representing the Army, Travis Riley representing the Navy, Lee Henderson—Marines, Buddy Blair—Air Force and Sal Gambino—Coast Guard.        Congratulations Men.

The Astro's also honored the veterans, by announcing on their big score board -

### **'Astro's' Welcome Korean War Veterans'**

Rod Ramsey was honored by being the man chosen to throw out the first ball.



### **The Color Guard was comprised of 10 men:**

BOB BIGHOUSE - U. S. FLAG  
 JAE K. BAE - KOREAN FLAG  
 BOB MITCHELL - TEXAS FLAG  
 DON NAPP - P.O.W. FLAG  
 MANNY CARNERO - CHAPTER FLAG  
 JIM DUNCAN - ARMY FLAG  
 HANK DAUMAN - NAVY FLAG  
 TOM MIXON - MARINE FLAG  
 JOHN JACKSON - AIR FORCE FLAG  
 CHARLES LAIRD - COAST GUARD FLAG

This was all under the direction and watchful eye of Color Guard Commander Henry Martinez.

There was a large turnout of friends and family of the veterans, and we all tried to cheer the Astro's to victory, but to no avail. The final score was Tampa Bay Rays 4, Houston Astro's 2. There was a highlight to the evening, all early birds received a Michael Bourn bobble head. Michael Bourn is the Rowling's Golden Glove winner of 2009.

Before, during and after the game, adults and children were coming up to the veterans and shaking their hands and telling them THANK YOU or WELCOME HOME! What a great feeling.



Rod, showing off his skill as a pitcher.



Color Guard and honorees with Councilman Rodriguez before the ball game.

## **60th ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY IN AUSTIN**

Arrangements are have been made and finalized for the 60th Anniversary Ceremony to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War, to be held in Austin at the Korean War Memorial on the State Capital Grounds

**WHEN:** Friday, June 25, 2010, 11:00 AM

**WHERE:** Korean War Memorial, State Capital Grounds, Austin, Tx.

**WHO:** All Korean Veterans, and their guests are invited!

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. The principal speaker will be retired General Robert Ivany, President of St. Thomas University in Houston. The Governor and other prominent State Officials have also been invited, as well as the Honorable Yun-Soo-Cho, South Korean Consul General and Dr. Koh, Pres. Of Samsung, Austin. Remember, **All Korean Veterans** and their **guests** are invited, regardless of whether or not they belong to any organization. All Chapter members are encouraged to attend.

**Men:** Please wear your Class A if you have one, otherwise, the Class B. **Ladies:** Red shirt & Navy pants.

**Buses** will be provided by Samsung, from the Hotel to the Capital grounds and back to the Hotel. The buses will leave the Hotel starting at 9:30 then at 10 am. **Don't miss the bus**, as there is little or no parking at the Capital grounds. The Lone Star Chapter members and the Chosen Few members and spouses will be treated to lunch by Samsung at their company location in Austin.



### **DINNER COMMEMORATING THE 60th ANNIVERSARY**

The Greater Houston Chapter #33, Reserve Officers Association (ROA) in cooperation with the Loan Star Chapter, Korean War Veterans, will host a dinner on Saturday 19 June 2010, to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War.

**WHERE:** Houston Marriott Westchase Hotel

2900 Briarpark Drive

Houston, Tx.,

(just South of Westheimer and inside Beltway 8)

**WHEN:** Assembly: 6:30, Dinner at 7 PM

**COST:** \$40.00 per person

The Honorary Chairman for the evening will be Major General Bob Crosser, Korean War vet, former CG of Houston's 75th Training Division. The Guest speaker for the evening will be Col. Ralph M. Hockley, AUS-Ret., who as a 2nd Lt Artillery with the 2nd Infantry Division, landed in Korea on 4 August 1950. The topic will be: **"60 years ago, the Korean War began: Background and Conflict"**.

