

# KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

1806 Belles Street, #6-B  
The Presidio  
San Francisco, CA 94129

Phone: 415 750 3862  
Email: [info@kwmf.org](mailto:info@kwmf.org)  
Web: <http://kwmf.org>

## Newsletter January/February 2014

### KWMF President Pete McCloskey Makes Surprise Visit to North Korea

*From SFGate.com, February 15, 2014  
John Wildermuth*

**Los Angeles:** For former Peninsula Rep. Pete McCloskey, his return to North Korea after more than 60 years was a trip in a time machine.

In 1951 McCloskey shipped out as a young Marine second lieutenant to join the 1st Marine Division, which had been chewed up in the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. When he left Korea less than a year later it was as a hero, with the Navy Cross, the Silver Star and a pair of Purple Hearts.

But it was peace, not war, in his thoughts when he landed in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, earlier this week.

"I feel I've had an experience I've wanted to have for 64 years, which is to shake hands with one of the young kids I fought against and tell them how bravely they fought," McCloskey said after landing in Los Angeles on Friday.

The former congressman was in North Korea as part of a delegation from the Pacific Century Institute, an organization that promotes friendship and better commercial ties between the United States and the Pacific countries of Asia, including North Korea.

"I truly believe North Korea wants a better relationship with us," he said. "They're very anxious to duplicate the economic success South Korea has had, but need to get corporate leadership they don't have."

His meetings with North Korean trade officials weren't nearly as memorable as his get-together with Ji Young Choon, a retired lieutenant general who fought against the Marines all those years ago.

McCloskey met with Ji at a North Korean war museum, filled with relics of the fighting that included captured American weapons, artillery and even a jeep.

#### Teary-eyed meeting

Despite the eerie surroundings, it was a tearful meeting on both sides, McCloskey said.

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"We saluted each other and then embraced," he said. "We agreed that we didn't want our children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren to ever fight in a war."

The weeklong trip had its disappointments, however.

McCloskey and Donald Gregg, a former ambassador to South Korea who helped organize the trip, tried unsuccessfully to persuade North Korean officials to release Kenneth Bae, a 45-year-old Christian missionary who has been imprisoned in the country for 15 months.

Meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Rhee Young Ho, McCloskey and Gregg asked for Bae's release. But with North Korean officials unhappy with what they see as unauthorized incursions by U.S. planes into their airspace, the release wasn't going to happen, the former congressman said.

Since the North Korean government had already rebuffed efforts of an official U.S. envoy to obtain Bae's freedom, "it was clear that the timing wasn't right," McCloskey said.



Former Congressman and Korean War hero Pete McCloskey meets with a three-star North Korean general. Photo: Courtesy Pete McCloskey

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McCloskey didn't get to revisit the rugged part of the country where he led his rifle platoon. Like almost all the Americans who visit North Korea, he never made it outside the capital.

### **Countryside off-limits**

"We understood from everyone who's been there that North Korean officials don't want you visiting the countryside and talking with the people," McCloskey added.

His 10 months in North Korea was a baptism of fire for McCloskey.

He saw 58 of the 61 members of the platoon he led either killed or wounded in the heavy fighting.

"I was scared most of my time," McCloskey said. "But you're more scared that some other Marine might see that you're scared."

But the experience also gave him a face-to-face look at the horrors of war and memories that helped him become the first Republican congressman to come out against the Vietnam War.

"You don't forget the first time you're shot at," he said. "But soldiers who have fought against each other often have a continuing respect for each other."

### **Beat Shirley Temple Black**

After his service in Korea, McCloskey spent time as a deputy district attorney in Alameda County before opening a private law practice in Palo Alto in 1955. He beat the late Shirley Temple Black in a 1967 Republican primary and was elected to Congress, where he served until 1983.

In Congress, he was known as a maverick, running a no-chance, anti-war campaign against President Richard Nixon in 1972 and becoming the first GOP legislator to call for Nixon's impeachment after the Watergate scandal. He was a supporter of many environmental issues and was a co-sponsor of the first Earth Day in 1970 and a co-author of the Endangered Species Act.

McCloskey, who now lives on a farm in the tiny Yolo County town of Rumsey, returned to San Francisco on an airplane provided by Burlingame attorney Joseph Cotchett, a longtime friend.

