



# KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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## Newsletter May/June 2014

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### Los Altos Hills Fundraiser Lifts KWMF Over the \$1.6 Million Mark

**Los Altos Hills, CA, May 18, 2014:** On a balmy Saturday evening, prominent Bay Area philanthropists Stephen and Maria Kahng hosted a gala fundraiser in their Los Altos Hills home to benefit the Korean War Memorial Foundation (KWMF). The Kahngs themselves donated \$100,000 to KWMF at the fundraiser, and their guests donated an additional \$74,000-plus. Thanks to this generosity, KWMF's funding has now surpassed \$1.6 million, a major milestone in the fundraising campaign. It is anticipated that this total will soon reach another milestone, thanks to a pending Korean Government grant of as much as \$1 million. At that point, KWMF will be more than two-thirds of the way to its ultimate target of \$3.4 million.



Philanthropists Maria and Stephen Kahng

Former Congressman and Korean War veteran Pete McCloskey, President of KWMF, thanked the guests for their generosity. He put the project into historical and moral context, recounting the sacrifices made more than sixty years ago by those who fought for South Korea's freedom from Communist aggression – sacrifices that have led to today's democratic and prosperous Republic of Korea. He then emphasized the need to commemorate those sacrifices for posterity with a Korean War Memorial in the Bay Area.

Following Pete's introductory remarks, KWMF Secretary John Stevens and Treasurer Don Reid, both Korean War veterans, narrated a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation that covered all aspects of KWMF's progress to date and plans for the coming months. John and Don then responded to questions from the guests, and thanked them all for their contributions to the Memorial.

The Honorable Consul General Han Dong-man, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, San Francisco, spoke next. He informed the guests of his Government's strong commitment to this Memorial project, thanked the Kahngs for their hospitality, and thanked all the guests for their generosity.

A sumptuous Korean buffet dinner came next, followed by a lovely performance by a string quartet. The officers, directors, and members of the Korean War Memorial Foundation all extend their deep gratitude to Stephen and Maria Kahng and their guests for their generous philanthropy, and for a memorable evening.

Mr. Kahng, the Founder and former Chairman and CEO of Power Computing Corp., now devotes most of his time to philanthropy and non-profit work. He is currently on the Boards of the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea. Stephen and Maria have also established, through their own Kahng Foundation, a university scholarship fund for North Korean women who have managed to flee to the South.

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# San Jose, CA Dentist Offers FREE Dental Services to Korean War Vets



From L to R: Dr. Jonathan H. Kim, DDS, KWMF Secretary John Stevens, Korean Consul General Han Dong-man, and Soon Kim, Dr. Kim's sister

Dr. Jonathan H. Kim, D.D.S. of San Jose, CA is offering, for a limited time, free dental services for veterans of the Korean War. Dr. Kim, who has also generously donated \$10,000 directly to the Korean War Memorial Foundation, explains the offer in his own words:

“A lot of people know the Korean War as a forgotten victory, but every citizen of Korea remembers and appreciates those who have fought for our freedom. Thanks to the more than 1.7 million Americans who served in Korea during the War, the country has developed a stable, democratic government and become a prosperous nation.

To salute the bravery, courage, honor and commitment of those who fought, bled and paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Korean War, Jin Duck & Kyung Sik Kim Foundation / Jonathan H. Kim, D.D.S., Inc is offering a free comprehensive oral exam, a full set of x-rays, and teeth cleaning to Korean War veterans. In addition, to fifty selected

Korean War veterans, we will give you free partial or full denture, absolutely FREE! We understand that there are many veterans who cannot afford dentures as the cost involved in buying new dentures is very high. Those fifty veterans who are selected will receive free partial or full dentures (\$4,800 for top and bottom) from a denture specialist (prosthodontist), a total value of \$240,000.

Korean War veterans stepped forward to serve at a defining time in our history, and they deserve our thanks. We owe you a debt we can never repay. No war should ever be forgotten and no veterans should ever be overlooked. We will commit ourselves to continue to protect and promote our freedom and happiness and say to each of you a heartfelt thank you.

