



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

October–December 2018

Your Last Chance to Get a Commemorative Tile at the Korean War Memorial



Korean War veteran Ted Chenoweth, Marine recipient of the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart, locates the tiles he commissioned for his brothers in arms. Just a few words and acronyms, but a world of meaning in those words and acronyms.

Attention all Korean War veterans and families . . .

For those of you who wanted to sponsor a commemorative tile at the Korean War Memorial, but learned that no more were available, we have some good news. The Presidio Trust has authorized KWMF to accept requests

for 72 additional 4 by 8 inch tiles, to be mounted on one final wall panel at the Memorial. We also have some bad news. At present, only 26 of the 72 tiles are still available; and once they've been taken, there will be no more.

In This Issue:

Last Chance for Commemorative Tiles (p. 1)
Profile of Cleveland Valrey (p. 2)
Korean War Memorial Legacy Circle (p. 5)

In Memoriam: Graham "Des" Desvernes (p. 6)
In Memoriam: Walter Morris Thomas (p. 7)

Please note the following:

- These 72 tiles will be the last that will ever be added to the Memorial. Once they have been installed, there will be no further construction or additions.
- The tiles are being offered only to Korean War veterans or to families wishing to honor a close relative who served in the Korean War and who has not already been recognized at the Memorial.
- The Presidio Trust will review and approve the wording on all proposed tiles.
- KWMF must confirm reservations for all 72 tiles before the Presidio Trust will allow installation to proceed. If we fall short of the total, there will be no additional tiles: either 72 tiles or none.
- Each tile requires a donation of \$500 or more, to offset administrative, fabrication, and installation costs. No donations made prior to this time may be used for one of these tiles.
- Requests for tiles are being accepted now on a first-come, first-served basis.
- You may make a reservation now, without obligation and without making any donation. We will then contact you when we have reached 72 reservations, and ask you to submit your donation at that time.

If you would like to reserve one of the 26 remaining tiles, please contact:

Christopher Lee ("Chris") Moore
Office Manager
clmoore@kwmf.org
(415) 817-1858

Chris will provide you with additional details on number of inscribed lines, number of characters and

spaces per line, and any additional information you require. Please see sample tile inscriptions below.

We encourage you to act soon, because this will be your last opportunity to honor a loved one with a commemorative tile at the Korean War Memorial.



A section of the tile and plaque wall



Photo by Charity Vargas, Presidio Trust

Profile of a Local Korean War Veteran: Cleveland Valrey

At times we come across remarkable men hidden in plain sight in our midst. Cleveland Valrey is such a man. He currently resides in Oakland, California, where at the age of 88 he is living a quiet, unassuming life. Yet his story is truly an impressive, even epic, American story.

Cleveland was born in 1930 in Beaumont, Texas. He spent his early years living through the Great Depression. In early 1944, his family moved to Oakland as part of the large migration westward to work in California's wartime industries. He attended high schools in Oakland and Berkeley until 1946, when at the tender age of 16 he managed to enlist in the U.S. Army Air Corps, which later became the U.S. Air Force. Following his discharge from the Air Force in 1949, Cleveland decided to make military service his career, and re-enlisted, this time in the U.S. Army. He qualified as an Army Parachutist and Airborne Ranger in 1950. He then served two combat tours in Korea: from 1950-51 as a member of the elite (and still segregated and all black) 2nd Ranger Company (Airborne), and from

1952-53 as a member of the 24th Infantry Division, U.S. Army, which by that time was integrated.

On May 20, 1951, Cleveland was wounded in an action on Hill 581 against Chinese and North Korean forces. He was evacuated to an Army hospital in Osaka, Japan, where he recuperated from his wounds.

The awards he received for his Korean War service include the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star "V", Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Korean Service Medal with six battle stars and arrowhead, and the United Nations Service Medal. In the years following the war, he also received the Korean War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Medal and the Ambassador for Peace Medal from the Government of the Republic of Korea. A brief but impressive and well-crafted documentary of his renowned 2nd Ranger Company (Airborne), titled "Brother Rangers," has been posted on the KWMF website. We encourage you to take a look: <http://www.kwmf.org/brother-rangers/>

After the Korean War, Cleveland served tours of duty in Japan from 1953-55, Germany from 1961-64, and the Dominican Republic in



Cleveland Valrey, 2nd Ranger Company (Airborne), Korea, 1951



Cleveland recuperating from his wounds in an Osaka hospital 1951

1965, as a member of the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). Next came Vietnam, where he served from 1965-66 with the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), and yet again from 1968-69, where he served with the 205th Assault Support Helicopter Company, 1st Aviation Brigade Headquarters, and the 120th Assault Support Helicopter Company. By this time he was both a Master Parachutist and a Master Army Aviator, a rare accomplishment.

Cleveland served his country in peacetime, two wars, and the Cold War for more than 30 years. He re-

tired from his long and distinguished military career in 1977. In 2001, he was inducted into the U.S. Army Aviation Hall of Fame. And in 2005, he was inducted into the U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame.

