



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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Newsletter September/October 2014

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The Korean War Memorial Fundraising Campaign: A Status Report and a Plea for Support

Our fundraising target to complete the Korean War Memorial is \$3.5 million. Back in the spring of 2013, when we first began fundraising in earnest, we had raised barely \$200,000. Now, thanks to the generosity of our corporate, foundation, and individual donors, our total raised has increased to approximately \$2.1 million.

That amount, together with the \$1 million grant we expect to receive from the Korean Government in early 2015, will put us at \$3.1 million. This, however, is still \$400,000 short of our total needs. So even though we've come a long way, we still have a way to go to complete our mission. And the prevailing wisdom in fundraising circles is that the final funds required are often the most difficult to raise.

To make matters worse, our challenge is not just one of money, but also one of time. If we do not succeed in raising the final \$400,000 we need by December 31, we may not be able to begin major construction in 2015 -- and that could put us in jeopardy of losing the Korean \$1 million grant. This would of course be a major setback in our campaign, one that we must prevent at all costs. With that in mind, we are now making one final push to get the final \$400,000 we require, and to get this Memorial built.

This is why we are now making an open plea for your support. If you have been considering making a donation but haven't done so yet, now is the time. If you are already a donor, please consider donating again and becoming a repeat donor, as many others have done.



Proposed design of Korean War Memorial
Pending final approval by the Presidio Trust

We also encourage you to consider making KWMF part of your legacy plan, whether by making a bequest in your will or trust, a life income gift, or simply by naming KWMF as a beneficiary of an account or insurance policy. This donation will be used to help cover the costs of long-term maintenance of the Memorial site. And you will receive prominent recognition as a member of the Korean War Memorial Legacy Circle.

Finally, we welcome your suggestions or referrals regarding any individual, corporation, or foundation you feel might be willing to help us reach our goal. Our greatest fundraising successes have been the result of "somebody who knows somebody" opening a door for us.

Please contact us and we'll follow up right away.

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

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81-Year-Old Korean War Vet and Grandson Raise Funds for Korean War Memorial in Alcatraz Swim

On Sunday morning, September 14, youthful 81-year-old Wallace T. “Wally” Stewart, a Marine Corps combat veteran of the Korean War, plunged into the chill waters of San Francisco Bay. Wally was participating, together with his grandson Tom Farrar and 901 other swimmers, in the 19th Annual Alcatraz Invitational Swim. This popular 1.25 mile, open-water event, presented by San Francisco’s South End Rowing Club, began at a point abeam Alcatraz Island and finished at the foot of the Hyde Street Pier.



Wally suiting up for the swim

Several days before the swim, Wally had put out a request that people make a donation to the Korean War Memorial in support of his effort. He felt that this would be an appropriate gesture because the following day, September 15, was the 64th anniversary of the Marines’ historic Inchon Landing in 1950, a crucial turning point in the Korean War. Wally’s request resulted in an exceptionally enthusiastic response, with thousands of dollars in donations received by the Foundation in a matter of days.



Swimmers heading for the finish line, with Alcatraz in the background on the right

Wally had completed the Alcatraz Invitational Swim five times between 1970 and 1990, and has also swum the Golden Gate four times. He got back in the water this year because his grandson Tom Farrar had invited him to make it a family affair. They were also celebrating Tom’s 40th birthday. Tom’s friend Nick Abramczyk also decided to get in on the fun. All three finished the race in very respectable times: Tom in 50 minutes 39 seconds, Nick in 60 minutes 55 seconds, and octogenarian Wally in 67 minutes 41 seconds – first in his age group! All three plan to be back in the water next year for the 20th Annual Alcatraz Invitational Swim.



Wally Stewart, Tom Farrar, and Nick Abramczyk with their newly-earned medals

Wally currently lives in Sonoma County, but was a San Francisco resident for many years. After graduating from Abraham Lincoln High School, he joined the Marine Corps and fought in the Korean War. Following his discharge from the Corps, he received his undergraduate degree from San Francisco State and his graduate degree from Stanford. He then commenced a teaching career at several San Francisco schools, including Lowell High School and Wallenberg Traditional High School. Among those who donated on Wally’s behalf is one of his former students at Wallenberg. She commented,

“I’m donating because I’d like to thank Wally for making a difference in my life when he wrote my college letter of recommendation. I received a “D” in his trigonometry class, but surprisingly made it through grad school thanks to his help and encouragement.”

All of us at KWMF would like to thank Wally for his fundraising assistance, and commend him for his athletic achievement.

Photos courtesy of Carolyn Carswell

Attention Combat Veterans: Here's A Free Opportunity To Ensure That Your Experiences Are Memorialized for Future Generations



Preserve. Honor. Educate.

- Do you have a story to tell about your combat experiences?
- Would you like the opportunity to ensure that your story is remembered long after you're gone?
- Would you like a free video DVD of your interview for your family?

The Witness to War Foundation – www.WitnesstoWar.org -- offers you that opportunity. Founded in 2002 by Atlanta entrepreneur Tom Beaty, Witness to War has interviewed over 1,300 veterans and combat theater civilians. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the oral histories of combat veterans. It was founded in an attempt to answer the unanswerable: What was it like to be there?



