

THE FRONT PAGE
KOREA-COLD WAR
FAMILIES OF THE MISSING
PO Box 454
FARMINGDALE, NY 11735



<http://www.koreacoldwar.org/>

SEND TO:

AUGUST 2010 ISSUE #29
POW-MIA WE REMEMBER!

2010 FAMILY UPDATE LOCATIONS 2010

City selections are based on past update schedules and demographic mapping of family members' home locations.

- **2010 Family Updates and Annual Briefings 2010•**
- **August 26-28, 2010 Washington, DC (Korea-Cold War Annual Conference) •**
- **September 25, 2010 Syracuse, NY • October 23, 2010 Omaha, NE •**
- **November 20, 2010 San Francisco, CA •**

Casualty Assistance (Air Force Personnel Center) 800-531-5501 • Casualty Assistance (U.S. Army) 800-892-2490

Casualty Assistance (U.S. Navy) 800-443-9298 • Casualty Assistance (USMC) 800-847-1597

Treasurer's Corner by Gail Stallone:

We wish to welcome our new members!

Betty Barrett
Sharon L. Durrell
Marjorie W. Dziedzic
George Lennartz
Minerva R. Lopez
Jimmy Reach

**Don't forget our Annual Korea-Cold War
Dinner - Friday August 27, 2010. Please
get your reservations in!**

Details Page 3

Contact your Congressional Rep through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard - 1-202-224-3121 or House Cloak Room at 1-202-225-7350 (R) and 1-202-225-7330 (D).

Congressional Contacts:

<http://congress.org/congressorg/home/>
US Senate : <http://www.senate.gov/>
House : <http://www.house.gov/>
White House: <http://www.house.gov/>

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IN MY OPINION by IRENE L. MANDRA

Dear Members,

Speech by Irene L. Mandra, spoken before the Korean Community, Flushing NY April 2, 2010

Good Evening Honored Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen. This year

marks the 60th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War and after all these years families such as myself still have no answers as to the whereabouts of their family members who are missing from that war. This anniversary burns eternal in the hearts of so many families who are still waiting for answers, since the day their loved ones went off to war, never to return.

What comes to my mind so often is the pain my Mother suffered not knowing what happened to her son. When a soldier is killed in a war the pain is deep, the loss is forever; but when a soldier is missing, there is no closure, no peace because you constantly wonder if he is alive or is he dead, was he captured, or is he still a prisoner. That pain never goes away, the tears don't stop and you never cease praying for your missing loved ones. The hurt festers because this great nation has not secured the release of our men who were taken.

I would like to quote from the Rolling Thunder organization that was so kind to send me this poem, it's called the Broken Chain. *We did not know that morning that God was going to call your name. In life we loved you dearly; in death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you. You did not go alone, for part of us went with you, the day God called you home. You left us peaceful memories. Your love is still our guide, and though we cannot see you, you are always at our side. Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same, but as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.*

When I think of my pain in the loss of my dear brother I think of the Korean people whose country was rescued. The Korean communities are the only people that I know who have on more than one occasion said Thank You for saving our country. They have shown such gratitude to our Korean War veterans for their service. No other nation whom we helped has time and again said Thank You to our veterans. This truly helps me to cope with my sorrow.

I thank you truly for asking me here today to speak to your community, and God Bless our Prisoners of War and those Missing In Action, Bless our Armed Forces and America, for surely this is the nation of the bravest and the most courageous. Thank You

Honor Our Prisoners and Missing and Show Your Support

Delicate 1 1/2" x 1 1/4" round lapel pin. Beautiful Color
Price- \$5.50 includes shipping and handling

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Korean Cold War
12966 Daisy Blue Mine Rd
Nevada City, Ca 95959

Need More Information?

E-mail Melody Raglin at raglinmia@yahoo.com



Joe McNulty

It's with great sadness that we notified our membership that our Vice President Joseph McNulty has passed away.

Joe wrote many articles for our newsletter when we started up in 2003. He was a WWII and a Korea War Veteran, with a Brother Lt Richard McNulty missing from the Korea War.

He has been active in the POW/MIA issue for many years and he will be sorely missed.

This is our second board member within a year that we have lost. The first was our Secretary Emma and now Joe. There is a place in heaven for these wonderful people who gave their time and heart to our cause. They have made a difference in our organization with their knowledge and energy.

We haven't replaced the Vice President position since Joe's illness. The shoes are hard to fill, he was so vital to the issue.

It is very difficult to say goodbye to our friend and confidant, there are no words to express our great loss. Until we all meet again my dear friend.

ATTENTION

Korea Cold War Families of the Missing

Will have their annual dinner at

Sheraton Hotel

900 S Orme Street Arlington, VA

**The same hotel where the family update
is taking place**

Friday August 27, 2010 at 7 PM

**ALL ARE WELCOME!
if you wish to attend please send your
Check for \$40.00 to the following address**

**Korea/Cold War Families
PO Box 454
Farmingdale, NY 11735**

**Please mark your check :
Dinner - Chicken
or
Dinner - Fish**

**This year we are honoring a very special person
whom we call Mr. Wonderful, none other than
Mr. Philip O'Brien**

MENU

**Mixed Green Salad with ranch or
balsamic vinaigrette dressing**

ENTRÉE CHOICES

**Grilled Chicken Françoise w/roasted almonds and
lemon butter
Garlic & Fresh Herb Mashed Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetable Medley**

OR

**Grilled Norwegian Salmon with
Cilantro & Papaya Salsa
Rice Pilaf
Season Vegetable Medley**

Chef's Choice of Desert

**Washington Times "Inside the Ring" - Bill Gertz
June 17, 2010**

POW Commission Stalled

Congressional Democrats are holding up Obama administration plans to restart the U.S.-Russian joint commission on prisoners of war and servicemen missing in action, a panel that was suspended in 2004 by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The White House National Security Council has been pressing for the commission to resume its efforts to gain access to Russian archives where secret files on the fates of hundreds of missing Americans from wars are believed to be held.

