



Vol. 1 Issue 4

# 38TH PARALLEL

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

KOREA50™

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*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

Bob Mount and Chip Chiple from the Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 142 in Frederick, Md., salute the flag outside the Navy Memorial Archives in downtown Washington, D.C., on Dec. 12, 2000.

## Hungnam Evacuation critical to Korean War

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — One of the significant events in the Korean War, was remembered Dec. 12, 2000, in downtown Washington, D.C.

At the Navy Memorial, veterans listened to guest speakers who served with them during the Hungnam Evacuation. The day-long event commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the evacuation of Marines, soldiers and refugees following the battle of the Chosin Reservoir. The mission was one of the United States Navy's major achievements during the Korean War.

"This was really great," Navy veteran Chip Chiple said at the Naval Heritage Center following the ceremony. "It's good to know that we're appreciated."

Before the symposium began, Chiple, a member of the Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 142 from Frederick, Md., toured the center with fellow chapter members looking for friends using the resource library and viewing Korean War era equipment.

Marine Corps Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Edwin Simmons and Navy Capt. (Ret.) Thomas Hudner, a Medal of Honor recipient, spoke about the struggle and sacrifices made by those who served, the advance of airpower, and the importance of military readiness.

In late November 1950, United Nations ground forces came under heavy attack by Chinese forces at the Chosin

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Contents in the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. Visit our web site address at <http://korea50.army.mil> to learn more about Korean War veterans.

# Giants challenge military, head to Superbowl XXXV

Before the New York Giants played the Baltimore Ravens in the Superbowl on January 28 in Tampa, Fla., the Giants challenged the military to launch a pre-game event during the conference championship game against the Minnesota Vikings at Giant's Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., on January 14.

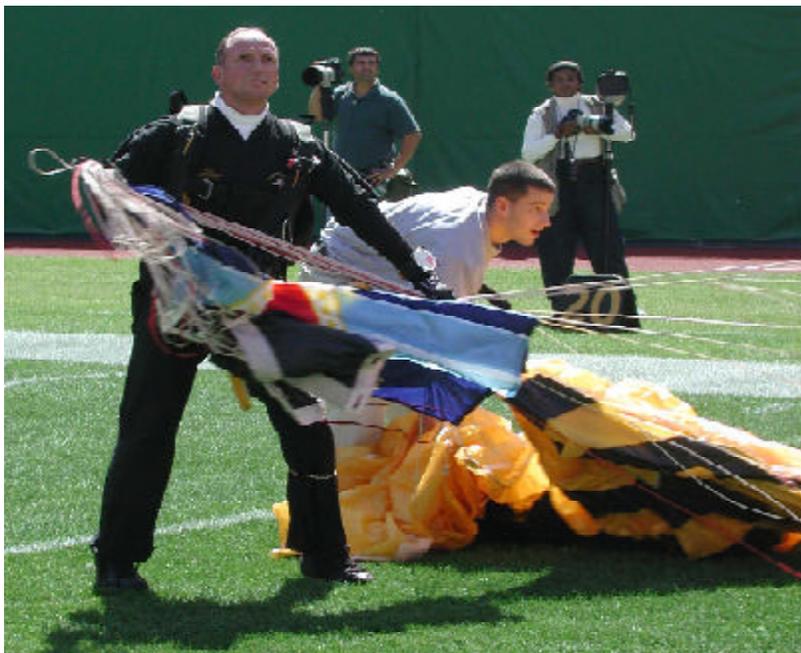
In response, the Defense Department sent America's Armed Forces to meet the challenge. The joint service plan included jets zooming over the Meadowlands, paratroopers jumping on to mid-field, and a joint service color guard.

The joint service color guard from the New York City Military Entrance Processing Station at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn posted the colors before

78,000 Giants fans. High over the Meadowlands a four-person parachute team from the U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., set its sights on the 50-yard line. They jumped into the stadium from a MH-60 "Blackhawk" helicopter flown by New York Air National Guard aviators from the 106th Rescue Wing at West Hamp-ton Beach.

The mission: deliver the game ball.

The New York Giants' long-standing reputation as an active community partner in the New York metropolitan area is a nextension of the team's community outreach efforts to honor and thank all veterans, including those from Korean War. (*Information courtesy OSD/PA*)



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

A member of the U.S. Special Operations Command parachute team from MacDill AFB, Fla., jumps into Giants Stadium with the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Flag earlier in the 2000 National Football League season. The unit also participated in the Superbowl Jan. 28, 2001 in Tampa near MacDill.

## Korean War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Upcoming Events

**Below is a list of some of the major events for 2001.**

### April 11

Soldiers' and Airmen's Home Korean War Vets Commemoration, Washington, D.C.

### May 27

National Memorial Day Concert, Washington, D.C.

### June 25-29

Pacific Air Forces Korean Air War Symposium, Hickam AFB, Hawaii

### July 23

African-American Korean War Commemoration, Arlington National Cemetery

### July 25

Twilight Tattoo for Korean War Veterans at Ellipse, Washington, D.C.

