

THE FRONT PAGE

KOREA-COLD WAR
FAMILIES OF THE MISSING
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<http://www.koreacoldwar.org>

August 2011 Issue #33
POW-MIA WE Remember!

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

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IN MY OPINION by IRENE MANDRA



Dear Members:

It is now 61 years since the start of the Korean War and still many families don't have answers and closure. North Korea has invited us back to look for remains yet still no answer from our State department. It may not seem important to them but, to us family members it's our top priority.

Next to this column you will find a story of two courageous Americans who served over twenty years in a Chinese prison. They were captured during the Korean War, and worked for the CIA. The word heroic doesn't justly describe the sacrifice made by these men.

Let's us remember we have two Americans that are still being held from the war in Afghanistan. PFC Bowe Bergdahl, USA, captured June 30, 2009 and Sgt. Ahmed Altaie, captured five years ago, in Iraq. These men should be a top priority with the Armed Forces. Every effort to find and free them must be one of the most important tasks at hand. We can't allow any more American servicemen to languish in foreign prisons.

The thought of our two Americans being captured in 1952 and having spent twenty years in a Chinese prison makes my blood boil. I make it a rule not to buy any products imported from China if I can help it. Let us not forget the countless men missing from the Korean and Cold Wars. Where are they? How many boys did Russia take? How many did China and North Korea keep? How many years did our loved one's live in those conditions? There are so many questions that still must be answered.

Things are looking better as far as the U.S. Russian commission is concern and we now have researchers going into Chinese archives looking for information on our missing men. We may now be able to give closure to many families once the U.S. is able to get back into North Korea. This time around we can't blame the North Koreans, but rather our own government if there is a failure to achieve full disclosure. So let's get on the ball. We are all getting older and frankly, we don't want to wait any longer for answers. Who will carry the torch and burden when we are gone?

EXTRAORDINARY FIDELITY

The Associated Press reported on June 2, 2011 that a documentary produced by the CIA and never aired outside the agency's headquarters is coming to the Internet. The agency says it will release the film, about two CIA officers captured in China on a secret mission in 1952 and held for years, to the public.

The Associated Press has obtained a copy of the film under the Freedom of Information Act. Titled "Extraordinary Fidelity," the hour long film blends documentary footage and re-enactments to tell the story of the officers shot down trying to recover a spy working for the CIA in the Manchuria region of northeastern China.

The two pilots of the plane died, but the CIA officers — Richard G. Fecteau and John T. Downey — were eventually freed in 1971 and 1973, respectively.

The film, the only one of its kind in the spy agency's history, was intended only for internal release. But the CIA released it nearly one year after the AP filed a FOIA request for a copy.

Now, the CIA says it plans to upload the video to its YouTube channel on the web.

A big theme of the film is the behind-the-scenes efforts by CIA officials in Washington, throughout the men's imprisonment, to keep their financial affairs in order and provide assistance to their families.

It features re-enactments of important scenes, including the ambush and the men's harsh interrogations at the hands of the Chinese. Some portions were filmed at a former insane asylum in Petersburg, Va.; Fecteau and Downey themselves talk at length about their imprisonment.

The film was produced by the CIA's Center for the Study of Intelligence and first shown almost a year ago at CIA headquarters.

The CIA showed the movie to the public at the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

Paul Wimmer directed the film. He previously produced and directed a 2002 Discovery Channel documentary on the Sept. 11 attacks, "Pentagon Under Fire." And he served as a consulting producer for a 2009 National Geographic Channel documentary, "Great Escape: The Final Secrets," about American prisoners during World War II.

As part of the FOIA request, the AP also asked for information about the film's cost and how much Wimmer was paid. To ease processing, the CIA said it had turned this portion of the FOIA filing into a separate request. The agency said it is continuing to process this request.

Korea Cold War Families of the Missing, Inc.

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**This year we are honoring two exceptional men from
the
U.S. Russian Commission**

**MR. DANZ BLASSER
And
MR. JIM CONNELL**

Our Honorees

Mr. Danz F. Blasser

Senior Analyst, Korean War Working Group, Joint Commission Support Directorate, Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO)

Mr. Blasser serves as the Senior Analyst for the Korean War Working Group in the Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD), which provides the American staff of the presidentially-mandated U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs. He directs the activities of three analysts and is responsible for Korean War archival research and analysis and the oral history program in the former Soviet Union.

