

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 213E
San Francisco, CA 94102

Phone: (415) 817-1858
Email: info@kwmf.org
Web: www.kwmf.org

NEWSLETTER January–March 2018

Remembering Those Who Never Came Home: The "What's in a Name?" Project

By Ned Forney



The War Memorial of Korea (www.warmemo.or.kr/newwm/eng/main.jsp) in Seoul has a gallery outside the museum's main building that lists the names of over 38,000 men who, as part of the UN coalition forces sent to Korea from 1950-1953, fought and died to help save South Korea. The names are listed by country, and for those from the United States, they are also listed by home state.

Knowing that many families will never get the opportunity to visit Korea, my wife and I are happy to take a picture of your loved one's name and post it on our website so you can download it.

**Photos courtesy of Ned Forney.*

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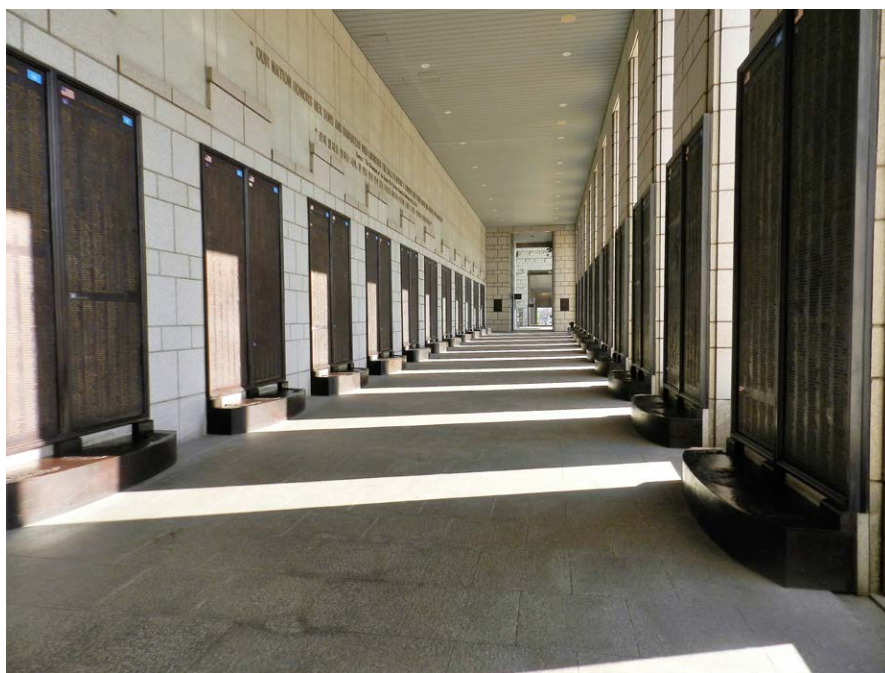
If you would like us to take a picture for you, please email us at ned@nedforney.com with the following information:

- Full name of fallen serviceman
- Home country
- Home state of record (US servicemen only)
- Your name and email address (Just in case we have further questions)
- A picture and sentence or two about the serviceman for us to share with our readers.

We will be posting pictures on our website around the end of every month. We'll also put notifications of recent postings on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/NedForney) and in our bi-monthly newsletter (<https://landing.mailerlite.com/webforms/landing/g5d1x1>).

The lighting in the gallery isn't always ideal, and we're definitely not professional photographers, but we'll do our best. We are posting a few pictures here so you can get an idea of what they'll look like.

We are happy to be able to honor the memories of all those who gave their lives "for a country they never knew



and a people they never met." Thank you for your interest, and you can email us if you have any questions.

Ned Forney is a Marine veteran and career educator. He and his wife currently live in Seoul, South Korea, where he is writing a book on the Chosin Reservoir Campaign and Hungnam Evacuation. He can be reached at ned.forney1985@gmail.com or his website, nedforney.com.