*John Wildermuth is a San Francisco Chronicle staff writer. E-mail: [jwildermuth@sfnchronicle.com](mailto:jwildermuth@sfnchronicle.com).*

*Originally appeared at: <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/War-hero-Pete-McCloskey-back-from-reunion-in-5237195.php>*

## **Notice of Annual Members Meeting of the Korean War Memorial Foundation**

The annual members meeting of the Korean War Memorial Foundation will be held on April 14, 2014 at 2:00 P.M. at the Golden Gate Grill, 449 Powell Street, Third Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102.

The business to be conducted at the meeting will be to discuss, and vote on whether or not to approve the following Resolutions, to approve the minutes of the 2013 annual meeting, and to conduct such other business as may properly come before the members.

### **RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONCEPTUAL DESIGN OF THE KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL**

**RESOLVED:** That the Members approve the overall conceptual design for the Memorial.

### **RESOLUTION ELECTING AN ADDITIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTOR OF THE KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

**RESOLVED:** That the members of the Korean War Memorial Foundation elect Major General Dan Helix, USA (Ret) as an additional member of the Board of Directors of the Korean War Memorial Foundation for a two year term.

### **RESOLUTION ELECTING A BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS**

**RESOLVED:** That the members of the Korean War Memorial Foundation elect Rear Admiral Russell Gorman, USN (Ret) as a Board Member Emeritus.

Date: February 24, 2014

John Stevens  
Secretary

**[NOTE: If you are a donor, you are automatically a voting member of the Foundation and cordially invited to attend this members meeting.]**

# Korean War Memorial Foundation: Significant Progress in Past Six Months

## *An update on our mission, plans, and progress to date*

### Mission and Overview

The Korean War Memorial Foundation (KWMF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization established on July 2, 2010 in San Francisco, CA. Its mission is to design and build a Korean War Memorial in San Francisco to commemorate the sacrifices made by all those who fought in the so-called “Forgotten War,” to educate future generations about those sacrifices, and to ensure that those generations never forget the true cost of war and the true price of freedom.

The San Francisco Bay Area was chosen for the Memorial site because it was the embarkation point for so many who went off to fight in that long-ago, far-away war, and the end of the journey for so many who returned, the living and the dead. The Memorial will stand in a prominent place in the Presidio, on high ground adjacent to the National Cemetery, facing west across the Pacific toward the now prosperous and democratic Republic of Korea.

### Description of Project

The Korean War Memorial is situated at the corner of Lincoln Boulevard and Sheridan Avenue in the Presidio of San Francisco. Two stone walls will flank the Sheridan Avenue entrance to the Memorial plaza. Inscribed in these walls will be the name of the Memorial and the flags of the United States of America and the Republic of Korea.

The entrance to the Memorial plaza will also feature a circular bronze plaque three feet in diameter embedded in the pavement. The inscription on the plaque will acknowledge the contributions of the United Nations and its participating member states to the war and to the independence of South Korea. Upon entering, the visitor will proceed along a path flanked by bronze plaques and stones that will recognize the generosity of major donors, and a series of wayside markers that will provide a brief history of the Korean War.

The path will then arc to the right and open up onto a large oval space framed by a curving backdrop of trees and hedges. In the center of this space will be a tall Korean pine tree. The arc along the right perimeter of the oval will be the focal point of the Memorial. It will feature three imposing stone steles facing west toward Korea. Mounted on each of these steles will be a large bronze bas-relief depicting a pivotal moment in the war.

Just beyond the steles, a stairway will lead down to a more intimate area within the Memorial. Here is where the individual donors – Korean War veterans, their families and survivors – will be recognized. This area will display the inscribed memorial tiles commemorating those who served. Nearby benches in a peaceful sylvan setting will allow for remembrance and reflection. Images of the site design have not yet been approved for public release by the design team at the Presidio Trust, the agency that manages the Presidio and is handling all design and construction for the KWMF. We hope to have them available by the next issue of this newsletter.

We are also planning to have a link on a high-tech interactive kiosk that the Presidio Trust will soon be installing just outside the entrance to their new Information Office on Lincoln Boulevard. This kiosk

will allow all visitors with mobile devices to obtain detailed educational information about the Memorial and the Korean War, even during hours when the Information Office is closed.