Thank you for being a shining example of what a hero is!

Sincerely,  
Jonathan H. Kim, D.D.S.”

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1725 Berryessa Road, Suite B, San Jose, CA 95133, 408 259 2900  
[www.drjkim.com/Free\\_Dentures\\_for\\_Korean\\_War\\_Veterans.asp](http://www.drjkim.com/Free_Dentures_for_Korean_War_Veterans.asp)

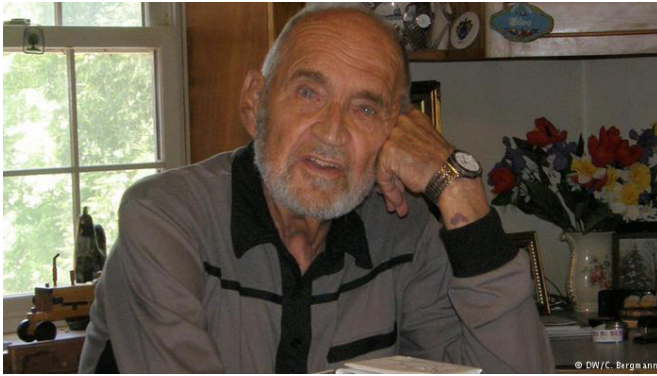
## NOTE:

1. This offer is good until November 30, 2014.
2. This offer is for veterans of the Korean War only.
3. To make an appointment, phone 408 259 2900 and say that you are a Korean War veteran.
4. When you come for your appointment, please bring a photo ID and a copy of your DD-214 or its equivalent as proof of service in the Korean War.

## Minutes of the Second Annual KWMF Members' Meeting

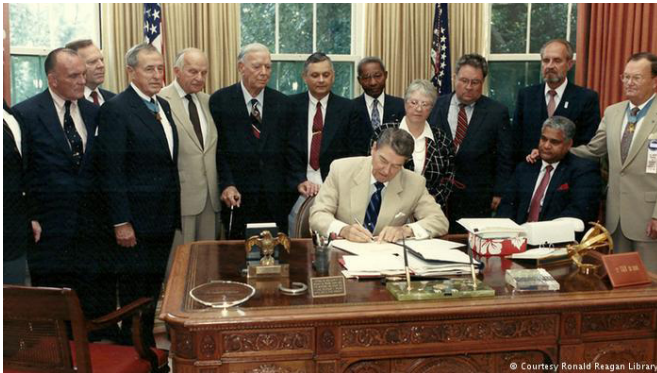
1. The Korean War Memorial Foundation (KWMF) Members and Officers met at 2:00 pm on April 14, 2014 at the Golden Gate Grill Restaurant, 449 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA.
2. Vice President Man J. Kim, in the absence of President Pete McCloskey, called the meeting to order.
3. Secretary John Stevens verified that there was a quorum.
4. Officers, staff, and members introduced themselves.
5. Executive Director Gerard Parker reported on the status of the design and construction stages of the project, and distributed preliminary artist's representations of the future Memorial.
6. Secretary Stevens reported that about \$1.4 million in funds had been raised in cash and pledges to date, and that KWMF had submitted the grant request to the Republic of Korea Government.
7. Treasurer Donald Reid reported that there was \$944,661 in the KWMF bank account as of that date. He is ensuring that all monies will be covered by the FDIC.
8. Treasurer Reid also reported that KWMF will be engaging two fundraisers who will work on a commission-only basis. One will focus on Korean and the other on U.S. corporations and foundations.
9. The following resolutions were unanimously approved:
  - A. RESOLVED: That the members of the KWMF elect Major General Daniel Helix, USA (Ret.) as an additional member of the KWMF Board of Directors for a two-year term. Motion made by Secretary Stevens and seconded by Treasurer Reid.
  - B. RESOLVED: That the members of the KWMF elect Rear Admiral Russell Gorman, USN (Ret.) as KWMF Board Member Emeritus. Motion made by Secretary Stevens and seconded by Treasurer Reid.
  - C. RESOLVED: That the members elect John Y. Lee, Attorney at Law, as Advisor to the Board of Directors. Motion made by Secretary Stevens and seconded by Treasurer Reid.
  - D. RESOLVED: That the actions taken by the KWMF Board of Directors at their December 13, 2013 Board Meeting be approved. Motion made by Secretary Stevens and seconded by Treasurer Reid.
10. The date for the next KWMF Members' Meeting is to be announced.

