

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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NEWSLETTER

July–September 2018

The Third Annual Korean Exchange Students and Korean War Veterans Luncheon



Monday, August 13, 2018 marked a memorable meeting of past and present in San Francisco. It was a communion of two generations, separated by seventy years in age—not to mention language, culture, and geography—but linked together by a shared history of devastation and

renewal, and a shared hope for future peace.

Six aging Korean War veterans met for lunch with twenty young Korean college students. The seventeen young women and three young men are here as part of an exchange pro-

gram coordinated by the Bay Area’s BGI (Berkeley Global Institute).

BGI President Unee Kim commented, “We want to offer these students a very special opportunity to meet and bond with some of the Americans who fought for Korea’s freedom

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more than sixty-five years ago, so that we all might better understand and appreciate the flow of history and the common values that bind us together.” The luncheon was hosted by prominent Bay Area restaurateur and KWMF Vice President Man J. Kim at his Golden Gate Grill restaurant. Man J. has generously supported this event for the past three years.

This juxtaposition of American eighty- and ninety-year-olds socializing with Korean teenagers would no doubt appear most unusual to an outside observer. But for the participants, after an initial awkwardness, it soon became as natural as breathing. Each table of students hosted one guest veteran. The vets shared their memories with the students, and inquired about the students’ lives in today’s prosperous Republic of Korea, so different from the Korea the vets knew so long ago. And the students responded with interest and enthusiasm, eager to know what 1950s Korea was like for the veterans when they were as young as the students are today. Soon the barriers of age, language, and culture seemed irrelevant, and the two generations embraced their common humanity. The following photos capture some moments from the luncheon.



From left: Richard Friedman, Frank Mendez, John Stevens, Don Reid, Wally Stewart, and Herrell Brown



BGI Consultant Mun Choi, KWMF Vice President Man J. Kim, & BGI President Unee Kim, in a photo from last year’s event



John Stevens



A student listens intently to Frank Mendez



Wally Stewart



Don Reid



Herrell Brown

After the meal, the students put on an impromptu musical performance, singing both Korean and American songs for the veterans. The program included the beloved Korean folk song “Arirang,” a favorite of practically every American who served in Korea.

For the students, the event had definitely led to some bonding, as BGI President Unee Kim had hoped. But for the veterans, there was also an element of healing. It was as if these young Koreans



The students singing



Musician Hoon Kim performed as well

represented something good and important that had come out of the horrors of that long ago, faraway war, something that made their sacrifices worthwhile. The vets seemed reluctant to see the day come to an end. One of them asked, “When can we do this again?”



Don Reid and new friend



Richard Friedman and new friend

Good News: 72 Additional Commemorative Tiles Approved for Installation at the Memorial

Attention all Korean War veterans and families . . .

For those of you who wanted to sponsor a commemorative tile at the Korean War Memorial, but learned that no more were available, we have some good news. The Presidio Trust has authorized KWMF to accept requests for 72 additional 4 by 8 inch tiles, to be mounted on one final wall panel at the Memorial.

Please note the following:

1. These 72 tiles will be the last that will ever be added to the Memorial. Once they have been installed, there will be no further construction or additions.
2. The tiles are being offered only to Korean War veterans or to families wishing to honor a close relative who served in the Korean War and has not already been recognized at the Memorial.
3. The Presidio Trust will review and approve the wording on all proposed tiles.
4. KWMF must confirm reservations for all 72 tiles before the Presidio Trust will allow installation to proceed. If we fall short of the total, there will be no additional tiles: either 72 tiles or none.
5. Each tile requires a donation of \$500 or more, to offset admin, fabrication, and installation costs. No donations made prior to this time may be used for one of these tiles.
6. Requests for tiles are being accepted now on a first-come, first-served basis.
7. You may make a reservation now, without making any donation. We will then contact you when we have reached 72 reservations, and ask you to submit your donation at that time.

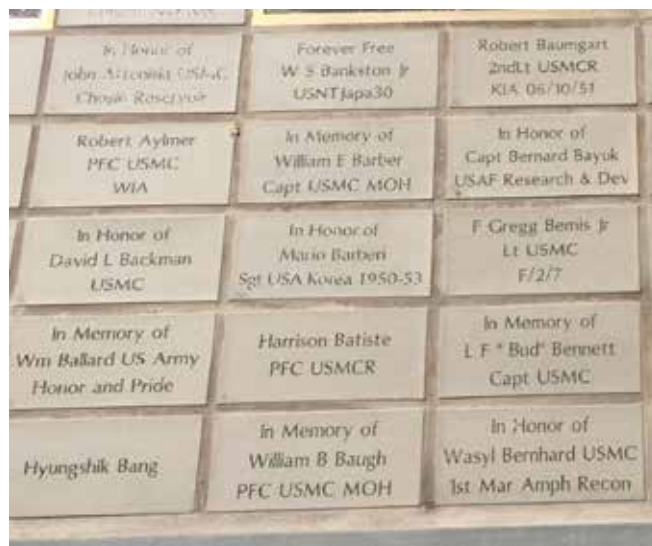


If you would like to reserve a tile and submit your text for approval, please contact:

Christopher Lee ("Chris") Moore
Office Manager
clmoore@kwmf.org
(415) 817-1858

Chris will provide you with additional details on number of inscribed lines, number of characters and spaces per line, and any additional information you require. Please see the photo below for examples of the tile inscriptions.