He has served in his current position since May 2003. From 1996 to May 2003, he served as an analyst with the Korean War Working Group, JCSD, primarily involved with archival research in the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense and in the Oral History program interviewing former Soviet veterans of the Korean War. From 1992 through early 1996, he served as the Chief of Translation and World War II Senior Analyst assigned to JCSD's predecessor organizations. He began his civil service career in 1996.

Prior to 1992, Mr. Blasser, a 20-year Air Force veteran, served as a Russian linguist with the U.S. Air Force in a number of assignments worldwide, including Berlin, Germany, Misawa, Japan, and Ft. Meade, MD.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies from the University of the State of New York and an Associate of Arts degree from the Community College of the Air Force in Voice Processing. He also graduated from three long-term language courses at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA.

James G. Connell Jr, Ph.D., Captain, U.S. Navy (retired)

Dr. James G. Connell Jr. is a Senior Analyst who has worked with the presidentially-mandated U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs since May 1992, more than a year before the creation of the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) and the Joint Commission Support Directorate. Born in 1939 in Adel, Georgia, Connell is a 1961 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. After commissioning in the Navy, he served aboard guided missile destroyers USS FARRAGUT (DDG-37) as Communications Officer and Navigator, and USS LAWRENCE (DDG-4) as Operations Officer. Accepting a Reserve commission and entering graduate school, Connell earned a Master of Arts in Comparative Literature at the University of Georgia and the M.A. and Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures at the Ohio State University.

For ten years, he taught Russian language, literature and culture at Valdosta State University in Georgia.

Associate Professor Connell was also chairman of the Honors Program, editor of the University Catalog, and NCAA Sports Faculty representative

In 1981, Naval Reserve Commander Connell returned to active duty for four years as Director of Active Duty for Training Order Writing for the Commander of the Naval Reserve in New Orleans. He was a key player in the computerization of the financial management of active duty for training for more than 100,000 Naval Reservists, and traveled extensively to Naval installations throughout the country.

In 1988, after three years as a senior management specialist with the information systems company SYSCON in New Orleans, Captain Connell returned to active duty once again and joined the On-Site Inspection Agency for a year and served in Germany and Ulan-Ude in the Soviet Union in connection with the Intermediate Nuclear Forces treaty. He remained on active duty until retirement from the Navy in 1991, serving with Russian language-related duties at the U.S. Embassy in Rome, at the Navy Liaison Unit in Munich, and at CTF-168 in Washington.

In 1991, Connell joined CTF-168 as a civilian employee. After attending courses including Counternarcotics and Strategic Debriefing, he was detailed to newly formed Task Force Russia in May 1992, to support the Moscow Office of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC). After four years as deputy, Connell served five years as Chief, POW/MIA-Moscow. Traveling constantly throughout the former Soviet Union (FSU), Connell visited most major prisons, GULAG labor camps, and psychiatric hospitals in the FSU where foreigners were held during the Cold War, and interviewed thousands of former Soviet citizens from Ukraine to Kamchatka, and Kazakhstan to the Russian Arctic. In Moscow, he organized and supported 15 Plenary Sessions of the USRJC.

Connell holds the military Meritorious Service Medal, and was awarded the Department of Defense Exceptional Civilian Service Award in 2000. He has three children: James G. III, a criminal defense attorney in Fairfax VA, Ashley Elizabeth, an Information Technology specialist for GE Power Systems in Atlanta, and Thomas Anthony, who lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Since July 2001, Dr. Connell has worked as a Senior Analyst with DPMO/JCSD in Washington, providing institutional knowledge and history based on more than eighteen years of work with the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs.

WHEN RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Members who are renewing their membership yearly do not have to fill out an application; we have you in our files. Your check is sufficient provided it has your name and address on it. Applications are needed when joining our organization for the first time.

As of 2012 your cancelled check will be your receipt, we will no longer send thank you cards for your renewal. Stamps are going up in price so we decided to stop sending cards out. If anyone requests written acknowledgement we will honor your wishes.

ARMY ANNOUNCES SITE FOR NATIONAL MUSEUM

The Army announced that the North Post of Fort Belvoir, Va., will be the site of the National Museum of the U.S. Army (NMUSA), scheduled to open in June 2013. Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh approved the decision this week, which also marked the Army's 236th birthday.