# Decorated Korean War Veteran Fights One More Battle



Colonel William E. Weber, USA (Ret)

Colonel William E. Weber, USA (Ret), a highly decorated Korean War veteran, is now fighting another battle – this time not against an armed, determined enemy, but against Federal government gridlock and apathy. In 1987, Colonel Weber was appointed by President Reagan to the Advisory Board that oversaw the design and construction of the renowned Korean War Veterans Memorial on the Mall in Washington, DC. One of the 19 stainless steel statues actually bears his facial features.



Col Weber (standing, 2nd from R) with President Reagan, 1987

Colonel Weber now serves as Chairman of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, and he's a man with a mission. For several years now, he has been fighting to get HR-318 enacted. This proposed bill calls for a Wall of Remembrance to augment the Pool of Remembrance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. The Wall would memorialize the names of the KIA and the numbers of the WIA and POW for posterity, in keeping with the spirit of PL 99-572, the original legislation that authorized the Memorial.

You can help Colonel Weber accomplish his mission. Full details on this struggle spearheaded by Colonel Weber – and on how you can help – may be found at <http://www.koreanwarvetsememorial.org>. When you get to the website, click on the **Wall of Remembrance** link in the upper right corner of the page. Then urge your Congressional Representative to become a co-sponsor of HR-218 ASAP.

Colonel Weber's distinguished military career began when he enlisted in the U.S. Army on February 25, 1943 and was assigned to the 11th Airborne Division. He was selected for OCS and after receiving his commission he rejoined the 11th, where he served in the Pacific Theater through the end of the war and in the occupation of Japan. When the Korean War broke out, he was deployed to Korea in August, 1950 with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. He was first wounded in September, 1950 while attached to the 1st Marine Division in the battle for Seoul, and subsequently promoted to Captain in December, 1950 and assigned as CO of K Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th ARCT. In February, 1951, during the battle for Wonju, he was seriously wounded and evacuated to the States.



1st Lieutenant Weber prior to his wounding at Wonju, Korea

Following a long hospitalization, and despite having lost a leg and part of an arm, he was retained on active duty and served in a number of positions at Fort Benning, in Europe, and at HQ, Department of the Army. He retired as a Colonel in October, 1980, after more than 37 years of service. His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Bronze Star with V, Legion of Merit with Palm, Purple Heart with 2 Palms, and Army Commendation Medal with Palm.

## Attention, Korean War Vets: There's Still Time to RSVP for the FREE Appreciation Dinner on June 25

Even though we've passed the official deadline for making reservations for the Annual Korean War Veterans' Appreciation Dinner, there are still a few openings left, and they'll be allocated on a first-come, first served basis. So if you haven't done so yet, join us!

- The dinner is **free of charge** for any Korean War veteran and guest.
- It will begin at **6:00 pm on Wednesday, June 25, 2014**, at the **Golden Gate Grill**, 449 Powell Street, 3rd Floor, San Francisco.
- **RSVP to Gerard Parker, 415 750 3862, [gvparker@kwvmf.org](mailto:gvparker@kwvmf.org)**



# Remains of PFC James R. Holmes, U.S. Army Come Home after 64 Years

*Thursday, May 29, 2014, Arlington National Cemetery:* The remains of U.S. Army PFC John R. Holmes of Warren, Ohio were finally laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors, nearly 64 years after his death. His brother Clifford Holmes of Warren, Ohio and his sister Martha Jane Price of Northridge, California attended the ceremony.



Arlington National Cemetery

In November, 1950, PFC Holmes, 18, was serving with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, as it was pushing north to the Yalu River. The unit was overwhelmed by attacking Chinese Communist forces, and withdrew south to Anju. On December 1, Holmes was declared MIA. In 1953, U.S. prisoners released in a prisoner exchange named Operation Big Switch reported that Holmes has been captured by the Chinese and taken to POW Camp 5, near Pyoktong, North Korea, where he died in 1951.

