



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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

Newsletter January/February 2015

Phone: 415 750 3862
Email: info@kwmf.org
Web: www.kwmf.org

Major Milestone: Korean War Memorial Receives Presidio Trust Approval



A rendering of the Memorial site and design by local artist Art Zendarski

On February 19, the Presidio Trust Board of Directors voted their approval of the design and location of the Korean War Memorial. This is a major milestone in our long journey to get this Memorial built. The design must still meet final environmental and historic preservation compliance requirements, but this Board approval now opens the door for the completion of design drawings and the beginning of construction work some time this year.

The Korean War Memorial will stand in a prominent place at the corner of Lincoln Boulevard and Sheridan Avenue, adjacent to the National Cemetery. It will face west toward the Golden Gate Bridge, the Pacific Ocean, and the now democratic and prosperous Republic of Korea. The site will consist of a paved plaza bound by a curving granite wall onto which iconic images of the war and informative text will be inscribed. The peaceful garden setting will allow for remembrance and reflection.

In its resolution in approval of the design and site, the Presidio Trust Board stated that “the association between the Presidio and the Korean War is of exceptional national importance,” and “the proposed memorial is the best way to express the association between the Pre-

sidio and the Korean War.” A Presidio Trust Staff Report to the Board in support of the Memorial stated that:

- The Sixth Army, headquartered in the Presidio since 1946, played an active role in training combat and support troops that were required for the buildup from 600,000 to 1.5 million U.S. soldiers between 1950 and 1953.
- The Presidio’s Letterman Hospital was often the first stateside facility treating the wounded and sick returning from the conflict.
- The Golden Gate Club overlooking the Memorial site was the location of two major treaty signings with Asian countries intended to support the United Nations’ role in the Korean War.
- The adjacent National Cemetery, just a few yards from the Memorial site, is the final resting place for 2,273 members of the military who served in the Korean War.

This approval by the Presidio Trust Board of Directors now makes possible the signing of a formal Agreement between the Presidio Trust and the Korean War Memorial Foundation, the selection of designers and contractors, and the construction of the Memorial. KWMF, in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Presidio Trust, is now planning a formal Groundbreaking Ceremony to take place on the Memorial site some time this spring. The exact date will be announced soon.

In this Issue:

KWM Receives Presidio Trust Approval (p. 1)
SS Meredith Victory (p. 2)
Pete McCloskey Resigns (p. 3)
Notice of Annual KWMF Members Meeting (p. 3)

KWMF Donor Recognition Policy (p. 4)
History and Social Studies Teachers Conference (p. 4)
Kim Jung-hoon Profile (p. 5)
Korean War Memorial in London (p. 6)

SS Meredith Victory: The “Ship of Miracles”

A Little-Known but Inspiring Tale of the Korean War

The SS Meredith Victory was a United States Merchant Marine Victory ship, essentially a cargo freighter. It was built during World War II, but its moment of glory came in the Korean War, during the dark days of December, 1950, when it evacuated over 14,000 Korean refugees fleeing the invading Communist Chinese. Under Captain Leonard LaRue, the Meredith Victory performed the largest humanitarian rescue operation by a single ship in history. Designed to carry only 12 passengers and 47 officers and crew, the ship took the 14,000-plus refugees to safety and earned herself the name “The Ship of Miracles.”



The SS Meredith Victory at the time of the evacuation

The saga began in December, 1950, when U.N. forces were reeling from the sudden onslaught of Communist Chinese troops invading from Manchuria. More than 100,000 outnumbered U.N. troops were withdrawing south to the port city of Hungnam, where they were to be evacuated on 193 ships, a massive effort. Close to a hundred thousand desperate civilian refugees had also gathered at the port, hoping to avoid death or capture at the hands of the Communists.