#### **RESERVATION REQUEST FORM**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for me at the Korean War 60th Anniversary Dinner  
Saturday, 19 June 2010, from 7:00 to 9:30 pm at the Houston Marriott Westchase Hotel  
The hotel is located at 2900 Briarpark Dr—Houston, TX 77042 - 719-978-7400

Enclosed is a check, payable to ROA, in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$40. Each

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Reservation Form before 5 June 2010 to:  
COL. George Bannon, AUS (Ret)  
15 Wedgewood Forest Dr., The Woodlands, Tx. 77381



## ***“WARRIOR DONATIONS” Honor Roll for “July 2009 to July 2010”***

The editors would like to acknowledge and thank the following members and patrons of the *Warrior* who have contributed in helping to defray some of the cost of printing and mailing. As you know, we now have the *Warrior* on line for those with computers, but the Post Office has informed us that the cost of mailing has gone up, so we still need your help. We thank you for your generous support and contributions. **We will be using the funds received to defray the costs of the newsletter. The following names will be published monthly through the July 2010 issue. Be sure and have your name included. Fill in the sponsor card, seen below, or included in your July, 2010 newsletter, (those that are mailed) and return with your contribution. Thanks: Your editors: Lee & Charlotte Henderson**

|   |   |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| Ammerman, Mary<br>Ator, Roy *<br>Ballard, Carlos<br>Ballard, Martha<br>Ballard, Walter G.<br>Ballard, Walter H.<br>Barbee, Neal<br>Bergen, Bernie<br>Brast, Hazel<br>Brunelle, Harry*<br>Cambiaso, Jose<br>Canny, Pat<br>Castillo, Alex<br>Cipriano, Ray*<br>Conte, Tom<br>Correa, Joseph<br>Cortez, Richardo<br>Craigmill, Bill<br>Crouther, Charles | DeCoste, Ralph<br>Dickerson, Byron<br>Dillick, Michael<br>Duncan, Jim<br>Fitzmorris, Tom<br>Fuhrman, Les<br>Gares, Cho<br>Glass, Joe<br>Harris, Richard<br>Harrison, Wayne<br>Harper, Jessie<br>Henderson, Lee<br>Hinajosa, Jose<br>Hollan, Albert<br>Illanne, Eloise<br>Johnson, Max<br>Kaley, Jack<br>Kennison, Bill<br>Ledford, Jack | Lyke, Thomas<br>Lynch, Juanita<br>Maillet, William<br>Maloy, Ted ***<br>McManners, Doroth<br>Martinez, Henry *<br>Middlebrooks,<br>Butch & Beverley<br>Mixon, Tom<br>Montello, Stephen<br>Moore, Bill<br>Moore, Edwin<br>Mouton, Dan<br>Munguia, Tony<br>Nanninga, John<br>Napp, Don<br>Napp, Nelda<br>Nathan, Shirley<br>Nevill, Kenneth | Parker, James<br>Pedraza, John<br>Ramsey, Rod<br>Riess, Don<br>Riley, Travis<br>Romano, Joe<br>Priger, Ray<br>Sanford, R. B.<br>Sax, Edward *<br>Sholl, Vinton<br>Sicola, Johnnie<br>Singleton, Carl<br>Spencer, Mickey<br>Stewart, Clyde<br>Won, Hong Sop<br>Urquhart, Jennifer<br>Younger, Marianne | <br><br><br> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">                 * - Indicates more than one donation             </div> |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|

### **WAL-MART SENIOR GREETER**

Charley, a new retiree-greeter at Wal-Mart, just couldn't seem to get to work on time.

Every day he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker, really tidy, clean-shaven, sharp minded and a real credit to the company and obviously demonstrating their "Older Person Friendly" policies. One day the boss called him into the office for a talk. "Charley, I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a bang up job, but your being late so often is quite bothersome."

"Yes, I know boss, and I am working on it."