Bob Patrick, Director, Veterans History Project, Library of Congress; Tom Beaty, Founder, Witness to War Foundation; and Emily Carley, Director, Witness to War Foundation

Here's how it works. A Witness to War Foundation representative interviews you as you tell your story, and the interview is recorded on video. Afterwards, you receive three DVD copies of your own full-length oral history to keep, and to pass on to your children and grandchildren. There is no cost whatsoever to you. Your interview may also be edited and posted on the Witness to War website, www.WitnesstoWar.org. And ultimately, if you wish, your oral history can be donated to the Library of Congress Veterans History Project and other non-profit historical preservation organizations.

If you are a combat veteran of any U.S. war from World War II to Afghanistan and would like to tell your story and see that it's remembered, please let us know:

Combat Veterans from the Bay Area:

The Witness to War Foundation will be sending an interview/video team to San Francisco in November or December for two days of interviews. The exact dates have not yet been determined, but will be announced once they have confirmed a minimum of ten veterans seeking to be interviewed. The Korean War Memorial Foundation has offered to assist them in identifying interested parties.

If you are a combat veteran and would like to be interviewed in the San Francisco Bay Area, please contact:

Gerard Parker
Executive Director, Korean War Memorial Foundation
gvparker@kwmf.org
415 750 3862
www.kwmf.org

Combat Veterans from Elsewhere in the U.S:

If you are from outside the Bay Area, please contact:

Emily Carley
Director, Witness to War Foundation
Emily@witnessstowar.org
770 481 3018
www.WitnesstoWar.org

Coming in November: FREE Showings of Award- Winning Korean War Film

The Contra Costa County, California Library is hosting two screenings of CHOSIN, an award-winning documentary about one of the epic and legendary battles of the Korean War. The first screening will take place at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, November 11 at the El Campanil Theatre, 602 W. 2nd Street, Antioch; and the second screening will take place at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, November 12 at the Orinda Theatre, 4 Orinda Theatre Square, Orinda. Both screenings are open to the public and FREE. For additional information, go to www.guides.ccclib.org/onebook or phone 925 254 2184.

Enthusiastic Turnout at Annual Korean War Veterans' Luncheon

On September 18, the annual Korean War Veterans' Luncheon was held at the Marines' Memorial Club and Hotel in San Francisco. The event, sponsored by the Korean War Memorial Foundation (KWMF) and the Marines' Memorial Club, attracted more than 230 attendees: Korean War veterans, their spouses and guests, and other friends.

An informal cocktail reception was followed by the ceremonial "Present Colors" by the Color Guard, 23rd Marine Regiment, and the playing of the National Anthems of the United States of America and the Republic of Korea.

Korean War veteran Dr. Donald Barker then provided the Invocation, and the luncheon began.



23rd Marines Color Guard presenting the Colors

Next came the special guest speaker, Korean War veteran William D. "Denny" Weisgerber, Gunnery Sergeant, USMC (Ret.). Denny was the recipient of the Navy Cross for gallantry and the Purple Heart for wounds received in a sector of the Eighth Army Front known as The Hook.



Denny Weisgerber, GySgt, USMC (Ret.)

In remarkable detail and with deep emotion, Denny recounted the intense combat he endured on the night of October 1, 1952, when at Outpost Seattle out in front of The Hook, he was severely wounded and subsequently lost his leg. Denny finished by noting that during this final eleven-month period of the Korean War, in the campaign that became known as the Outpost Wars, 1,689 Marines lost their lives in combat – nearly 40% of all Marine KIAs in the entire war.

Consul General Han Dong-man of the Republic of Korea then thanked all Korean War veterans for their service to preserve South Korea's freedom, and presented Dr. Don Barker with the Korean Government's Ambassador for Peace Medal. Many of the other veterans would be receiving this medal at a later date.



Dr. Don Barker delivers the Invocation



Consul General Han presents Dr. Barker with the Medal



Consul General Han, Dr. Barker, and Marines' Memorial Club President and KWMF Director J. Michael "Mike" Myatt, Major General, USMC (Ret.)



KWMF Treasurer and Korean War veteran Donald F. Reid then briefed the guests on the Korean War Memorial Foundation's fund-raising progress to date and upcoming plans.



KWMF Secretary and Korean War veteran John R. Stevens with his wife Jody



After coffee and dessert, the Colors were retired, Dr. Barker delivered a Benediction, and the guests slowly and reluctantly said their farewells and headed for home.

All photos © 2014 Michael Mustacchi & Associates

KWMF Receives Actual Stones from Famed Incheon Seawall

THEN: In the grim days of August, 1950, the North Koreans had pummeled and driven the U.N. Forces into a cul-de-sac in the south-east corner of the Korean Peninsula, an area that became known as the Pusan Perimeter. U.N. Commander General Douglas MacArthur knew that a bold stroke was needed to break the North Korean stranglehold. And he came up with just the right bold stroke. On September 15, 1950, General MacArthur ordered the 1st Marine Division to spearhead the Incheon Landing, a crucial and high-risk amphibious assault that succeeded, and changed the course of the Korean War.