### July 27

Korean War Armistice Day Commemoration, Washington, D.C.

United War Veterans Council Armistice Commemoration, Staten Island, N.Y.

# Air Force awards largest group of Korean War Service Medals

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN)** — The Air Force Personnel Center Awards and Decorations section handed out the largest group of Korean War Service Medals to date, to a Louisiana veteran on Sept. 12, 2000.

Lester J. Guidry, a Korean War veteran and organizer of the largest Korean War Service Medal presentation ceremony in Louisiana, drove to Texas to thank in person those in the center “who’ve helped ensure the veterans are not forgotten.”

Guidry began his crusade in July when he contacted the center to make arrangements to have applications processed and medals issued en masse. Guidry then held several meetings in his hometown of Lafayette, La., where he assisted veterans in completing the applications and ensuring all the necessary paperwork was provided to the AFPC. He then brought the entire package of more than 200 applications

to the center in August for processing.

“Although we’ve processed around 1,000 medals total and mailed them to individual veterans, Mr. Guidry’s is the largest group request we’ve received,” said Master Sgt. Alberto Salinas, Awards and Decorations section superintendent.

The Air Force is the lead agency to distribute the medals to U.S. servicemen and women. The Air Force will provide the medal at no cost, and on a first-come first-serve basis, based upon availability of medals, to veterans who meet the criteria and submit an application and provide a copy of their discharge paper.

Check out the web site at: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards/> for more information on the Korean War Service Medal eligibility criteria and application procedures. *(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)*

## Hungnam

### from page 1

Reservoir in North Korea just below the border with China. In the harsh, cold winter of 1950, the “Frozen Chosin” was a critical and costly battle -- the 1st Marine Division suffered 4,000 casualties.

On Dec. 12, 1950 the Navy began evacuating approximately 200,000 mili-

tary servicemembers and refugees on navy and surplus ships made available through navy contingency plans. One of the ships, the Meredith Victory, a merchant marine ship carried 14,000 refugees. Five births occurred on that ship during the evacuation.

When the city was abandoned, X Corps and the U.S. Navy destroyed supply resources around the port.

**The Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home Korean War Veterans commemoration ceremony is April 11 in Washington, D.C.**

### This Date in History

**Dec. 15, 1950:** The F-86 Sabre jets of the U.S. Air Force’s 4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing flew their first missions of the Korean War.

**Dec. 15, 1950:** UN forces withdraw south of the 38th Parallel. Eighth Army established the Imjin River defense line north of Seoul

**Dec. 16, 1950:** The U.S. 24th Infantry Division received the Distinguished Unit Citation (now the Presidential Unit Citation) for “extraordinary heroism in combat against a numerically superior enemy.” The division, commanded by Maj. Gen. William F. Dean, by then a prisoner of war, was the first U.S. division to enter the Korean War.



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

Flags representing allied nations that served in the Korean War wave in the wind at the Navy Memorial.

# POWs May Qualify for Purple Heart

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12, 2000 — Former American prisoners of war may be eligible to receive the Purple Heart medal due to a little-publicized four-year-old change in the award rules.

President John F. Kennedy started the change by signing Executive Order 11-1016 on April 25, 1962. Until that time, service members could receive the Purple Heart only during a formally declared state of war. Kennedy's order made it possible to award the medal even without a formal declaration of war.

The 1962 order didn't specifically mention POWs or their eligibility because of wounds and injuries suffered in captivity. An Army policy change dated Sept. 27, 1962, allowed Purple Heart awards henceforth to members who might become prisoners of war and be wounded or injured by their captors.

Neither Kennedy's executive order nor the Army change was retroactive. No former prisoners of war of any service, living and dead, who were

wounded or injured during captivity before April 25, 1962, were eligible until Congress passed legislation as part of the 1996 National Defense Authorization Act. Prior to the 1996 legislation, for instance, none of the 140,000 U.S. service members captured by the Japanese in the Philippines in May 1942 could qualify for a Purple Heart.

Also ineligible were the thousands of former POWs who came later in World War II and in the Korean War. Since 1996, a number of World War II and Korean War vets have applied for Purple Hearts on the basis of wounds and injuries received while they were POWs, officials of the Army's Military Awards Branch said.

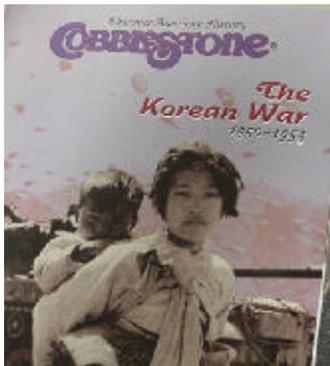
Supporting documentation is required and may include copies of repatriation medical exams, or a witness statement from a cellmate, for example, stating their cell mate was abused at hands of captors.