"Well good, you are a team player. That's what I like to hear. It's odd though your coming in late. I know you're retired from the Armed Forces. What did they say if you came in late there?"

"They said "Good morning, Admiral, can I get you coffee, sir?""

### **WIFE vs HUSBAND**

A COUPLE DROVE DOWN A COUNTRY ROAD FOR SEVERAL MILES, NOT SAYING A WORD. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats, and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically, 'Relatives of yours?' 'Yep,' the wife replied, 'in-laws!'

### **In Memory of —**

Ammerman, Dan  
 Ballard, Dorothy  
 Barbee, Betty  
 Bergen, Sandy  
 Brast, Weldon L678  
 Christiansen, John  
 Craigmill, Ross WWII  
 Daumann, Arlene  
 Fuhrman, Juanita  
 Hogue, Thomas  
 Illanne, Edward  
 William, Deer with -  
 Horns, died 7/51 POW  
 Lebaron, Eddie  
 Nathan, Howard  
 O'Flynn, John J.

Olivarez, Manuel  
 R040066  
 Russell, Roy  
 Sicola, Louis & Charlie  
 Sikkley, Leland  
 Sloan, Story  
 Treadwell, Marvin  
 Wray, Ewing  
 Urquhart, Sam  
 Fall of O.P. Berlin 7/53  
 God Bless our Troops

*This Space is for you to Remember someone you Care for.*

Texas Lone Star Chapter – KWV  
 P. O. Box 802541—Houston, TX 77280-2541  
**“Warrior” Sponsor**  
**I want to be a sponsor of the Warrior for**  
**July 2009-July 2010**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



# Membership

## TIME TO RENEW

Dues are \$20.00 - Life Membership \$200.00 - Send renewal to KWVA - P O Box 802541 - Houston TX 77280-2541.

The following memberships are due June 1, 2010

|                 |      |              |      |
|-----------------|------|--------------|------|
| Cleve Arnwine   | M535 | Tom Bray     | M833 |
| James Currigan  | M557 | Jesse Harper | M454 |
| Antonio Munguia | M588 | Sam Naomi    | M886 |
| John Peters     | M798 |              |      |

## RENEWALS

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Bob Mitchell | Dan Mouton   |
| Ed Sax       | Robert Greer |

## NEW MEMBER:

Roger Morris M-837

## PHILIPPINE PROJECT

Bill Craigmill, has been working hard to achieve his goal. He has been making plans to repair the **WALL OF HEROS'** and the walkways in the Province of Guimaras, the Municipality of Buena Vista.. This monument has fallen in disrepair and needs a lot of work. There is their standard of work, then there is the North American standard, and he wants the repairs done our way. This way it will last for years. So far, he has received \$350 to \$400 in donations, from his friends, as well as the donation of **1000 Poppies and an American Flag** from **Travis Riley**, and a coat that was donated by Tom Lykes to the Chapter, the chapter donated this to Bill, as it has the Chapter patches on it. **Henry Martinez** donated a recording of the National Anthem and Taps, **Lee** sent a Ribbon or Banner with TLSC/KWV on it, to put on a wreath.

Bill has talked to one of his helpers there and he has gotten a couple of boys & girls, that will help if they are needed. He wants to pay the people from the Philippines that help with the restoration but is unsure what to pay them, .because first he needs to know how much money he will receive. This is a very poor country and the average day of pay is about 100 pesos or \$2.00 in our money. He still needs more money to help with the work. The Mayor, with Bill's help is planning a ceremony at the site on November 11th, but they need help. Bill hopes that this year, with the help of numerous people and the Lone Star Chapter, the Veterans Day Celebration on November 11th, will be one that the people in the region will finally remember those that helped to free their country.