The 5th Marine Regiment that assaulted the Red Beach sector of the objective included Able Company, commanded by then-Captain and now KWMF Secretary John R. Stevens. These troops had to use hastily-made wooden ladders to climb out of their landing craft and scale a high stone seawall in the face of enemy fire.

The photo below shows Able Company's Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez at the top of a ladder, just minutes before he gave his life to save his fellow Marines while assaulting an enemy bunker. He received the Medal of Honor posthumously for his valorous actions that day.



Lt. Baldomero Lopez, USMC scaling the Incheon seawall

By September 16, the Marines had captured the city of Incheon. Soon after that, Seoul was liberated, the U.N. Forces had broken out of the Pusan Perimeter, and the North Koreans had begun their long retreat northward, all the way to the Yalu River on the Manchurian border.

NOW: On September 15, 2014, exactly sixty-four years after that pivotal Incheon Landing, two very heavy boxes arrived from Korea at the KWMF office. Each box contained one of the actual stones from that legendary seawall.



Actual stone from the Incheon seawall

KWMF owes a debt of gratitude to three people for this historically significant gift:

- Mr. John Y. Lee, KWMF's Special Advisor on Korea, who coordinated the effort with the Office of the Mayor of Incheon (contemporary spelling)
- The Honorable Yoo, Jeong-bok, Mayor of Incheon, who authorized the gift of the stones
- Lieutenant Colonel David Park, USMC, now serving in Korea, who arranged the shipment of the stones to KWMF

The iconic Incheon Landing image will – subject to the approval of the Presidio Trust and the public – be part of the design of the Korean War Memorial. It is KWMF's hope that approval will also be granted to incorporate the actual Incheon stones and explanatory text into the Memorial design as well.

Rare Korean War Photos Discovered – and Available Free!

Do you recognize anyone? Yourself? A family member?

If so, you can get a print at no cost.

Betty Perkins-Carpenter of Penfield, NY, a suburb of Rochester, is a woman with a mission. The Korean War Veterans Association member has come into the possession of a remarkable trove of U.S. Department of Defense photos taken between June and August, 1950, the first three months of the Korean War. And she is seeking to pass these original photos, which remain in pristine condition, to the people pictured in them or their families. This project is a labor of love for Ms. Perkins-Carpenter, who received the large collection from the daughter of a Korean War veteran who passed away.

You may view all the photos on the Rochester, NY Democrat and Chronicle newspaper website at the link below. Click on the blue **MORE** button at the top left of the page for the full story of Ms. Perkins-Carpenter and the photos. Then go back to the main page to see the photos themselves. Note that as you move your cursor over a photo, it flips over, revealing the Department of Defense caption and date on the reverse side. You can also click on the text reading **VIEW THE PHOTO GALLERY IN LARGE FORMAT**. That then allows you to download a high-resolution image directly from the website.

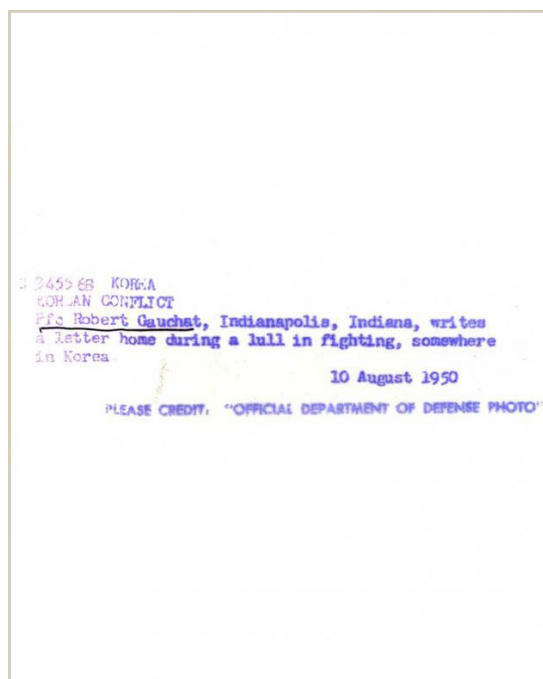
If you recognize yourself or a family member and would like to get a print, you may either download the photo from the website as described above, or you may contact Ms. Perkins-Carpenter directly. Email her at bpc@senior-fitness.com, or phone her at 800 306 2137. Be sure to identify the photo you'd like and provide your full mailing address. She will then mail you the original glossy 8 by 10 photo at no charge – her way of giving back to the veterans' community.

Here is the link to the photo gallery on the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle website:

<http://koreanwar.democratandchronicle.com>



Betty Perkins-Carpenter and her colleagues



3 3455 65 KOREA
KOREAN CONFLICT
Pfc Robert Cauchet, Indianapolis, Indiana, writes
a letter home during a lull in fighting, somewhere
in Korea.

10 August 1950

PLEASE CREDIT: "OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PHOTO"



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