



# ***The Morning Calm***

*Official publication of Ch. 173, Korean War Veterans Assoc. May 2017*

## **HONORING THE 151<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF MEMORIAL DAY**



**SCENE OF MEMORIAL DAY**

**AT THE PUNCHBOWL OF THE PACIFIC IN HAWAII**

Cover story

## **Nation to celebrate 151st anniversary of Memorial Day**

**On May 29<sup>th</sup>, the nation will celebrate a significant date in our history – Memorial Day.**

Originally called Decoration Day, from the early tradition of decorating graves with flowers, wreaths and flags, Memorial Day is a day for remembrance of those who have died in service to our country.



*Statue of Gen. John A. Logan at Grant Park in Chicago*

It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868 to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of Gen. John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former Union sailors and soldiers.

During that first national celebration, former Union Gen. and sitting Ohio Congressman (later President) James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who were buried there.

This event was inspired by local observances of the day that had taken place in several towns throughout America in the three years after the Civil War. In 1873, New York was the first state to designate Memorial Day as a legal holiday. By the late 1800s, many more cities and communities observed Memorial Day, and several states had declared it a legal holiday. After World War I, it became an occasion for honoring those who died in all of America's wars and was then more widely established as a national holiday throughout the United States.

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## **Chapter supports Fisher House Foundation at Lake Nona**

In a joint board/membership vote Chapter 173 selected the Fisher House Foundation as its charitable organization that it will support and promote especially at fund-raisers.

The Fisher House Foundation is best known for a network of comfort homes where military and veterans' families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving medical treatment

These homes are located at major military and VA medical centers nationwide, close to the medical center or hospital they serve.. **Fisher homes have up to 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room and inviting living conditions.**



*What the Fisher House at Lake Nona will look like upon completion.*

Fisher House Foundation ensures that there is never a lodging fee. Since inception, the program has saved military and veterans' families an estimated \$360 million in out of pocket costs for lodging and transportation.

The chapter hopes to provide an annual contribution to the Foundation, from monies received at fund raisers during the year. Rather than making the contribution to the national headquarters of the Foundation, Commander Travers has suggested that we make it to the Lake Nona Fisher House, since that one is adjacent to the VA center at Lake Nona.

“So, if anyone asks ‘where does the money go’, we just simply tell them that it goes to the Fisher House for veterans families at Lake Nona.

The Fisher House provides a “home away from home” for families of Veterans receiving medical care at a major military or VA medical center. These homes offer free, temporary lodging to military and Veterans’ families, allowing them to be close to their loved one during a medical crisis and focus on what’s important – the healing process. There are currently 71 Fisher Houses located at 40 military and 31 VA medical centers, with more under construction or in design.

The Orlando VA Medical Center Fisher House at Lake Nona is under construction and should be completed by November, according to Teresa Turner, a U.S. Army veteran and manager of the Fisher House. It is expected to begin taking in the first guests in January, she said. The Fisher House will contain 16 suites of various designs that will be available to families, according to the number of persons using it. *The Morning Calm* will continue to provide updates on its construction and completion

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## Meeting Minutes

### ...of THE APRIL MEETING

Commander Travers called the meeting to order at approx. 11:10, following the Board of Directors meeting. Following the Benediction given by Charlie First, and Pledge of Allegiance led by Sgt.-at-Arms Nancy Travers, minutes of the previous meeting (April 20) were approved by the membership. The following reports were given: Chuck Collins, who has been acting as Treasurer, reported on the state of finances; Chuck Travers reported that current active membership stood at 55 plus 7 honorary, non-voting members. Bill Russell reported on the continued publication of *The Morning Calm*, and reported that he was requested by another chapter to assist them in starting their own newsletter.

The big subject of the meeting was

the decision to select a charitable organization that the chapter can support and provide a clear response to donors at fund raisers what their donations are used for. Hopefully, Commander Travers pointed out that this would standardize such responses. The vote to accept this decision was unanimous.

Also debated and voted unanimously was the decision to cancel membership and involvement in SCAVAC (Seminole County Veterans Advisory Committee). It was noted the organization provided no service for us.

Treasurer Jim Prior was welcomed back following recuperation from a medical issue. Thanks to Chuck Collins who served as Acting Treasurer until Jim's return.

Charlie First announced the dates of the fund raisers this year: They are as follows: For Memorial Day: Sat. & Sun (May 28 & 29; Veterans Day: Sat. & Sun. (Nov. 11 & 12. Site: Sam's Warehouse. S. OBT.