The injuries or wounds must be deliberately inflicted by captors, they said. Injuries received while on work

detail, for example, probably would not qualify — but if in doubt, apply.

A recent example of troops earning the Purple Heart while held captive occurred more than a year ago in the Balkans. Serb forces captured three U.S. soldiers on March 31, 1999. The Americans endured frequent beatings until their May 2 release. All three received Purple Heart medals. Assistants at the Military Order of the Purple Heart headquarters in Springfield, Va., said veterans applying for the medal should use Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining to Military Records," readily available at Department of Veterans Affairs service and medical centers; [online](http://web1.whs.osd.mil/forms/SF0180.PDF) at <http://web1.whs.osd.mil/forms/SF0180.PDF>.

The back of the form includes instructions and mailing addresses, which differ by the applicant's service and rank. For more on the Purple Heart's history, eligibility and information on the [Military Order of the Purple Heart](http://purpleheart.org/), visit the organization's Web site at <http://purpleheart.org/>.



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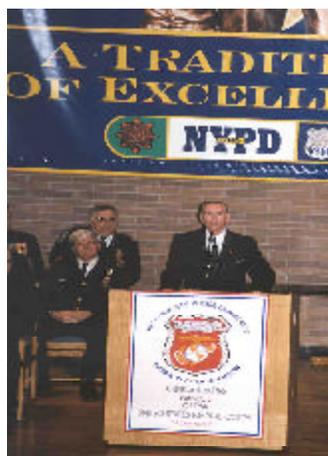
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## Arlington Cemetery opens Web site

Service members seeking information about Arlington National Cemetery may now visit the cemetery's new web site to review information about burial entitlements and procedures for arranging a funeral at Arlington. The

site also offers information on the history of the cemetery and a gallery of photographs of the grounds, ceremonies and services. Site visitors may leave comments. Call 703-695-3250 for more information.



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

## NYPD remembers

John Scanlon, former head of the New York City Police department and ex-Marine, spoke at 1 Police Plaza in New York City's police headquarters during the department's annual Marine Corps reunion that included highlighting the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War.

# Veterans galore as New Jersey unveils latest attraction on The Boardwalk

**ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. —**

Governor Christine Todd Whitman and a host of dignitaries joined close to 1,000 attendees in the dedication ceremony of the New Jersey Korean War Memorial, located in Brighton Park, Atlantic City — where Park Place meets the Boardwalk.

Whitman keynoted the dedication ceremony Nov. 12, 2000, and laid a wreath honoring the 191,000 New Jerseyans who served in the conflict.

“May this memorial forever stand both as a tribute to those who fought for freedom in Korea and as an enduring symbol of New Jerseyans’ deep appreciation for the selfless, patriotic service of all our country’s veterans,” she said.

The \$3 million project features a 12-foot statue of a soldier looking at dog tags clutched in his fist. In addition, a group of soldiers under fire emerge through a sheet of water to the left of the “Mourning Soldier” and a



*New Jersey Veterans Affairs*

Dog tags in the hand of the “mourning soldier” inside the memorial symbolizes fallen comrades in the Korean War.



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

Gov. Christine Whitman receives Korean War Commemoration Flag from committee executive director Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Nels Running. The governor also received a commemoration coin.

plaque with engraved names of 822 New Jersey veterans who were killed or remain missing in action. On the outside a soldier peers through a waterfall. Atlantic City’s Casino Reinvestment and Development Authority contributed \$1 million toward the project. The Korean War Memorial Fund still accepts corporate and private donations to cover the remaining costs of the construction.

Director of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration

Committee, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Nels Running presented Governor Whitman with a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration coin and certificate to symbolize New Jersey’s recognition as an official “Commemoration Partner.”

The New Jersey Army National Guard performed a rifle salute while the state’s Air National Guard concluded the ceremony with a flyover of four F-16C Fighting Falcons from the 177<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing. (*Courtesy New Jersey Veterans Affairs*)



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

Veterans placed a wreath at the front of the memorial as New Jersey active duty, Guard and Reserve units participated in the ceremony.

# Reflecting the past

Soldier traces his roots during anniversary

By **Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey**  
Public Affairs

When one of the most celebrated U.S. military units commemorated its involvement in the Korean War where it began, one veteran didn't waste any time showing his support.

"I wouldn't have missed this for anything," Samuel Vasquez said during the plaque dedication and tree planting ceremony for the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in San Juan, Puerto Rico on Sept. 15, 2000. The event honored the National Guard unit's service in the Korean War.

Standing across from the fort that symbolizes Puerto Rico's own military defense, Vasquez, wearing a decorated baseball cap on his head and carrying a photo of himself five decades old, dreamed 1951 all over again.

"I wanted to become a member of the Air Force, but the Army took me no problem," he said.

During basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, Vasquez said his inability to speak English at the time was a problem in the Air Force, so he wound up taking basic training over — this time at Fort Knox in the Army. After his training, he said he was sent to Japan and was given the option to stay there for three years or

serve nine months in Korea.

