



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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Newsletter March/April 2014

Korean War Veterans Honored with Medals at Santa Clara, CA Ceremony

Tuesday, March 18, 2014, Santa Clara, CA: A ceremony in honor of American veterans of the Korean War was held in the beautiful Santa Clara Central Park Veterans Memorial. The event was hosted by U.S. Congressman Mike Honda of California's 17th District, with special guest Ambassador Ahn Ho-young of the Republic of Korea, who flew out of a Washington, DC blizzard to participate in the ceremony.

The event began with welcoming remarks by the Congressman and the Ambassador to the audience of Korean War veterans, their families and supporters. Then each veteran was called forward by name to greet the Congressman and the Ambassador, and to have a special commemorative medal hung around his or her neck by the Ambassador.

The impressive medals had been forged from metal reclaimed from the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea. More than three dozen veterans stepped forward to receive the honor. They all then posed for group photos. The ceremony came to a close after the Congressman and the Ambassador placed a wreath on the memorial in honor of those who served.

The Korean War veterans in attendance included former Congressman Pete McCloskey, President of KWMF and John Stevens, Secretary of KWMF, both Marine combat veterans of that long-ago war. Distinguished guests included former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea Kathleen Stephens, now Koret Fellow at the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University, and Consul General Han Dong-man, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco.



Congressman Honda, Ambassador Ahn, and the veterans with their medals



Consul General Han, LtCol Stevens, and Congressman McCloskey share a private moment



From left to right: Consul General Han, Congressman McCloskey, LtCol Stevens, and Ambassador Stephens



The Medal

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See What We're Working to Build: Preliminary Images of the Memorial



Above is an artist's rendition of the Memorial. As you enter on the right, the path will 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. This is the main Memorial Plaza. It will feature three imposing stone monoliths facing west toward Korea. Mounted on each of these monoliths will be a large bronze bas-relief depicting a pivotal moment in the war. The first bas-relief will depict the 1st Marine Division's Inchon Landing in 1950. The second will depict the U.S. Army 23rd Infantry Regiment's Battle of Chipyong-ni, in 1951. And the third will depict the Republic of Korea 9th Infantry Division's Battle of White Horse in 1952.

To the right are four computer-generated views of the Memorial. Just beyond the monoliths, a curving stairway will lead down to a more intimate area within the Memorial. (See Image #3, Individual Donor Recognition.) Here is where the individual donors – Korean War veterans, their families and survivors – will be recognized. This area will display the inscribed memorial tiles and plaques commemorating those who served. Nearby benches in a peaceful sylvan setting will allow for remembrance and reflection.

It must be noted that the design is preliminary, subject to change by the Presidio Trust and subject to review by public hearings.



ENTRY



MEMORIAL PLAZA



INDIVIDUAL DONOR RECOGNITION



BIRDS EYE VIEW

DRAFT
PREDECISIONAL

Views of the Proposed Memorial
**The Proposed Korean War Memorial
at the Presidio of San Francisco**

Presidio Trust Planning Department

Chevron Makes Donation to KWMF

San Francisco, April 10, 2014: During a formal ceremony at the Korean Consulate General in San Francisco, Chevron Corporation presented KWMF with a donation of \$25,000. Consul General Han Dong-man hosted and presided at the ceremony. The donation check was presented by Mr. S. Shariq Yosufzai, Chevron's Vice President, Global Diversity, Ombuds & University Partnerships, to Mr. Donald F. Reid, KWMF Treasurer and Marine Corps combat veteran of the Korean War.



From left to right: Brian Chase, Chevron; Consul General Han; Shariq Yosufzai, Chevron; Donald Reid, KWMF; John Stevens, KWMF; and Eric Nelson, Chevron

Coming on May 24: San Francisco Bay Cruise on the S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien Liberty Ship – FREE for All Korean War and World War II Vets

Dear Friends of the O'Brien,

We invite you to join us on Saturday, May 24, 2014, on our Veterans Memorial Cruise- An O'Brien annual tradition honoring the Merchant Marine and the US Navy Armed Guard.

World War II and Korean War veterans sail free of charge. Just call our office at (415) 544-0100 to register and share your stories of service. Any additional friends or family members can click here to purchase their tickets online: memorialcruise2014.eventbrite.com/?aff=kwmf

Live music will be provided by The Big Band of Rossmoor. Complimentary beverages, hot dogs, polish dogs and chili will also be available.

Come help memorialize the brave men and women of WWII and beyond who built, sailed and maintained Liberty Ships by joining us for a Bay cruise.

Your support is greatly appreciated and helps to preserve the SS Jeremiah O'Brien for future generations.

