



# KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

1806 Belles Street, #6-B  
The Presidio  
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## Newsletter

January–February 2016

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### Korean Exchange Students Meet with Korean War Veterans

On Friday, February 19, fourteen nursing students from Kyungbuk College in South Korea met over lunch in San Francisco with three Korean War veterans from the Bay Area: Donald Reid, William McIver, and Oliver Johnson. And the encounter turned out to be rewarding for the vets and students alike. The twelve young female and two young male students are being sponsored by the Berkeley Global Institute (BGI). Those readers who were at our Groundbreaking Ceremony last July will recall the young women who sang the South Korean National Anthem: they, too, were sponsored by BGI.



Korean students with (seated, L to R) Korean War veterans Don Reid, Bill McIver, and Oliver Johnson. Standing on the right is Man J Kim.



BGI President Unee Kim with veteran Oliver Johnson and students

BGI brings student groups from Korea to the Bay Area so that they may broaden their educational horizons and experience American culture. And BGI President Unee Kim felt that bringing the students together with the veterans could prove to be the most meaningful experience of all. As Ms. Kim explained, “We feel that young people in Korea today aren’t as aware as they should be of the sacrifices made by young Americans on their behalf more than sixty years ago. We want to offer these students a unique opportunity

to meet face to face with some of the Americans who fought for them so long ago, so that we all might better understand our shared history.”

The luncheon took place at Sears Fine Foods restaurant in San Francisco, owned by prominent Bay Area restaurateur Man J Kim, KWMF’s Vice President. After a very brief period of cultural and generational awkwardness, everyone relaxed and began a series of animated conversations that never let up for a moment, and strangers soon became friends.

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Oliver Johnson recalls his time in Korea

As the memorable event came to a close, Man J Kim presented each of the students with a brand-new two-dollar bill for good luck.

Finally the students and vets had to part ways. One of the young students expressed the sentiment of all when she solemnly said, "I shall remember this day always." Among these young Koreans, at least, the Korean War and the Americans who fought in it will not be forgotten.



A smiling Don Reid surrounded by new friends



KWMF Vice President Man J Kim presents each student with a "lucky" \$2 bill



Bill McIver and his inquisitive audience

Earlier that day, the students had visited the Korean War Memorial site in the Presidio. KWMF Executive Director Gerard Parker met them there, and gave them a briefing on the significance of the Memorial, and of our plans and progress to date.

After stopping to pay their respects at General William Dean's grave in the adjacent National Cemetery, the group headed for Sears Fine Foods and the luncheon.



Earlier that day: some of the students with Gerard Parker of KWMF on the Memorial site, with the Golden Gate Bridge visible in the distance



V-signs were quite popular with the students



A "selfie" with a new friend

## KWMF Financial Statements Now Posted On Our Website

We have now posted our KWMF financial statements from inception through December 31, 2015 on our website.

These include a Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) and a Statement of Activity (Profit and Loss Statement). These statements may be viewed at the following link: <http://www.kwmf.org/financial-statements>

If you have any questions or comments about the KWMF financial statements, please contact us. Thank you.

## Minutes From the 4th Annual KWMF Members' Meeting Now Posted On Our Website

On Thursday, February 18, the 4th annual KWMF Members' Meeting was held at the Golden Gate Grill in San Francisco.

The Minutes of the Members' Meeting may be viewed at the following link: <http://www.kwmf.org/members-meeting-2016>

# Work Begins on KWMF Continuing Education Program

Thanks to the generosity of our many donors, we have now raised nearly \$3.5 million, sufficient funding to cover all design and construction costs, as well as a long-term maintenance endowment and modest operating expenses. Construction is underway, and we are looking forward to a gala Opening Ceremony this coming July.

Our work, however, is far from over. We are now embarking on an exciting new campaign, one to raise an additional \$500,000 to fund our KWMF Continuing Education Program. We are organizing this program in cooperation with the San Francisco Unified School District and the Korean War Veterans Association. We also hope to continue working with the Berkeley Global Institute (BGI) -- the organization profiled in our cover story -- and to seek the support of other Bay Area and international educational organizations.



Soldier consoling a brother in arms, Hakton-ni, August 28, 1950

The KWMF Continuing Education Program will inform Bay Area youth of the geopolitical causes of the Korean War, the sacrifices made by the United States, South Korea, and our United Nations allies, the war's outcome, and the lessons learned.



Young refugee with baby brother, Haeng-ju, June 9, 1951

The program will include:

- Korean War themed documentary and theatrical films, PowerPoint presentations, print materials, and lesson plans for local public and private schools
- Visits to the schools by Korean War veterans for informal discussions that transcend generational divides and pass the knowledge, experience, and wisdom of elders to those who will take their place
- Online access to resources about the war, including documentaries, interviews with Korean War veterans, a historical photo archive, and a library of history books, fictional accounts, and personal memoirs about the war
- Guided tours to the Korean War Memorial in the Presidio, with on-site presentations by Korean War veterans and historians
- A university student exchange program between San Francisco and Seoul

If you have educational experience and would like to volunteer your suggestions or assistance, please contact John Stevens at 415 921 1933, [usmcable6@sbcglobal.net](mailto:usmcable6@sbcglobal.net)

If you would like to make a donation in support of the KWMF Continuing Education Program, please contact Eleanor Zapanta at 415 921 1933, [eleanor@kwmf.org](mailto:eleanor@kwmf.org), or go to the "Donate" page on our KWMF website: <http://www.kwmf.org/donate/>



Major General O. P. Smith, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division at USMC cemetery, Hungnam, December, 1950

We at KWMF fervently believe that future generations of American youth need to understand our nation's history as well as the true cost of war and the true price of freedom. Give what you can, for those who gave everything they had.