### Project Budget

The total budget for the Memorial is \$2.75 million, excluding long-term maintenance. All design and construction costs have been estimated by the Presidio Trust. The artwork, design, and construction costs will account for a full \$2.3 million of the total, with KWMF overheads and all other expenses held to under \$150,000 per year for the three-year project.

### Fundraising Progress to Date

As of February 21, 2014, we have raised over \$890,000 in cash and pledges, primarily from KWMF’s officers (more than \$400,000) and other Korean War veterans; the Korean-American community; and Korean corporations and foundations with significant interests in the U.S. This includes, most recently, a donation of \$150,000 from Samsung and \$20,000 from Asiana Airlines. A full list of our donors and amounts donated to date is available on our Web site at <http://kwmf.org/donor-list/>

### Republic of Korea Government Commitment

We are very grateful and fortunate to have the full cooperation and support of the Korean Government, whose Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs has pledged \$1 million to the Memorial, contingent upon KWMF raising a matching \$1 million from private sector sources. Although considerable progress has been made, most of it in the past six months, we still have a way to go to match the Korean Government’s “Million Dollar Challenge”. And once we meet that challenge and have \$2 million, we will still have a way to go to reach our ultimate target of \$2.75 million plus the long-term maintenance costs.



Korean War Memorial site map, detail

## U.S. Government and Bay Area Leaders Commitment

We are also very fortunate to have the strong support of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein; City of San Francisco and State of California Chief of Protocol Charlotte Mailliard Shultz; and Presidio Trust Board Chair Nancy H. Bechtle. This Memorial will stand for all time in the Presidio of San Francisco, one of the most magnificent sites in the United States – a location we never could have secured without the dedication and commitment of these selfless women.

## Other Funding Sources Being Approached

We are now in advanced discussions with several large private foundations and corporate philanthropic organizations, with the possibility of several six-figure donations pending; and we are in the process of submitting grant proposals to a number of others. In the meantime, we continue to receive small to medium-size donations daily, from Korean War veterans, their families and survivors, and other sympathetic parties, both Korean and American. We will have more news on our fundraising progress in the next issue of this newsletter.

## How the Korean War Memorial Will Benefit the Bay Area and the United States

The Memorial will help to educate and inform our citizenry, and will maintain continuity between our nation's past and its future. It will also serve as a dramatic reminder of the price of war, and of the sacrifices made by those who paid that price in this so-called "Forgotten War". As writer/philosopher George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Educated, informed citizens are less likely to turn to war except as a last resort.

In addition, the dedicated and capable Presidio Trust architectural and landscape design team will ensure that the Korean War Memorial is an appropriate enhancement of the integrity of the Presidio. And the Memorial, itself will help ensure that the Presidio -- this national jewel of a park on the edge of our continent -- remains in trust for future generations of Californians, all Americans, and visitors from around the world who come here to appreciate the park's beauty.

## Samsung Makes Major Donation To Korean War Memorial

**San Francisco, January 17, 2014:** At a formal ceremony at the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco, Samsung President Charlie Young Chang Bae presented Foundation Secretary John Stevens with a check for \$150,000 toward the cost of constructing the Korean War Memorial. Consul General Han Dong-man then presented Mr. Bae with a plaque expressing the gratitude of the Republic of Korea for Samsung's generosity.

"On behalf of Samsung," Mr. Bae remarked, "I am honored to be able to contribute to the Korean War Memorial Foundation. All of us at Samsung are deeply aware of the significance of this war."

"This donation couldn't have come at a better time," added Mr. Stevens, a Marine veteran of the Korean War. "We need to raise a total of \$2.7 million to complete the Memorial. Samsung's generosity and that of other recent donors now bring us up to just under \$675,000. Nearly all of this has come from our Foundation's officers and other Korean War veterans and their families; the local Korean-American community; and Korean corporations doing business in this country. We hope to reach \$1 million very soon."

That \$1 million mark is critical, because the Korean government has pledged \$1 million to the Memorial – but only on condition that the Foundations succeeds in raising \$1 million in matching funds from private sector sources by February 28. Other Korean companies that have donated so far include Ahntech, Asiana Airlines, NeoSpeech, and USS-POSCO.

Donations from several U.S. corporations and foundations are now pending, and the Korean War Memorial Foundation hopes to reach its matching funds target soon. In the meantime, the Foundation continues to move forward on two fronts: the remainder of the fundraising campaign, and the planning, design, and construction of the Memorial.



