



Vol. 1 Issue 13

38th Parallel

A publication to remember, honor and thank the Korean War Veterans

50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee

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Service brings new partner

Jerelyn Phillips wasn't used to giving orders to officers. The Air Force senior master sergeant is more commonly on the receiving end of such taskings. But when the Korean War Commemoration Committee supported the defense department's Pentagon Memorial Service on Oct. 11, she got no resistance from the officers who took those orders.

"They (the officers who volunteered as escorts) basically said that I run the show and that they will do whatever I asked," said Phillips, who managed the escort detail at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Crystal City, Va., one of five hotels hosting the surviving family members attending the ceremony.

Representatives from the hotel saw her talents and asked her about the committee. The result? The hotel became a commemoration partner.

Mark Carrier, Holiday Inn Regional Senior Vice President, said that the hotel

became a partner because of the positive things connected with the program. "It's absolutely an opportunity to educate people," he said. "By becoming a partner I've learned a great deal already."

Carrier said that a room dressed in Korean War memorabilia from the committee products is in the works. He said he wants to make the hotel the one where veterans stay when visiting the area. Carrier has 19 hotels in his region. He plans to make Korean War veterans feel even more at home in the near future.

The pace of new commemoration partners since the Pentagon tragedy has slowed, but the committee still figures to surpass the 11,000 partners from the World War II committee before Nov. 11, 2003, when the Korean War commemoration ends. There are approximately nearly 9,000 partners.

For more information on the commemoration partner program, visit: <http://korea50.mil/events/communities>.



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Spotlight

Staff Sgt. Stacy M. Merriwether

Hometown: Virginia Beach, VA

Age/Zodiac: 29/Pisces

Job Title: Administrative Services Noncommissioned Officer

Best Part of Job: Assisting veterans in obtaining the Korean War Service Medal

Favorite Food: Homemade Spaghetti from a jar

Favorite Music: Anything by Sade or Prince

Heroes: All African-American soldiers who served in the Korean War because of their perseverance in dealing with



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racism in the military, continuing to fight for a country that considered them to be unintelligent, sub-class citizens (their actions proved most of America wrong), while paving the way for me and other African-

American servicemen and servicewomen to enjoy the benefits and opportunities afforded we have today.



38th Parallel Editorial Staff

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Tech. Sgt. Michael A. Dorsey (USAF)
Editor

Pentagon wants your help

If you have dog tag or any other kind of information that may concern a missing American that has not returned from a war in which our nation has engaged, the Pentagon's POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) would appreciate you forwarding that information to the following mailing address:

OASD/ISA (DPMO)
Attn: Charles Henley
2400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-2400

In addition, DPMO wants blood samples from maternal relatives of missing servicemembers to perform DNA matching tests.

"Contact with most of the families of Korean War missing was lost of the 50 years," said J.Alan



Liotta, acting deputy assistant secretary of Defense for DPMO told VFW Magazine. "We have located about 36 percent of the family members for more than 8,100 Korean War MIA's. ... But we are far short of our goal and we need your help."

This Date in History

Dec. 12, 1950: United Nations General Assembly Resolution 483(V) established the United Nations Service Medal.

The 1st Marine Division closed into Hungnam having cut their way through six Chinese divisions, killing approximately 20,000 of the enemy, on the way to the sea from Chosin/Changjin Reservoir. The division commander, Maj. Gen. O. P. Smith, characterized the operation with, "Retreat? Hell, we're just attacking in a different direction!"

Dec. 11, 1950: The 1st Marine Div. completed its breakout from the Chosin/Changjin Reservoir entrapment and began its march to join the rest of X Corps at Hungnam.

US Navy Air Task Group 1, operating from the USS Valley Force, flew its first combat mission of the Korean War, striking coastal rail lines and bridges in northeast Korea. This was the first of the Air Task Groups formed when Carrier Air Groups proved ineffective combat organizations when flown from Essex class carriers.

Dec. 8, 1950: The Greek Expeditionary Force arrived in Korea. The Greek Infantry Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. D. G. Arbouzis, soon saw action attached to the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division's 7th Cavalry Regiment.