In the early 1990s, North Korea gave the U.S. Government a number of boxes containing the remains of between 350 and 400 U.S. servicemen who fought in the war. Documents accompanying the remains indicated that some came from the Pyoktong area. Subsequent testing by scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory matched Holmes's mitochondrial DNA with that of his brother and sister.

Today, 7,883 Americans who fought in the Korean War are still unaccounted for. Thanks to scientific and technological advances, however, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously turned over by North Korea, or else recovered from North Korea by U.S. teams.

# New "Snapshots from the War" Page on KWMF Website



Fire Team, A Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, Winter, 1952, Korea. From left: Mel Ocen, AL; Fred Hanle, Clifton, NJ; George Donnelly, Fall River, MA; and William Odion, CA

KWMF has launched a new website page, "Snapshots from the War". It features photos of Korean War veterans taken in Korea during the war and recently submitted to us by the veterans themselves. Here is a link to the page: <http://kwmf.org/snapshots/>

If you are a Korean War vet and would like to post a photo or two of yourself or your brothers in arms here, please send them to us with your full name, rank, unit, and branch of service, as well as the date (at least the year) and place where the photo was taken. If you also want to include a recent photo of yourself, we'll post a "Then and Now" sequence.

- If possible, please email digital versions of your photos with the information for the captions to [gvparker@kwmf.org](mailto:gvparker@kwmf.org).

- If all you have are "hard copy" prints, please mail them to:  
Gerard Parker

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

- If sending by mail, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope so that we can return the prints to you once we've made digital copies for the website. Thank you.



Standing, center: 2nd Lt Pete McCloskey, C Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, with his 1st Platoon command group, May, 1951, Korea



# SS Jeremiah O'Brien Memorial Weekend Cruise: A Big Hit for All Those Aboard

*(Story submitted by the staff of the S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien. Cruise photos courtesy of Allan Grinberg)*



The SS Jeremiah O'Brien

**Saturday, May 24, 2014, San Francisco Bay:** World War II and Korean War veterans were treated to a complimentary 4-hour cruise on the San Francisco Bay on board the SS Jeremiah O'Brien, starting with donuts and coffee when they first boarded. The weather could not have been more perfect: a soft breeze and sunny skies matched the upbeat mood of the Big Band of Rossmoor, directed by Maurice "Mo" Levich, as they entertained the 800 or so passengers with patriotic tunes.



The Color Guard

The Scottish-American Military Society Honor Guard presented colors, opening the O'Brien's traditional ceremony of laying memorial Hawaiian leis upon the waters outside the Golden Gate Bridge in honor of those who have served their country. The Big Band of Rossmoor concluded the ceremony with "The Navy Hymn" and "Taps."



Under the Golden Gate Bridge



The Big Band of Rossmoor

A picnic lunch of hot dogs and chips was topped off with San Francisco's famous It's It ice cream. But the best part of the day was meeting and talking with many of the 70 or so Korean War veterans who shared their personal stories with us. Several veterans recalled being sent overseas on a troop ship, but weren't always sure if it was a Liberty ship or Victory ship, as both classes served well into the 1950s and are very similar. Several veterans made it down to the engine room to marvel at the triple-expansion steam engine while underway.



The Engine Room

All of us at the O'Brien thoroughly enjoyed having so many wonderful veterans and their friends and families join us for a beautiful day on the Bay. If you missed this cruise, the O'Brien will be out on San Francisco Bay again in honor of Fleet Week, sailing both Saturday and Sunday, October 11th and 12th. If you're interested, please call (415) 544-0100 for tickets, or visit our website at [www.ssjeremiaho-brien.org](http://www.ssjeremiaho-brien.org) to order online.

The SS Jeremiah O'Brien, named after a ship's captain in the American Revolution, is a Liberty Ship, a 441-foot veteran of the Normandy Invasion. Fully restored and maintained in her original condition, and operated by an all-volunteer crew, she is as functional today as when she served as a key component of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Bridge of Ships" in WWII.

