

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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Newsletter March–April 2015

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Korean War Memorial Groundbreaking Ceremony Scheduled for July 11 in the Presidio, San Francisco

Another key milestone in our long journey to build the Korean War Memorial will soon be upon us. On July 11, 2015, a formal Groundbreaking Ceremony will take place on the Memorial site in the Presidio of San Francisco. And not long after that date, this symbolic ceremony will be followed by the commencement of major landscaping and construction.



Site of the future Korean War Memorial, looking west at the Golden Gate Bridge

The Groundbreaking Ceremony will take place from 10:00 to 11:30 am on the Memorial site, at the corner of Lincoln Boulevard and Sheridan Avenue in the Presidio, adjacent to the entrance to the National Cemetery where 2,273 Americans who fought in the Korean War are buried. Korean War veterans and their families and friends; donors; members of the media; and other supporters are invited to join us.

Distinguished guests will include U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein of California (invited), Representative Kim Jung-hoon of the Republic of Korea National Assembly (confirmed), former Secretary of State George Shultz and San Francisco Chief of Protocol Charlotte Mailiard Shultz (invited), U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi of California's 12th Congressional District (invited), San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee (invited), Republic of Korea Consul General Han Dong-man (confirmed), Presidio Trust Executive Director Craig Middleton (invited), former KWMF President and former U.S. Congressman Pete McCloskey (confirmed), and of course current Korean War Memorial President Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.).

The event will begin with brief remarks by several of the distinguished guests, followed by the ceremonial groundbreaking complete with hard hats and gold shovels. Complimentary light refreshments will be served, and nearby parking will be available. The formal invitation and full program are being finalized now and will be sent out soon. If you would like to receive an invitation and program, please contact Eleanor Zapanta of our staff at eleanor@kwmf.org, 415 921 1933. Please provide your full mailing address, email address, and phone number. Thank you. We hope to see you on July 11 for this exciting Korean War Memorial milestone.



Map showing location of of the future Korean War Memorial

To attend the Groundbreaking Ceremony on July 11, RSVP now to:

Eleanor Zapanta
Email: eleanor@kwmf.org
Phone: 415 921 1933

Apologies: Circumstances beyond our control caused a delay in getting this issue out.

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Bill O'Reilly Provides Strong Support for KWMF

KWMF got a big boost from Fox News host Bill O'Reilly recently, resulting in an infusion of much-needed funds for the Memorial. At the end of his Fox TV show "The O'Reilly Factor" on March 24, Bill began his Tip of the Day by saying, "We don't hear very much about the Korean War, but 1.8 million American military people fought in it." He went on to describe our mission, and to spell out our website address twice, while it was displayed in large bold letters on the screen: KWMF.ORG. He finished up by saying, "We hope you support this important endeavor. It would be very generous of you if you did."



Bill O'Reilly, photo courtesy of Fox News/The O'Reilly Factor

Within minutes, his viewers started making online donations on the KWMF website. By the following morning, people were donating not only online, but by phone and email as well. And the donations have continued to come in ever since, from nearly every state in the Union. Thank you, Bill, for this support. It is appreciated by all Korean War veterans and their families – in fact, by all American veterans and their families. Here's a link to the video of that Tip of the Day from Bill: <http://www.foxnews.com/on-air/oreilly/index.html#/v/4132558636001>

**HELP US GET THE JOB DONE
MAKE A DONATION TODAY**



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

**GIVE WHAT YOU CAN . . .
FOR THOSE WHO GAVE EVERYTHING THEY HAD**

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



FedEx Donates \$50,000 to KWMF

The FedEx Corporation recently made a \$50,000 donation for the Korean War Memorial. KWMF President Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.) sent FedEx Chairman & CEO Frederick W. Smith, the formal request for a donation via a FedEx Overnight Letter. It is unlikely that this influenced Mr. Smith's decision to donate, but one never knows.

