

# KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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## Newsletter

### November/December 2014



**A Special Thank You at This Time of Year to All  
Our Donors, Especially Those Who Have  
So Generously Donated More Than Once**



#### 2014: A Breakthrough Year for KWMF

#### 2015: Approaching the Finish Line

#### Looking Back: The Past Year

2014 was the most active and productive year for our Foundation since its founding in 2010. When the year began, we had received less than \$450,000 in donations, most of it from KWMF's officers, including more than \$260,000 from Treasurer Donald F. Reid and over \$110,000 from Vice President Man J. Kim. As of this date, we have raised approximately \$2.1 million. Once the pending \$1 million grant from the Korean Government is confirmed and received, we will have raised at least \$3.1 million. That will leave us still shy of – but within striking distance of – our target of \$3.48 million. 2014 has been a very successful fundraising year for KWMF.

If you have been considering making a donation but have been holding back for some reason, now is the time we need you to step forward. If you have already donated, please consider making another donation. Here are some of the highlights of 2014:

**January 17:** At a ceremony at the Korean Consulate General in San Francisco, KWMF Secretary and Korean War veteran John Stevens received a \$150,000 donation from Samsung Semiconductor President Charlie Young Chang Bae. Consul General Han hosted and presided at the ceremony.

**March 14:** We received a donation by mail from the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation. The Bechtel people have requested that we keep the amount confidential, but the Bechtel grant remains our largest single donation to date.

**April 10:** At a ceremony at the Korean Consulate General in San Francisco, Chevron Corporation presented KWMF with a donation of \$25,000. The donation check was presented by Chevron Vice President Shariq Yosufzai to KWMF Treasurer and Korean War veteran Donald F. Reid. Consul General Han Dong-man hosted and presided at the ceremony.



From L: Consul General Han, KWMF Secretary John Stevens, Samsung President Charlie Young Chang Base, and another Samsung officer



KWMF Treasurer Don Reid accepts the donation from Chevron Vice President Shariq Yosufzai as Consul General Han, KWMF Secretary John Stevens, and two Chevron executives look on

#### In this Issue:

Looking Back: The Past Year (p. 1)  
Looking Ahead: The Coming Year (p. 4)  
Profile of Norma V. Busse (p. 5)

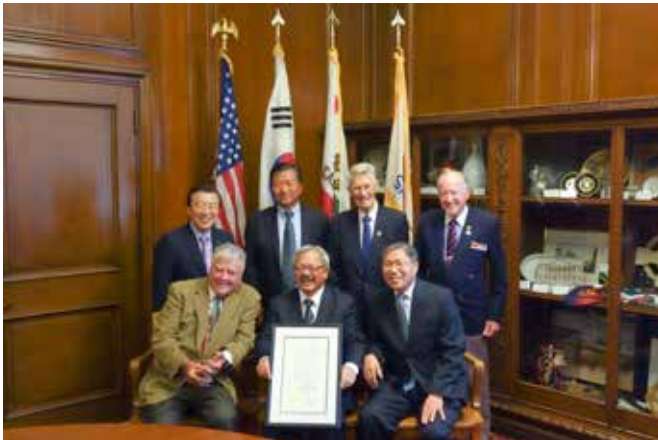
Local Vets Interviewed by Witness to War Foundation (p. 6)  
Remembrance Concert (p. 7)

**May 18:** KWMF’s officers attended a fundraiser organized by Steve and Maria Kahng at their Los Altos Hills home. The event generated about \$175,000 in donations for the Memorial, \$100,000 of it from the Kahngs themselves.



Generous Philanthropists Maria and Steve Kahng

**June 23:** In a formal ceremony at San Francisco City Hall, Mayor Edwin M. Lee presented KWMF’s officers with a formal Proclamation announcing that June 25, 2014 would be “Korean War Memorial Day in San Francisco.”