Commander Travers reported that he is still trying to move the Korean War memorabilia inventory over to Casselberry so that items can be available for members to purchase.

Charlie First reported that he made 24 calls to members this month to improve attendance at the meetings, and urged others to do the same.

Due to Jim Prior's medical absence, he was not available at the annual swearing in of "new" officers, was sworn in by Judge Advocate Charlie First at the meeting.

In the Good of the Order segment, Gil Harris reported that he would be attending Tom Campbell's internment at Arlington National Cemetery on June 2.

Commander Travers reminded everyone that the May meeting would be the last for the season.

That is all. Submitted for your approval. – *Bill Russell, Secy.*



*Jim Prior sworn in at April meeting.*

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*On patrol*

## Notes from the Honor Guard

The meeting was held on April 15, 2017 at the VFW Post 2093 at 10:05 AM Saturday and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The meeting was conducted by Charlie First.

The attendees were Charlie First, Chuck Collins, Gilbert Harris, John Randall, Woody Hines Sr., Bob Yingst and Michael Yingst.

Charlie First stated that the next ceremonies are as follows: April 18th for Art Milks and it will take place at 6512 Edgewater, beginning at 10 AM (members are to meet there at 9:30 AM.

The dress instructions are as follows:

Korean uniform; the black dickey will be worn by the riflemen; the black tie is to be worn by the flag folders and the presenters; the black beret will be worn by all.

The latest ruling is that the three spent cartridges are no longer to be pushed into the presented flag (as the flag is to remain pure) but will be presented separately.

Charlie First stated that we will now ask for donations for our ceremonies but we will conduct them for free if refused

Charlie First stated that our service cards have now been passed out to many funeral homes and we can expect more demand for our services and one request has already come in.

Rifles were loaded and we went to the Lake to fire one round each to make certain that they are working. The Guard will conduct a Memorial Service at Post 2093 at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 20. —*Chuck Collins*

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### **Reported by Ed Posada**

Like other Americans, veterans have grown increasingly interested in alternative treatment options to enhance wellness or address symptoms that are not well managed with conventional medicine.

A 2014 study found that service members experienced chronic pain post combat at a much higher rate (44%) than the general population (26%). Based on these findings, Representative Julia Brownley (CA) introduced two bills aimed at expanding veterans' access to complementary and alternative medicine. Based on these findings, Representative Julia Brownley (CA) introduced two bills

aimed at expanding veterans' access to complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) in VA medical centers.

The first measure, the Expanding Care for Veterans Act, H.R. 102, would require VA to develop a plan for expanding delivery and integration of CAM in at least 15 VA medical centers and evaluate the

**More...** Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) introduced S. 319, the Helping Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits Act. The bill would establish a Center of Excellence in preventing, diagnosing, mitigating, treating and rehabilitating conditions related to veterans' exposure to burn pits during Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

DAV Resolution No. 237 supports improvement of care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxins and environmental hazards, including a rigorous research agenda to identify any associations between such exposures and adverse health outcomes.

**Update:** Senator Jerry Moran (KS) has introduced S. 609, the Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act of 2017, which would require VA to offer chiropractic care at a minimum of 75 VA medical centers by the end of 2018 and at every VA medical center by the end of 2020. VA currently offers chiropractic services as part of its medical benefits package.

However, VA's website indicates that only about 65 VA medical centers have chiropractors on site who are integrated into primary care, rehabilitation and other specialized care teams.

Please contact your Representative today to urge co-sponsorship and enactment of the above reported bills.

***Thank you - Ed Posada***

# Perusing *The Graybeards*

If you haven't seen the latest issue of *The Graybeards*, take a look at it. It's got some great stuff in it. Here are some of the highlights... **A new two-part story** entitled *The Russian Truck*, by Fred Lash as told by George Lampman. It's an intriguing and compelling story about an embassy Marine and the big retreat south to Pusan in December 1950. Can't wait for Part 2 next issue. **Also in this issue** is the second part of the story of the Chosin Reservoir battle by Cpl. Harbula, who served with George Company of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the First Marines during their heroic action in the battle. These two articles are published back-to-back so you can move right into the second story. **There is also a special message by KWVA President Tom Stevens** who has offered what can be labeled a "radical" solution to bolstering membership- allowing "direct descendants of War/ Defense veterans eligibility for regular membership. Radical, yes, but you can offer your opinion by responding to the "Feedback/Return Fire" section in the next issue. And don't forget to check out this section in the current issue.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Ch. 173 is happy to welcome two new members to our ranks - **John Rallis** is a former member of Ch. 124 which became inactive so he heard about our chapter and so joined us. John, from Pontiac, MI, served in a medical unit in Korea from Dec. 1953 to

Dec. 1954. Being of Greek ancestry, John has an interesting story about a visit to the frontlines with the Greek Battalion. **Elliott Hernandez** of Ponce, Puerto Rico served in the Army from 1983 to 1989. His Korean service included assignment with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division along the DMZ where he served as an M.P. at Freedom Bridge. Welcome John and Elliott to Chapter 173.