From left to right: Han Dong-man, Consul General, Republic of Korea, San Francisco; John Stevens, Secretary, Korean War Memorial Foundation; Charlie Young Chang Bae, President, Samsung Semiconductor; and Shawn Lee, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Samsung Semiconductor

# Korean War Hero Honored at Bay Area Luncheon Ceremony

At the Hong Kong Flower Lounge in Millbrae, CA on Sunday, February 16, the members of American Legion Cathay Post #384 of San Francisco hosted a ceremonial luncheon to honor Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee, U.S. Marine Corps, a legendary hero of the Korean War. This luncheon came one day after Major Lee, a native of San Francisco, served as Honorary Grand Marshal in the city's fabled Chinese New Year's Day Parade.

Close to one hundred Cathay Post members, other veterans, and friends attended the event. Joe Owen, who as a Marine lieutenant fought alongside then-Lieutenant Lee, spoke to the gathering at length about their ordeal in the Chosin Reservoir campaign of 1950 during the so-called "Forgotten War". In vivid detail that sixty-three years hadn't diminished, Joe described his comrade's indomitable and inspirational leadership in the face of overwhelming odds and the unimaginably harsh Korean winter conditions. For his valor in that brutal campaign, then-Lieutenant Lee received the Navy Cross, an award second only to the Medal of Honor.

Major Lee then addressed the audience. With a noble strength and calm authority that defied the passage of time, he told the audience about his early life in California and his entry into what was then virtually an all-white Marine Corps. He was born in San Francisco and grew up in Sacramento. He made history in 1946, when he became the first-ever Asian-American to receive a commission as a regular officer in the U.S. Marine Corps.

When the Korean War broke out, then-Lieutenant Lee was assigned to a rifle company. He encountered some initial resistance from the



From left to right: John Stevens, LtCol, USMC (Ret) and KWMF Secretary; Major Lee; and Gerard Parker, Capt, USMC and KWMF Executive Director

Marines he commanded, many of whom had never even seen or spoken with a Chinese person, and some of whom considered any Asian to be the enemy. The Marines also chafed under his strict discipline and rigorous, demanding training regimen.

That all changed once Lieutenant Lee and his men got into combat. From then on, every man who served with him learned to respect and admire his capable and aggressive leadership, and his courage under fire. "Certainly, I was never afraid," he observed some six decades later. "Perhaps we Chinese are all fatalists. I never expected to survive when I entered service at 18. Hence, I was adamant that my death be honorable, be of some consequence to my race." Fortunately for his family, Corps, country, and all of us, Major Lee did survive.

In his distinguished 25-year career in the Marine Corps, Major Lee was awarded the Navy Cross, the Silver Star, two Purple Hearts, two Navy Commendation Medals with Combat V, six Presidential Unit Citations, and one Navy Unit Citation. Following his Marine Corps service, Major Lee worked for New York Life and then the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. His legendary bravery was recounted in the Smithsonian Channel documentary special "Uncommon Courage: Breakout at Chosin," which first aired on Memorial Day, 2010. Semper Fi, Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee.



Major Kurt Lee, USMC addresses the audience.

Photos by Galin Luk, American Legion Cathay Post #384

## New Documentary Film about The Korean War Available from Amazon.com

All filmmaker profits go to the Coalition of Families of Korean War POW/MIAs

**FINNIGAN'S WAR**, an award-winning documentary tribute to the veterans of the Korean War is now available on DVD or as instant video from Amazon.com. To commemorate the 60th anniversary of The Korean War, actor/filmmaker Conor Timmis set out on a year-long journey to honor his late grandfather and the heroes of America's "Forgotten War". The film is narrated by Mark Hamill of "Star Wars" fame, and 100% of the filmmaker's profits go to benefit the Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs.