For the full story on what prompted Mr. Forney to undertake this project, please go to this link: <http://nedforney.com/index.php/2018/02/03/whats-in-a-name/>



A View of the Gallery from the Front of the War Memorial of Korea

New Consul General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco: The Honorable Park Joon-yong



On December 27, 2017, the Honorable Park Joon-yong arrived in San Francisco to assume his duties as Consul General of the Republic of Korea here. One of his first official acts on the day he arrived was to visit the Korean War Memorial and present a commemorative wreath in honor of those who served.

In a greeting sent out to all Bay Area Korean War veterans, he stated, “As Consul General representing the Republic of Korea, I can reassure you that the Korean people have never forgotten and will never forget your devotion and sacrifice during the war.” Consul General Park went on to say, “I am committed to strengthening the ROK-US alliance, and I also firmly believe that the Korean War veterans are the best partners and allies for turning my commitment into reality.”

Consul General Park earned a B.A. in English Language from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, and a Masters in Public Administration from Seoul National University. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in 1987. His distinguished government ser-



vice to date includes a number of prestigious postings:

1995: Second Secretary, Korean Embassy in the People’s Republic of China

1998: Consul, Korean Consulate General in Vancouver, Canada

2002: Counsellor, Korean Embassy in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

2004: Director, Southwest Asia and Oceania Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT)

2005: Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

2007: Counsellor, Korean Embassy in the Republic of Austria, and Korean Permanent Mission to the International Organization in Vienna

2009: Minister-Counsellor, Korean Embassy in the People’s Republic of China

2012: Deputy Director-General, Northeast Asian Affairs Bureau, and subsequently Director-General for Northeast Asian Affairs, MOFAT

2014: Minister, Korean Embassy in the People’s Republic of China

2017: Secretary to the President for Policy Coordination, and Deputy Secretary-General of NSC Secretariat, Office of National security

Consul General Park is married, with one son and two daughters.

All of us at KWMF, together with all Bay Area Korean War veterans, welcome Consul General Park to San Francisco, and wish him great success in his new position. We are confident that together we will continue to build on the strong and enduring relationship that joins the Consulate General, KWMF, the Korean people, and the American people.

KWMF Education Program Gets Big Boost from Korean Group

Borderless Moonpas Donates Over \$20,000

Gratitude for Past Sacrifices, Hope for a Peaceful Future

On June 28, 2017, Republic of Korea President Moon Jae-in gave a speech in Quantico, Virginia.

"In 1950, 67 years ago, the U.S. Marines suffered noble sacrifices to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met. The most heroic battle fought by them during the Korean War was the Battle of Jangjin Reservoir. Thanks to the remarkable fighting spirit of those heroes of the Jangjin Reservoir, the operation to evacuate some 100,000 refugees from Hungnam could be successful."

"My parents were also among the refugees aboard the S.S. Meredith Victory at that time. Two years later, I was born on Geoje Island where the S.S. Meredith Victory disembarked the refugees. Had it not been for the valiant warriors of the Jangjin Reservoir Battle and the success of the Hungnam Evacuation, my life would not have started. I would not even exist today."

We, Borderless Moonpas, were deeply moved by Korean President Moon's speech referencing "the Battle of the Jangjin (Chosin) Reservoir" and "the S.S. Meredith Victory Ship" at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia, on June 28, 2017.

We are truly grateful to all the U.S. Forces that fought during the Korean War to free Korea and that have kept peace and democracy in the Republic of Korea. We truly respect and honor all the U.S. soldiers who fought bravely during the Battle of the Jangjin (Chosin) Reservoir and especially the late Captain Leonard LaRue, Admiral J. Robert Lunney, MajGen Oliver P. Smith, and the crews of the S.S. Meredith Victory Ship who rescued over 14,000 Korean refugees.

To celebrate President Moon's 66th Birthday and to show our appreciation to all the U.S. Forces, lots of Moonpas joined together to make donation to the Korean War Memorial Foundation in San Francisco, California, on March 01, 2018.