**PLEASE HELP THIS WORTHY CAUSE...**

# Chapter & Other Events

## JUNE

3rd - Board Meeting 4:30 pm  
 14th - FLAG DAY  
 14th - BIRTHDAY OF U.S.ARMY  
 17th - General Meeting - 6 pm  
 18th - SOCKS - V.A. HOSPITAL  
 20th - FATHER'S DAY  
 21st - Summer Begins  
 25th - Ceremony in Austin

## JULY

1st - Board Meeting 4:30 pm  
 4th - INDEPENDENCE DAY  
 15th - General Meeting - 6 pm  
 24th - Bear Creek Park - 9:00 am  
 27th - KOREAN WAR VETERAN  
 ARMISTICE DAY 1953

**Freedom!** No word was ever spoken that held out greater hope, demanded greater sacrifice, needed more to be nurtured, blessed more the giver, cursed more its destroyer, or came closer to being God's will on earth. And, I think that it is worth fighting for.

*Omar Bradley*

**Freedom** is the recognition that no single person, no single authority or government has a monopoly on truth, but that every one of us put on this world has been put here for a reason and has something to offer.

*Ronald Reagan*

## SOCKS

Don't forget, the sock and cap distribution at the Houston VA Hospital will be June 18th. We will gather at the Volunteer Office on the Second floor at 9:30 am and begin our rounds at 10:00 am. Please attend. Last time only 2 people showed up. Very hard to cover 4 floors with only 2 men.

## **Wisdom from Maxine!**

"Patience is, indeed, a virtue that I know will pay great dividends if I can only learn to practice it!"



### JUNE BIRTHDAY'S



|                                |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bridget Williams . . . . . 6-1 | Louise Brunelle . . . . . 6-12 | Henel Cortez . . . . . 6-23     |
| Harvey Roe . . . . . 6-2       | Flor Craigmill . . . . . 6-12  | Buddy Blair . . . . . 6-26      |
| Dorothy Arnold . . . . . 6-3   | Katy Ballard . . . . . 6-15    | Patty Gambino . . . . . 6-26    |
| Carl Singleton . . . . . 6-4   | Herbert Odell . . . . . 6-15   | Carlos Henley . . . . . 6-27    |
| Dorothy Johnson . . . . . 6-6  | John Pedraza . . . . . 6-17    | Roberto Hinojosa . . . . . 6-28 |
| Lawrence Heard . . . . . 6-7   | Gilberto Trejo . . . . . 6-18  | Junelle Nittsche . . . . . 6-28 |
| Joyce Parker . . . . . 6-11    | Cleve Arnwine . . . . . 6-20   |                                 |

### JUNE ANNIVERSARY'S

| <u>MEMBER &amp; SPOUSE</u>                                   | <u>DATE</u>    | <u>MEMBER &amp; SPOUSE</u>                                    | <u>DATE</u>    |
|--|----------------|---|----------------|
| Woody & Charlotte Thomas . . . . .                           | 6-1            | Joseph & Mary Alice Correa . . . . .                          | 6-2            |
| <b>Edwin &amp; Joye Moore . . . . . 57 yrs . . . . .</b>     | <b>6-2-53</b>  | <b>Charles &amp; Johnnie Smith . . . . . 61 yrs . . . . .</b> | <b>6-3-49</b>  |
| <b>Marvin &amp; Fay Talghader . . . . . 56 yrs . . . . .</b> | <b>6-5-54</b>  | <b>Bobby &amp; Gwendolyn Owens . . . . . 51 yrs . . . . .</b> | <b>6-6-59</b>  |
| <b>Jesse &amp; Billie Harper . . . . . 60yrs . . . . .</b>   | <b>6-6-50</b>  | David & Frances Velasco . . . . .                             | 6-8            |
| Bill & Flor Craigmill . . . . .                              | 6-9            | James & Anita Belcher . . . . .                               | 6-11           |
| <b>Cleve &amp; Sue Arnwine . . . . . 53 yrs . . . . .</b>    | <b>6-11-57</b> | <b>Tom &amp; Doris Bray . . . . . 54 yrs . . . . .</b>        | <b>6-16-56</b> |
| W.E.B. & Frances Gaye Blackmon . . . . .                     | 6-21           | <b>Al &amp; Sarah Habinak . . . . . 53 yrs . . . . .</b>      | <b>6-22-57</b> |
| Vito & Marlene Susco . . . . .                               | 6-23           | John & Sunny Snyder . . . . .                                 | 6-23           |
| <b>Bob &amp; Dixie Hanks . . . . . 57 yrs . . . . .</b>      | <b>6-26-53</b> | James & Neathal Kirk . . . . .                                | 6-23           |