"I said gimme the nine months I'll take a shot," said Vasquez, a tank driver with the 65<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

"Now I'm 70 years old and I lived through it," he said. "I remember the front line 155 miles wide. I remember General Ridgway and Van Fleet. I remember a lot. But I don't regret a thing because I served with the best unit."

At Castillo San Felipe del Morro, the fort where the 65<sup>th</sup> trained, the scene was both sentimental and emotional for the nearly 400 veterans and family members attended. Now a historic site with the Department of Interior's National Park Service, the post is referred to as El Morro.

Sporting unit hats with, medals, ribbons and other insignia, no one else seemed to need any reminding of their success the saw the unit receive presidential citations and more than 120 silver stars.



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

## Samuel Vasquez



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

During the ceremony, Vasquez pulled out a wallet-sized picture of himself in Old San Juan Puerto Rico.



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

The installation where the 65<sup>th</sup> used to train is now a landmark of the U.S. Park Service in Old San Juan, P.R.

# Inchon ceremony commemorates pivotal point in Korean War

Mustered on the flight deck with their commanding officer, Capt. Dan Hartwell, it was not a typical rally for the crew aboard the USS Inchon. On Sept. 15, 2000, the 50-year anniversary of the historic amphibious assault landing, it was time to pay homage and respect to the anniversary of one of the most notable military assaults in naval history.

"Today we do our part in the Korean War commemoration," said Hartwell. "As you are aware, USS Inchon is named after the location of a military operation that became the turning point of the Korean War."

The captain took time to recount the events that took place during the Inchon Landing, but it was Korean War veteran, Marine Corps Master Sgt. (Ret.) Douglas Allen who brought the significance of the landing close to home. "First of all, I would like to thank all the 'grunts' in the ground units that gave their lives that day so that the

landing could be victorious," Allen said. The landing was not unlike the storming of the beaches of Normandy during World War II. It was very hazardous, very dangerous -- over 130,000 Americans were injured.

"I consider it an honor to participate in this ceremony today. I want to say, now, to the crew of the Inchon and to the military members across the world, you are underpaid, over-extended and continue to do an excellent job. Thank you for carrying on such a worthy tradition."

On behalf of the Inchon crew, Hartwell showed Allen a plaque that will hang in the ship next to a photo of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the mastermind behind the Inchon Landing. The captain also presented Allen a framed photograph and a ship's ball cap.

"I shall wear this with pride," Allen said. (*Courtesy of JO3 Marcus Moland, USS Inchon*)



## Welcoming heroes home

Richard Grasso, left, chief executive officer of the New York Stock Exchange, greets Korean War Veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Capt. (Ret.) Thomas Hudner in the breakfast room of the NYSE on Nov. 10, 2000. From the time he entered the financial mecca at 11 Wall St., he couldn't believe his eyes.



"I didn't realize so much would be involved today. I'm touched. Even the people who didn't know what was going on gave us attention. It was moving," the naval aviator said after two minutes of silence on the trading floor. Hudner, one of four Medal of Honor recipients who were guests there.



Norfolk, Va., hosted a reenactment of the Inchon Landing to commemorate the historic amphibious assault 50 years ago.

*CPO Milinda Jensen*

**The Soldiers' and Airmen's Home Korean War Veterans commemoration ceremony is April 11 in Washington, D.C.**

# New York's Nations Parade eyes "The Forgotten Ones"

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey  
*Public Affairs*

New York loves a parade. They seem as commonplace as taxis during Manhattan rush hour. But no matter how often the city clears traffic on Fifth Avenue, the scenario doesn't seem to get old —spectators still turn out to see the pride and passion of those marching down the street.

For Korean War veterans, the focus of the Nations Parade on Nov. 11, such a celebration is not commonplace for them. So when they marched for more than 25 blocks to the delight of ecstatic fans, they couldn't help but feel special.

More than 100 veteran service organizations, military active duty, Guard and Reserve units, Reserve Officer Training Corps and Junior ROTC, and other interest groups, took center stage on Fifth Avenue and put on a show for the thousands of spectators of all ages cheering throughout the day.

Led by New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, the parade, highlighting New York City's Veterans Day weekend commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War, honored all military veterans from all branches of service. The parade ended in the bandshell at Central Park where performances by Korean dancers, Boy Scouts and other support organizations kept the crowd entertained until dark.

Shoppers, bystanders and staunch military supporters

[Continued on Page 9](#)

Cathedral High School's marching band was one of many area schools that performed in the parade.



Veterans from all walks of life marched more than 25 blocks, starting at 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue.





A Korean War veteran and Purple Heart recipient waves to the crowd as he rides the float entering Central Park.

### Parade from Page 8

from around the country showed their appreciation by applauding, waving flags, waving hands, and holding up signs saying “Thank You.” Perhaps the best expression of gratitude was just being there.

