

November 2017
Post Newsletter
WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Stuff

By Joe Barker

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November, more than any other month, is a month of remembrance and thankfulness. I hope you are able to attend and enjoy many of the activities planned on (and around) Veteran's Day. They are for you, recognizing your sacrifice and service. Our own Quartermaster Mike Winner was invited to be the keynote speaker at Lyons Township High School's assemblies; I hope you can attend one of the assemblies (or both!).

These events are a great prelude to Thanksgiving, a special holiday which causes us to stop and reflect on our abundant blessings. Included in my list of reasons to be thankful is being part of VFW Post 10778, and being affiliated with such a great group of veterans. Everything you accomplish (Hospital Committee, Parade Committee, Buddy Poppy, Education Committee, to name a few) helps others.

Thank you for what you do!
Joe Barker

Save the Dates

Nov. 9th – Hospital Visit
Nov. 14th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church
Nov. 17th – deadline for December newsletter
Dec. 12th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

Quartermaster Report

By Mike Winner

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Statement of funds as of 10/10/17:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Post General Fund | \$18,264.80 |
| Post Relief Fund | 4,887.14 |
| TOTAL: | \$23,151.94 |

Semper Fi!

Happy Birthday Marines!

**DAYLIGHT-SAVING
TIME ENDS ON
NOV. 5, 2017
AT 2:00 A.M.**

Senior Vice Commander

By Chuck Bosko

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Dear reader, I bet you're anticipating with knees shaking and lips quivering for the next installment of the continuing series of military service medals. Well, not to disappoint my fellow veterans, here ya are!

Featured this month are two, yes TWO for the price of one (Hey, who first quoted "Let's play two"? Guess correctly, and the next beverage and slice of pizza on me). Anyway, back to our feature.

The Department of Defense has issued two service medals for service in Korea. The first, of course, is for service in Korea during the Korean War. The medal covers in country service during the June 27, 1959, through July 27, 1954, period.

A few statistical tidbits:

- The total number of service personnel worldwide during the Korean War- 5,720,000.
- Total service in Korea- 1,789,000.
- Battle deaths- 33,739.
- Other deaths- 2,835.
- Other deaths in service (Non Theater) - 17,672.
- Non-mortal wounded - 103,284.
- Living veterans- 1,592,000. *

What makes this war, or conflict, different is that this "conflict" has not ended as a truce was agreed upon meaning that, in a way, we remain on a war setting. This is why the Defense Department has issued the Korea Defense Service Medal. This medal was official Dec. 2, 2002 and is awarded for service personnel serving in Korea for at

least 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days since July 1954.

Special note here - IF an individual has not received this award because he or she is not aware of same, the process is relatively simple. The process – submit one's discharge document(s) indicating Korean Service to the National Personnel Records Center (St Louis) requesting a correction/addition to the discharge. A DD 215 will be issued showing the issuance of the Korea Defense Service Medal.

Of course, an individual with either - or both- medals is eligible for VFW membership. Images and further information of each medal is in this newsletter somewhere.

To all Korean service veterans, thank you for your service.

Allons and always, Airborne!

Dog Tag Veterans Group

To: Fellow members of VFW 10778

From: The Dog Tag Veterans Group

We thank our fellow veterans and the Post for financially supporting our endeavors to offer viewers informative and interesting videos on our YouTube Channel. Additionally, our Facebook page also will include news and information visitors may find useful.

Our most recent episode features a "How To" submit a claim for disability compensation with the VA. Granted, there are numerous other such videos on YouTube. However, none I have seen are as in-depth as ours. Future episodes feature several women veterans with a focus on their military career paths and their new careers post-military service and are now available for viewing.

Simply visit our YouTube channel or our Facebook page.

On YouTube, go to: The Dog Tag Veterans Group.

On Facebook, go to: The Dog Tag Veterans Group.

As mentioned, we, the members of the Dog Tag Veterans Group, thank our fellow veterans.