A patrol from the 1st Marine Div. rescued 50 British Royal Marine Commandos cut off for 10 days between Koto-ri and Wonsan.

Dec. 7, 1950: UNCURK estimated 231,000 to 400,000 Chinese Communist troops were engaged against UN Command forces in Korea.

Eight US Air Force C-119 transports dropped four spans of M-2 treadway bridge in the vicinity of Funchilin Pass. This operation allowed the 1st

Marine Div. to breach the most difficult natural obstacle of the entire breakout from the Chosin/Changjin Reservoir. This is the only recorded bridge drop in the history of warfare.

Dec. 7, 1952: In the largest single-day tally of the Korean War, US Air Force F-86 Sabre jet pilots report seven of 32 enemy fighters destroyed, one damaged, and one probably destroyed.

Dec. 6, 1950: Fifth Air Force jets and Australian F-51 Mustangs were credited with killing 2,500 enemy troops in an attack near Pyongyang. This did not, however, prevent the Chinese Communists for occupying the North Korean capital.

Dec. 6, 1950: The UN issued a call for the Communist forces to halt at the 38th Parallel.

Dec. 6, 1950: Far East Air Forces' 27th Fighter-Escort Wing F-84 Thunderjets flew their first combat mission of the Korean War.

Dec. 5, 1950: UN forces withdraw from Pyongyang as Chinese forces move in.

The carrier, USS Princeton, commanded by WWII hero Capt. William O. Gallery, arrived on the Korean station.

Chinese Communists captured Associated Press Photographer Frank Noel.

Dec. 1, 1950: Eighth Army and X Corps began withdrawing in the face of the massive Chinese offensive. The US 2nd Infantry Div., the British 27th Brigade, and the Turkish Brigade, began to fight their way south from the Battle of Kunu-ri. The 2nd Infantry Div. was virtually destroyed during the battle where 4,037 men were lost.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Don C. Faith, Jr., commander of 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment (and Task Force Faith), 7th Infantry Div., became the 39th Korean War Medal of Honor recipient. Staff Sgt. William G. Windrich, I Company, 3^d Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Div., became the 40th Korean War Medal of Honor recipient.

Nov. 30, 1950: President Harry Truman referred publicly to the possible use of the atomic bomb in Korea.

X Corps troops were ordered to withdraw south to Hungnam.

Capt. Carl L. Sitter, G Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Div., became the 38th Medal of Honor recipient of the Korean War in action at Hagaru-ri.

Nov. 30, 1951: U.S. Air Force Maj. George A. Davis shot down three Tupolev TU-2s and a MiG jet fighter to become the fifth ace of the war.

Air Force Lt. Col. Winton W. Marshall destroyed one TU-2 and a LA-9 and was officially credited as the sixth ace of the war.

Nov. 29, 1950: The French Battalion, known as the Battalion de Coree, joined the UN forces in Korea.

Private 1st Class William B. Baugh, G Company, 3^d Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Div., earned the 36th Medal of Honor.

Maj. Reginald R. Myers, Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Div., earned the 37th Medal of Honor of the Korean War in action near Hagaru-ri.

Gen. Harry Walker ordered Eighth Army to withdraw to new lines in the vicinity of the North Korean capital.

Chaplains serve, sacrifice in crisis too

When an American Airlines jet crashed into the west side of the Pentagon three months ago, chaplains huddled along side fire fighters, police officers and medical technicians to help overcome the tragedy, but the history of chaplains serving in the field of battle goes back further than Sept. 11. Chaplain Paul Kapaun, POW and Korean War casualty is part of that military lineage.

Kapaun, who volunteered to serve in the war, volunteered at Fort Riley, Kan., and served with the Army's 1st Cavalry. He touched many lives, including Bill McClain's.

"I first remember this man because he paid no attention to bullets flying around him," said McClain of Narcross, Ga. who was a floor-mate of Kapaun in the POW camp. "He volunteered to stay with the wounded and dead while the rest of us escaped from being annihilated by the Chinese."

Before, during and after he became a POW, Kapaun's positive presence made life easier for his comrades in different ways.