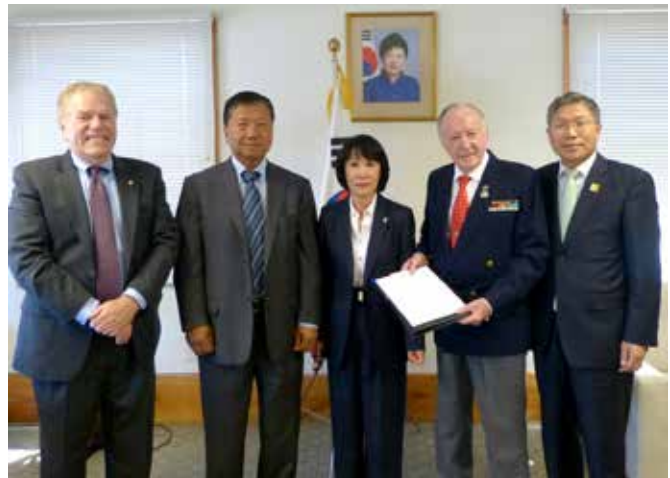
Front, L to R: KWMF President, former U.S. Congressman, and Korean War vet Pete McCloskey, Mayor Edwin M. Lee, Korean Consul General Han Dong-man.  
2nd Row, L to R: Seoul-San Francisco Sister City Committee President Hagen Choi, KWMF Vice President and San Francisco restaurateur Man J. Kim, KWMF Secretary and Korean War vet John Stevens, and KWMF Treasurer and Korean War vet Don Reid  
Photo by Tom Graves, [twiceheroes.com](http://twiceheroes.com)

**June 25:** KWMF Vice President Man J. Kim hosted the 10th Annual Korean War Veterans Appreciation Dinner at his Golden Gate Grill Restaurant in San Francisco. Thanks to Man J.’s generosity, top-notch food, wine, and entertainment were offered free of charge to all Korean War veterans and their guests. Several hundred people attended the gala event.



Korean War Veterans Appreciation Dinner

**July 25:** At a ceremony at the Korean Consulate General in San Francisco, KWMF Treasurer Don Reid received a \$250,000 donation confirmation letter from Susan Koret of the Koret Foundation.



From left: Gerard Parker, Executive Director, KWMF; Man J. Kim, Vice President, KWMF; Susan Koret, Chair, Koret Foundation; Donald Reid, Treasurer, KWMF; and Han Dong-man, Consul General of the Republic of Korea, San Francisco

**August 13:** Director General Lee Kyung Geun of Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA) in Seoul paid a visit to the Memorial site. MPVA is the ministry that has proposed a \$1 million grant to our Memorial. The Director General was very pleased with the location.



Director-General Lee (gesturing) speaks with Man J. Kim (arms folded), as Song Mi Ran, Gerard Parker, Lee Sang Ryol, and Jung Kwan Hoe listen

**August 26:** Four senior cadets from the Korean Military Academy visited the Memorial site, after which KWMF's officers hosted a lunch for them at the Marines' Memorial Club. The cadets were eager to meet with Korean War vets. They discussed the war with John Stevens and Don Reid, and presented the veterans with gifts. The cadets expressed their gratitude, and later they also made generous donations.



KWMF Secretary John Stevens with the Korean Military Academy cadets at the Marines' Memorial Club, San Francisco

**September 14:** 81-year-old Marine Korean War veteran Wallace "Wally" Stewart participated in the annual Alcatraz Swim organized by the South End Rowing Club, together with his grandson Tom Farrar and Tom's friend Nick Abramczyk. He promoted his participation as a fundraiser for the Memorial. This resulted in extensive media coverage not only of Wally, but of our Memorial and its need for funding, and generated several thousand dollars in donations.



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

**September 18:** KWMF held its annual Korean War Veterans Luncheon at the Marines' Memorial Club, free for all vets and their guests. Gunnery Sergeant Denny Weisgerber, USMC, was the featured speaker and gave an emotional recounting of his combat experience at "The Hook" that resulted in the loss of a leg and a Navy Cross for valor. The event was well-attended and resulted in some donations to the Memorial.



Denny Weisgerber speaking to the veterans' group

**October 18:** Ensemble Ari, a group of Korean classical musicians living in the Bay Area, presented a benefit concert for KWMF at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco. The concert included a piece titled "Remembrance," written by Jean Ahn, Director and Founder of Ensemble Ari, in honor of the Korean War Memorial and veterans. KWMF Vice President Man J. Kim generously provided free refreshments for all the attendees.



Ensemble Ari performing "Remembrance" for the Korean War Memorial

# Looking Ahead: The Coming Year

We've come a long way, but our task is far from over. Our primary challenges in 2015 will be as follows:

- **Finish the Fundraising:** We need to raise the remaining funds required to complete the Memorial and provide for long-term maintenance. This is going to take a concerted effort on the part of all of us, because the prevailing wisdom among fundraising professionals is that the final funds are historically the most difficult to raise. This has proven to be the case for KWMF: the level of donations has fallen off significantly in recent weeks. In addition, we seem to be running out of corporations and foundations, both here and in Korea, that would even consider making a donation for a Memorial to this so-called Forgotten War. In dozens of instances, our requests for donations have been met with apathy or indifference, and all too often simply ignored.