Captain Leonard LaRue

The Meredith Victory was one of the ships waiting in Hungnam. On December 21, Captain LaRue decided to offload nearly all his cargo so that he could evacuate as many of the terrified refugees as possible. All through the night of December 22-23, using booms and makeshift elevators, Captain LaRue’s crew filled the five cargo holds and the entire main deck with more than 14,000 civilians seeking salvation. The Meredith Victory then departed on the morning of the 23rd for Pusan, 450 sea miles to the south, without any military

escort or means of self-defense. Numerous other ships evacuated the rest of the refugees, but no ship carried anywhere near as many in one voyage as the Meredith Victory.



Korean refugees on the main deck

Conditions were so crowded that most of the refugees were forced to stand, in freezing conditions and with little food or water, for the three-day voyage. Yet there were no fatalities or injuries. In fact, the number of passengers actually increased en route: five babies were born on the main deck! All were delivered with the help of First Mate D.S. Savastio, with nothing more than basic first aid training. And compassion.



A note given to a crew member by a grateful refugee

The South Korean Government later awarded the crew the Korean Presidential Unit Citation. And the United States Merchant Marine presented the crew with the Meritorious Service Medal, the Merchant Marine’s highest honor. Captain LaRue remained in command of the Meredith Victory until she was decommissioned in 1952. The ship then sat in the harbor at Bremerton, Washington as part of the “moth-ball fleet.”

Continued on page 3

In 1960, the SS Meredith Victory was conferred the title of “Galant Ship” by a special Act of Congress signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The U.S. Department of Transportation declared her miraculous voyage as “the greatest rescue in the history of mankind.” The Guinness Book of World Records describes it as “the largest evacuation from land by a single ship.”



The SS Meredith Victory toward the end of her proud service

Following the war, Captain LaRue became a Benedictine monk at St. Paul’s Abbey in New Jersey. He took the name “Brother Marinus.” Marinus is Latin for “of the sea,” a fitting name for a seafaring man.

The SS Meredith Victory served in a couple of minor missions during the Vietnam War, but ultimately was sold as scrap metal to – ironically – China. And today, the story of this proud “Ship of Miracles” has been largely forgotten, just another incident in the so-called “Forgotten War.”

Anyone interested in learning more about this remarkable story is encouraged to read the book “Ship of Miracles” by Bill Gilbert, available on Amazon and elsewhere. And a new documentary film by R.J. McHatton, also titled “Ship of Miracles,” has recently been released on DVD. Details are available at <http://www.shipofmiracles.com>.

Pete McCloskey Resigns His Position as KWMF President and Board Chairman

Pete McCloskey, KWMF President and Chairman of the Board, has submitted his resignation effective February 20, 2015. Pete retired for health reasons after a recent hospitalization for congestive heart failure in December, 2014.

Subject to a vote of approval at the upcoming KWMF Board of Directors’ Meeting on March 20, 2015, Pete will be succeeded as KWMF President by current Board member and Korean War veteran Judge Quentin Kopp.



**KOREAN WAR
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

Notice of Annual Members Meeting of the Korean War Memorial Foundation

NOTE: If you are a donor, you are automatically a voting Member of the Foundation and cordially invited to attend this meeting. Please let us know if you plan to attend by contacting **Lillian Choy** as soon as possible:

Phone: 415 921 1933

Email: lillian.choy@sbcglobal.net

The annual Members Meeting of the Korean War Memorial Foundation will be held at 11:00 am on March 20, 2015 at the Golden Gate Grill, 449 Powell Street, 3rd 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 2014 annual meeting, and to conduct such other business as may properly come before the Members.

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REVISED CONCEPTUAL DESIGN OF THE KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

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

RESOLUTION ELECTING A BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS

RESOLVED: That the Members elect Congressman Pete McCloskey as a Board Member Emeritus.

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THE DECEMBER 29, 2014 BOARD MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Members approve the actions taken at the December 29, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting.