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Make your plans early.** The date for the annual Christmas Party has been set, so mark your calendar for **December 18th**. The place will once again be at the Monument Inn. We have had two very successful parties there and the decision was made to return.

Always forgive your enemies;  
Nothing annoys them so much.

### DOOR PRIZES MAY, 2010

|                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Benny Younger . . . . .    | Flashlight          |
| Rod Ramsey . . . . .       |                     |
| Georgia Jackson . . . . .  | Puzzle              |
| Marianne Younger . . . . . | Chinese hanging art |
| Rod Ramsey . . . . .       | Book                |
| Bob Mitchell . . . . .     | Book                |
| Barbara English . . . . .  | Puzzle              |
| Jerry Riley . . . . .      |                     |
| Patty Gambino . . . . .    | Shopping bag        |
| Henry Martinez . . . . .   | Book                |
| Al Habinak . . . . .       | Book                |
| Billie Blair . . . . .     | book                |
| Hank Dauman . . . . .      |                     |
| Bob Hanks . . . . .        | Shopping bag        |
| Benny Younger . . . . .    | Book                |

Rod Ramsey won the 50/50 jackpot. \$56.00/\$28.00, and he donated the winnings to the Sock Fund. *Thank you Rod.*

The items for the drawings were donated by these generous members: Nelda Napp, Rod Ramsey, Marlene Susca, Barbara English and several anonymous donors. *Thank you everyone.*

### ART CAR WINNER

Randy Blair, son of Buddy & Billie Blair, was an entrant in the recent 2010 Art Car Parade of Houston. His car is titled "**Little Bit of Nonsense**", and is covered with glass beads of all sizes, and shapes. The windshield is covered with different size crystal beads and balls, leaving spaces for the driver and passenger to see. Randy drives this car all over town. Well, this car was interesting and the other participants thought so too. His car was voted the **Participants' Choice Award**, in a tie with another contestant. He also won the **Daily Driver Award**.

**CONGRATULATIONS RANDY!!!**

## KEEPING IN TOUCH — SICK BAY

**Forrest Robinson** recently had surgery on his foot, which included doing a skin graft to cover the surgery. After several days, when he changed the bandage, he discovered it was getting infected. After the meeting, on the 20th, he went to the emergency room. They decided the best thing was to keep him for several days. He's home and with new medication, is getting better. *Those infections can happen really quick. Take care.*

**Franko and Betty Grochoske** just returned from a month's vacation in their RV. They visited New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, California, Wyo., Neb., Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Oklahoma. Betty did all the driving, and she had never driven a big rig before, and Franko reports that she did a great job. She did have a small problem, when she made a wrong turn and ended up in downtown San Francisco during 5:00 PM traffic. During the trip, they visited Franko's son for 4 days in Los Vegas then Betty's daughter in St. Jo, Missouri. The first thing he did when they returned home, was harvest some new potatoes, cabbage and peppers, making a great Corned beef meal. This was a real treat after eating hamburgers for 30 days. Their little dog, Calli also made the trip with them.