A meeting of the U.S. side of the commission was held June 10 on Capitol Hill, but a key member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry, Massachusetts Democrat, was absent, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, California Democrat, has not assigned a Democratic House member to the panel.

Sen. Saxby Chambliss, Georgia Republican and the chief of staff for Rep. Sam Johnson, Texas Republican and himself a prisoner of war in Vietnam for seven years, took part. The absence of the Democratic representatives was criticized by several participants. They also voiced concerns that the Defense Intelligence Agency failed to send one of its officials to the meeting.

The U.S. commission chairman, retired Air Force Gen. Robert Foglesong, reserved judgment on the Democratic no-shows but told the gathering, "We do need two active Democratic members on this commission."

Time is urgent because President Obama is expected to raise the issue of the commission when he meets with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, who will be in Washington on Tuesday.

A White House official at the meeting told the gathering that now is a good time to win Russian assistance in resolving POW/MIA cases, noting that the administration's recent conciliatory efforts with Moscow that led to a new arms treaty, Russian backing on U.N. sanctions on Iran and Russian help with land and air routes for supplies to Afghanistan.

Another positive sign was Russia's recent opening of its archives on the Soviet massacre of Polish officers at Katyn.

U.S. officials have said privately that the Russians are believed to hold documents that will assist in the hunt for missing Americans likely including those reported captured and held in Siberia during the Cold War and the Korean conflict.

Russia has not released documents from this region since the commission was launched in 1992. POW activists suspect Moscow has blocked access to historical records because the records are expected to show the Russians executed scores, if not hundreds, of American POWs.

"We deeply appreciate the Obama administration's efforts but are dismayed the Democratic leadership in Congress cannot find two lawmakers willing to support our POW/MIAs and their families. **CONTINUED**

CONTINUED :: At a minimum, we call for Speaker Pelosi to fill immediately the empty commission seat for a Democratic congressional representative so that person can take part in the upcoming meeting," said Dolores Alfond, chairwoman of the National Alliance of Families.

"We also ask Sen. Kerry to step aside in favor of a senator willing to devote the time and energy needed for this critical mission," she said.

White House National Security Council spokesman Mike Hammer said Mr. Obama looks "forward to exploring ways to revitalize and reinvigorate the work of the commission" in talks with Mr. Medvedev.

"The White House strongly supports the excellent work the U.S.-Russia Presidential Commission on POW-MIAs has done in bringing closure to the American and Russian families of those lost or missing in war," he said.

A House Democratic aide said the commission is not viewed as a "formal" unit, but that Rep. Vic Snyder, Arkansas Democrat, has been working with it "Since Snyder is retiring after this year, the speaker will likely appoint another House Democrat soon," the aide said.

Frederick Jones, a spokesman for Mr. Kerry, said in a statement that the Massachusetts Democrat missed the meeting because he was attending a meeting with Senate committee leaders.

Lost Korean War battalion awaits US MIA decision

60 years on, US ponders Korea MIA decision, and Unsan's lost battalion waits to come home

By CHARLES J. HANLEY
AP Special Correspondent

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Trapped by two Chinese divisions, troops of the 8th U.S. Cavalry Regiment were left to die in far northern Korea, abandoned by the U.S. command in a Korean War episode viewed as one of the most troubling in American military history.

Sixty years later those fallen soldiers, the lost battalion of Unsan, are stranded anew.

North Korea is offering fresh clues to their remains. American teams are ready to re-enter the north to dig for them. But for five years the U.S. government has refused to work with North Korea to recover the men of Unsan and others among more than 8,000 U.S. missing in action from the 1950-53 war.

Now, under pressure from MIA family groups, the Obama administration is said to be moving slowly to reverse the Bush administration's suspension of the joint recovery program, a step taken in 2005 as the North Korean nuclear crisis dragged on.

"If I had a direct line in to the president, I would say, 'Please reinstitute this program. There are families that need closure,'" said Ruth Davis, 61, of Palestine, Texas, whose uncle, Sgt. 1st Class Benny Don Rogers, has been listed as MIA since Chinese attackers overran his company — I Company, 8th Cavalry — at Unsan in late 1950.

It was one of Rogers' I Company comrades, Pfc. Philip W. Ackley of Hillsboro, New Hampshire, whose identifying dog tag appeared in a photo the North Koreans handed over at Korea's Panmunjom truce village in January of this 60th year since the war started. The North Koreans also delivered photos of remains, a stark reminder that Unsan's dead still wait to come home. **CONTINUED**

The U.S. "has developed the humanitarian issue into a political problem," complained a North Korean statement urging resumption of the MIA search project, which earned hard currency for the Pyongyang government.

The devastating losses at Unsan, in early November 1950, came as China intervened to fend off a final North Korean defeat. In a last letter home, dated Oct. 30, Rogers told his parents, "It is a lot better over here, but it's not over yet."