“People didn’t have to be here to throw kisses and say thank you,” said Stephen Mullan, a Korean War veteran from California. “If I ever was rejected, I feel better now.”

Mullan, a rifleman from I Company, 35<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in the army, made the trek across country in tribute to a Medal of Honor recipient and fellow soldier, Pvt. Billie G. Kanell. Kanell gave his life throwing himself on a grenade on Sept. 7, 1951, near Pyongyang, North Korea, saving two people.

“I’m here because Billie Kanell saved my life,” he said. “This is for him.”



An ecstatic fan cheers on a patriotic veteran as he marches along Fifth Avenue.



After dancing down Fifth Avenue, Korea dancers perform in the band shell of Central Park.



A grateful spectator shows his appreciation in along Fifth Avenue.

# What Veterans Day means to me

I'm thankful to the veterans for my freedom. Most people are too busy to stop and notice all that we have. One day a year we have a holiday and honor the veterans, but for the rest of the 364 days we barely notice any of them. In schools we say the pledge of allegiance and most people just say it because they have to. They don't stop to think about what it means. The part that says "one nation" is one of the most significant parts. One nation means all of us together. Without all of us we would not have our veterans and without them history itself would be a different story.

The veterans of the Revolutionary War brought us freedom from England. The veterans of the Civil War brought us freedom from slavery. The veterans from World War I and World War II brought us freedom from the dictators ruling Japan or Germany. There are also people who died and veterans from wars not as well known. For example, veterans of the Gulf War, the Vietnam or the Korean War don't get the same kind of recognition because the wars were not as big or important to us. I think they should be honored just as much as the other veterans.

People died for our freedom. With that freedom comes opportunities that other countries don't have. Take a look at our schools. You can go to college or not. You always get a good education and with that we have many good job opportunities. We can choose our major in college and choose our job. We don't have to always do what the government tells us. In other countries people are forced to work in factories and fields. We have our choices because of the veterans.

Have you even thought about who you would not have in your family without veterans? I had both of my grandfathers in the war and both of my grandmothers on the home front. In battle someone's son, someone's dad, someone's grandpa died and I still have my family. I'm very lucky to have my family. My mother's father was in World War II in the Air Force and his plane got shot down and he was captured. They put him in a camp and it was not easy. Sometimes they got packages from the Red Cross. Mostly they ate brussel sprouts, black bread, and water. He is still alive today. Because of men like my grandpa we have freedom today.

We are the lucky ones. We live in a time of peace in the United States of America. If we don't talk to the veterans we won't even know much of the history of our own country. They gave us our freedom at the expense and risk of their lives.

**Becca Simonse**

Essay writer



*Courtesy photo*

# Korea

## The Forgotten War

By Carrie Mueller

“Poor is the nation that has no heroes. Shameful is the one that, having them, forgets.”

How sad that this quote, by an unknown author, can be applied to the brave people who answered the call to serve in the Korean War.

Here we are living in America, land of the free, and yet we barely even acknowledge a group of men and women who fought to preserve this freedom, at home and abroad. Some Americans say that the Korean War did not concern us and we should not have gotten involved. But I disagree. The issue of overtaking democracy was considered a threat to not just

Korea, but democratic nations worldwide.

Ask any middle school student about World War I, World War II, or the Civil War, and you will surely get an earful of dates, facts, and opinions. However, ask them about the Korean War, and they more than likely will be uncertain. I believe that we need to raise more awareness about this war which is considered one of the bloodiest, most bitterly fought wars in which the United States has ever been involved.

For instance, did you know that there is a Korean War Memorial in Plover, Wisc.? This gruesome war was fought from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. Over 132,000 Wisconsin residents served in the armed forces — over 700 of them were killed, and over 4,200 injured. The saddest part is that there are **still** 84 missing in action from Wisconsin alone.

There is no doubt in my mind that

we owe it to those who lost their lives to remember and honor these courageous heroes. The bottom line is that history is to be learned from, and yet how can we learn from this and not make the same mistakes when we simply decide to forget this war ever happened? I would like to leave you with a phrase — all gave some, some gave all. Let us remember all who sacrificed so much for our freedom in the Korean War.

*Mueller is a Prairie River Middle School student in Merrill, Wisc.*



# U.S., North Korea Reach Agreement on MIA remains recovery

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. and North Korean negotiators have reached an agreement for 2001 under which joint teams will recover the remains of Americans missing in action from the Korean War, marking the sixth consecutive year that the United States will conduct remains recovery operations in North Korea.

The agreement, following four days of negotiations in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, led by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, expands similar operations that have been conducted since 1996.

The 2001 agreement significantly expands the size of the U.S. teams, increases the length of U.S. activities and adds areas of operations around the Chosin Reservoir to the current areas in Unsan and Kujang counties, approximately 60 miles north of the capital of Pyongyang.