"I was a medic and Father (Kapaun) hung out with the medics," said Romain Menarski who served at Kapaun's last mass before the cleric was captured. "We didn't

think so much of him as a chaplain, but more like one of us. We thought it would be over in a short time, but it wasn't. They told us we'd be home before Christmas, but we weren't."

Herbert Miller also remembers him well.

"I was a sergeant in the army and badly wounded by a grenade, laying in a ditch, attempting to play dead when the Chinese and North Koreans found us. A

gun was pushed into my face and the next thing I knew Kapaun appeared out of nowhere and pushed the barrel of the rifle and picked me up. He carried me for many miles," said Miller. "I owe my life to Kapaun and to the Lord for allowing me to survive."

Father Kapaun did not come to his hometown of Pilsen, Kan., for Christmas, nor did he survive captivity. After seven months as a POW he died in a camp on May 23, 1951 from pneumonia and severe malnutrition and was buried in a common grave somewhere near Pyokton, Korea. During this holiday season, Pilsen will remember its fallen hero. A life-size bronze statue shows



Courtesy photo

A statue of Emil Kapaun stands in Pilsen, Kan., honoring the fallen Korean War veteran.

Kapaun helping a soldier on the battlefield.

"It takes my breath away to have a person in our community honored as a hero," said Joe Alvarez of Lost Springs, Kan.

While some view Kapaun as a hero, others saw him as an inspiration. When McClain and Kapaun met again as POWs two months after their first encounter on the battlefield, Kapaun showed leadership difficult of times.

"Every night he lead the POWs in reciting the Lord's Prayer before going to sleep," McClain said. "He gave us hope." (*Pat Wick contributed to this article*)



Memorial focus: 'Freedom Is Not Free'

Visitors to the Korean War Veterans Memorial here are greeted by a patrol of 19 stainless steel statues trudging toward an objective.

The patrol consists of 14 soldiers, one sailor, one airman and three Marines. The seven-foot-tall figures represent racial and ethnic cross sections of America —



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whites, blacks, Asians, American Indians, Hispanics. One Marine carries an ammunition case about the size of a lunch box and a tripod on his shoulder. The airman, wearing a fur hat, is the only one not wearing a helmet. There is also a statue of an African American Army medic and a South Korean soldier fighting with the American unit

The troops walk grimly through a triangular field of juniper bushes and marble barriers that symbolize the rough terrain in Korea. Their objective, at the apex of the triangular "field of service," is symbolized by a masted American flag. The figures are clad in windblown ponchos to recall the harsh weather troops endured during the three-year war — 1950 to 1953.

The 19 statues reflect off a shiny, 164-foot-long black granite wall. A computer-controlled sandblaster etched the wall's 41 panels, creating a mural of more than 2,500 figures — the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard personnel who supported combat troops.

The etchings are of Army artillery, rocket launchers,

Amidst the 19 seven-foot statues, the memorial is the site of many Korean War Commemoration Committee official ceremonies including presidential and embassy wreath layings commonly held at the base of the memorial.

(Far right) The number of those missing in action can be read near the reflecting pool.



antiaircraft crews, weapons, vehicles, tankers, hospital units, rescue helicopters, surgeons, nurses, ambulances, stretcher bearers, chaplains of all denominations, combat engineers, ammunition and fuel dumps, depots, communications installers, and switchboard and radio operators.

Faces etched into the wall came from photographs in the National Archives and the National Air and Space Museum. Some of the people whose images were used are still alive.

The reflective quality of the granite creates the illusion of 38 statues, symbolic of the 38th Parallel and the 38 months of the war. When viewed from afar, it also creates the appearance of the mountain ranges of Korea.

The third element of the Korean War Veterans Memorial, an area of remembrance, consists of a circular reflecting pool at the apex surrounded by a grove of 40 Linden trees. "Freedom Is Not Free" is engraved on the segment of wall that extends into the pool area.

The memorial recognized the contributions of more than 1.5 million Americans who served in Korea during the three-year war. *(By Rudi Williams American Forces Press Service)*



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Medic faced war's health challenges

The term “doing more with less” is one Timothy Morris understood 50 years ago.