# American: By Choice, Not by Chance

By Jun Carson, Ph.D

**NOTE: The following was written by Jun Carson, Ph.D, a Korean woman who was born in Japan before returning to Korea with her mother, where she worked as an elementary school teacher and then an assistant to a member of the Republic of Korea Assembly. She emigrated to the United States in 1976, and worked at many jobs to make ends meet, including factory worker at FMC, where she built Bradley armored personnel carriers. She subsequently founded the Silicon Valley Korean Writers Group, earned a Ph.D, and has written four books of fiction. She has a daughter who is a CPA and a son who is a doctor.**



I am an American citizen by choice not by chance. When I came to this country, I had nothing, could not speak English and was completely out of my cultural element. My immigration thrust me into a culture that I did not understand. At first it was very hard for me. There was no one I could talk to and no one to help me. As time wore on, I began to interact with these American people and found them to be kind, understanding and helpful. This is a country where it is easy to survive and make a living. If a person is not lazy, is willing to work, and is reasonably intelligent, there is no limit to what she or he can accomplish.

At first I worked at minimal pay jobs. One job was not enough to pay the rent, buy food and pay expenses. So I followed the logical course and worked several jobs at the same time. Working several jobs, I was able to pay my expenses and save a little money. This was very exhausting and I had no time for anything else. I had to find a job that paid more with fewer hours. I was willing to do any kind of honest work.

Almost by accident I met an executive of FMC in an elevator. I rode the elevator several times trying to communicate with him by sign language or whatever method I could. Finally he understood that I was looking for a job and was a very willing and hard worker. He sent me to the employment office at FMC. They gave me a 5-page application. It had words on both sides, none of which I could read. I was almost crying when the executive came in. He told the clerk to waive the application or fill it out for me. He said what they needed was good workers and he was sure that I would be a good worker. The pay was almost beyond belief. I was determined to do the best job I could

and never betray his confidence. I worked for several years at a hard job that was considered dangerous. It paid the bills and allowed me to save more money.

In my memory, there are two indelible lessons this country taught me: (1) Do it yourself, and (2) It is never too late to learn. As time went on, I met more and more nice Americans who always seemed to be willing to help me. God bless this lovely country and all the nice people who live here. I have succeeded beyond my wildest dreams. In my old age, I hope to be the best citizen that I can and to return some of the kindness to the people who were so kind to me.

## Thank you, Lighthouse Worldwide Solutions

The Korean War Memorial Foundation wishes to thank the people at Lighthouse Worldwide Solutions in Fremont, CA — <http://www.golighthouse.com> — for their generosity in underwriting the costs of printing and mailing this newsletter.

## 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/>



# Korean War Vet Who Invented G.I. Joe Action Figure Dies at 86

© *Associated Press, May 25, 2014*: Korean War veteran Donald Levine, the Hasbro executive credited as being the father of the G.I. Joe toy, died Thursday, May 22, at a hospice facility in Providence, R.I. He was 86. As Hasbro's head of research and development, Mr. Levine shepherded the industry's first action figure through design and development. He and his team came up with an 11½-inch articulated figure with 21 moving parts.

Because the company's employees included many military veterans, it was decided to outfit the toy in the uniforms of the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force, with such accessories as guns, helmets and vehicles. Mr. Levine, who served in the Army in Korea, said he got the idea for the movable figure as a way to honor veterans.

G.I. Joe hit the shelves in time for the 1964 Christmas shopping season. At \$4 apiece, it soon became a big seller, and remained popular until the late 1960s. During the 1970s, G.I. Joes featured "lifelike hair" and "kung-fu grip" and were outfitted with scuba gear to save the oceans and explorer's clothing for discovering mummies.



Donald Levine in 2003 with his Scuba Model G.I. Joe

Over the decades, G.I. Joe has spawned comic books, cartoons, two movies starring Channing Tatum, and a G.I. Joe Collector's Club and annual convention. Mr. Levine's survivors include Nan Levine, his wife of 59 years, three children and four grandchildren.

## 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](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.



# KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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