Over the years, Cleveland attended a number of military schools, including Japanese language school in Sendai, and German language school in Munich. He also attended several civilian institutions while on active duty, among them the University of Maryland, College Park; the University of Southern California; and Troy State University in Alabama.

Continuing his education, Cleveland earned an AA, Language Arts, Chinese & Japanese (High Honors), Laney College, Oakland; BA, Ethnic Studies (Cum Laude); MA, History, California State University, Hayward; MA, Ethnic Studies, San Francisco State University; and an Honorary Doctor of Humanities, Payne Academy, Bible Institute International, Jackson, Mississippi. He is a Life Member, Golden Key National Honor Society; Life Member, Alumni Association, California State University, Hayward; and Life Member, Alumni Association, San Francisco State University.

Cleveland is also a Life Member in the following organizations: American Legion; AMVETS; Disabled

American Veterans; Disabled Veterans' Life Memorial Foundation, Founding Sponsor; Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne) Association (RICA), Korean War; Retired Officers Association; Army Aviation Association of America; Military Officers Association of America; Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association; Worldwide Army Rangers, Inc. (WAR); Smithsonian Institution, National Associate; National Museum, United States Army, Founding Sponsor; National D-Day Museum, New Orleans, Charter Member; and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Cleveland was married to Kikuko Awata Valrey for 56 years, until her death in 2006. Their first child Rudy was born in Hachinohe, Japan in 1953. Karl Felix was born in Sendai, Japan in 1955. Richard Cleveland and Valerie Anna were born at Fort Lewis, Washington in 1956 and 1957 respectively. And Michael Aaron was born in Munich, Germany in 1962. Cleveland and his late wife Kikuko have five grandchildren and two great granddaughters.

He recently commented, "As a matter of interest, in 1983 I visited my eldest son, then 1st Lt. Rudy Valrey, U.S. Army, who was serving as a platoon leader near the DMZ in Korea. We took the opportunity to travel around Munsan-ni near the Imjin



A portrait taken in Osaka after Cleveland's release from the hospital

River and surrounding hills, which is where I made a combat jump on March 23, 1951." It must have been a memorable father-son reunion.

After more than 30 years of service to his country, Cleveland now lives a quieter, more reflective life in Oakland, a life well-lived. We salute the "Brother Ranger."

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.

Be Part of the Korean War Memorial Legacy Circle: Set Up Your Bequest to KWMF Now

Rear Admiral Russell W. Gorman, USN (Ret.), 1927-2017, served for 38 years of maritime service, initially in the U.S. Merchant Marine and then for most of his career in the U.S. Navy. After his retirement, he served in numerous volunteer capacities, including as a Director and Director Emeritus of the Korean War Memorial Foundation (KWMF).

Before his death in 2017, Admiral Gorman made a significant bequest to our Foundation in his will. The funds he so generously provided are now being applied toward the cost of commemorations at the Memorial; other Korean War veterans' ceremonies and activities; and the education of future generations of Americans about the Korean War and its continuing relevance today. For making his bequest, Admiral Gorman was honored as the Founding Member of the Korean War Memorial Legacy Circle.

Follow Admiral Gorman's lead, and be part of the Korean War Memorial Legacy Circle. Let us know that you plan to include KWMF in your estate plan, whether through a bequest in your will or trust, a life income gift, or simply by naming KWMF as the beneficiary of an account or insurance policy. Your help with KWMF's operational costs will ensure that the Korean War Memorial will be properly protected for future generations, including your descendants. No bequest is too small. Every bequest helps.



Midshipman Russell W. Gorman, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, 1949



Rear Admiral Russell W. Gorman, USN (Ret.)

As a member of the Korean War Memorial Legacy Circle, you will receive:

- Recognition as a Member of the Legacy Circle on the KWMF website, www.kwmf.org
- Recognition in the KWMF Newsletter, including a story about your bequest
- Considerable tax benefits for you and your heirs
- The satisfaction of knowing that you will be helping to preserve the Memorial and what it stands for, as well as the legacy of all Korean War veterans, for generations to come.

For additional information on how you can become a member of the Korean War Memorial Legacy Circle, please contact:

Donald F. Reid, Sgt, USMC
KWMF Co-Founder and Treasurer
(415) 776-5342
donfreid1775@gmail.com

Don, incidentally, has himself made a bequest of \$200,000 to KWMF.

Make your bequest today, and take an honored position in the Korean War Memorial Legacy Circle.

In Memoriam: Graham "Des" Desvernes

Graham "Des" Desvernes passed away on July 9, 2018. After serving in the U.S. Army and the NYPD, he went on to a long (1954-1980) career in the FBI. A friend of many of us in the Korean War Memorial Foundation, Des participated in a number of our gatherings and ceremonies.

The following obituary that appeared in the Former Agents of the FBI Newsletter describes Des's distinguished life and career:

Graham "Des" Desverne ('54-'80) passed naturally at home into the Higher Life on July 9, 2018, at age 89. His leadership skills became evident early in life as an Eagle Scout, and President of his H.S. Senior Class. Graham served twice in the U.S. Army. In 1946 on his 18th birthday, Des sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge to Korea, assigned to gather Intelligence on the 38th parallel. After serving, Des became a Policeman in NY. In 1952 he earned his B.S. in Political Science from Fordham University, serving as Cadet Colonel of the R.O.T.C. there. He was then called back into the Army as a Commissioned Officer, specializing in Electronics and Radar.