Morris, an Army medic who



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Timothy Morris, shown here in his Korean War uniform at Arlington National Cemetery on July 27 in Arlington, Va., served as a medic in 1951.

fought in the Korean War in 1951 at the Iron Triangle, part of a region connecting Cheolwon and Gimhwa and strategic point for North Korea's military for its invasion of the south, had the responsibility of providing medical attention. He remembers his experience at the Triangle.

“There was blood everywhere,” Morris said. “I was covered in blood for three days taking care of patients caked in blood.”

A platoon is assigned only one medic, making a medic one of the most critical positions in combat.

When Morris left the Bronx in New York and headed for Fort Dix N.J. for basic training, he didn't think he would ever go to Korea. His drill instructor knew different.

“I thought I was going to work in a hospital,” Morris said. “But when I went through basic training my instructor told me to ‘wake up little soldier or you're gonna get killed.’”

After training Morris headed to the front lines. The words of Morris' instructor stayed with him in combat.

“We got hit the first night,” said Morris, a bronze star recipient. “It took me a few weeks, with the help of God, to learn to stay alive.”

North Koreans and the Chinese weren't the only obstacles medics

faced in Korea.

Weather was in some ways, perhaps the biggest enemy for Morris and other servicemen fighting on Korean terrain. Ground forces often suffered from frostbite and the harsh weather became a challenge for medics attending to those wounded.

Medics and Army nurses played a major role in support of combat troops in the Korean War. Between 540 and 1,500 Army nurses served in Korea. Army nurses assigned to Korea helped pioneer many new surgical techniques, such as renal dialysis, the Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals or MASH, disposable supplies, and the use of shock treatment centers.

Averaging 130 patients a day MASH duty was heavy. But with medics serving on the front lines and nurses in MASH units in the rear on the ground, the biggest advance came through the air.

But in the field, Morris and other medics were the hospital where they had to form their own miracles.

“I'm just glad that I am alive today,” Morris said. “I have been blessed.”

Air rescue vital to success of treating servicemembers

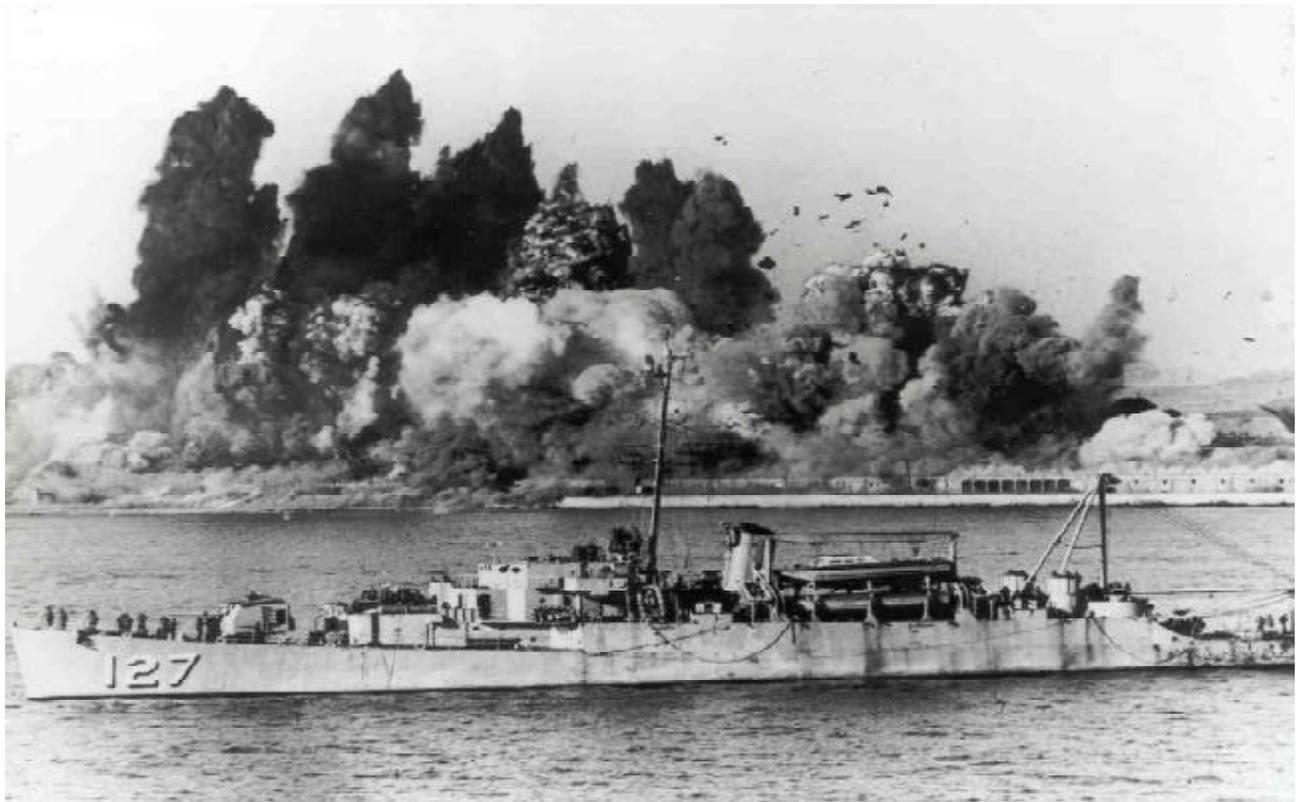
Air Force air rescue also made its debut during the Korean War. The increased use of helicopters on rescue missions became a dominant factor in saving lives. By the war's end, air rescue crews rescued 9,898 United Nation's servicemembers, with 996 as combat saves.