P.S. If you can't attend, please consider a donation to the Jeremiah O'Brien Dry Dock Fund in honor of our veterans. Click here to donate \$100, \$50 or \$25: donatenow.networkforgood.org/ssjeremiahobriendrydock. No amount is too small. Thank you for your generosity.

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

Ola L. Mize, Honored for Heroics in Korean War, Dies at 82

By DOUGLAS MARTIN

© NEW YORK TIMES, MARCH 16, 2014

Ola L. Mize, a sharecropper's son who was awarded the Medal of Honor for valor after leading his outnumbered men in harrowing combat in the Korean War and single-handedly killing dozens of enemy soldiers, died on March 5 at his home in Gadsden, Ala. He was 82.

The cause was lung cancer, his wife, Betty, said.

Mr. Mize ended up serving 31 years in the Army, collecting many decorations for heroism and rising to commander of the Special Forces school at Fort Bragg, N.C. But the Army had rejected him at first because he weighed only 120 pounds.

When he returned, a bit heftier, he had to surmount a bigger problem: he was blind in one eye, which had been accidentally pierced with an ice pick when he was 5 years old.

The vision exam of that time involved holding a paddle over one eye and looking at the chart with the other. He passed the test by briskly switching paddles in a way that made it look as if he was switching eyes, his wife said. He had practiced with spoons beforehand.

Mr. Mize had hoped to go to college after his tour of peacetime duty ended, but the Korean War was starting and he was eager to experience combat. He re-enlisted, and soon he saw horrific combat, as a sergeant.

On June 10, 1953, Sergeant Mize, a member of the Army's Company K, 15th Infantry Regiment, Third Infantry Division, was helping to defend a strategic hill near Surang-ni in mountainous South Korea. The hill, called Outpost Harry by the Americans, sat between American and Communist lines, each several hundred yards away, according to VFW Magazine.

The Medal of Honor citation said that after learning that a fellow soldier at a listening post had been wounded, Sergeant Mize, accompanied by a medic, rescued him. When he noticed that an American machine-gun nest had been overrun, he fought his way to the position, killing 10 North Korean and Chinese soldiers and dispersing the rest. He had been blown down three times by artillery and grenade blasts, and his men were astounded that he returned alive.

When the attacks subsided, Sergeant Mize took his few remaining men from bunker to bunker, firing and throwing grenades as they went, to create the impression that the remaining American force was larger than it actually was. At one point, the citation said, as an enemy soldier stepped behind an American and prepared to fire, Sergeant Mize killed him. At dawn, he helped regroup for a counterattack that drove the enemy away.

He killed as many as 65 enemy soldiers, by one account; he told his hometown newspaper, The Gadsden Times, in 1984 that after he saw another officer's throat cut, he went "battle crazy." Of 56 Americans involved in the Outpost Harry fighting, only eight survived.

Ola Lee Mize was born on Aug. 28, 1931. He dropped out of high school in his sophomore year to help his family meet expenses and joined the Army in 1948 because, he said, it paid better than working in a grocery store.

He initially refused the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award for valor, but finally accepted it on behalf of his men. It was presented by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in September 1954. At the ceremony, Mr. Eisenhower told Sergeant Mize's fiancée, Betty Jackson, that as long as he chose to stay in the Army, her husband-to-be would never have to go into combat again.

He nonetheless volunteered four times for duty in Vietnam and served three-and-a-half tours with the Green Berets, the Army's Special Forces unit. During his military career he was awarded the Legion of Merit twice, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star five times, the Purple Heart and many other decorations. He was assigned to the Special Forces school in 1975 and retired as a full colonel in 1981. He later worked as a motivational speaker and consultant.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Mize is survived by his daughter, Teresa Peterson; his brothers, Gary, Donald and Johnny; his sisters, Judy Heinrich, Brenda Garza and Della George; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

A version of this article appears in print on March 22, 2014, on page A22 of the New York edition with the headline: Ola L. Mize, Korean War Hero, Dies at 82.



Retired Army Col. Ola Lee Mize received the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Korean War.

John Y. Lee Visits San Francisco in Support of KWMF

San Francisco, April 2, 2014: Korean resident and KWMF supporter John Y. Lee was in San Francisco from March 31 to April 2 for a series of strategic meetings with the KWMF officers and Board members. John is a Korean attorney and Korean War veteran who has been supporting, on a pro bono basis, the KWMF mission in the Republic of Korea. During his visit, he agreed to accept the official title of “Advisor to the Korean War Memorial Foundation”. The title is well-earned: John’s advice on Korean cultural, media, and government affairs has already been invaluable for KWMF, and will continue to be so.