The U.S. command had ignored intelligence reports that China's army was moving south, and Rogers and the 8th Cavalry had been sent too far north, just 80 kilometers (50 miles) from China, where they stumbled into a closing enemy vise.

Higher headquarters rejected requests for a pullback, then refused to send artillery forward to support a rescue effort. Finally, it ordered the rescue force withdrawn.

Two of the 8th Cavalry's three battalions managed to escape, with heavy losses. But only small bands from the five companies of the doomed 3rd Battalion made it out as waves of Chinese infantry attacked their 200-meter-wide (200-yard-wide) defense perimeter.

The 8th Cavalry's abandonment at Unsan became an infamous chapter in Army annals — "one of the most shameful and little-known incidents in U.S. military history," wrote Korean War historian Jack J. Gifford.

Some 600 of the 3rd Battalion's 800 men were lost, about half believed killed and half captured, many of whom died in Chinese-run prison camps.

The U.S. and North Korea established the MIA search in 1996 after lengthy negotiations. Over nine years, working across North Korea, the joint teams recovered 229 sets of remains believed to be those of Americans, including 14 subsequently identified as 3rd Battalion men.

But an estimated 260 U.S. dead are still unaccounted for at Unsan, among almost 4,600 U.S. MIAs in North Korea, the Pentagon's Defense POW/MIA Office says.

When then-Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld suspended the program in 2005, officials cited what they said were concerns about the security of American personnel working on the territory of a longtime U.S. adversary.

Richard Lawless, the former Pentagon official who recommended the move, defends it today, telling The Associated Press it was a "prudent decision" because the U.S. field teams "were potential high-value hostages as the North Korean nuclear crisis deepened."

The MIA support groups rejected that rationale, saying they suspected President George W. Bush's administration instead wanted to break the lone working link with North Korea and pressure Pyongyang in the nuclear showdown.

"This safety aspect from the Pentagon sounds like so much hogwash," said former 3rd Battalion sergeant Robert J. Earl, 82, of Federal Way, Washington. Earl was not at Unsan, having been wounded earlier, and for years he has sought information on his 8th Cavalry mortar platoon, all of whom may have perished.

Stepping up their lobbying in Washington last year, the MIA families appear to have made headway with the new administration.

"I'm in touch with everyone there, and they all support restoring the program," said Frank Metersky, 77, a Marine veteran of the war and longtime MIA campaigner.

Larry Greer, spokesman for the Defense POW/MIA Office, said officials are "evaluating" a possible resumption. Other administration officials have pointedly referred to the recovery program as a humanitarian mission unrelated to political considerations. **CONTINUED**

CONTINUED :: But the recent furor over North Korea's alleged torpedoing of a South Korean warship "has stopped everything in its tracks for now," Metersky said.

Nevertheless, U.S. specialists sound ready.

"We are prepared to resume operations in (North Korea) and will request access to the Unsan area," the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in Hawaii, home to the field teams, said in its latest annual report.

Its forensic experts, meanwhile, continue the laborious work of DNA identification of remains returned years ago, like those of Master Sgt. Roy Earl Head of the 7th Infantry Division, finally identified, brought home and buried June 5 in a family cemetery in Grit Hill, Virginia.

"It's remarkable, after 59 years," said brother David Head, 71, of Kingsport, Tennessee.

All his life he thought daily about Roy, he said. His mind turned sympathetically to others.

"There are still a lot more families out there who might not ever find out, or get the closure we will get," Head said.

On the Web: ,Pentagon Korean War MIA site:
<http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/korea/>

MIA from Korean War Identified - July 2nd, 2010 **Michael McGuire - United Nations Examiner**

Almost 60 years after his death in the United Nations Command action in Korea, a US serviceman is returning home for burial, the Department of Defense announced Wednesday.

Ensign Robert W. Langwell was reportedly killed on Oct. 1, 1950 when the USS Magpie minesweeper sank after hitting a North Korean mine.

Langwell and 19 other servicemen were lost at sea, the Pentagon reported, while 12 were rescued.

A South Korean investigation in 2008 resulted in testimony by an elderly fisherman that he and others buried the sailor after they discovered his body in a fishing net.

Dental charts were used by US personnel to identify Langwell.

His remains were returned to family members in Columbus, Indiana.

More than 8,000 US servicemen remain missing in action from the war, according to the Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office.

Servicemen from 22 nations fought under the UN Command against North Korea.

"The United States paid a heavy price for the Korean conflict" UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of South Korea said at a recent service honoring the servicemen. "But here is what I know. You helped turn destruction into democracy. Out of rubble came an economic power. Out of tragedy emerged a free democratic society."

Michael McGuire is an Examiner from the National Edition.

H.RES 111 Update

273 co-sponsors or 62.75 % of the House - 07/16/10

Democrat = 152 = 55.67

Republican = 121 = 44.32%

China sends S.Korean POW back to N.Korea **(AFP) - July 27th, 2010**

SEOUL — China has repatriated an 81-year-old former South Korean prisoner of war who had fled North Korea decades after being captured, a newspaper report and an activist said Tuesday.

Dong-A Ilbo quoted an unidentified government official as saying the man surnamed Jung was sent back despite intensive diplomatic efforts by Seoul to bring him to the South.

A foreign ministry spokeswoman said she had no information.

"The government made tremendous diplomatic efforts but he was eventually sent back to the North," the source was quoted as saying.

South Korea had contacted Chinese diplomatic authorities more than 50 times since Jung's arrest, the daily said.