John Stevens

Secretary

February 24, 2015

Korean War Memorial Foundation 1806 Belles Street, #6-B
The Presidio San Francisco, CA 94129

415 750 3862 info@kwmf.org www.kwmf.org

KWMF Donor Recognition Policy: How Donors Will Be Acknowledged at the Korean War Memorial

Several of our donors have been requesting clarification of the Korean War Memorial Donor Recognition Policy. The policy is described below. Please note that donors are not required to accept public recognition, and may choose to remain anonymous. Please also note that the number of benches, plaques, and tiles still available is limited, and will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

Major Donor Wall

All donors of \$20,000 or more are eligible to have their name inscribed on the Major Donor Wall at the entrance to the Memorial Plaza. Donors will be listed according to the size of the donation. The largest donor, and the largest type size, will be at the top of the list, and the rest will then be listed in descending order.

Inscribed Bench

All donors of \$100,000 or more are eligible to have an inscribed bench on the Memorial site. Specifics on the material composition of the bench and the size of the inscription are pending.

Inscribed Plaque

All donors of \$10,000 or more are eligible to have an inscribed plaque on the Memorial site. The plaque will be 12 inches tall by 16 inches wide. Five lines of text will be allowed, with 22 characters and/or spaces per line.

Inscribed Tile

All donors of \$250 or more are eligible to have an inscribed tile on the Memorial site. The tile will be 4 inches tall by 8 inches wide. Three lines of text will be allowed, with 18 characters and/or spaces per line.

If you are a donor or prospective donor and have any questions or comments about the Korean War Memorial Donor Recognition Policy, please contact us.

Email: gvparker@kwmf.org
Phone: 415 750 3862

History and Social Studies Teachers Conference

As Part of the Korean War Veterans Youth Corps
2015 Convention

July 24-27, 2015, Washington, D.C.


Attention History and Social Studies Teachers: The Korean War Legacy Foundation, organizers of the Korean War Veterans Digital Memorial (www.kwvdm.org), invites you to apply for eligibility to participate in a conference on the integration of primary sources and veteran stories in education. Educators will learn how to use veteran stories in the classroom, and collaborate to create useful lesson plans for all ages. The attendees will also enjoy a tour of the Pentagon and commemorative celebrations for the Korean War in Washington, D.C.

- If you are selected to participate, you will be reimbursed for round-trip air fare, as well as the cost of programs, meals, and lodging during the conference.
- See the flyer below for additional information.
- Questions? Contact Samantha Fraser, Chair, samantha.fraser@cherokee.k12.ga.us

History & Social Studies Teachers Conference
(as part of the KWV Youth Corps 2015 Convention)

When: July 24-27, 2015
Where: Washington, D.C.

Host: Korean War Legacy Foundation (KWLF), Inc. (www.kwvdm.org). An organization that supports our veterans and houses 400 KWV in-depth interviews and 4,000 artifacts (KWV Digital Memorial).



How to become eligible:

- You must be a history or social studies teacher with a valid school address
- You must participate in an activity with the KWLF during the school year
 - Have your students complete an activity using the digital archive
 - Help the organization create transcripts for the current interviews in KWVDM
 - Set up interviews of veterans in your media center
 - Complete an analysis of the Korean War coverage in your history textbook
 - Toolkits for all activities are available to help you get started.

Goals for the Conference:

- Korean War in Textbooks
 - Descendants from 21 countries will analyze coverage of the Korean War in their own textbooks.
 - Teachers will collaborate on how to get better representation of the Korean War in our schools.
 - & Presenting the history book analysis on the Korean War
 - Work with College Board and prominent history textbook authors to expand coverage of the Korean War in textbooks
- The Digital Memorial
 - History & social studies teachers will present their use of KWV Digital Memorial interviews and artifacts (www.kwvdm.org) in their classrooms.
- Washington D.C. Excursions
 - Attend the Armistice event at Arlington National Cemetery
 - Day and evening tour of Korean War Memorial and National Mall
 - Pentagon tour

Costs:

- If chosen, the KWL Foundation will reimburse teachers for round-trip airfare and cover the cost for all programs, meals, and lodging during convention.