**Johnney Lee** recently dropped out of sight for about a month. Turns out that he had back surgery during that time. He didn't tell anyone until after he was able to get around again. He now is planning to have eye surgery, again. *Johnney, we all hope and pray that this time, the surgery will be successful. Keep us updated.*

## JAPANESE SURRENDER - AMAZING FOOTAGE SEPT. 2, 1945

This is a 'must see' for the WWII history buff or anyone interested in history. This is an actual film made of the surrender ceremony of the Japs to MacArthur in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945. Actual voice of the General. This has never been shown to the general public before. We always saw the "stills" but never the film itself.

This is Historical footage: Japanese Surrender Signing Aboard Battleship Missouri, Sunday, Sept. 2, 1945. An important piece of history. Even if you're not a history buff, you should enjoy seeing this old footage ending the war in Japan.

We must somehow, help educate and/or remind others that may not fully understand, the incredible sacrifices and suffering, that preceded this surrender. We owe so much to those who preceded us. A sober obligation to do our part, to continue to protect and preserve what they had paid so dearly to achieve. Ultimately, to preserve and protect the principles of OUR U.S. Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic.

One of our members, Jim Watkins (M110), supplied us with the like to this incredible footage. To view this film, click on or copy and paste: Japanese Surrender [http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=venH\\_kF1zXc&feature=player\\_embeded](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=venH_kF1zXc&feature=player_embeded)

"Tomorrow," I say, "I'll call Jessie, just  
To show that I'm thinking of my old friend."  
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes,  
And the distance between us grows and grows.  
Just around the corner! Yet miles away  
"Here's a telegram sir, Jessie passed away  
today!"

It is one of the most beautiful  
Compensations of this life  
That no man can sincerely try  
To help another without  
Helping himself  

---

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

TEXAS LONE STAR CHAPTER  
 KOREAN WAR VETERANS  
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 HOUSTON, TX 77280-2541  
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June 25, 1950 -  
 Korean War Starts

JUNE 2010



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| 1st Vice Pres. | Lee Henderson | 713-946-9194 |
| 2nd Vice Pres. | Vito Susca    | 281-491-1242 |
| Secretary      | Buddy Blair   | 281-242-3695 |
| Treasurer      | Hank Dauman   | 281-589-2034 |

|              |                         |              |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Term Expires |                         |              |
| 03/11        | Jim Duncan              | 713-464-0633 |
| 03/11        | Henry Martinez          | 713-688-1718 |
| 03/11        | Don Napp                | 281-443-1809 |
| 03/12        | Z.E. (Stoney) Stone     | 281-375-7675 |
| 03/12        | Travis Riley            | 713-465-5634 |
|              | * Chairman of the Board |              |

\*Carlos Ballard - Past-President 281-499-5334

**FORMER PRESIDENTS**

**COMMITTEES**

1991-92 - Nat Young  
 1992-93 - W. B. Kirchheim  
 1993-94 - Don Foisie  
 1994-95 - James Duncan  
 1995 -97 - Bill Hare  
 1997-98 - John Jackson  
 1998-99 - "Stoney" Stone  
 1999-00 - Sal Gambino  
 2000-01 - Howard Nathan  
 2001-02 - Bob Mitchell  
 2002-03 - Carlos Ballard  
 2003-04 - Don Napp  
 2004-05 - Charlie Ehrlund  
 2005-07 - Buddy Blair  
 2007-08 - Charlie Ehrlund  
 2008-09 - Carlos Ballard

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| CHAPLAIN                 | Charles Laird / Max Johnson / Tom Campion     |
| CHAPTER FAX              | Jim Duncan                                    |
| COLOR GUARD              | Henry Martinez                                |
| EDUCATION                | Travis Riley                                  |
| HISTORIAN                | Mickey Spencer                                |
| MIA / POW                | Carlos Ballard, Alternate                     |
| PARLIAMENTARIAN          | Manny Carnero                                 |
| PUBLIC RELATIONS         |   |
| QUARTERMASTER            | John Jackson                                  |
| SGT. AT ARMS             | Sal Gambino                                   |
| KOREAN COMMUNITY LIAISON | Johnney Lee                                   |
| VA CEMETERY              | "Stoney" Stone / John Jackson / Charles Laird |
| VA HOSPITAL              | Buddy Blair                                   |
| VETERANS COALITION       | Jim Duncan, Stoney Stone                      |
| WARRIOR EDITOR           | Lee Henderson (bhenderson49@comcast.net)      |
| KWV MUSEUM LIAISON       | Bob Mitchell                                  |
| MEMBERSHIP DUES          | Bob Mitchell                                  |
| WEBSITE LIAISON          | Jim Duncan                                    |