Choi Sung-Yong, an activist who campaigns for the return of South Korean abductees, said Jung was forcibly returned to the North in September last year, about a month after being arrested in China where he was hiding.

He said Jung was arrested eight days after he fled the North with the help of South Korean activists.

China repatriates escapees from North Korea as illegal immigrants even though they can face harsh punishment back home.

By Seoul's official account 494 South Koreans, mostly fishermen, were seized in the Cold War decades following the war. Seoul also says more than 500 prisoners of war were never sent home after the Korean War armistice was signed on July 27, 1953.

North Korea denies holding any southerners against their will, even though some have managed to escape from the hunger-stricken country. © 2010 AFP

John R. Holland - 3/1/1927 - 7/19/2010

John R. Holland 83, of Moores Hill passed away Monday July 19, 2010 at Moores Hill.

Mr. Holland retired from the US Military having served with the US Marines 1942-1945 and the US Army 1947-1970. He served with the 3rd Marine Division during WWII; the 187th Regiment Team in Korea; and served 4 times in Viet Nam with the Special Forces and was an original Green Beret.

In retirement, Mr. Holland was an advocate of MIA and POW groups and originated the Rolling Thunder organization. He was a life member of the VFW and the Moores Hill American Legion Post.

COLD WAR BOOKS : COLD WAR BOOKS : COLD WAR BOOKS

The Cold War: A New History by John Lewis Gaddis

America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-2002, Updated: Updated by Walter LaFeber

The Cold War: The United States and the Soviet Union, 1917-1991 by Ronald E. Powaski

Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy during the Cold War by John Lewis Gaddis

Gulag: A History by Anne Applebaum

Truman by David McCullough

The Specter of Communism: The United States and the Origins of the Cold War, 1917-1953 (A Critical Issue) by Melvyn P. Leffler

The Great Transition: American-Soviet Relations and the End of the Cold War by Raymond L. Garthoff



Chit Chat News **by IRENE L. MANDRA**

Dear Members,

I have had a busy couple of months, in anticipation of the sixty anniversary of the Korean War. On April 2, 2010, I was asked to speak before the Korean community in Flushing NY. This was the first time

that I had a difficult time speaking. I included in my speech a poem that Rolling Thunder organization was kind enough to send me. It's called "The Broken Chain" and my emotions got the better of me and those lines were most difficult for me to get through. I have included my speech in my column "In My Opinion"

On April 5, 2010 the YTN News Channel from South Korea visited me for two hours taking many pictures of my home and especially my office. They asked many questions.

On May 8, 2010 SBS TV from Seoul, Korea came to my home for three hours of pictures and questions.

On May 15, 2010 I helped the Korea War Veterans Nassau #1 for three hours selling poppies. They do such wonderful work for our veterans.

On May 19, 2010 the Associated Press called and interviewed me. This was because of the sixty anniversary of the start of the Korean War was approaching.

On June 10, 2010 our organization was asked to come to Washington DC for a meeting in anticipation of the arrival of the Russian delegation. You will find a column in this newsletter about that event. Our board member Charlotte Mitnik attended.

June 7, & 8 - I was hospitalized and had surgery:
On June 11, the Korean Community of Flushing, NY invited the Korea War Veterans and me to a dinner in Flushing NY. They are wonderful people; they even hired a bus to take us into Flushing. Unfortunately, because of my surgery I could not attend, but many of the Korea War Veterans did attend.

On June 18, 2010 the Korea War Veterans, Central LI chapter, in which I am also a member had a lovely ceremony, as they do every year. They honor the start of the Korea War and pay homage to the men who lost their lives defending Korea. Many Veterans attended.

In between this busy schedule, we were working on the May newsletter, in which we had to mail. Our editor Andi Wolos did a bang up job of putting it together, I printed labels, bought the stamps and brought the newsletters to the Post Office. I mailed them to our membership woman Luann Nelson. She taped, stamped, folded, and applied the labels and proceeded to mail the entire newsletter out to our members. I might add she is so fortunate to acquire the services of her Father, Sal and her wonderful sister Sallyanne, God bless them all.

Let us not forget that our fund raiser Melody Raglin ordered our new pins, they are round, a larger size and beautiful. I know you will love them as I do.

July 22 & 23 Surgery again.

I will see you in August. I hope many of you could attend our annual dinner, which is posted in this newsletter.

JPAC Needs Your Help! Gathering DNA samples from family members of missing service members is vital to the identification process.

Service Casualty Offices

Department of the Army

(800) 892-2490 US Army Human Resources Command

Attn: AHRC-PED-F

200 Stovall Street

Alexandria, VA 22332-0482

Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps

(800) 847-1597 Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MRA) Personal and Family Readiness Division 3280 Russell Road Quantico, VA 22134-5103

Department of the Navy

(800) 443-9298 Navy Personnel Command Casualty Assistance and Retired Activities Branch POW/MIA Section (PERS-P665) 5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN 38055-6210

Department of the Air Force

(800) 531-5803 HQ, Air Force Mortuary Affairs 10-100 Reunion Place, Suite 260 San Antonio, TX 78108-4138

Department of State

(202) 647-6769

Office of American Citizens Services and Crisis Management CA/OCS/ACS/EAP

2201 C Street, Northwest, Room 4811

Washington, DC 20520-4818

The Cost of Freedom

The Cold War was incredibly expensive over its four decades, costing the U.S. eight trillion dollars in military expenditures and over 100,000 lives in Korea and Vietnam. Although the exact figures for the Soviet Union are unknown, they spent a larger percentage of their gross national product on the war, maybe as much as 60 percent.