"In presenting the Army's storied 236-year history, this long-overdue facility will offer the American people a unique opportunity to connect with our soldiers and better understand and appreciate their many and glorious stories," McHugh said.

"Now that a site for the Army's museum has been determined, the development of the museum's master plan can be finalized," said Judson Bennett, executive director of the NMUSA project office at Fort Belvoir. Building of the museum will be funded privately through the Army Historical Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the Army's heritage.

Initial construction will include a multi-story, main museum building with exhibit halls, theater, Veterans' Hall, food service and retail areas, administrative areas, an experiential learning center and a lobby with visitor reception area.

The Army is currently the only service without a centralized museum. The Navy Museum is located at the Navy Yard in Washington D.C.; the Marine Corps Museum is located at the Marine Base Quantico in Prince William County, Va.; and the Air Force Museum is located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

For more information, may contact Army Public Affairs at 703-697-5344.

U.S. Department of Defense
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

On the Web: <http://www.defense.gov/releases/>

HISTORIC MARINE BASE GETS 1ST EVER FEMALE GENERAL



By Susanne M. Schafer - For the first time in its 96-year history, a female general is taking charge at the famed Marine Corps training depot at South Carolina's Parris Island.

Brig. Gen. Loretta Reynolds, who is also known as the first female Marine to ever hold a command position in a battle zone, took charge at the installation south of Beaufort.

Parris Island graduates about 20,000 Marines annually and is the only site where female enlisted Marines are trained to enter the service.

Reynolds is a native of Baltimore and a 1986 graduate of the Naval Academy. She has worn the Marine Corps uniform for 25 years. She is taking over from Brig. Gen. Frederick Padilla, who is taking charge of the 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa, Japan. In her new position, Reynolds also will be in charge of the Marines' Eastern Recruiting Region, which covers the 23 states east of the Mississippi River.

As a one-star general, Reynolds becomes only the third female general officer in the more than 200,000-member Marine Corps. The service has two two-star female generals, one in the active duty ranks and another in the Marine Corps Reserve. Overall, there are 12,339 enlisted females in the Marines, 108 warrant officers and 1,224 officers, according to Marine Corps figures. On its Parris Island website, the service said training for men and women is identical, and that roughly 2,400 female recruits go through it every year.

Reynolds trained as a communications officer and commanded Marines from platoon to battalion levels in her more than 20 years in uniform. She has been posted in Okinawa, Japan; Quantico, Va., Iraq and Afghanistan, and was in command of the Marine Recruiting Station in Harrisburg, Pa. She also worked with at the headquarters of the Marine Corps in its communications and computer division in Washington, D.C. Reynolds' last posting was in charge of the Headquarters Group for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force based at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Before her time at Camp Pendleton, Reynolds was a division chief with the Joint Staff at the Pentagon. Reynolds also has attended the Marine Corps University in Quantico, Va., the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., and the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa.

General Robert H. "Doc"
Foglesong, American Chairman
U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on
POW/MIAs

General Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong United States Air Force (retired), was appointed by President George W. Bush as American Chairman of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (USRJC) on April 26, 2006. The Commission has been working since 1992 to account for American and Soviet/Russian military personnel who are missing from conflicts since the beginning of World War II.

As a four-star general, Foglesong's last active duty tour (2005-2006) was as Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, a command that also embraces NATO and other multi-national responsibilities. General Foglesong spent much of his career as a command pilot, primarily in F-15 and F-16 fighter aircraft and the A-10 attack aircraft. He has held a large number of command and staff positions with emphasis on political-military affairs, and he has spent a significant portion of the past decade as a national security advisor at Cabinet and Presidential levels. In this capacity, he had opportunities to travel extensively with the most senior officials of the U.S. Government and to directly engage with civilian and military officials of foreign governments around the globe. His jobs required almost daily interface with Members of Congress, the White House, and many governmental interagency offices.

General Foglesong's full-time job today is president of Mississippi State University, the largest university in the southern U.S. state of Mississippi (more than 16,000 students). A graduate of West Virginia University (bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees in chemical engineering), Foglesong has authored 57 academic publications on a broad range of engineering technical and leadership topics. He also is the president and executive director of the Appalachian Leadership and Education Foundation, a non-profit organization operating to identify and support the next generation of leaders in the Appalachian Mountain region of the United States, which includes his home state of West Virginia. He also serves on the board of directors of Massey Energy, one of the largest producers of coal in the United States, and on the board of directors of the Michael Baker Corp., an international energy and engineering firm.