We encourage you to act soon, because this will be your last opportunity to honor a loved one with a commemorative tile at the Korean War Memorial.



Profile of a Local Korean War Veteran: Richard Friedman

Richard “Pops” Friedman is a native of San Francisco, born at Mt. Zion Hospital on January 28, 1933 to Fay and Eddie Friedman. He attended San Francisco public schools, and graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1951. He was a member of the All-City football team, and was elected to the Lincoln High Athletic Hall of Fame.

In 1952 he volunteered for the U.S. Army and completed boot camp at Fort Ord, California. Upon graduation, he was assigned the specialty of rifleman, and attached to the 9th Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division. He landed at Inchon, Korea in the fall of 1952.



Sergeant Richard Friedman, 9th Infantry Regiment (right), with close friend Pak Hi Mo, ROK Army, on the front lines, January, 1953

His first exposure to combat was at the age of 19. Richard recalls “I remember endless mountains that were steep and hard to climb, especially when carrying a 57 millimeter recoilless rifle. I remember nights on

ambush patrols and listening posts, living outside or in freezing holes in the ground; moments of sheer terror from the combat experiences; great fear, hearing and seeing the enemy in combat situations and being mighty proud to have served my country.”

Richard served with companions from all walks of life and all over the map: from Alabama, Arkansas, New York, Australia, Thailand, Holland, England, and of course, Korea. He eventually rose to the rank of sergeant first class, and became the top sergeant of G Company. Combat actions where Richard served include Little Gibraltar, Heartbreak Ridge, the Iron Triangle, and Papason (Hill 1062). He was on Papason when the armistice was signed on July 27, 1953, bringing an end to the hostilities.

With the war over, Richard rotated out of Korea in January, 1954, and three months later he entered the

U.S. Army Reserve Infantry of the Sixth Army. The medals Richard received for his combat service include the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.



Korean Service Medal
with 2 Bronze Service Stars

Today Richard is happily married, has ten grandchildren, and volunteers as a teacher at Tule Elk Park Early Education School. Richard added, “I couldn’t be prouder of my son, Gunnery Sergeant Brian David Friedman, USMC, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.”



Richard with his son, Gunnery Sergeant Brian David Friedman, USMC, and his seven-year-old grandson in more recent, more peaceful days.

You haven't been to the Memorial yet? Now's the perfect time for a visit.

Since the Korean War Memorial opened in August, 2016, thousands of Korean War families, donors, and supporters have paid a visit, many on multiple occasions. But it's surprising how many others have never made the pilgrimage even once yet. If you're among the latter group, we encourage you to come see the Memorial now. We're confident that you'll find your visit to be a moving experience, especially on a quiet fall morning, when you may well have the Memorial all to yourself for a special moment of remembrance and reflection.

Take advantage of this national treasure right here in San Francisco. We built it for you. Come visit soon. You'll be glad you did.



The Memorial Entrance (Photo by Charity Vargas, Presidio Trust)

If you've already visited the Memorial, we'd love to know what your experience was like, how your visit affected you. Please email your comments to Gerard Parker, KWMF Executive Director, at gerardvparker@gmail.com. We'll soon be posting visitors' comments on a new page on our website. Thanks for your help with this new project.



Two veterans share a memory at the Memorial wall (Photo by Wayne Freedman, ABC7 TV News)



Korean War veteran Ted Chenoweth remembers a fallen brother in arms (Photo by Gerard Parker, KWMF)



**Coming on November 17:
Free Concert for All Korean War Veterans and Their Guests**



The poster features the title "San Francisco Master Chorale" in a gold script font at the top. Below it, the Korean text "샌프란시스코 매스터코랄" and "29th Annual Concert Since 1989" are displayed. On the left, a photograph shows the choir performing in a grand hall. On the right, two circular portraits of Hyun Kim and Young Sil Ahn are shown, with their names and titles (Music Director and Pianist) listed below. The concert date "November 17th, 2018 Saturday 7pm" and the venue "Herbst Theater in San Francisco" are also included. A small caption at the bottom left of the photo reads "샌프란시스코 매스터코랄 2003 제100주년 기념 음악회-Olavus Symphony Hall".

**NOTE: Admission is free of charge for Korean War veterans and their guests.
However, you must preregister.**

**Visit this website to reserve your seats: www.TinyURL.com/San-FranciscoMasterChorale
(If you do not use a computer, phone Jass Kang at (415) 819-2587 to reserve your seats.)**

**Thank you, Lighthouse
Worldwide Solutions**

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



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