Honoring those who served in Korea also remembers those missing - by Nicole Printz, Lifestyles Editor - Jul 23, 2010

On June 25, 1950, North Korean soldiers invaded South Korea. On July 24, 2010, Abilene will remember the soldiers who fought to keep South Korea from being overrun by communists.

The events commemorating 60 years since the beginning of the Korean War will take place at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum. At 10:30 a.m. there will be a presentation "Eisenhower, Intelligence and Korea." Then there will be a service veterans panel discussion at 1 p.m. Eisenhower Peacemaker Coins will be presented to Korean veterans at 3 p.m. A dinner and social will conclude the evening, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

"Honoring those who served in Korea," is the theme of the Saturday events in Abilene. Meanwhile, across the country, the Obama administration said to be making progress towards recovery of Korean War casualties.

"As we enter the 60th anniversary commemoration period of the Korean War," said Tim Rives, deputy director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum. "We would do well to remember not only the veterans who fought there from 1950 to 1953, nor the almost 4 million Americans who have served there since, but the fallen soldiers whose bodies remain in a 'corner of a foreign field.'"

It is possible that over 3,000 American soldiers' remains are still in North Korea or near China, according to the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office. North Koreans delivered photos in January of remains that are yet to be claimed, and requested that recovery work resume. The joint recovery program had been suspended in 2005, due to safety concerns.

Officials are evaluating a possible resumption of the recovery program, said Larry Greer, spokesman for the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, according to the Associated Press.

One case in particular that needs resolution is the lost battalion.

Nov. 1, 1950 – The 8th Cavalry Regiment, along with Republic of Korea (South Korean units) have advanced into North Korea and are only 50 miles from the border of China. Due to a lack of intelligence, the American forces have no knowledge of the Red Chinese Communist forces that have surrounded them. By the time U.S. commanders are aware of the situation, retreat is impossible. The soldiers fought valiantly, but the Chinese had cut off their supplies. Shortly after the attack began, the Republic of Korea 15th regiment collapsed. The 1st and 2nd battalions of the 8th Cavalry retreat to Unsan, a North Korean city. After suffering heavy losses, the battalions manage to escape.

Nov. 2, 1950 – The 3rd battalion of the 8th Cavalry was attacked and the battalion command post captured when Americans allowed Chinese soldiers to cross a bridge, mistaking them for South Korean forces. After one rescue attempt, the American soldiers were told to escape if they could. Approximately 600 of the original 800 soldiers did not return.

While the recovery program was active from 1996 to 2005, the teams had recovered 229 sets of remains, 14 were identified as belonging to 3rd battalion soldiers.

While remembering the veterans that are accounted for on Saturday, remember the ones who have not yet returned.

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Crewman buried at Arlington 60 years after he died

By LAUREN SAUSSER, Associated Press Writer

ARLINGTON, Va. – U.S. Navy Ensign Robert Langwell would have been destined for a dark, watery grave if not for the kindness of a fisherman in South Korea who pulled his body from the ocean some 60 years ago.

Thanks to a tip from that same fisherman, family members were able to bury him Monday at Arlington National Cemetery.

Langwell, a native of Columbus, Ind., died aboard the USS Magpie when the ship hit a mine and exploded off the coast of South Korea on Oct. 1, 1950, months after the start of the Korean War. Twelve soldiers survived; Langwell was one of 20 lost at sea. He was 26.

Days later, his body got tangled in that fisherman's net and was pulled from the sea. Local residents buried him in a shallow grave in Chuksan-ri, South Korea, where he remained for decades.

Two years ago, the fisherman's tip led South Korean officials to search for Langwell's body. In April of last year, they recovered his skeletal remains and an old identification card from a shallow grave three miles from where the ship sank.

A genealogy search led U.S. Navy officials to Brenda Showalter, also of Columbus, Langwell's second cousin.

"I just didn't believe it. I was sure it was some kind of scam," Showalter said. "I was very skeptical. I told my husband, he didn't believe it. I told my sister, she said 'No way.'"

Showalter and her sister submitted DNA swab kits that helped identify his remains, and dental records from when he served in World War II confirmed the body was a match.

Nine of Langwell's relatives attended the graveside service at Arlington on Monday morning. He was buried with full military honors, including a firing party and a horse-drawn caisson. A military band played "Eternal Father, Strong to Save," the Navy hymn, as Langwell's casket was carried to the grave site. Many of his relatives had never met one another before the service.

"It's kind of funny. I didn't ever know him, but he's my family. I don't quite know how to put that in words," said Showalter, 50. "I have cousins not very far away that I'm just now finding out about. Even in his death, he's doing some nice things for our family."

A delegation from the Korean Embassy, including Ambassador Han Duk-soo, also attended the funeral. Han said Langwell's ceremony was a symbolic way to pay tribute to the courage and sacrifice of all American soldiers who fought for Korea's freedom 60 years ago. After the service, embassy officials took Langwell's family to lunch at a Japanese restaurant nearby.

The funeral was one of 31 held at Arlington on Monday. Another was for World War I Army Pvt. Thomas Costello of New York City, who died of a shrapnel wound and was buried in a wooded area in northern France in 1918. Dental records also confirmed his identity. His only surviving relative lives in Maine.