General Foglesong is married to Mary Thrasher Foglesong. They have two sons—David and Mark. David and his wife Laura both serve in the United States Air Force. Mark works in the television industry. General Foglesong's hobbies include running marathons, collecting slide rules and potato mashers, and public speaking.

SERVICEMAN IDENTIFIED

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced that the remains of serviceman, Army Cpl. Primo C. Carnabuci of Old Saybrook, Conn., was buried May 12 in his hometown.

"On Nov. 1, 1950, Carnabuci's unit, the 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, occupied a defensive position along the Kuryong River, near Unsan, North Korea. Chinese units attacked the area and forced a withdrawal. Almost 600 men, including Carnabuci, were reported missing or killed in action following the battle.

In 2000, a joint U.S-Democratic People's Republic of Korea team, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), excavated a mass grave discovered earlier in Unsan County, south of the area known as "Camel's Head." The team recovered remains of at least five individuals as well as military clothing.

Analysts from DPMO and JPAC developed case leads with information spanning more than 58 years. They evaluated the circumstances surrounding the soldier's death and researched wartime documentation on the movements of U.S. and enemy forces on the battlefield.

Among forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC used dental comparisons and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used mitochondrial DNA -- which matched that of Carnabuci's brother -- in the identification.

NEW BOOKS TO BE RELEASED THIS SUMMER

**The Korean War: A History – Bruce Coming –
July 12, 2011**

**Black Tuesday over NAMS: B-29s vs MiGs - the
Forgotten Air Battle of the Korean War, 23
October 1951 -Earl McGill Lt Col USAF (Ret.) -
July 19, 2011**

**Mig Alley - Sabres vs. MIGs over Korea: Pilot
Accounts and the Complete Combat Record of
the F-86 Sabre 1950-53 - Warren Thompson and
David -Aug 19, 2011**

**Bully Able Leader: The Story of a Fighter-Bomber
Pilot in the Korean War – Lt, Gen. George Loving
USAF(ret) – Aug. 1, 2011**

Obama Awards Medal of Honor to Korean War Soldiers

*As reported By Terri Moon Cronk
American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON, May 2, 2011 – President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Honor posthumously today to the families of two soldiers who served in the Korean War.

Obama honored Army Pfc. Anthony T. Kaho'ohanohano and Henry Svehla, who were killed in action.

"These two soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice when they were just 19 and 21 years old," the president said. "In the hearts of their families, they remain forever young. Today, we honor them with the highest military decoration that our nation can bestow: the Medal of Honor. In so doing, we also honor their families, who remind us that it is our extraordinary military families who also bear the heavy burden of war."

Kaho'ohanohano was honored for his actions Sept. 1, 1951, while in charge of a machine-gun squad with Company H, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. When faced by an enemy of overwhelming numbers, Kaho'ohanohano ordered his squad to take up more defensible positions and provide covering fire for the withdrawing friendly force. Even though he was injured in his shoulder, he gathered a supply of grenades and ammunition and returned to his original position to face the enemy alone -- delivering deadly accurate fire into the ranks of the onrushing enemy. When his ammunition was depleted, Kaho'ohanohano engaged the enemy in hand-to-hand combat until he was killed. His comrades then launched a counterattack that completely drove back the enemy.

Kaho'ohanohano's brother, Eugene, accepted the Medal of Honor on his brother's behalf. A sister, Elaine, also attended. "For the sacrifice that your family endured, for the service that your family has rendered -- thank you so much," Obama said. "Mahalo nui loa," he added, Hawaiian for "thank you."

The citation for Svehla's medal described his actions June 12, 1952, while the New Jersey native was serving in Korea as a rifleman with Company F, 32d Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division.

Coming under heavy fire and with his platoon's attack beginning to falter, Svehla leapt to his feet and charged the enemy positions, firing his weapon and throwing grenades as he advanced. Disregarding his own safety, he destroyed enemy positions and inflicted heavy casualties. When an enemy grenade landed among a group of his comrades, he threw himself on the grenade and was mortally wounded.

"Henry Svehla's body has never been recovered," Obama said. "That's a wound in the heart of his family that has never been fully healed. It's also a reminder that, as a nation, we must never forget those who didn't come home,

are missing in action, who were taken prisoner of war - and we must never stop trying to bring them back to their families."