The primary mission of Air Force rescue units in Korea was to pick up downed airmen behind enemy lines. Yet, in the early stages of the Korean War, there was little need for this mission. Air Force H-5s were kept busy evacuating critically wounded soldiers from the front lines to MASH (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital) units. Many would have died without such timely treatment. By war's end in 1953, more than 17,000 casualties were airlifted by helicopter. This produced improvement in helicopters and further refinement of aeromedical battlefield evacuation in Vietnam. (USAF Museum and US Army Center of Military History)



USAF Museum

Aircrews from an H-5 helicopter attend to a wounded soldier in Korea.



National Archives

The high speed transport USS Begor lies at anchor ready to load the last U.N. landing craft as a huge explosion rips harbor installations at Hungnam, Korea. The city was where the U.S. merchant marine ship Meredith Victory helped evacuate 14,000 refugees in December 1950.

A Soldier's Christmas

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,
gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,
my daughter beside me, angelic in rest.

Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.
The sparkling lights in the tree, I believe,
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.

My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep
in perfect contentment, or so it would seem.
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,
But I opened my eye when it tickled my ear.
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,
Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,

and I crept to the door just to see who was near.
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.

A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,
away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts,
to the window that danced with a warm fire's light
then he sighed and he said "Its really all right,
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night"

"Its my duty to stand at the front of the line,
that separates you from the darkest of times.
No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me."

HONOR ROLL



Rodolfo P. Hernandez

Rank: Corporal

Organization: U.S. Army, Company G, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team.

Place and date: Near Wontong-ni, Korea, May 31, 1951.

Entered service at: Fowler, Calif.

Birth: 1931, Colton, Calif.

General Order No.: 40, April 21, 1962.

Citation: Corporal Rodolfo P. Hernandez, United States Army, a member of Company G 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy near Wontong-ni, Korea on May 31, 1951. His platoon, in defensive positions on Hill 420, came under ruthless attack by a numerically superior and fanatical hostile force, accompanied by heavy artillery, mortar, and machinegun fire which inflicted numerous casualties on the platoon. His comrades were forced to withdraw due to lack of ammunition but Corporal Hernandez, although wounded in an exchange of grenades, continued to deliver deadly fire into the ranks of the onrushing assailants until a ruptured cartridge rendered his rifle inoperative. Immediately leaving his position, Corporal Hernandez rushed the enemy armed only with rifle and bayonet. Fearlessly engaging the foe, he killed six of the enemy before falling unconscious from grenade, bayonet, and bullet wounds but his heroic action momentarily halted the enemy advance and enabled his unit to counterattack and retake the lost ground. The indomitable fighting spirit, outstanding courage, and tenacious devotion to duty clearly demonstrated by Corporal Hernandez reflect the highest credit upon himself, the infantry, and the U.S. Army.