Ten operations will be conducted in the three areas between April and November. Each operation will last 32 days - up from 26 days each in 2000. Repatriation of remains will follow immediately thereafter. The increase in the number of days essentially equates to 60 additional days, or two complete operations, beyond the levels set in the 2000 schedules. The U.S. component of the joint teams was expanded to 28 members from 20.

The agreement also establishes a procedure for sharing records and data related to witness interviews, potential burial locations and other information not previously made available by the North Koreans.

During the five operations this year in the Unsan and Kujang areas, joint teams recovered 65 sets of remains. Forty-two were recovered in the four previous years. Five have been

positively identified, with another 10 nearing the final stages of identification. More than 8,100 servicemen are missing in action from the Korean War.

Operations in 2001 will include areas of investigation near Kaechon, approximately 18 miles south of Unsan and Kujang. Kaechon includes an area nicknamed the “Gauntlet,” where the U.S. Army’s 2nd Infantry Division conducted its famous fighting withdrawal along a narrow road through six miles of Chinese ambush positions during November and December 1950. More than 950 missing in action soldiers are believed to be located in these three areas.

The Chosin Reservoir campaign left approximately 750 Marines and soldiers missing in action from both the east and west sides of the reservoir in northeastern North Korea.

# His actions speak louder than words

## Patriotic vet's dream comes true

By Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Public Affairs

In the township of Willingboro, N.J., George Bussey's behavior comes as no surprise.

When he marched for more than 20 blocks down 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue with fellow comrades during New York City's Nations Day parade on Veterans Day, it was no surprise. When he brought in the Colors during Willingboro's memorial dedication and took pictures of the event on Nov. 12, 2000, it was no surprise.

And when he took part of the flag detail when Atlantic City unveiled its new Korean War veterans memorial at Park Place on the Boardwalk on November 13, that was not surprising either.

But Bussey certainly was surprised when he received the Korean War Service Medal from the local chairman of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Ron Dash.

"I've been wanting one of these. I've been looking for one of these. I never got one of these," Bussey said in disbelief after the memorial ceremony in Willingboro. After shaking Dash's hand, Bussey showed the medal in its casing to as many people as he could. Smiling all the while, Bussey couldn't contain himself. Tall, lean, and looking as fit as men half his age, the former first sergeant continues to personify a model of strength, but he seemed like a kid who found a new toy when he received his medal.

Photographer, color guard bearer and staunch military supporter, Bussey likes to be where the action is, doing what he can to be a part of the sacrifices of those who served in the military is in his blood -- and rightfully so.

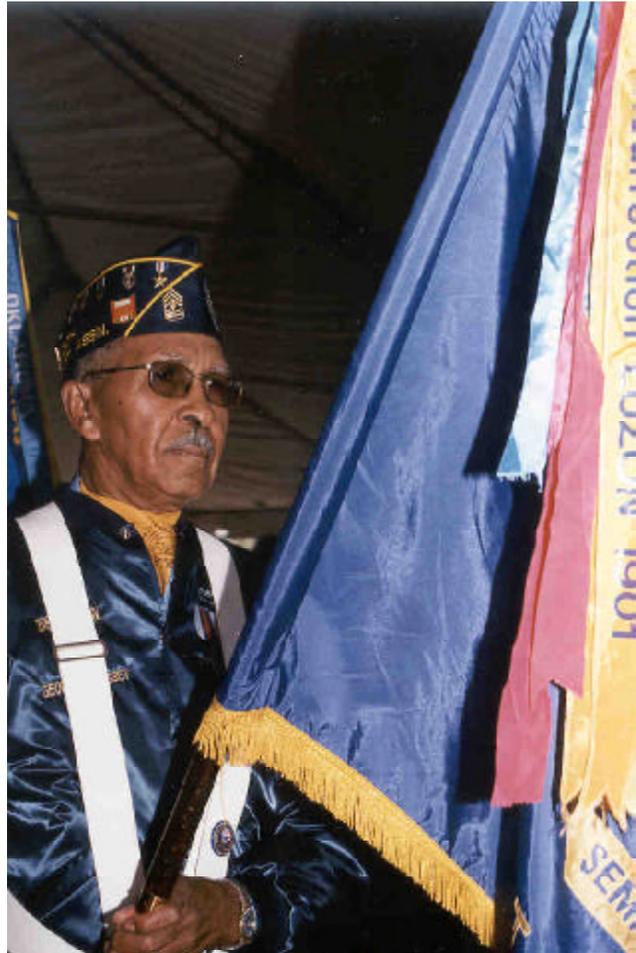
A member of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in the Korean War, a unit with a lineage as far back as the Buffalo Soldiers, Bussey received a Silver Star in 1950 for saving men on the front lines.

"Those were some tough times," Bussey said, thinking back with a serious, yet compassionate look on his face. "We went through a lot."

Perhaps Bussey's Silver Star explains why the Korean War Service Medal means so much to him. His Silver Star alone would, by many people's standards, qualify him as a hero. However, the 21-year veteran doesn't rest on his laurels.