Svehla's sister, Dorothy Mathews, accompanied by her sister, Sylvia Svehla, accepted the medal.

"Behind every American who wears a uniform," Obama said, "stands a family that serves with them. Behind every American who lays down his life for our country is a family that mourns them, and honors them for the rest of their lives."

Before the ceremony, Obama said the death of Osama bin Laden yesterday showed that the nation kept its commitment so that justice was done.

"As a nation, there's nothing we can't do when we put our shoulders to the wheel, when we work together, when we remember the sense of unity that defines us as Americans," he said.

Dignitaries at the ceremony included Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Navy Adm. Mike Mullen and vice chairman Marine Corps Gen. James E. Cartwright, and Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. "I could not be prouder of our men and women in uniform," the president said. "That is true now, in today's wars. It has been true in all of our wars. And it is why we are here today."

Military issues \$62.7M contract for new Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command lab

The military has awarded a \$62.7 million contract to a Honolulu company for the construction of a new laboratory and offices for the command that searches for, finds, and identifies the remains of Americans missing from past wars.

Nan Inc. is due to build the three-story structure for Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam by July 2013.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific said Monday the building will include an identification laboratory, office space, training space and a warehouse.

Maj. Gen. Stephen Tom, who leads the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, says the new Central Identification Laboratory will be state of the art and among the premiere facilities in the world .

Remains of Korean War Veteran from Henderson County Returned – Written by John Boyle, Citizen-Times.com



Sometimes even a semblance of closure is excruciatingly slow in coming.

For the family of Pfc. Samuel Kelly Watkins, it took 60 years. A Henderson County native, Watkins, who went by “Kelly,” boarded a Korea-bound military transport Christmas Day 1950, and his family never saw him again.

Military officials told the family March 30 their brother's remains had been identified.

“Shock — I wasn't expecting it,” said Grace Watkins Pittman, Kelly's sister. “I was sitting down at the table — and it was a good thing I was.” “Imagine — 60 years,” said her brother-in-law, James Hare. “It was a real miracle.”

Watkins' remains received a funeral and military honors, according to Shuford Edmisten, president of Forest Lawn Mortuary and Memorial in Hendersonville.

“I just didn't have the words to express what I was feeling,” she said this week, sitting in her sister's home. A member of the 2nd Reconnaissance Company, 2nd Infantry Division, Watkins was taken prisoner in South Korea on Feb. 14, 1951, when about 5,000 Chinese soldiers overran his unit. Watkins' family was notified that he was missing in 1951, and he was presumed dead a year later, in keeping with military protocol.

For decades, the North Korean government, a hard-line communist regime with no interest in cooperating with the west, offered no information. Then, in 1993, North Korean officials turned over 34 boxes of remains. Many of the remains were comingled, though, making positive identification difficult.

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, part of the U.S. Department of Defense, kept working the case, though and improvements in DNA testing and samples taken from family members early last decade helped break the case. Both sisters gave DNA samples a decade ago so scientists could compare theirs to the remains. Finally, the DNA was matched. In a way,

One of seven children, Watkins grew up in the Hutch Mountain area of Henderson County, near Fletcher, attending what was then Fletcher High School. He worked on a dairy farm as a boy, and loved rabbit hunting with his uncles. “He was just a fun-loving, happy-go-lucky boy,” Grace Pittman said.

Watkins' parents, Bertha and Samuel H. Watkins, would not accept that their son was dead. Bertha Watkins died in 1955, her husband in 1987.

The Watkins received a letter from the Army officially declaring Kelly dead, as well as an insurance check. But for years, they refused to cash the check, a small way of clinging to hope.

The couple also corresponded with one of the last soldiers to see their boy alive, Sgt. Harold Duryear, of Axtell, Kan. In a June 10, 1951 letter, which Grace Pittman keeps in a thick file on her brother, Duryear tried to reassure the family. “I am writing you in regard to your son who was captured by the red Chinese at the same time I was on Feb. 14 (1951),” Duryear wrote. “When I last seen him, it was about the first of March. He was in good health and not wounded.” Duryear went on to tell the family, “You must not worry too much. The Chinese treat their prisoners pretty well.”

The family never got anything more definitive. The JPAC report the family received said Watkins “likely had been captured by enemy forces on, or about, 14, February 1951.” Specific details on him aren't known, but JPAC said soldiers fighting in that area, Hoengsong and Chip'yong-ni, “were marched north to a series of transitional POW camps” in North Korea.