As the Spanish writer/philosopher George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Help our community remember the past: support the KWMF Continuing Education Program today.

# Henry W. Mack, Ph.D. — Profile of a Korean War Veteran

Henry W. Mack, Ph.D., a native of Detroit, enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1947. He has the distinction of being one of the few living “Buffalo Soldiers.” At his first duty station at Fort Riley, Kansas, he was promoted to Corporal while serving with Troop H, 3rd Squadron, 10th United States Cavalry. The achievements of the 10th Cavalry are a proud chapter in United States and African American history. He was also one of the first African Americans assigned to a formerly all-white unit, following President Truman’s integration of the military services in 1948. In 1952, then-1st Sergeant Mack went to Korea as a member of Company C, 808th Engineer Aviation Battalion, part of a unique unit known by the acronym SCARWAF, or “Special Category Army with Air Force.”



1st Sergeant Henry Mack, Company C, 808th Engineer Aviation Battalion, U.S. Army, Korea, 1952

The unit’s mission was to construct forward airstrips, at times under hostile fire, for the U.S. Air Force to use in support of ground troops. Some of these airstrips were built to accommodate high-performance jet aircraft; others for heavy transport planes.

In February, 1953, 1st Sergeant Mack returned from Korea to San Francisco, where he assumed his new position as Personnel Sergeant Major for the Presidio.



Laying asphalt on a 10,000-foot forward airstrip

Dr. Mack remained in the Army for more than 20 years, retiring as a Major in 1968. His many awards include Commendation Medals from both the Army and the Air Force. Toward the end of his active service, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, he served as Commanding Officer of the Nike Hercules Missile Base in Carleton, Michigan. His final military assignment was at the Pentagon. He received his formal education in Business Administration at the United States Armed Forces Institute and the University of Maryland, and is also a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College. He earned a Ph.D., Summa Cum Laude, in Business Administration at Thornewood University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands in 1987.



1st Sergeant Mack (front and center) arriving at the Presidio of San Francisco, February, 1953

Following his retirement from the Army, Dr. Mack had a long and distinguished civilian career. He served as Chairman and CEO of Traintex, Inc., a management consulting firm serving a broad range of clients from individuals to Fortune 500 companies. Dr. Mack has been a renowned civil rights advocate for over 60 years, and was present at the Lincoln Memorial when Dr. Martin Luther King made his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. For more than 24 years, he has devoted himself to volunteer service to the schools and community of Dade County, Florida.



Dr. Henry Mack today, at his home in Sunrise, Florida

Dr. Mack currently resides in Sunrise, Florida with his wife Charlie Mae, and he remains active in his community to this day. He can no longer travel by plane for health reasons, but he plans to cross the country by train this summer, to be part of the Opening Ceremony of the Korean War Memorial here in his old duty post, the Presidio. He says he wouldn’t miss it for the world.

## The “Revisit Korea” Program: If You Don’t Know About It, Here’s What You’re Missing!



Tour participants at an observation post near the DMZ, November, 2015

***If you’re a Korean War veteran and aren’t familiar with the “Revisit Korea” program, you could be missing the opportunity of a lifetime. The following story and photos, courtesy of Fred C. Lash, retired Marine Corps officer and Director of Communications for the Korean War Veterans Association, will tell you all about this opportunity.***

In 1975, on the 25th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, the Republic of Korea (ROK) government began the “Revisit Korea” program as a means to say thank you to all UN veterans of the Korean War and their family members. Each year since then, the ROK government appropriates a given amount of

money for this special program, and the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA) in Seoul administers it. Korean War veterans selected for the “Revisit Korea” program are required to make their own airline reservations (assisted by the staff of Military Historical Tours: see below for contact details) and pay the airfares. Following the completion of the trip, veterans are reimbursed for 50% of the airfare. Any companion making the trip with the veteran is reimbursed for 30% of the airfare. The remainder of the trip is fully covered by the ROK Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA) including transportation within Korea, lodging, and all meals.

Working closely with Korean tourism groups, the MPVA shows America’s war veterans (and veterans of other allied nations who participated in the Korean War), the end result of the bloody conflict that took place in Korea between 1950 and 1953. South Korea’s rapid emergence from the ashes of the 1950s and its economic,



Tour participants near White Horse Hill battlefield, November, 2015

social, and diplomatic development have been a great source of pride for foreign war veterans, who fought for the South under the United Nations banner. “This program is intended to express our gratitude to the war veterans. We also hope that the veterans would feel that their sacrifices were not in vain after looking at South Korea’s development,” stated the Honorable Sung Choon Park, Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.

Once they arrive, veterans visit a series of war-related venues, including the War Memorial of Korea; major military bases; the Joint Security Area in the Demilitarized Zone (Panmunjom); and an observation post near the inter-Korean border, not far from the “Bridge of No Return.”

These “Revisit Korea” tours are very popular, and fill up quickly. If you would like to participate in one of the upcoming tours, please contact Military Historic Tours, [www.miltours.com](http://www.miltours.com), 703 590 1295.



Korean War veterans from several nations at Veterans Day Ceremonies, UN Cemetery, Busan, 2015

**Thank you,  
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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.

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**REGISTER NOW FOR 2016, AS 2015 REVISITS SOLD OUT QUICKLY!  
FAMILY MEMBERS OF KOREA VETERANS ARE ELIGIBLE  
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*Last September, Henry & Rosemary Montijo on the Battlefield Pre-Tour at the DMZ!*

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