Online: <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org>

Lynn man, former CIA agent, recalls captivity in China

By Thor Jourgensen / The Daily Item

LYNN - Richard Fecteau will turn 83 in August. He lives in an immaculately kept home tucked into a rocky ledge overlooking Flax Pond.

The man whose name graces the former Classical High School long ago consigned to the past the 19 years and 14 days he spent in a Chinese prison cell.

"I put it all out of mind. I don't even dream about it," he said.

But Fecteau has discussed his confinement several times this year with his former employers, the Central Intelligence Agency, and filmmakers commissioned by the agency to document Fecteau's experience.

On Nov. 29, 1952, above the foothills of the Changbai mountains, Fecteau and fellow CIA officer John Downey flew into Chinese air space in an unarmed C-47 Skytrain. They planned to swoop low over a rendezvous point marked with three small bonfires and use a tail hook to pick up a Chinese agent off the ground without landing. Downey was to reel in the agent with a winch aboard the plane.

As they descended, the sky suddenly exploded in bursts of gunfire. It was a Chinese ambush. The agent had betrayed the Americans, luring them by promising to provide important documents from a dissident leader.

After the C-47 slammed through a grove of trees, the cockpit burst into flames and skidded to a halt near the village of Sandao.

Downey and Fecteau, stunned and bruised but alive, were captured on the spot. The pilot and co-pilot were killed. One of their bodies was discovered and identified in 2004.

Downey and Fecteau were part of a secret CIA operation called "Third Force" tasked with sending non-communist Chinese agents into Manchuria to link up with disaffected communist generals.

The goal was to destabilize Communist leader Mao Zedong's new government and distract it from the Korean War, which Chinese forces had entered two years earlier.

The plan failed - badly.

"The CIA had been 'had,'" the late James Lilley, who helped train agent teams for insertion into China, wrote in his 2004 memoir, "China Hands." There were no dissident communist Chinese generals to be found and the Chinese in Taiwan and Hong Kong who sold the idea turned out to be swindlers, Lilley wrote.

Fecteau, a 25-year-old father of 2-year-old twins at the time of his capture, was initially held by the Chinese in Manchuria and then moved to the Chinese capital where he was confined in a five foot by eight foot stone-walled cell with a reinforced door and covered-over window.

His captors did not beat or physically torture him, but they mentally and emotionally tormented him.

He lived day in, day out with the lights always on and few, if any, sounds intruding into his cell. The Chinese would wait for Fecteau to fall asleep and then wake him for interrogation sessions that could last one, even two days without interruption. **CONTINUED**

If you answered a question and they thought you were lying, they made you stand until you fell over," he said.

They warned him that as a civilian he was not protected by military rules governing prisoners, telling Fecteau: "We can do whatever we want."

When he answered back to them on one occasion they took him out of his cell and marched him in front of a jailer who warned him: "Before you die, you will live many lives."

"So much for any more brave talk out of me," Fecteau said.

The CIA and the two men's families initially received no information about their fates.

The families received letters in December 1953 saying they were "presumed dead."

The CIA concocted a cover story, telling the families that the officers and their pilots had gone missing on a routine commercial flight from Korea to Japan on Dec. 3, four days after the shootdown.

After China announced that Downey and Fecteau were being held as spies, Washington publicly denied it, claiming they were civilian employees of the Army.

Two years into his confinement, the Chinese put Fecteau on trial for "inciting armed riot, plotting assassination and fomenting insurrection."

The trial last an hour and a half and throughout its duration Fecteau sat manacled in a side room. His court-appointed attorney warned him, "Don't cause any trouble."

"I never had a chance to speak," Fecteau said.

The kangaroo court sentenced him to 20 years in confinement. For Fecteau, the sentence was the start of what he described as a contest of wills between him and captors who he rarely saw and who only addressed him by shouting at him.

"I didn't think I'd make it through the 20 (years). Determination to beat them got me through," he said.

He did push ups and other exercises every day to physically sustain him in the mental battle against his jailers. The Chinese allowed him to receive one letter a month from his mother. The letters were limited to two pages and Fecteau learned after his release that the letters he received were not censored, although ones he wrote home were reviewed and edited by the Chinese.

His captors eventually moved him to a 10 foot by 10 foot cell he shared with a Chinese prisoner. The prisoner's whispered exchanges quickly confirmed Fecteau's suspicions that his cell mate was a plant who was under orders to report any comments and confidences made by Fecteau to the prison administrators.

The cell mate became ill and was transferred from Fecteau's cell, only to be succeeded by another Chinese prisoner.

In his 19th year of captivity, in his mid-40s, Fecteau was taken from his cell into an office where uniformed Chinese officials told him he would be freed from prison the following day.

"You should be thankful to Chairman Mao," they told him.

"What about Downey?" asked Fecteau. **CONTINUED**

CONTINUED :: "He's none of your business," came his captors' reply.

The Chinese gave him new clothes and took Fecteau by train to the Chinese-Hong Kong border and released him two weeks before Christmas 1971 at the bridge joining the two countries. A police officer stopped him on the bridge's opposite side and asked, "Who are you?"

"I've been in prison since the Korean War," Fecteau said.

"That's a long time ago," replied the police officer, who escorted Fecteau to a Scottish army officer who handed Fecteau a beer and a cigarette.

"I got a little dizzy," he said, recalling his first tastes of freedom.