Watkins was just 19 when he died. His remains showed no signs of trauma, according to JPAC, so pinpointing a cause of death is not possible. The weather at the time sometimes reached as cold as minus 30 degrees, and the camp he was in was strafed by American planes at one point. Diseases were rampant in the camps, too.

The bottom line is the family likely will never know what killed Kelly Watkins.

Grace Pittman, now 80, said her brother would be 79 years old, had he survived the “Forgotten War.” She is heartened to see him finally receive some recognition, but Pittman can only imagine the burden her parents bore when they were still alive.

“That's the hope of a mother and a father...that he would come home,” Grace Pittman said.

“LIKE” OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

KOREA COLD WAR FAMILIES OF THE MISSING, INC.

SERVICE CASUALTY OFFICES

Service Casualty Offices serve family members. Each Military Department maintains a service casualty office. The Department of State does the same for civilians. The officials in these offices serve as the primary liaisons for families concerning personnel recovery and accounting. Full-time civilians who have worked this issue for many years and are experienced and knowledgeable help answer family member questions. Military officials also assist to help explain the methods used to account for families' missing loved ones. Each office dedicates for family use the following addresses and phone numbers.

Air Force
USAF Missing Persons Branch
550 C Street West, Suite 15
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4716
(800) 531-5501

Army
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Human Resources Command
Attn: CMAOC/PCRB
1600 Spearhead Division Ave, Dept 450
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5405
(800) 892-2490

Marine Corps
Headquarters U. S. Marine Corps
Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MRC)
Personal and Family Readiness Division
3280 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-5103
(800) 847-1597

Navy
Navy Personnel Command
Casualty Assistance Division
POW/MIA Branch (PERS 624)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-6210
(800) 443-9298

Department of State
Overseas Citizens Services
U.S. Department of State
4th Floor
2201 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: (202) 647-5470

FAMILY OF KOREAN WAR VETERAN ACCEPTS MEDALS.

On May 31, 2011, relatives of a Korean War veteran held as a prisoner of war 60 years ago accepted four medals on his behalf.

Rep. Steve Israel, D-N.Y., presented the family of Pfc. James Oresto with the medals on Tuesday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Sayville. Israel said that for some reason, the military record did not recognize injuries Oresto sustained.

Oresto was captured by the North Korean Forces on July 16, 1950. He spent more than 3 years as a prisoner, withstanding numerous beatings.

Israel's office worked to correct the record. His family was presented with the Purple Heart Medal, the Prisoner of War Medal, the Korean Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal. Oresto, of Holbrook, N.Y., died in 1981.

SOLDIER MISSING FROM KOREAN WAR IDENTIFIED

Army Cpl. A.V. Scott, 27, of Detroit, Mich., was buried June 22 at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C. On Feb. 12, 1951, Scott's unit, the 503rd Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, was supplying friendly forces approximately 70 miles east of Seoul, South Korea, when Chinese Communist units attacked the area and forced a withdrawal. Scott was captured by enemy forces and marched north to a prisoner-of-war camp in Suan County, North Korea. Surviving POWs within the camp reported Scott died in April 1951.

Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea gave the United States 208 boxes of remains believed to contain the remains of 200 to 400 U.S. servicemen. North Korean documents turned over with one of the boxes indicated the remains were exhumed near Suan County, which correlates with Scott's last known location.

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

More than 2,000 servicemen died as prisoners of war during the Korean War. With this identification, 7,993 service members remain missing from the conflict.

TIGER PROMOTED TO GLORY

Wayne Archer (Johnny) Johnson, was Promoted to Glory on 1 June, 2011 at San Marcos, Texas. He was 79 years old and one of the youngest of the Tiger Survivor group. He had a massive stroke which he never recovered from.

He was born at Beaver Dam, Ohio in 1931 and lived in Lima Ohio for many years. He leaves his beloved mother who is more than 100 now and 2 brothers and 1 sister. For many years now Johnny has made his home with his brother and his family at San Marcos Texas.

Johnny was a member of L Company, 21st Infantry Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division that was on Occupation duty in Japan at that time. He was a Scout in that unit. When the Korean War broke out the units of the 24th were rushed to Korea to meet the onslaught of the North Korean Army. They were out gunned and outnumbered and soon they suffered many casualties and many were captured. Johnny was among those captured during the early days of July 1950.