Application and Registration using PayPal

- Application due by April 30
- Accepted participants will be notified in writing with a link to Paypal account by May 5
- Early-bird registration of \$50 is due before May 15
- Regular registration of \$75 is due by May 31
- Late registration of \$100 is due by June 15

Benefits for Educators:

- Foundation will offer scholarships to schools based on the quality of presentations
- Internship opportunities for your students
- Certificate of participation to put towards PLU credits and certification if applicable by state

Questions? Contact Us :
Chair, Samantha Fraser (samantha.fraser@cherokee.k12.ga.us)
KWLF President, Jongwoo Han (jonghan@svr.edu, 315-480-9427)
KWVA Tell America Program Chair, Roy Aldridge (royaldridge@sbcglobal.net, 915-494-0411)

Profile of Representative Kim Jung-hoon

A Strong Supporter of America's Korean War Veterans

Representative Kim Jung-hoon is a three-term member of the Republic of Korea's National Assembly. He was first elected in 2004 to represent Nam-gu District in Busan, and reelected in the general elections of 2008 and 2012. He also served a term as Chairman of the National Policy Committee of the 19th National Assembly, a term that ended in June, 2014. This key standing committee oversees the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans' Affairs, the Finance Supervisory Commission, and the Fair Trade Commission.



Representative Kim Jong-hoon

In 2009, Representative Kim attended the 64th General Assembly of the United Nations, where he made a persuasive appeal to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon about the historical and moral importance of the UN Memorial Cemetery, located in his home district of Nam-gu. The following year, his appeal resulted in the UN designation of Nam-gu as a Special Peace and Culture Zone of the United Nations, the only such zone in the world.



Representative Kim chairing a National Policy Committee meeting in 2013

In July, 2013, serving as President Park Geun-hye's special envoy, Representative Kim attended the commemorative ceremony for the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice in Washington, DC, where he met with President Barack Obama and Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel.



Representative Kim with President Obama, July 27, 2013

Representative Kim reinforced his commitment to U.S. veterans of the Korean War in January, 2014, when he founded the American Veterans of Korea Foundation (AVKF), which he currently chairs. AVKF's mission is to support American Korean War veterans and their families and descendants. Under his leadership, AVKF has embarked on a number of projects, among them the establishment of an annual scholarship program for veterans' descendants; close involvement in the creation of a Chosin Few Memorial on the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia; and a Korean War Veterans' Benefit Concert which will take place at Carnegie Hall in New York on June 25, 2015, the 65th Anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War.

Representative Kim graduated from Hanyang University with an LL.B. degree in 1987, and received an Honorary Doctorate in Political Science from Pukyong National University in 2013. He currently serves as a senior member of the ruling Saenuri (New Frontier) Party.

Thank you, Lighthouse Worldwide Solutions

KWMF wishes to thank Dr. Kim Tae Yun and her staff at Lighthouse Worldwide Solutions in Fremont, CA -- <http://www.golighthouse.com> -- for their generosity in underwriting the costs of printing and mailing this newsletter.

Our British Brothers in Arms Commemorate Their Korean War Memorial in London

On December 3, 2014, a new Memorial to the UK's Korean War veterans was commemorated at a ceremony in Central London. Britain's Korean War Memorial, a gift from the Republic of Korea to honor the British troops who served in the conflict, was unveiled outside the Ministry of Defence building on Victoria Embankment.



New Korean War Memorial, London

Over 500 guests, including 320 Korean War veterans, watched as His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester delivered a message from the Queen. Other dignitaries participating included British Defence Secretary the Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP, and the Republic of Korea's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yun Byung-se.



HRH the Duke of Gloucester

The Memorial is a bronze statue by sculptor Philip Jackson, standing in front of an inscribed and carved obelisk of Portland stone on a base of Welsh slate.



A closer view of the statue



Korean War veterans at the unveiling

Continued on page 7

On the north face of the obelisk is the emblem of the United Nations and the following inscription:

“The Korean War was the first UN action against aggression. The UN forces that fought the North Korean invasion were drawn from 21 countries. Although exhausted and impoverished after the Second World war, Britain responded immediately by providing strong naval, army and air forces and became the second largest contributor after the United States. A distant obligation honourably discharged.”