"We go to schools and spread the word. You've got to spread the word. Buffalo Soldiers weren't taught in the history books."

Which is why, not surprisingly, his community gave him the one thing he wanted most for what he's been doing the past 50 years — serving his country and leading by example.



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

George Bussey brings in the colors during the unveiling of the Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City, N.J. after marching in the Nations Parade in New York City.



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

Ron Dash presented Bussey with the Korean War Service Medal he never received on active duty. Bussey brought in the colors and took photos of the unveiling of the new Veterans Memorial in Willingboro, N.J., before traveling to Atlantic City.

# Blessing in disguise

*A soldier went to war and returned a changed man*



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

John Frykman enters 3 Com Park on Oct. 8, 2000 as the San Francisco 49ers saluted Korean War Veterans during a regular season game against cross town rival Oakland Raiders.



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

by **Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey**

*Public Affairs*

**SAN FRANCISCO** — War saved John Frykman's life.

A soldier in Korea, Frykman didn't think too much of his future when he entered the Army in 1950, but his struggle to survive thousands of miles away from home in the Korean War was a blessing in disguise.

"It was a very sparse situation to be in," Frykman said Oct. 8 at 3 Com Park as the National Football League's San Francisco 49ers hosted a military appreciation day in a regular season game against the Oakland Raiders. "It was frightening but it turned my life around to be there because I had been goofing up in school and then I got connected with something that was important."

Frykman said he hooked up with a southern Baptist chaplain named Bailey who would hold a chapel service near where Frykman slept. "I was listening, not going, but listening," he said. "From that we became friends and through that I became connected with the church again and eventually I became a Lutheran pastor. It was quite a journey."

Frykman arrived in theater during discussions for the armistice. "We were firing field artillery support for the Republic of Korea's 1<sup>st</sup> Korean Division in Inchon Valley," the Massachusetts, native said. "There was little activity but not a lot. It was the time of Bedtime Charlie when the small airplanes would come by and drop bombs out of the airplane by hand. It was an interesting time."

Today, Frykman lives to tell about his experience and doesn't regret his time served in the army. The day brought back memories for him and created a new one for the future.

"The war rekindled my own spiritual growth and when I got back I went from a C student to an A student," Frykman said.

After his time in the Army, Frykman migrated to San Francisco. Fifty years later, Frykman will roll together past memories of the Korean War with his day at the ballpark in his memory bank.

"It is very exciting to have some acknowledgement and pretty special to represent the other guys who've been in the war," said Frykman, who heard the roar of the crowd as he stood at midfield displaying the Korean War's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Flag with three other veterans.

"I am surprised since we've been forgotten for so long."

## At Your Service

Maj. Peter Kemp, formerly from the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, operates a booth during the Association of the United States of the Army annual meeting Oct. 15-18, 2000.



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*



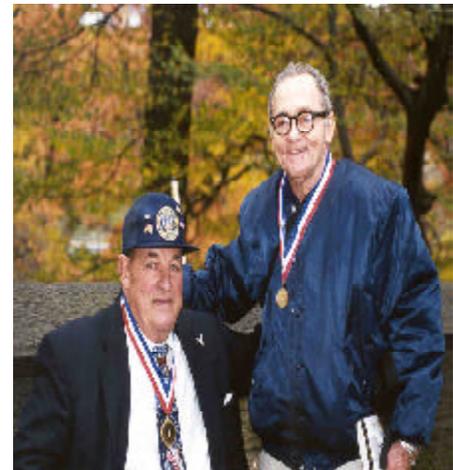
*CPO Milinda Jensen*

## Hometown hero

Navy Vice Admiral Gregory Johnson, senior military assistant to the secretary of defense and new commander of the Sixth Fleet, presented Ada Rice with the Korean War medal at a ceremony in the Community Church on Great Cranberry Isles in Maine. In observance of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, veteran Edgar Bunker was honored posthumously for his sacrifice. Until 1999, U.S. servicemembers could not wear the medal. The medal, presented to Bunker's four surviving sisters — Polly Bunker, Charlene Allen, Ada Rice and Leona MacAllister—came from the Korean government.

## Lasting Friendship

Hank Cap, seated, vice president of the American Merchant Marine in New York City, and Gabriel Frank, organization member, view the Nations Parade on Nov. 11, 2000, from Central Park in Manhattan. The Merchant Marines were an integral part of the Korean War. It was the ship Meredith Victory that evacuated refugees from Hungnam, North Korea after the Chosin Reservoir campaign.



*Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey*

# 65th Infantry Division legacy lives on for Puerto Rico National Guard Unit

(NOTE: Pedro Rodriguez, interviewed for this profile on Sept. 23, 1999 died of a heart attack Oct. 19. He was interred Oct. 28 at Arlington (Va.) National Cemetery with full military honors. He is survived by his widow, Asuncion Toro Rodriguez, three sons, two daughters, 22 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.)