John Y. Lee shares a memory over coffee with KWMF Secretary John Stevens

John Y. Lee is a remarkable man with a remarkable story. At the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, the then-university student swam the Han River to evade the North Korean Communists attacking Seoul. He was subsequently commissioned as a second lieutenant in the ROK Army and assigned to the 1st Marine Division as an interpreter/translator. He participated in the Inchon (Incheon) Landing, the Chosin (Jangjin) Reservoir Campaign, and other battles, and received the Legion of Merit for his service. Reminiscing with KWMF Secretary John Stevens, LtCol, USMC (Ret.), also a veteran of the Inchon and Chosin campaigns, and KWMF Treasurer Don Reid, Sgt USMC and Korean War veteran, John Y. Lee said that he was never fearful when he was with U.S. Marines.

After the war, Mr. Lee came to the United States and studied at Yale College and Yale Law School. He then served as attorney-advisor for U.S. Forces in Korea; with the U.S. Department of Justice; and in private practice with several Washington, DC law firms, including Hogan and Hartson. He is a Founding Member and former Director of the Chosin Few, a Life Member of the 1st Marine Division Association, and an Honorary Member of the ROK Marines.



At a breakfast strategy meeting, KWMF Treasurer Don Reid and Board Member Frank Mendez (on left), and Executive Director Gerard Parker and Secretary John Stevens (on right) listening to John Y. Lee

S.F. Mayor Edwin M. Lee Proclaims June 25, 2014 “Korean War Memorial Day in San Francisco”

The Honorable Edwin M. Lee, Mayor of San Francisco, has presented KWMF with a Proclamation declaring June 25, 2014 to be “Korean War Memorial Day in San Francisco”. Mayor Lee has consistently been a strong supporter of veterans and veterans’ issues. As The Mayor states in the Proclamation, “We must work to make sure that all of our veterans returning home get the services they deserve and that all those heroes who have paid the price of our freedom with their lives are never forgotten.” KWMF’s officers are now deciding what ceremony will best commemorate that date. The results of the decision will be announced soon.



San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee

Rear Admiral Gorman Honored at Ceremony in Danville, California

Danville, CA, March 26, 2014: In a ceremony at Danville's Veterans' Memorial Building, Consul General Han Dong-man of the Korean Consulate General in San Francisco presented a formal Certificate of Appreciation to Danville resident Rear Admiral Russell W. Gorman, USN (Ret.). The Certificate, signed by KWMF President Pete McCloskey as well as by Consul General Han, expressed appreciation to Admiral Gorman for his service to his country, his dedication to a worthy cause, and his donation to the Korean War Memorial Foundation. Admiral Gorman had recently bequeathed a portion of his estate to the Foundation. The bequest will be for approximately \$135,000, which will make it the second-largest donation to date from an individual.

The ceremony was hosted by Rear Admiral Robert P. Tiernan, USN (Ret.), a long-time close friend of Admiral Gorman's. Among the forty or so people in attendance were KWMF Secretary John Stevens, Lieutenant Colonel, USMC (Ret.); KWMF Board Directors Daniel C. Helix, Major General, USA (Ret.) and Thomas F. Brown III, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.); a number of Danville city officials and Korean War veterans; and Deputy Consul General Lee Sang Ryol and other staff members from the Korean Consulate General in San Francisco. Admiral Gorman commented to several of the attendees that America's role in safeguarding the freedom of today's democratic and prosperous Republic of Korea is a source of pride to him.

Admiral Gorman, 86, was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1949 and retired in 1987. His long, distinguished career included service in Japan supporting the Korean War effort and five commands in the Naval Reserve, including two Major Commands. He also attended the Naval War College and the National Defense University. After his retirement, he was the Commander of the San Francisco Commandery of the Naval Order Of the United States in 2004 and 2005.



Consul General Han with Admiral Gorman



Rear Admiral Gorman with some of his guests

All Korean War Veterans Invited to a FREE Dinner in San Francisco

On June 25, 2014, KWMF Vice President and prominent San Francisco restaurateur Man J. Kim will host, on behalf of KWMF, the annual Korean War Veterans' Appreciation Dinner at his Golden Gate Grill restaurant in San Francisco.

This popular event, which has been held annually for the past decade, is free of charge for any Korean War veteran and guest. The gala evening includes good food and drink, talented live musical performers, and a wonderful atmosphere conducive to renewing old friendships and building new ones. Anyone interested in attending should RSVP as indicated on the invitation below. Seating is limited; so you are encouraged to RSVP early.



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

*cordially invite you
and your guest to our
Annual Appreciation Dinner.*

The dinner will be held:

Wednesday, June 25, 2014 at 6:00 PM
GOLDEN GATE GRILL
Banquet Room
449 Powell Street, 3rd Floor
San Francisco

Please RSVP to Gerry by Friday, June 6
Gerard Parker (415) 750-3862
gvparker@kwmf.org
<http://kwmf.org>



Attention Readers: Help Us Save Printing and Postage Fees and Keep Our Costs Down!

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. 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.



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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