Our goal is to continuously support the Korean War Memorial Foundation as a display of our everlasting appreciation for the U.S. Forces in helping to ensure the continuing freedoms enjoyed in the Republic of Korea.

We honor Americans' sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met.

It is with great appreciation that we sincerely thank all the U.S. Forces that have fought and continue to serve to keep peace in Korea.



BORDERLESS MOONPAS

국경없는 오소리
Borderless Moonpas in the World
No more war on the Korean peninsula
We love peace
We support President Moon Jae-in.



**KOREAN WAR
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

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KWMF recently received donations totaling \$20,900 from a group known as Borderless Moonpas. The Moonpas are an informal affiliation of Koreans who share an affection for Republic of Korea President Moon Jae-in. It is estimated that there are millions of Moonpas both in the Republic of Korea and around the world, although the precise number is unknown even to the Moonpas themselves. Most of them have never even met each other, and they have no formal leadership structure. They come together and communicate primarily via Facebook, Twitter, and other social media and online communities. They recently launched their own website—www.moonpas.org—to organize an ongoing donation drive in support of KWMF's Education Program.

A few weeks ago, Borderless Moonpas members joined together online to make a donation to KWMF. In only ten days, more than 1,400 Moonpas enthusiastically and generously donated. Concurrently, they ran an ad in the Washington Times in honor of President Moon Jae-in, and with gratitude to the sacrifices of all Korean War veterans. See the ad to the left.

On behalf of all of us at KWMF, and of all Korean War veterans and their families, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Borderless Moonpas for their generous donation.

You, too, can support KWMF's Korean War Education Program by making a donation at www.kwmf.org/donate, or by mailing your donation, payable to KWMF, to: Korean War Memorial Foundation, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 213E, San Francisco, CA 94102

The Korean War Memorial Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Federal Tax ID #27-2773272.

Your donation is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Thank you for your support.

Profile of a Local Korean War Veteran: Dr. Donald Barker

Dr. Donald Barker is a native of Sidney, Nebraska and a retired doctor of podiatric medicine. He resides in Atherton, California, and is an active member and supporter of the Korean War Memorial Foundation. Don served as a U.S. Navy hospital corpsman from 1950 to 1954. He was attached to the 1st Marine Division in Korea, 1951-52, and the 3rd Marine Division in Japan, 1953-54.

Don was a combat corpsman with 2nd Platoon, Item Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, and participated in the Punchbowl campaign in September, 1951. In March, 1952, he was transferred to Company E, 1st Medical Battalion, a field tent hospital commonly referred to as "Easy Med." This was the period when the Marines were fighting the hotly contested hill battles in western Korea. Dr. Birney Dibble, commander of Easy Med during the August 15-18, 1952 Bunker Hill battle, described the grim results of the ferocious fighting:

"1,004 wounded men were triaged from Friday night to Monday afternoon, 142 major operations under general anesthesia—belly, chest, and amputations—better than one an hour. We evacuated 153 walking wounded to Able Med for minor debridement, shipped 288 severely wounded men to the hospital ship Consolation in Inchon Harbor—48 Sikorsky helicopters with six stretchers in each. We lost 21 men during or after surgery. Three men came in DOA. That means we operated on 397 WIAs in the Minor Tent. A high percentage of these minors were multiple shrapnel wounds—5, 10, 20, even 30 wounds in a single body, but none of them breaking bone or penetrating the belly or thorax. Many would have been called "majors" in a stateside hospital. Donald (Barker)



Don Barker when he was a combat corpsman with 2nd Platoon, Item Co, 3rd Bn, 1st Marines

worked in the Minor Tent where all the surgeries were performed under local anesthetic."