**By Rudi Williams**  
*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — It took only seven days for Puerto Rican-born Pedro Rodriguez to earn two Silver Stars for bravery on the battlefield during the Korean War.

From his wheelchair in the long-term care facility at the Soldiers' and Airmen's Retirement Home here, the 88-year-old Rodriguez recalled his harrowing Korea adventures four weeks before his sudden death Oct. 19.

"Most people who receive decorations say, 'I didn't do nothing — I was soldiering,'" said Rodriguez, a resident at the home for the past 20 years. "I had to do what I had to do. You have to reach your objective, and if you don't kill them, they kill you. I'm alive because I shot first.

Rodriguez was a member of Puerto Rican National Guard's Company F, 65th Infantry Regiment, then assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division.

He earned his first Silver Star on March 24. A sergeant and acting platoon leader, Rodriguez was leading his unit to secure Hill 476 when a camouflaged enemy machine gun opened fire. He ordered one squad to fix bayonets and led an assault on the general area from which the gunfire had come.

When the enemy gun crew opened fired again, Rodriguez charged the position, yelling and shooting his rifle. The enemy soldiers fled, taking their gun but abandoning their ammunition and rations, he said.

Seven days later, his company came under a mortar barrage while attacking heavily defended Hill 398, near Choksong-myon. The lead platoon was pinned down and suffered heavy casualties from enemy machine guns and grenades. Ordered to assist the stalled unit, Rodriguez led his platoon in an assault that routed the enemy.

Born on Jan. 31, 1912, in Jajas, Puerto Rico, Rodriguez said his father was in the transportation business. He said the "transportation business" is what "drove" him into the Army in 1934.

"My father would get goods from the railroad station, load them on his ox cart and deliver them to the merchants downtown," he said. "I used to help him, and I had a wonderful time with him because he loved me. But it just happened that he died when I was 14." After his father's



*TSgt. Michael Dorsey*

Pedro Rodriguez and other 65th ID soldiers used to train in its homeland in Old San Juan before making history in the Korean War. The unit celebrated its 50th anniversary commemoration in El Morro in Old San Juan.

death, his mother, five sisters and younger brother told him he was the man of the house.

"So I had to take over the ox cart — go into the transportation business." Running the ox cart business and caring for the live stock for 11 years took its toll on him. At age 25, he joined the Army. "When I came in the Army, I was so happy. I needed a better job — \$21 a month, three meals a day and everything I needed. That was great."

Rodriguez was with the 65th during World War II, but saw no combat. He said the regiment, organized in 1899, remained in Puerto Rico until it shipped to Panama in January 1943 and then to France in September 1944. The unit landed in Marseilles and marched north. He didn't recollect ever encountering a German soldier.

The 65th returned to garrison duty in Puerto Rico until the Korean War, when Rodriguez and his fellows proved their mettle by earning four Distinguished Service Crosses, 125 Silver Stars, Presidential and Meritorious Unit Citations, two Korean Presidential Unit Citations and the Greek Gold Medal for Bravery.

Rodriguez did well in the Army and had a good time because "I was smart," he said. "I was promoted from private to sergeant in three months. When you need a job, you're grateful when you get one you like."

The Army was a good job, he said, and it was followed by a good job with the post office after he retired as a master sergeant. He turned down a postal clerk job in favor of being a letter carrier. "I dream I'm still delivering the mail in Puerto Rico," Rodriguez said.

# Honor Roll

**Pvt. Hector A. Cafferata Jr.**

**Organization:** U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Company F, 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Reinforced)

**Place and date:** Korea, Nov. 28, 1950.

**Entered service at:** Dover, N.J.

**Born:** 1929, New York, N.Y.

**Citation:** For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Rifleman with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Div. (Reinforced), in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea on Nov. 28, 1950.

When all other members of his fire team became casualties, creating a gap in the lines, during the initial phase of a vicious attack launched by a fanatical enemy of regimental strength against his company's hill position, Private Cafferata waged a lone battle with grenades and rifle fire as the attack gained momentum and the enemy threatened penetration through the gap and endangered the integrity of the entire defensive perimeter.

Making a target of himself under the devastating fire from automatic weapons, rifles, grenades and mortars, he maneuvered up and down the line and delivered accurate and effective fire against the onrushing force, killing 15, wounding many more and forcing the others to withdraw so that reinforcements could move up and consolidate the position.

Again fighting desperately against a renewed onslaught later that same morning when a hostile grenade landed in a shallow entrenchment occupied by wounded Marines, he rushed into the gully under heavy fire, seized the deadly missile in his right hand and hurled it free of his comrades before it detonated, severing part of one finger and seriously wounding him in the right hand and arm.

Courageously ignoring the intense pain, he staunchly fought on until he was struck by a sniper's bullet and forced to submit to evacuation for medical treatment. Stouthearted and indomitable, Private Cafferata, by his fortitude, saved the lives of several of his fellow Marines and contributed to the success achieved by his company in maintaining its defensive position against tremendous odds.