In 1954, Des became an FBI Special Agent serving in Mobile, Detroit, New York City, Puerto Rico, then in Buffalo under SAC Neil Welch. He retired out of the San Francisco Office as Supervisor of the Special Operations Squad. He was a pioneer of the Undercover Operations in the 1970's, having four Aliases simultaneously, including a Mafia Don. In 1977, Des coordinated the first case in which the FBI and DEA worked together. Des and DEA Agent Robert Bender joined forces for a successful major drug bust. He was invited to teach and share his UC experiences at Quantico. Several of his most dra-



matic cases were published in the book, UNDERCOVER, by Hans Halberstadt.

After retirement in 1980, Des was recruited to join the Marin County Sheriff's Dept. as a Homicide Sgt. on a special team which successfully identified and arrested the "Trailside Serial Killer", David Carpenter. In 1981, Des founded Desverne Associates, Inc., an Investigations and Security company in San Francisco, which he operated for 31 years with wife Pamela and partner Pierre Merkl. Des was also a Charter Board Member of the World Investigators Network (W.I.N).

Des' love of golf began in the 1960's when he was at Language School. He joined the California Golf Club in 1985, serving as President in 1996. He volunteered for 26 years as a Marshal at the AT&T Pro-Am Golf in Pebble

Beach, including 5 years as Course Captain. Des joined a group of Special Agents organized by SA Frank Gerrity in 1961, who golfed together annually for 50 years at Elkview CC in PA.

Known for his humor and affable nature, Des loved our Country, Family, the FBI, Golf, Nature, and his many great Friends. He had the deep peace of a life well-lived, faith-filled and loving, enabling him to tell a friend recently that he considered Death "Another Great Adventure".

Graham is survived by his beloved wife of 40 years, Pamela; three children, John (Kimberly), Ken (La Donna), Jeanne Pleasant (Matthew); five grandchildren; God daughter Francis Fitzpatrick; sister-in-law Debra Meisner (Michael); and honorary son, David Sheridan. He was predeceased by grandson Nicholas Graham.

We are grateful if you would like to honor Graham/Des with a Memorial contribution to the:

Former Agents of the FBI
Foundation
3717 Fettle Park Drive
Dumfries, VA 22025-2048
www.socxfbi.org (for online contributions)



Des (R) at the Korean War Memorial with a visiting Korean student delegation in 2017

In Memoriam: Korean War Veteran Walter Morris Thomas

Korean War veteran Walter Morris Thomas was born on Friday the 13th, 1930, and passed away on October 27, 2018. A proud San Francisco native, Walt leaves behind his wife Jan Barron, the love of his life for 26 years. He is predeceased by his brother Robert and his loving sister Virginia May. He was loving brother-in-law to Judi Pappas, Jim Pappas, and Bonnie Wilson; uncle to Jan Talbert, Diane (Roger) Talbert, Stephanie (Hans) Drexler, Jason (Jana) Pappas, Michael (Rachel) Pappas, Christine (Neil) Caynan; and cherished grand uncle to Joanna, Jake, Hannah, Samantha, Caleb, Allison, Chloe, Lucas, Cameron, and Sydney.



Walter Morris Thomas, demonstrating his true Aloha Spirit

Walt grew up in San Francisco's Richmond District, and attended George Washington High School and Skyline College. He served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1947 to 1951, and the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953, with the 1st Cavalry Division on the front lines of the Korean War.

After the war, he had a few jobs before embarking on a 34-year career with PG&E. Walt was an avid golfer and 49ers fan. He enjoyed sailing on San Francisco Bay, fishing, playing craps and cards, and solving crossword puzzles. He was also a voracious reader and loved a good Merlot. Walt was a man's man and extremely kind to all who knew him. He loved to share his knowledge, and he had a witty sense of humor and wonderful stories.

Walt and Jan loved their Friday Date Nights, travel, especially their trips to Ireland and to his roots in Scot-

land, and their Alaskan cruise. But Maui is where Walt's heart was. He loved showing off his Maui tattoo, and he truly embraced the Aloha Spirit. Walt was blessed with many wonderful friendships, and his loss is profoundly felt by those he left behind. His greatest joy of all was his loving family.

Following a gathering of family and friends at Duggan's Serra Mortuary in Daly City, Walt was interred at a military funeral at Cypress Lawn Cemetery in Colma. Many of the mourners wore Hawaiian attire in Walt's honor. His family requested that in lieu of flowers, those who wished might make donations in Walt's name to the Korean War Memorial Foundation, <http://www.kwmf.org/donate/> Jan and the family's thoughtfulness with this request is appreciated by all of us at KWME.

Aloha, Walt.



Walt's medals and memorabilia. On the upper left is his 1st Cavalry Division patch, and in the center at the top is his Combat Infantryman's badge



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

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