After the ordeal of Korea and a tour stateside, Don served with the 3rd

Marine Division in Japan. There he volunteered to work at the USAF Hospital in Nagoya, where they were treating Marine patients. After his discharge from the Navy in 1954, Don continued his medical education, studying pre-med at the University of Wyoming, and then graduating from the California College of Podiatric Medicine in San Francisco. He was a member of the professional staff, with surgical privileges, at Sequoia District Hospital in Redwood City, California, and retired in 1999.

Since then he has volunteered to serve as a chaplain's assistant and case volunteer with the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund at the VA hospitals in Palo Alto and Menlo Park, California. Don's hobbies include fishing and target shooting. He also does an exemplary job singing the beloved Korean folk song "Arirang." In the original Korean, of course! Dr. Donald Barker, Korean War veteran.



A Happy Band of Brothers: Don Barker (standing, L) with friends and fellow veterans Ed Brandle, Casey McKibben, and Wayne Christenson during a recent visit to the Korean War Memorial

What's Past Is Prologue: The Old Breed and the Future Marines

On January 13, in the War Memorial Veterans Building in San Francisco, four men in their eighties or nineties met to share their experiences with a hundred or so young men and women in their late teens or early twenties. The older men were Korean War veterans. The young people were what are termed "Future Marines," individuals who have enlisted in the Marine Corps and are now more or less in limbo, awaiting their orders to report to active duty.



The Future Marines. In the left foreground: Jody Stevens, wife of speaker John Stevens. Standing and seated in the background: the NCOs who recruited the Future Marines

The meeting was organized by the Korean War Memorial Foundation (KWMF), in cooperation with Major Jonathan T. Frerichs, USMC, Commanding Officer, Recruiting Station, San Francisco, together with his non-commissioned officers representing the various recruiting substations throughout the Bay Area. The purpose of the meeting was to let the Future Marines listen to and interact with the "Old Breed" veterans recounting their experiences in that long ago, faraway war, so that the youngsters might gain some insight into what may lie ahead for them. As Shakespeare noted, what's past is prologue.



From L: Don Reid, John Stevens, Wally Stewart, Denny Weisgerber, and Major Frerichs

The five speakers were John R. Stevens, Lieutenant Colonel, USMC (Ret.) and KWMF Co-Founder; Donald Reid, Sergeant, USMC and KWMF Co-Founder and Treasurer; William D. "Denny" Weisgerber, Gunnery Sergeant, USMC (Ret.) and KWMF member and supporter; and Wallace T. "Wally" Stewart, Corpo-

ral, USMC and KWMF Education Director. The veterans' experiences encompassed the whole history of the Korean War, from the early, dark days in the summer of 1950 up to the final battles and the armistice in 1953.

John Stevens spoke first, describing his combat memories as a rifle company commander from the Pusan Perimeter in July and August, 1950 to



The audience included a significant number of women Marines



John Stevens

the Inchon Landing and the Liberation of Seoul in September, and the grim Chosin Reservoir Campaign from October to December. And the Future Marines listened.



Don Reid

Next, Don Reid recounted his memories as a machine gunner in the cold winter of 1951-52, and then his role in the last major offensive of the war in the Punchbowl.



Denny Weisgerber

Don was followed by Denny Weisgerber. As a rifle platoon sergeant, he fought in the Bunker War on the Western Front of Korea in 1952, where he was awarded the Navy Cross for valor and the Purple Heart for severe wounds received in a fight at a place known as “The Hook.”



Wally Stewart, with John Stevens listening and remembering

Wally Stewart rounded out the program, wearing his dress blue uniform from 1953, with Purple Heart and other awards. Wally fought and was wounded in the final 1952-53 year of the war, when the casualty figures remained strikingly high.

The presentations were followed by a lively question and answer period, and then standing applause for the speakers by the Future Marines.



There’s a well-known Marine recruiting poster. It features a photo of a drill instructor snarling at a boot camp recruit with the text, “We Don’t Promise You a Rose Garden!” In a sense, that’s what the day’s program must have felt like to the Future Marines. But in another sense, the program was no doubt an invaluable experience that would help them be better—and better prepared—Marines.

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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