During captivity Johnny thought that someone had to keep a list of the men who died or were shot so the next of kin back home would know what happened. He found scraps of paper and bits and pieces of pencils and kept his valuable list. Johnny could have been shot for doing that. He accomplished this in secret. He had no idea how important this list would become. The "LIST" grew to over 500 names during his imprisonment. This "LIST" also contained the date, places and causes of death and information of home town etc.

Johnny told debriefing Officers of his list and a note was made of it but no one seemed interested in it, but he held onto it and would never loan it out not even to the FBI.

Then, during the summer of 1996, Johnny told a group of other Tiger Survivors about his list at a reunion in Evansville Indiana. Work began immediately on making a list of all the Tiger Survivors including the living and the dead, the soldiers and the civilians. With the help of Command Sergeant Major Tim Casey and Johnny's list, the entire group of Tiger Survivors, were accounted for. CSM Casey noticed that a note had been made when Johnny came home about the list and Casey notified the Department of the Army. Before Long Johnson was awarded a Silver Star Medal.

There were 835 people, including 81 multi-national Civilians, with the Tiger Survivors. 58% died in captivity and are still there in North Korea.

Johnson's list is now a treasured document and will be donated to the POW/MIA Museum at Andersonville, Georgia at the Andersonville National Historic Site.

US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs

On June 17th, President Dmitri Medvedev issued Decree #815 naming as Russian Co-Chairman of the US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC), **Ms. Yekaterina Priezzheva**, head of the Education Department, Ministry of Defense. All members of the Russian side of the USRJC were also named as counterparts to the American Chairmen of the Working Groups that focus on each war, from the Vietnam War working back to World War II. Additional information will be provided once details are available from the Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD), led by Mr. David Martin, Commission Executive Secretary, and his Deputy, Roger Schumacher.

UNITED STATES-RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION ON POW/MIAs

Reprinted from Commission Chronicle

Presidents George H.W. Bush and Boris Yeltsin decided to create the Commission in March 1992 to determine whether any American servicemen are or were held against their will in the former Soviet Union and, if so, to secure their immediate repatriation or the return of their remains. The Commission also seeks information that would help to clarify the fates of missing American and Soviet servicemen from conflicts since World War II. Commission analysts and investigators work in archives, interview veterans and witnesses to loss incidents, and conduct field surveys to gather fate-clarifying information on those of our missing servicemen who remain unaccounted for.

As reported in the Spring 2011 Issue of "The Torch" The following Servicemen from the Korean War have been accounted for since September 2010:

Cpl, Charles Arce
Cpl. Nehemiah E. Butler
Sfc. James C. Caldwell

Cpl. Primo C. Camabuci
1st Lt. Robert F. Dees
Master Sgt. Michael Fastner
Sgt. Carl B. George
Cpl. Patrick R. Glennon
Cpl. Floyd E. Hooper
Pfc. Peter Kubic
Cpl. John W. Lutz
Sgt. Brunko R. Miljus
Cpl. Harold B. Moore
Sfc. Melvin R. Musgray
Master Sgt. Clifford L. Ryan
1st Lt. Jack J. Saunders
Cpl. A.V. Scott
Sfc. Wallace L. Slight

H.RES.111 : Establishing a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs.

Sponsor: Rep King, Peter T. [NY-3] (introduced 2/28/2011)

Committees: House Rules

Latest Major Action: 2/28/2011 Referred to House committee on Rules.

H. Res. 111 CO SPONSORS as of 5/24/2011

AK - Young
CA – Filner, Schiff
CO -Lamborn
FL – Rivera, Nugen, West
GA - Westmoreland
IL - Manzulo, Lipinski
IA – Boswell, Loeb sack, Latham
KY- Guthrie, Yarmuth, Davis, Rogers, Chandler
KS- Jenkins
MA- Keating, Neal, Capuano, McGovern, Tsongas, Oliver,
Frank
MD- Ruppertsberger, Sarbanes
ME- Pingree
MI - Rogers
MS- Harper, Nunnelee
MN- Bachman, Cravaak, Paulsen, Peterson, Waltz, Kline, Ellison, McCollum
MO- Hartzler
NH - Bass
NC- Foxx
NJ- Holt, Rothman, Lance, Payne, Sires, LoBiondo, Pascrell,
Andrews, Smith, Pallone, Runyan, Frelinghuysen,
Pascrell, Andrews, Smith
NY- Towns, McCarthy, Buerkle
OH – Jordan, Schmidt
PA- Altmire, Kelly, Chaka
TN- Roe, Blackburn
TX- Green, Sam Johnson
WV – Rahall

GU,VI, M DC,PR,SA -

House Resolution 111 was established in the US House on Feb. 28, 2011. If your Congressman/woman is not on this list, . Please call them this week and ask them to cosponsor this Resolution.