He was flown to Philadelphia and taken to a military hospital in Valley Forge where doctors examined him before clearing him for two months-worth of intelligence debriefing sessions. Fecteau's reunion with his first wife and the two young women he last saw as toddlers was only a brief holiday interlude between debriefings.

"It was hard for them and hard for me," he recalled.

His eventual return to Lynn placed him in the eye of a media hurricane that swirled around him, sweeping up his family and his Lynn friends and neighbors. He limited interviews to one reporter: The late William Pike who doggedly kept in touch with Fecteau's loved ones on behalf of the Item during Fecteau's captivity.

"My mother said, 'He's been very good to us.'"

Fecteau eventually returned to his alma mater, Boston University, as assistant athletic director and built a relationship with daughters Suzon and Sidnice that remains strong today.

Three years ago, the CIA declassified an internal history of Fecteau and Downey's mission and capture. Fecteau sat down in January with agency filmmakers to offer his recollections and the CIA premiered the documentary for employees on Tuesday at its Langley, Va. headquarters.

Downey and Fecteau attended the film screening and were flooded with applause and agency autograph seekers.

Associated Press material was used in this report.

The Korean War

Actual hostilities occurred from June 27, 1950 to July 27, 1953. However, the war period was extended to January 31, 1955 by Congress to define a period of benefit eligibility in the wake of uneasy peace negotiations after July 27, 1953.

There were 6.8 million American men and women who served during the Korean War period, June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955.

There were 54,200 deaths to Americans in service during the period of hostilities, June 27, 1950 to July 27, 1953. Of these, 33,700 were actual battle deaths.

U.S. SOLDIER MIA FROM KOREAN WAR IS IDENTIFIED

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

He is Pfc Charles H. Higdon, U.S. Army. He will be buried Tuesday in his hometown of Akron, Ohio.

In early November 1950, Higdon was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, occupying a defensive position near the town of Unsan near the Kuryong River known as the "Camel's Head." Two enemy elements attacked the U.S. forces, collapsing their perimeter and forcing a withdrawal. Higdon's unit was involved in fighting which devolved into hand-to-hand combat around the 3rd Battalion's command post. Almost 400 men were reported missing in action or killed in action following the battle.

In late November 1950, a U.S. soldier captured during the battle of Unsan reported, during his debriefing, that he and nine American soldiers were moved to a house near the battlefield. The POWs were taken to an adjacent field and shot. Three of the 10 Americans survived, though one later died. He provided detailed information on the incident location and the identities of the other soldiers.

Following the armistice in 1953 and the release of POWs, the other surviving soldier confirmed the details provided in 1950.

Analysts from DPMO developed case leads with information spanning more than 58 years. Through interviews with eyewitnesses, experts validated circumstances surrounding the soldier's captivity and death, confirming wartime documentation of his loss.

In May 2004, a joint U.S.-North Korean team excavated a mass grave near the "Camel's Head." An elderly North Korean national reported he had witnessed the death of seven or eight U.S. soldiers near that location and provided the team with a general description of the burial site.

The excavation team recovered human remains and other personal artifacts, ultimately leading to the identification of seven soldiers from that site.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used dental comparisons and mitochondrial DNA – which matched that of Higdon's sister—in the identification.

More than 2,000 servicemen died as prisoners of war during the Korean War. With this accounting, 8,025 service members still remain missing from the conflict.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO web site at www.dtic.mil/dpmo or call (703) 699-1169.

Korea, 60 years ago and now

By South Korean Prime Minister Chung Un-Chan

Seoul, South Korea (CNN) -- A bronze statue was unveiled in Seoul on June 22, honoring a young American hero who fell in the battlefield in September 1950. A doctorate candidate of honor at Harvard University, William Hamilton Shaw did not hesitate to answer the call to defend Korea and protect freedom and peace.

The Navy lieutenant fought courageously, being proud to be among the U.N. troops led by Commander-in-Chief Douglas MacArthur in the blitz Incheon landing against the North Korean Army. His dream of becoming a philosopher was cut short at the precious age of 28.

Still, his noble spirit remains alive in the hearts of Koreans, who remember his sacrifice for a cause greater than his life, for the ideals most cherished by all humanity.

The Korean War began at daybreak on a Sunday, on June 25, 1950.

The War was savage and destructive. Within a year of its outbreak, Seoul had changed hands four times and was in ruins. By the end of the War in 1953, the capital's pre-war population of 1.5 million was down to 200,000, with people suffering from chronic and severe food shortages.

The rest of the country fared no better. Beside the unimaginable toll on human lives, whatever meager infrastructure there had been simply no longer was.

Sixty years later, the whole country is bursting with pride, as Korea successfully wins a bid to export a nuclear power plant to the United Arab Emirates, and as we stand to chair the 2010 G20 Seoul Summit and host the Nuclear Security Summit in 2012.

Starting from no capital, no infrastructure, and little human resources, we have come a very long way indeed. From a per capita income of 67 U.S. dollars at the end of the War, we attained 20,000 dollars in 2007, and total GDP grew 745 times during that time. Much of this was achieved through our own efforts and sacrifices.

As a former economics professor, I must say that strong investment in human capital was the essential sine qua non that propelled Korea's economic growth. Next to that, stable politics provided a good backdrop, but the authoritarian rule that guaranteed three decades of stability and a relentless focus on growth-oriented policy also did exact personal tolls.

But, as much as we have to be proud of, we always bear in mind that we also have much to be thankful for. And the 60th anniversary of the Korean War is a very appropriate occasion for expressing our deep appreciation.