KWMF Board Member Quentin Kopp Becomes New KWMF President

On March 20, 2015, the KWMF Board of Directors voted unanimously to elect retired California Superior Court Judge Quentin L. Kopp to succeed former KWMF President and U.S. Congressman Pete McCloskey, who had resigned for health reasons.

Judge Kopp has had an illustrious career in public service. He was born in Syracuse, New York and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1949 and Harvard Law School in 1952. From August, 1952 until August, 1954, he served as an officer in the United States Air Force, first in the Office of Special Investigation and thereafter in the Judge Advocate General Corps. Upon his discharge, Kopp became an Assistant Counsel to the Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor, responsible for elimination of racketeering on piers in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Staten Island, and New Jersey.



New KWMF President & California Superior Court Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.)

Admitted to the District of Columbia Bar in November 1952, the State Bar of California in January 1954, and the New York State Bar in May 1955, Kopp was engaged as an associate in a downtown San Francisco law firm in December 1955 and opened his own office for the general practice of civil and criminal law on April 1, 1959. In November 1971, he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and reelected in 1975, 1977, 1980, and 1984. In 1986, he was elected to the California State Senate as the first non-incumbent Independent since 1876, representing the western part of San Francisco and northern San Mateo County. Reelected in 1990 and in 1994, Kopp became the first person reelected to the State Senate as an Independent in California's history.

On January 2, 1999, Kopp was sworn in as a judge of the San Mateo County Superior Court, serving as a general criminal and civil trial judge until 2010. Kopp also served as Chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (1982-1984), President of both the state and local junior bar associations, and on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Legal Aid Society and member of the American Bar Association House of Delegates. From 1982 until 1992, Kopp was a weekly radio talk show host on KGO-AM, and a weekly political commentator on KTVU-TV from 1992 until 1998. He is presently a Board of Directors member of the California First Amendment Coalition. He organized and was Chairman of the Bay Area Super Bowl Task Force, which brought Super Bowl 19 to Stanford Stadium in January 1985, and member of the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board from 2006 until 2011, serving as Chairman from 2006 until 2009. In 1998, Interstate Highway 380 in San Mateo County was renamed the "Quentin L. Kopp Freeway."

Together with former Korean War Memorial Foundation President Pete McCloskey, he is co author of "Guides to Professional Conduct for the New California Practitioner," published in 1961 by the State Bar of California. Judge Kopp is married to the former Mara Sikaters. His eldest child is Shepard S. Kopp, a Southern California criminal defense lawyer, second son Bradley J. Kopp is a paralegal with the San Francisco firm of Kerr & Wagstaffe, and his daughter Jennifer K. Putnam is Chief Executive Officer of the Napa Valley Grape Growers Association in Napa, California.

We all welcome Judge Kopp to his new position as President of KWMF.

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.

“Ship of Miracles” Story Brings Flood of Memories to Local Korean-American Donor



Joanna Kim-Selby

One reader was very touched by a story in our January-February, 2015 KWMF Newsletter.

Joanna Kim-Selby is Executive Director of the East Bay Korean-American Senior Services Center in Oakland, CA, and a generous KWMF donor. She recently read our story about the SS Meredith Victory, the “Ship of Miracles” that rescued 14,000 Korean civilians fleeing the Chinese Communist invasion. And when she saw the December, 1950 photo of the Korean refugees on the deck of that ship, she was moved to tears.