- **Accelerate the Timetable:** We need to continue to do everything we can, within reason, to speed up the construction schedule for the Memorial.
- **Stage a High-Profile June 25 Groundbreaking Ceremony:** We need to make a strong public statement of our commitment to our donors and to all Korean War veterans living and dead. Our task is to ensure that this ceremony accomplishes that objective. We need to make this ceremony a truly special event, with the highest possible level of distinguished speakers and guests from the U.S. and the Korean Governments, and the highest level of media coverage, both local, national, and international. We all need to work together from January through June to make this happen.
- **Complete and Open the Korean War Memorial at the Earliest Possible Date:** That is our ultimate objective, and we won't stop until we've completed our mission.

**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](mailto:info@kwmf.org)  
[www.kwmf.org/donate](http://www.kwmf.org/donate)

**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](http://www.golighthouse.com)) for their generosity in underwriting the costs of printing and mailing this newsletter.

# Profile of an Unusual Korean War Veteran and a Remarkable Woman: Norma V. Busse, J.D.

Norma Busse and her twin brother Norman, with whom she was always competitive, graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in San Francisco in 1944 and went their separate ways. Norman spent a year at Stanford University before getting an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. Since Norman had gone to Stanford, Norma went to the University of California, Berkeley. And since Norman was going in the Navy, Norma joined the Army! At first she was a recruit with a \$50 a month salary, but later went to Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a second lieutenant.



Paul Douglas and Jan Sterling speaking with Norma as Dick Allan and Dick Morris look on

Her second duty assignment, in 1952, was to Japan. She and Norman were briefly reunited at that time. He was serving on an aircraft carrier in Japanese/Korean waters; Norma believes it was the U.S.S. Forrester. Then Norma got what she considered a dream job: Assistant Director of Special Services for Asia. The job entailed coordinating the USO entertainment tours for Japan and Korea. Norma and her team would welcome all the Hollywood celebrities and other entertainers, get them housing, outfit them in Army fatigues, build crates for their costumes and musical instruments, plan their itineraries, arrange for transportation, and more. Norma would often then accompany the USO entertainers on their tours.



Carleton Carpenter, Debbie Reynolds' boyfriend at the time, getting a bit flirtatious with Norma

For Christmas, 1952, Norma welcomed a contingent of celebrities from Paramount, MGM, and Universal Studios. The Hollywood stars included Paul Douglas and his wife Jan Sterling, Rory Calhoun, Debbie Reynolds (still a teenager), and Carleton Carpenter, Debbie's co-star (and boyfriend at the time) from their recent movie *Abba Dabba Honeymoon*.

A solo tour followed, featuring singer Lucy Monroe. She was known as "The Star-Spangled Soprano," because she sang the National Anthem at every New York Yankees home game.

With Norma as tour leader, Lucy and her accompanist, Army accordion player Lou Tulianello, entertained at a number of hospitals in Japan and Korea as well as hospital ships offshore.

During this tour Norma, together with Lucy Monroe and her accompanists, had the honor of meeting South Korean President Syngman Rhee and his wife for a "photo op".



Lucy Monroe, the "Star-Spangled Soprano," singing for the patients and crew aboard the hospital ship U.S.S. Haven

An amusing sidebar: because of Norma's height (nearly 5'11"), the Koreans nicknamed her "American Woman Skyscraper"!

Among the other celebrities Norma met on USO tours were Cary Grant and his then wife Betsy Drake, Eddie Fisher (then serving in the Army), and Raymond Burr. Cary Grant and Raymond Burr visited dozens of hospitals throughout the Combat Zone. Norma recalls that Mr. Burr gave readings of poetry and scenes from well-known movies that fascinated his audiences, who gave him standing ovations. Summing up her experiences recently, Norma remarked, "This assignment was a dream job for someone on her first overseas tour of duty, and I shall never forget it."

Norma V. Busse stayed on active duty until 1973. She then went on to law school and a distinguished career as an attorney as well as a judge. She now resides in San Antonio, Texas.



L to R: Pianist (name unknown), Norma Busse, President Rhee, singer Lucy Monroe, Mrs. Rhee, and accordionist Lou Tulianello

# Local Korean War Veterans Interviewed for Posterity By the Witness to War Foundation

On December 9 and 10, 2014, Martin Madert, Interviewer for the Norcross, GA-based Witness to War Foundation, was in San Francisco for a series of interviews with Bay Area Korean War veterans. Witness to War's mission is to preserve the stories and experiences of combat veterans. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that works closely with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. KWMF helped this organization line up interested veterans, and arranged for private interview space at the Marines' Memorial Club in San Francisco.