You can view the trailer for the film at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiKKnC19TXM>

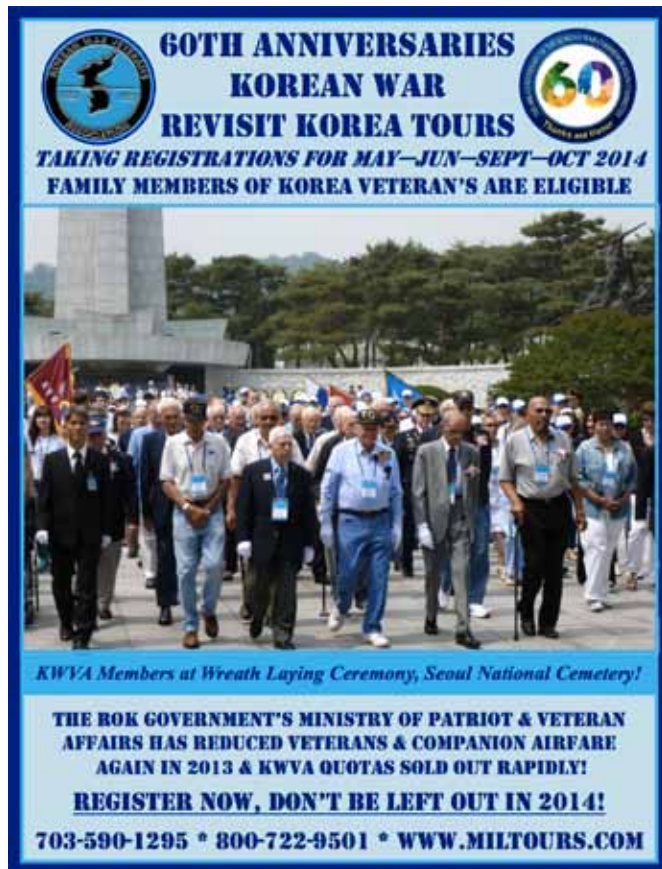
Or order it on DVD or Amazon Instant Video at: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00FL97FK8>

# Revisit Korea Tours Program Booking Now

Military Historical Tours, in cooperation with the Korean War Veterans Association, is now accepting reservations from Korean War veterans and their families for Revisit Korea tours to Korea in May, June, September, or October, 2014. These tours include reduced-price air fares, free hotel accommodations, free bus tours of Seoul, Incheon, and the DMZ, as well as free meals, courtesy of the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.


Interested parties are encouraged to book early. These special tours, subsidized by the Korean government, consistently fill up very quickly. For additional information, contact:

Military Historical Tours, Inc.  
Phone: 800 722 9501, 703 590 1295  
Email: [mhtours@miltours.com](mailto:mhtours@miltours.com)  
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We realize that some of you don't use email, and we will continue to send you the print version of this KWMF Newsletter.

**However, if you DO have an email address, please provide it to us right away, by sending it to [gvparker@kwmf.org](mailto:gvparker@kwmf.org).** We will then ensure that you receive only the email newsletter.

That way, we can keep our costs down, and put the funds we receive where they belong: into the construction of the Korean War Memorial, which will keep the memory of "The Forgotten War" and those who served in it alive for future generations. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



## Help us get the job done!

We've made significant progress with our fundraising, but we still have a way to go and we need your support. Help us complete our mission.



Major General O.P. Smith, USMC, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, at U.S. Cemetery, Hungnam, North Korea, December, 1950

## Make a donation today

GIVE WHAT YOU CAN . . .

FOR THOSE WHO GAVE EVERYTHING THEY HAD

415 750 3862 [info@kwmf.org](mailto:info@kwmf.org)

<http://kwmf.org/make-your-donation/>

## Then and Now

In the center of the first photo below, Foundation Secretary John Stevens, then Commanding Officer, Able Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, points out the route to Seoul to his fellow officers and the company's ROK interpreter in September, 1950. And standing in the center of the second photo, is John in more recent, more peaceful years.



U.S. Marine officers chart the drive to Seoul, Korea with the aid of a South Korean interpreter.



## Full Donor List Now Available on Korean War Memorial Foundation Web Site

The full list of donors to the Korean War Memorial Foundation – organizations as well as individuals – has now been posted on our Web site. To view the list, log onto the site at <http://kwmf.org>. Then, in the header at the top, click on Donations, and then select Donor List from the drop-down menu, as shown below.

If you have “Then and Now” photos of this nature, please email pdf versions of them to [gvparker@kwmf.org](mailto:gvparker@kwmf.org), and we'll see if we can get them in future issues of this Newsletter.



Call us at 415 750 3862 or Email us (Click Here)



English

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# KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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