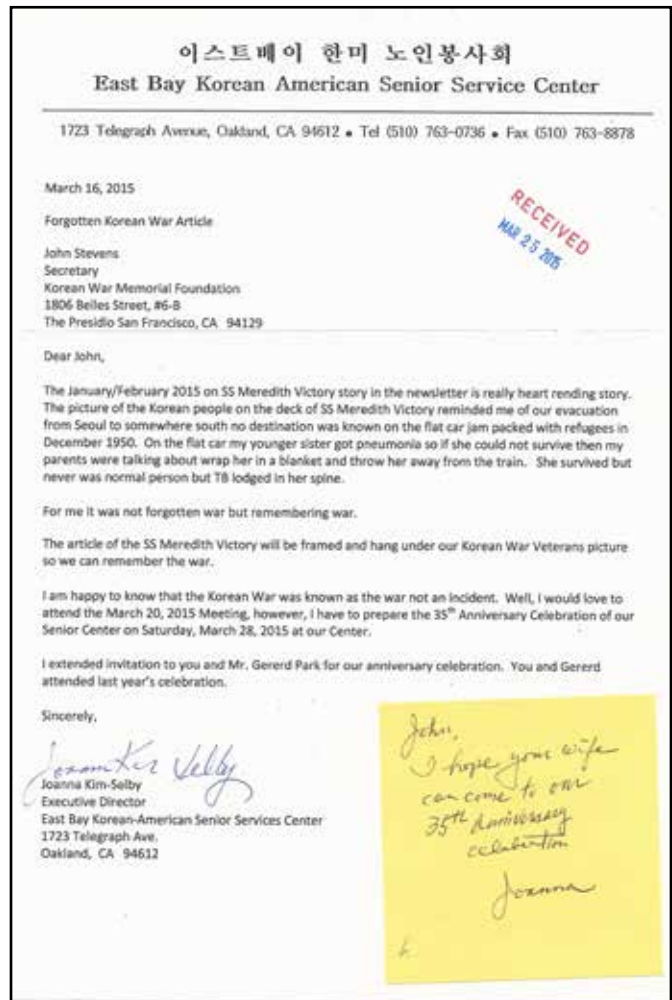


Korean refugees on the main deck of the SS Meredith Victory

The story and the photo brought back a flood of sixty-five-year-old memories about her own ordeal and that of her family during that same month of December, 1950. Joanna was 18 years old at the time, and had just started her studies at Ewha Women’s University in Seoul. As the invading Chinese Communist forces approached the city, Joanna and her family were forced to flee south to Busan. The only transportation available was an open flatcar on a train jammed with thousands of other refugees, all exposed to the harsh winter conditions.

Joanna huddled on the freezing flatcar with her parents, her 11-year-old brother, and her 9-year-old sister. Her baby sister came down with pneumonia en route, and later developed tuberculosis of the spine as a result of the cruel conditions. The family survived, but at a terrible price. This is why Joanna says that for her, this was not “The Forgotten War,” but “The Remembering War.” Joanna now devotes her time to providing loving care and social services for Korean-American seniors in Oakland and elsewhere in the East Bay.

After reading the story, Joanna posted it on the wall of her East Bay Korean-American Senior Services Center, and then wrote an emotional letter to KWMF Secretary John Stevens. Here is a copy of that letter:



Thank you, Joanna, for sharing your story with us at KWMF and with our readers.

Korean War Veteran, NFL Quarterback, and KWMF Board Member Emeritus Eddie LeBaron Passes Away

KWMF Board Member Emeritus Edward Wayne “Eddie” LeBaron, Jr., a Marine Corps combat veteran of the Korean War and an NFL star quarterback, died of natural causes on April 1, 2015 at the age of 85 in Stockton, California.

Eddie was born on January 7, 1930 in San Rafael, California. In 1946, he became a 16-year-old freshman quarterback under Coach Amos Alonzo Stagg at College (now University) of the Pacific in Stockton. He played all four years and achieved All-American honors in 1949 after leading the team to an undefeated 11-0 season. He was a two-way, 60-minute player – quarterback on offense, safety on defense, and punter on special teams. And despite his height of only 5’7”, he had no fear of scrambling.



2nd Lt Eddie LeBaron, USMC, 1950

Eddie was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1950 and was soon in the Korean War. He picked up the nickname “Littlest General” for his leadership skills. In the Battle of Heartbreak Ridge in 1951, Eddie left cover to attack an enemy mortar position. He was awarded the Bronze Star for valor and the Purple Heart for wounds received in that action.