Each veteran's interview was recorded on video, and each veteran will soon be receiving complimentary DVD copies of his interview to keep and share with family. Commenting on this particular series of interviews, Martin Madert said, "During my trip to San Francisco, I was privileged enough to meet with six amazing veterans of the Korean War. Today, they serve as leaders of their communities and soft-spoken reminders of our nation's history." Here are the six vets who participated:

The Witness to War Foundation conducts these interviews all over the country. If you're a combat veteran who would like to be interviewed, and would like to know if they may be coming to your city or state, please contact:

Martin Madert, Interviewer, Witness to War Foundation  
[martin@witnessowar.org](mailto:martin@witnessowar.org)  
770 628 0024  
[www.witnessowar.org](http://www.witnessowar.org)



KWMF Secretary John Stevens



Wally Stewart



Marvin Pheffer



Bob Vicari



Interviewer Martin Madert with KWMF Treasurer Don Reid



Denny Weisgerber

# A Very Special Evening: The Remembrance Concert

Saturday, October 18, 2014 was a very special evening for our Foundation. At St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco, Ensemble Ari, a Bay Area group of classically-trained Korean musicians, presented a concert on behalf of KWMF. The musicians did not accept any payment for their work, and all the income from the concert was donated to KWMF.



Ensemble Ari in performance  
Photo courtesy of Ryan Kim

About 125 donors, supporters, friends, and Korean War veterans were in attendance. The first half of the program included, in addition to classical pieces by Korean and European composers, the debut of an original composition titled Remembrance, written for baritone, piano, and string quartet by composer and Ensemble Ari Founder Jean Ahn, Ph.D. The piece was dedicated to the Korean War Memorial, in remembrance and honor of all those who lost their lives in the Korean War. Here is a video of that accomplished performance:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdzMtkzfu6I&feature=em-upload\\_owner](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdzMtkzfu6I&feature=em-upload_owner)

Following a brief intermission, Korean War veteran and KWMF Treasurer Donald Reid welcomed the audience on behalf of KWMF, and thanked them as well as Ensemble Ari for their support.



Korean War Veteran and KWMF Treasurer Donald Reid  
Photo courtesy of Ryan Kim

The second half of the program then commenced with a spirited performance of Dmitri Shostakovich's Piano Quintet, Opus 57. When it ended, Ensemble Ari received a most enthusiastic response from the audience.

Ensemble Ari was founded in 2013 by Dr. Ahn. Born in the Republic of Korea, she earned her BA and MM degrees from Seoul National University and then came to the United States, where she earned her Doctorate from UC Berkeley. She has won numerous prizes and awards, and has been a lecturer at the University of the Pacific at Stockton since 2008.

"Ari" is a Korean word with several meanings: big river, wisdom, and beauty. The mission of Ensemble Ari is to build a bridge between Korea and other world communities with western musical instruments, while honoring Korean history and culture. Remembrance was Ensemble Ari's first public project.

Among Dr. Ahn's colleagues is Sarah Hong, an accomplished cellist. Ms. Hong was born in Seoul, Republic of Korea. She has been playing cello since the age of six, and was selected as the most promising young cellist in Korea at sixteen. Ms. Hong earned her BM and MM degrees from the Juilliard School, and her artist certificate in chamber music at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She has won numerous competitions, and has performed in Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie's Weill Hall, and the Herbst Theater.

The other members of Ensemble Ari, all equally talented, include:

- Joo Won Kang, Baritone, San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow
- Sharon Lee Kim, Pianist, St. Mary's College of California Professor
- Ju Yeon Moon, Violinist, Joongang University Faculty
- Jae Hee Jeong, Violinist, ChoongNam University Faculty
- Evelyn Kwark, Violinist, Berkeley Symphony

The concert was followed by a reception with light refreshments at the Church. KWMF Vice President Man J. Kim, owner of Lori's Diner International, <http://lorisdiner.com>, provided all the food and drink free of charge. And all print materials, including posters, flyers, and tickets, were printed free of charge by KWMF donor Dr. Kim Tae Yun, CEO and Founder of Lighthouse Worldwide Solutions in Fremont, CA, <http://www.golighthouse.com>. Ensemble Ari and KWMF both thank Man J. Kim and Dr. Kim Tae Yun for their generosity. And KWMF thanks all the talented musicians of Ensemble Ari for their heartfelt performances and their support of our Memorial.



# KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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