Remember it is **H. Res. 111**, not H.R. 111; they are two different pieces of legislation.



Wounded Soldier to Receive Medal of Honor

An Army Ranger who lost his right hand and suffered shrapnel wounds after throwing an armed grenade away from his fellow soldiers will be the second living Medal of Honor recipient from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On July 12, President Barack Obama will present the nation's highest award for battlefield gallantry to Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Arthur Petry for his actions during May 26, 2008, combat operations against an armed enemy in Afghanistan's Paktia province. Petry now serves as part of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 75th Ranger Regiment, at Fort Benning, Ga.

"It's very humbling to know that the guys thought that much of me and my actions that day to nominate me for that," said Petry, on learning he had been nominated for the medal.

The next issue of THE FRONT PAGE will be released around Veterans Day. If you would like to write a short paragraph about your loved one, please send it to KOREACOLDWAR@aol.com. As soon as possible.

Korea Cold War Families of the Missing, Inc.

**Will have their annual dinner at
Sheraton Premiere at Tysons Corner Hotel
8661 Leesburg Pike Vienna, VA**

**The same hotel where the family update is taking place
Friday September 2, 2011 6:30 PM
If you wish to attend please send your check**

for \$40.00 to:

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

**Please mark your check for dinner, chicken or fish
This year we are honoring two exceptional men from the
U.S. Russian Commission**

**MR. DANZ BLASSER
And
MR. JIM CONNELL**

KOREA-Cold WAR Families of THE Missing, INC.
PO Box 454
FARMINGDALE, NY 11735 USA

PLEASE JOIN US!

Families UNITED in a SEARCH for TRUTH, Dignity, Acknowledgment and Closure

Application for Membership - ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER AND EMAIL UPDATES ON THE ISSUE.

All projects ARE funded THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES AND NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS will GREATLY ASSIST US in OUR ENDEAVORS. MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP is \$25.00. FROM THEREON, all MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS will BE DUE 1st JANUARY AT \$25.00 PER YEAR.

FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS MAY JOIN/SUBSCRIBE ANY TIME.

WE look FORWARD TO WORKING WITH FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS AS WE STRIVE TO find TRUTH, ANSWERS AND closure.

STAR Fields ARE REQUIRED. PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE.

*I wish to apply AS A Family MEMBER. I wish to apply AS A CONTRIBUTOR. SELECT ONE.

*YOUR Full NAME: _____

*Today's DATE (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

*Address: STREET - _____

*City: _____ STATE: _____ Zip: _____

*Email Address: _____

*HOME PHONE WITH AREA CODE: _____

Work PHONE WITH AREA CODE: _____ FAX WITH AREA CODE: _____

CONTACTS/EXPERIENCE/Skills THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL:

GOVERNMENT RESEARCH OTHER: _____

FUND RAISING Military/VETERANS: _____

Media COMPUTERS/TECHNOLOGICAL: _____

If you ARE applying for Family MEMBERSHIP please COMPLETE THE REST OF THIS FORM.

*Applicant's relationship TO POW-MIA: _____

*NAME AND Rank of POW-MIA: _____

*BRANCH of Service/UNIT OR Group: _____

*DATE AND AREA of loss: _____

REASON for joining THE KOREA-Cold WAR Families of THE Missing: _____

To join THE KOREA-Cold WAR Families of THE Missing, INC., please TEAR OUT THIS FORM, fill in ALL REQUIRED AREAS AND mail, along WITH check, TO THE following address:

KOREA-Cold WAR Families of THE Missing, INC.
PO Box 454
FARMINGDALE, NY 11735
USA
ATTN: MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION

PLEASE make checks payable TO KOREA-Cold WAR Families of THE Missing, INC.

PLEASE email US AT
info@KOREACOLDWAR.ORG OR imandra@optonline.net

All CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

PASS THIS ALONG TO FRIENDS, FAMILY MEMBERS, VETERANS AND CARING CITIZENS!