When he returned to civilian life, the College Football Hall of Famer picked up where left off, as he began a stellar career in the National Football League. As quarterback for the Washington Redskins, he was the NFL’s Rookie of the Year in 1952. Over an 11-season run with Washington and later the Dallas Cowboys, he was selected four times for the Pro Bowl. He was the first starting quarterback for the new Dallas franchise.



Eddie as a Dallas Cowboy



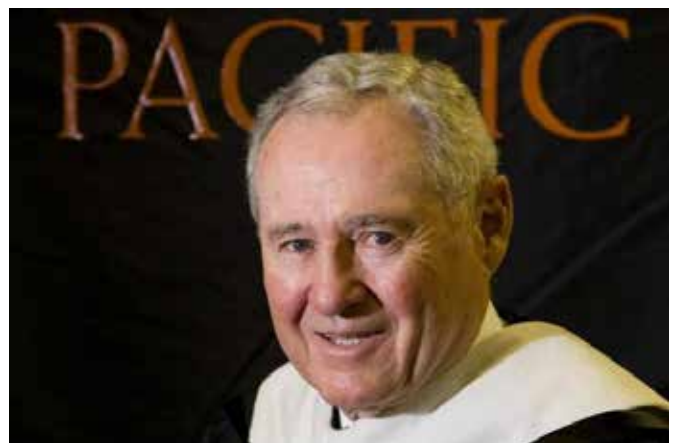
Eddie with an enormous defender about to descend upon him.
© Robert Riger/Getty Images



5’7” Eddie LeBaron with his 6’9” Washington Redskins Teammate Bob Hendren

After his NFL playing career, Eddie went on to become a CBS Sports announcer. He also practiced law and served as general manager of the Atlanta Falcons.

Semper Fidelis, Eddie. May you rest in peace.



Eddie in more recent years

A Brief Look Back at the Korean War

The Korean War (June 25, 1950 – July 27, 1953) was a war between South Korea and North Korea, in which a United Nations force led by the United States of America fought for the South, and the People's Republic of China with the support and assistance of the Soviet Union fought for the North. The war resulted from the arbitrary division of the Korean peninsula into two Koreas at the end of World War II, and from the global tensions of the Cold War that developed immediately afterwards. It was the first "proxy war" of the Cold War, in fact.

Korea was ruled by Japan from 1910 until the closing days of World War II. In August, 1945 the Soviet Union declared war on Japan and, by agreement with the United States, occupied Korea north of the 38th Parallel. U.S. forces subsequently occupied the south. By 1948, two separate governments had been set up. Both claimed to be the legitimate government of Korea, and neither accepted the border as permanent.

The conflict escalated into open warfare when North Korean forces, supported by the Soviet Union and China, invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950. On that day, the United Nations Security Council recognized this North Korean act as invasion, and called for an immediate ceasefire. On June 27, the Security Council adopted S/RES/83: Complaint of Aggression upon the Republic of Korea, and decided to authorize and dispatch a multinational U.N. force to Korea.

Twenty-one members of the United Nations contributed to the defense of South Korea, with the United States providing 88% of the total troop commitment. The following countries were part of the United Nations effort:

Combat Forces:

- Australia
- Belgium
- Canada
- Colombia
- Ethiopia
- France
- Greece
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Philippines

- South Africa
- Thailand
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- United States

Humanitarian Aid:

- Denmark
- India
- Italy
- Norway
- Sweden



Soldier Consoling Buddy, as Medic in Background Fills In Casualty Forms, Pusan Perimeter, August 28, 1950

In the first two months of the conflict, U.N. and South Korean forces, outnumbered, outgunned, and suffering heavy casualties, were forced back to a relatively small area on the southeast corner of the Korean peninsula that became known as the Pusan Perimeter. The U.N. and South Korean forces had their backs to the sea, and the situation was grim. The timely arrival of the 1st Marine Brigade in August was all that prevented the North Korean forces from pushing the UN forces into the sea.