For the Republic of Korea's very survival and her subsequent achievements would not have been possible without the generous help from our friends. To each of the 21 countries that sent its sons to defend Korea, we owe a great heartfelt debt of gratitude.

The United States is also remembered by Koreans as a most generous benefactor who helped us through the crushing poverty of the post-War years, as well as the early years of the economic growth drive that began in the 1960s.

Roughly half of the Korean government's expenditure was financed at that time by aid from the United States. Your help not only enabled us to build our first factories and plants, but also fed the workers and our schoolchildren through their education.

Sixty years from the Korean War, we can now answer a question that many people from the 21 countries must have asked: "Why are our sons called to give their lives to defend a country that they never knew and a people they never met?"

You have given us a chance to rebuild, a chance to prosper, a chance to achieve democracy for the benefit of so many people.

We have taken that opportunity and have built a strong economy and a robust democracy. Our success provides a model case that is studied by many developing countries, and we are eager to share our experience with them.

Once a poor recipient of international aid, Korea has now become a donor country willing to give back to the international community the kind of help she received in the past -- to help in giving other countries and other people a decent chance for something better.

The threat to peace still lingers over the Peninsula sixty years after the Korean War, as evidenced by recent tensions over the North's nuclear experiments and the sinking of a Korean naval vessel, the Cheonan.

But we have faced similar challenges in the past, and with staunch support from the international community expect to prevail this time, too, in our efforts to secure peace and prosperity. Indeed, we can do no less to honor the ultimate sacrifice made by so many during the War to uphold those noble ideals.

To those who gave their lives to help us in the Korean War, to their families and friends, to Americans and the people of other countries that have helped us through the War and subsequent years, I hope that what Korea has achieved can stand as a worthy answer for your sacrifices.

The United States of America, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Australia, Canada, France, Greece, Colombia, Thailand, Ethiopia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Belgium, South Africa, New Zealand, Luxembourg, India, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Italy, from the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of Koreans, thank you.

A forgotten date from a war fading in memory

July 27, 2010 - AP

By Jeff Fish, Globe Correspondent

It's a forgotten date from a forgotten war. Today marks the 57th anniversary of the armistice that ended the Korean War.

John Raughter, a spokesman for the American Legion, urged people to appreciate the sacrifices made by veterans of that war. "If you happen to know or run into a Korean War veteran, thank them for their great service," he said this week.

Eighty-year-old Gino Bortolotto, of Dorchester, who served as a Marine corporal in that war, said the war in which nearly 37,000 Americans lost their lives is fading from memory. Even right after he got back, he said, he wasn't shown much appreciation. His uniforms were stolen by hoodlums from the neighborhood.

After the surrender of Japan, which had been occupying Korea, in World War II, the country was divided by the 38th parallel between the Soviet Union in the north and the United States in the south.

North Korea developed a communist government and tensions rose. The United Nations, particularly the United States, aided the South in a battle seen as stemming the spread of communism, while the Soviet Union aided the North.

After three years of fighting along the 38th parallel, a cease-fire was ordered on July 27, 1953.

"The armistice didn't seem to accomplish much since North and South Korea are still divided," said Bortolotto. "We didn't really win because North Korea is still in power."

But Raughter thinks that the Korean War can be defined by the differences between South Korea, "a thriving and free nation," and "the tyrannical regime of North Korea."

"The legacy of the Korean War is one of freedom," he said.



General William K. Harrison, left, and General Nam Il signed the armistice in Panmunjom on July 27, 1953.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 82

Adopted unanimously by the Security Council at its 473rd meeting, with 9 votes to none, with 1 abstention (Yugoslavia), on 25 June 1950 [1]

The Security Council,

Recalling the finding of the General Assembly in its resolution 293 (IV) of 21 October 1949 that the Government of the Republic of Korea is a lawfully established government having effective control and jurisdiction over that part of Korea where the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea was able to observe and consult and in that which the great majority of the people of Korea reside; that this Government is based on elections which were a valid expression of the free will of the electorate of that part of Korea and which were observed by the Temporary Commission; and that this is the only such Government in Korea,

Mindful of the concern expressed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 195 (III) of 12 December 1948 and 293 (IV) of 21 October 1949 about the consequences which might follow unless Member States refrained from acts derogatory to the results sought to be achieved by the United Nations in bringing about the complete independence and unity of Korea; and the concern expressed that the situation described by the United Nations Commission on Korea in its report ([2]) menaces the safety and well-being of the Republic of Korea and of the people of Korea and might lead to open military conflict there,

Noting with grave concern the armed attack on the Republic of Korea by forces from North Korea,

Determines that this action constitutes a breach of the peace; and
I

Calls for the immediate cessation of hostilities;

Calls upon the authorities in North Korea to withdraw forthwith their armed forces to the 38th parallel;
II

Requests the United Nations Commission on Korea:

(a) To communicate its fully considered recommendations on the situation with the least possible delay;

(b) To observe the withdrawal of North Korean forces from the 38th parallel;

(c) To keep the Security Council informed on the execution of this resolution;

III

Calls upon all Member States to render every assistance to the United Nations in the execution of this resolution and to refrain from giving assistance to the North Korean authorities.

[1] One member (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was absent.

[2] See Official Records of the Security Council, Fifth Year, No. 15, 473rd meeting, p. 2, footnote 2, (document S/1496, incorporating S/1496/Corr.1)

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