## MY KOREAN WAR EXPERIENCE

By Don Belken

I graduated from High School in Aransas Pass, Texas, in 1950, and enrolled in Victoria College the following semester. By the end of the first semester, I was on my way out of college with no job in sight. My Father and I decided the Army was the best place for me, so, I enlisted for three years.

I volunteered for Airborne training and was sent to Fort Bragg, NC, for basic training with the 82nd Airborne Division and then to Fort Benning, GA, for jump school. After jump school, I was assigned to the 508th Airborne Regimental Combat Team at Fort Benning, GA, where I made 24 jumps from an aircraft in **fight** including one during "Maneuvers Longhorn" in West Texas. Believe me, West Texas is not the best place to make a parachute jump... too many cactus and barbed wire fences. We didn't use a cleared DZ, just a regular old cow pasture. While with the 508th, I was promoted to PFC and later to Corporal.

In December 1952, with one year to go on my three year enlistment, I volunteered for duty in Korea. I arrived in Pusan, Korea on December 22nd and spent Christmas night in the 25th Infantry Division Replacement Depot. The temperature was close to zero, and I was the only replacement there. I wasn't a happy camper and I would have given anything to be back in Aransas Pass mosquitoes, grass burrs and all.

The next day I reported to Charlie Company, 14th Infantry Regiment and was assigned as the Weapons Squad Leader of the 3rd Platoon. The next day Charlie Company moved up to the Main Line of Resistance (MLR) in the Charwon/Kumwa Valley sector of the Iron Triangle. It was mainly outpost duty and patrols but all in all it was a relatively quiet sector. From time to time, we had a lot of incoming artillery...some ours...some theirs.

My Squad protected the Company's right flank and one of the entry/exit breaches in the defensive wire and mine field used by patrols coming and going through the MLR. In addition to my regular duties, I escorted patrols through the defensive wire and mine field, out to "no man's land". At a prearranged time, I would go back to meet the returning patrol and escort them back through the wire and mine field. I also made certain only our patrol members came back through the MLR and not any of the Chinese or North Koreans. They liked to tag on to the end of our patrols and raise hell once inside our perimeter.

I was promoted to Staff Sergeant (E-4) in January 1953, just sixteen days after joining the Division and just in time to take out a twelve man reconnaissance patrol. The temperature was around ten degrees above freezing and there was about six inches of packed snow and ice on the ground. We left the MLR and moved along a ridge line leading to "no man's land" in front of our sector. Every member of the patrol was wearing ice cleats on their boots to keep from sliding off the icy ridge. The crunching noise we made sounded like a herd of elephants. I know the Chinese could hear us coming at least three miles away, which wasn't all that bad, because they ate so much garlic, we could smell them coming, five miles away.

About half way down the icy ridge line the Chinese opened up on us with their burp guns. Yes, that's what they were called and that's what they sounded like. It was only three or four short bursts, but it got our attention. No one hurt and no damage done, but it scared the daylights out of us as the bullets cracked over our heads. Needless to say, we hit the deck and reported the enemy contact to the CO. He instructed us to fall back to the MLR, which fit right in with our plans for the evening.

The next patrol wasn't as lucky. I was scheduled to lead the patrol, but it was also my turn to go to the rear for a shower and change of clothes. When the CO learned that I hadn't had a shower or change of clothes in over thirty days, he told me I best go take a shower and assigned the patrol to another NCO. I didn't know it at the time, but it turned out to be my lucky day, or rather, lucky night.