On September 15, 1950, U.N. Forces Commander General Douglas MacArthur ordered U.S. Marines to spearhead an amphibious assault landing at Inchon on the west coast of the peninsula, behind the North Korean lines. The successful counter-offensive quickly led to the liberation of the capital city of Seoul, allowed the beleaguered U.N. forces to break out of the Pusan Perimeter, and cut off many of the North Korean invaders.



1st Marine Division Landing at Inchon, September 15, 1950

Those North Korean troops who escaped envelopment and capture or death were forced to retreat back north, all the way to the Yalu River at the Korea-China border, or into the mountainous interior. It appeared that the war would end soon, with a resounding victory for South Korea and the U.N. forces. But appearances were deceiving.



Marines Taking a Rare Break During the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, November, 1950

By late October, the harsh northern winter had set in, with temperatures well below zero. Undetected for the most part by the U.N. Command, hundreds of thousands of Chinese troops had poured across the frozen Yalu River in support of North Korea, and suddenly launched a massive attack at many points along the U.N. front. This marked another reversal of fortune for the once-again vastly outnumbered U.N. forces. The numerically superior Chinese rapidly pushed the United Nations forces back into South Korea, and the last two years of the war settled into stalemate interspersed with bloody attrition warfare.



Soldiers of the 7th Infantry Division, Pork Chop Hill, July, 1953

The fighting ended on July 27, 1953, when an armistice was signed. The agreement established a new border between the Koreas close to the previous one along the 38th Parallel, and created the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a 2.5-mile-wide fortified buffer zone. No formal peace treaty has ever been signed, and bellicose border incidents have continued up to the present day.

The war has been seen both as a civil war and as a proxy conflict in the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. While not directly committing forces to the conflict, the Soviet Union provided strategic planning, weapons, and material aid to both the North Korean and Chinese armies. From a military science perspec-



Korean Girl Refugee with Her Baby Brother in Front of an M-26 Tank, Haeng-ju, June 9, 1951

five, the Korean War was initially fought using the mobile operations and tactics of World War II. After the first year, however, the conflict settled down into a holding operation while an armistice was argued over; and the static tactics of World War I trench warfare became the norm for the last two years of the conflict. The war also saw the first combat between jet aircraft, such as the U.S.-built F-86 Sabre used by the U.N., and the Soviet-built MiG-15 used by the Chinese and North Koreans.

The death toll from the Korean War is appallingly high. The number of U.S. military deaths shown below is the official Pentagon figure, recently corrected and revised.

There is no consensus on the other figures. The principal statistical sources all seem confident of the accuracy of their numbers, but they all provide drastically different numbers. Each of the figures other than those of the U.S., therefore, is an estimate, a median taken from several sources. These include the Republic of Korea Defense Ministry, the Encyclopedia Britannica, the Encyclopedia Americana, the Dictionary of 20th Century World History, Wikipedia, and other sources.

United States Military:	36,914
(33,651 killed in action, 3,262 non-combat deaths)	
South Korean Military:	113,248
Other U.N. Military:	2,768
North Korean Military:	316,579
Chinese Military:	460,000
Total Military Deaths:	929,499

South Korean Civilian:	547,000
North Korean Civilian:	1,185,000
Total Civilian Deaths:	1,732,000

TOTAL DEATHS: 2,661,499

Joseph Stalin once infamously commented that the death of one person is a tragedy, but the death of one million is a statistic. However, every one of these estimated 2,661,499 deaths was once a life, and is a tragedy.

In the years since the war, the South has become the democratic and prosperous Republic of Korea, and is now one of the United States' closest allies and trading partners, while the North is now one of the few surviving Communist dictatorships, and one of the most repressive and isolated regimes in the world. And the old tensions, unfortunately, are still with us today.



Major General O.P. Smith, USMC, U.S. Cemetery, Hungnam, December, 1950



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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