## ASA hopes to place memorial in Arlington National Cemetery

A memorial to the ASA (Army Security Agency) is being proposed by the National Army Security Agency Association (nasaa) to be placed at Arlington National Cemetery to honor the service and sacrifice of all ASA veterans from 1945-1976 during the Korean, Vietnam, and Cold Wars.

Members of the ASA served under a veil of secrecy during their entire existence and has never been recognized.

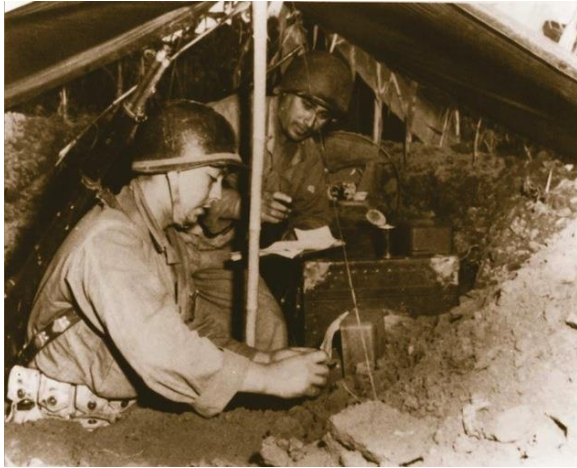
ASA was the [United States Army's signals intelligence](#) branch. The Latin motto of the Army Security Agency was *Semper Vigilis* (Vigilant Always), which echoes [Thomas Jefferson's](#) declaration that "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance."

The Agency existed between 1945 and 1976 and was the successor to Army signals intelligence operations dating back to [World War I](#).

ASA was under the operational of the [Director of the National Security Agency](#) (DIRNSA), located at [Fort Meade](#), Maryland; but had its own tactical commander at Headquarters, ASA, [Arlington Hall Station](#), Virginia.

During the Korean War, the Army Security Agency was responsible for supplying the Army's codes and ciphers as

the soldiers in the scene below are monitoring codes in their front-line bunker.



Besides intelligence gathering, it had responsibility for the security of Army communications and for **electronic countermeasures** operations.

In 1977, the ASA was merged with the US Army's **Military Intelligence** component to create the United (INSCOM).

Not only was ASA active during the Korean War as shown in the photo above, but also in Vietnam. In fact the first soldier killed in Vietnam was SP4 James T. Davis, an ASA soldier who was killed in a Viet Cong ambush on his way to locate a Viet Cong transmission station.

The memorial will honor Specialist Davis and all the other soldiers who served in the ASA.

*(Personal note: I served in the ASA between 1947 and 1950 before being shipped out to Korea. – B.R.)*

***The Morning Calm* is the official  
publication of Ch. 173, KWVA  
– Bill Russell, Editor**

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# Personals

IN MEMORY OF 13 CHAPLAINS WHO  
DIED IN NORTH KOREAN PRISONER  
OF WAR CAMPS

*-TOM CAMPBELL*

MSGT GILBERT M. BERG – Dedicated  
to Rangers, Past, Present and Future



VIC HAAS (USAF-RET)  
20<sup>TH</sup> AIR FORCE



*Renewed 3/1/15*

TED TROUSDLE - YN1 US NAVY ('51-  
'56) SUB SQUADRON 5 AMPHIBIOUS  
FORCES US PAC; 7<sup>th</sup> FLT; THE  
PENTAGON; JUSMAG, THAILAND



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WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS (WAC)  
1951-1955



BILL KING, JR  
COMBAT MEDIC



2<sup>ND</sup> BN, 19<sup>TH</sup> INF REGT  
24<sup>TH</sup> INF DIVISION KOREA  
JULY 26 1950-MARCH 1952

BILL RUSSELL  
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## **NOTICE:**

**The membership meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> will be the last meeting of the membership year.**

**It will resume on Thurs. September 21.**

**The June 25 and July 27<sup>th</sup> anniversaries will be observed. More information on those two dates will be provided later.**

**The board will continue to meet at Casselberry Veterans during June, July, and August beginning at 10:30. Members are welcomed to attend.**