In addition to the usual twelve man patrol, it included a scout dog and his handler. The dog was along to smell out the enemy and alert the handler before the enemy got too close. We believe the dog or his handler, stepped

on one of our mines, as they went through the perimeter wire and mine field. There is no telling how many soldiers stepped on, or over that mine, without it exploding. When a mine is buried in frozen tundra, it sometimes takes a lot of pressure to set them off, but not this night. The dog and his handler were killed instantly and several other members of the patrol were wounded. The dog was blown further out into the mine field. It was SOP that every one comes back, dead or alive, including the dog. Other members of the patrol had to get on their hands and knees and probe the frozen ground for unexploded mines with their bayonets to retrieve the dog. The dog and his handler were given a military funeral and it was written up in the Stars and Strips. I still have a copy of the article.

The end of January 1953, we were replaced on line by, I believe, the 2nd Infantry Division. When units on line change over, it's SOP to send a screening patrol out front to give advance warning should the enemy attack during this critical time. I took the patrol out about 500 yards for what was supposed to be a one hour shift. Because of the extreme cold, 22 degrees below zero, another patrol was to relieve us in an hour, but they never showed up. We stayed for about an hour and a half, then returned to our line. At this temperature, none of our weapons would have fired anyway, especially the machine guns. It took several days for us to get that out.

I was promoted to Sergeant First Class (E-5) in April 1953, and became Platoon Sergeant of the 3rd Platoon just in time to go back on line supporting the Turkish North Star Brigade, as they counter attack to retake Outposts Carson, Elko & Vegas which they had lost to the Chinese the night before. We got the Outposts back, but we were ordered to withdraw as they were no longer deemed to be of tactical value. The three hills had been pounded with artillery and mortar fire by both sides until there was nothing left of the original positions and fortifications...just powdered rock. We made the Chinese/North Koreans suffer for their indiscretion, however, Baker Company of our Battalion lost over 90 percent of their men and all of their officers. The entire company had to be replaced.

After the smoke cleared, my Battalion was moved East to hold the MLR in the Pork Chop Hill/Alligator Jaw Sector. Again, it was more patrols and incoming artillery...some ours...some theirs. While here, the Korean War ended.

After the war ended, I was sent back to the States for discharge. Before leaving Korea, I was offered a promotion to Master Sergeant, if I would extend for six months. Of course, I told them "no way Jose." All the troops were doing was digging a new MLR from one side of Korea to the other. Been there, done that.

After being discharged, I cooled it for about a year and a half and then joined the Army Reserves. I received a direct commission to 2nd Lieutenant in the 90th Infantry Division. I was what the Army called a "Mustang" (someone who comes up through the enlisted ranks and later receives a commission). I was promoted to Colonel in March 1979 and retired from the active reserves in August 1992. My last assignments were Assistant G-1, 75th Maneuver Area Command, Houston, Texas; Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Intelligence, 90th U.S. Army Reserve Command, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; and Commandant, 4162nd U.S. Army Reserve School, Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas. Believe me, I did a lot of grunt work before I got these assignments.

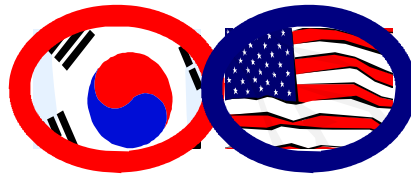
At my retirement ceremony, I was awarded the Legion of Merit by Major General Elvin Schofield, Commander of the 90th U.S. Army Reserve Command.

Coinciding with my tenure in the Army Reserves, I spent 40 years in the insurance business. My wife and I are still partners in Belken Insurance Associates in San Antonio. I am now a silent partner and my wife Susan wants to keep it that way. Oh well, even a retired Colonel needs a commanding officer, and she is a good one.

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