William Speakman, VC, President of the British Korean War Veterans Association, was a private in the Black Watch Regiment, attached to the King’s Own Scottish Borderers during the Korean War, and received the Victoria Cross for valor.



Private William Speakman, Korea, 1951



BKWVA President William Speakman, VC in more recent, more peaceful days

Mr. Speakman was unable to attend the Memorial unveiling ceremony for health reasons, but sent the following letter to HRH the Duke of Gloucester:

British Korean War Veterans Association

Your Royal Highness
Prince Richard Duke of Gloucester
Korean War Memorial
Victoria Embankment
London
SW1A 2HB

Your Royal Highness

My sincere apologies to you as representative of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen and also to all the distinguished guests especially their excellences the Korean Ambassador Mr. Lim Sunnam together with Mr Yun Byung-se the Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and all assembled Korean War Veterans, for not being with you in person today.

Sixty years ago the war on the Korean peninsula came to an end, you are all present today, to proudly witness the dedication of the gift of a magnificent memorial, to those British servicemen and women who fought and served under the flag of the United Nations all those years ago.

The Veterans here today will remember their comrades who paid the ultimate price and they well remember Korean names that are no longer strange to them; Pusan, Inchon, Seoul, Pyongyang and Taegon but, to Korean Veterans they mean so much more, for these were the hills over which they fought, in a land that many had not even heard of.

The dedication of this memorial is symbolic of the gratitude of the Korean Government and the continued appreciation by the people of the Republic of South Korea, a people which the British Veterans hold in great esteem and who I personally have come to love, a people who have not wasted the sacrifice paid all those years ago.

On behalf of all the British Korean veterans here today and those who cannot be with you, I thank the Korean People for this impressive and splendid memorial which greatly assists us all, to treasure the affection and splendid collaboration which exists between our peoples today and into the future.


May God bless you all.

Yours Sincerely

William Speakman VC JP

William Speakman VC. JP.
President

Please Reply To:
William Speakman VC.JP. C/o British Korean War Veterans Association. PO BOX 4651. SL7 9DL



1st December 2014

81,084 British servicemen served in the Korean War. 1,106 were killed in action, thousands were wounded, and 1,060 suffered as prisoners of war. For additional information on this striking Memorial, including additional photos, please visit the following links:

Official UK Government Site:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/memorial-to-the-korean-war-unveiled-in-london>

British Korean War Veterans Association (BKWVA) Site:

http://www.bucksvoice.net/bkva/photos/album?album_id=6349567



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Officers

President

Judge Quentin L. Kopp, Captain, USAFR

Vice President

Man J. Kim, Corporal, ROKA

Secretary

John R. Stevens, Lieutenant Colonel, USMC (Ret.)

Treasurer

Donald F. Reid, Sergeant, USMC

Board of Directors

Kong Jung Shik, Lieutenant General, ROKMC (Ret.)

Daniel C. Helix, Major General, USA (Ret.)

Thomas F. Brown III, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)

J. Michael Myatt, Major General, USMC (Ret.)

Arthur W. Curtis, Lieutenant Commander, USCG (Ret.)

Frank Mendez, US Merchant Marine (Ret.)

Directors Emeritus

Pete McCloskey, Colonel, USMCR (Ret.),

U.S. Congressman, 1967-1983

Russell W. Gorman, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Eddie LeBaron, Major, USMC

Advisor

John Y. Lee, Attorney at Law, 1st Lieutenant, ROKA

Executive Director and Newsletter Editor

Gerard Parker, Captain, USMC

Legal Counsel

John Wiley, Attorney at Law

Accountant

Steve S.Y. Im, CPA

The newsletter is published by the Korean War Memorial Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Federal Tax ID Number 27-2773272. Copyright © 2015, Korean War Memorial Foundation.

Phone: 415 750 3862

Email: info@kwmf.org

Web: www.kwmf.org



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

1806 Belles Street, #6-B

The Presidio

San Francisco, CA 94129