Chuck Bosko (Army, Viet Nam), Buddy Georgoulakis (Army, Viet Nam), Michael Holub (Army, The Old Guard), Melissa Ventrone (USMC, Afghanistan)

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR
**KOREA
DEFENSE**
SERVICE MEDAL

VETERANS OF KOREA DUTY CAN TAKE PRIDE in defending a staunch ally and protecting their nation's vital interests in Northeast Asia for more than 50 years.

Since 1945, U.S. troops have occupied the southern part of the peninsula, fought a full-fledged war, waged a "hot" campaign on the DMZ during the Cold War and stood guard along a hostile border.

To recognize veterans who have served in the country since 1954, Congress established the Korean Defense Service Medal (KDSM). Through approval of *Public Law 107-314* on Dec. 2, 2002, the KDSM gives "special recognition for the sacrifices and contributions made by members of the U.S. armed forces who have served or are serving in the Republic of Korea," according to the Pentagon.

It is open to all GIs who have served at least 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in South Korea since July 28, 1954. The area of eligibility includes the contiguous water out to 12 nautical miles and all air spaces above the land and water areas.



According to the Pentagon, more than 40,000 GIs have served in South Korea every year since the cease-fire agreement ending the war was signed in July 1953. After 1994, when VFW amended its bylaws, the organization exerted a special effort to welcome all Korea-duty veterans into its ranks. This included the one-year period between June 1949 and June 1950 when the Korean Military Advisory Group was stationed in Korea.

But with the creation of the KDSM, the nation as a whole recognized the importance of the U.S. military mission in South Korea. Despite other worldwide commitments, GIs still stand as sentinels in this land.

Korea Defense Service Medal

Created Dec. 2, 2002, under Public Law 107-314, the KDSM recognizes Korea service since July 28, 1954. Awarded for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in South Korea or its territorial waters.



Membership Department • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111 • 816/756-3390 • fax 816/968-2728 • www.vfw.org

Updated Oct. 2005

Order No. 4024

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

KOREAN WAR VETERANS CAN TAKE PRIDE IN being recipients of the Korean Service Medal (KSM), an award symbolizing honorable service and sacrifice in a full-scale war.

Created by Executive Order No. 10179 on Nov. 8, 1950, the medal covers the period June 27, 1950 through July 27, 1954—a full year after the armistice was signed. It includes service within the Far East Command—Korea, combat flight crews based on Japan and Okinawa, and ships in the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea. It also recognizes 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of temporary duty in the theater.

Service with a unit or headquarters stationed outside the theater but directly supporting Korean War military operations during this time also entitles a veteran to the medal in some cases.



Approximately 1.6 million troops earned their KSM on the soil of South Korea. Others served offshore or in neighboring Japan (in direct support), bringing the total to 1.8 million. Some 36,576 Americans died in the war; 103,284 were hospitalized for wounds.

Often called the “forgotten war,” it has been anything but that to VFW. Instrumental in promoting the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the organization also donated \$600,000 toward its construction. VFW has welcomed Korean War vets into its ranks since 1950, shortly after the KSM was created. Six vets of Korea have led the organization as commander-in-chief.

For the 50th anniversary of the war, VFW magazine published a series of 50 articles and produced a 132-page book, *Battles of the Korean War*.

Campaign Inclusive Dates

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| U.N. Defensive | June 27 - Sept. 15, 1950 | <i>Note: These are the Army campaign designations. Other services vary in some of their titles and dates. A bronze service star was awarded for each campaign credit, or a silver service star for every five campaigns. Service members who participated in at least one airborne or amphibious assault landing are entitled to wear an arrowhead on the ribbon or bar.</i> |
| U.N. Offensive | Sept. 16 - Nov. 2, 1950 | |
| CCF Intervention | Nov. 3, 1950 - Jan. 24, 1951 | |
| First U.N. Counteroffensive | Jan. 25 - April 21, 1951 | |
| CCF Spring Offensive | April 22 - July 8, 1951 | |
| U.N. Summer-Fall Offensive | July 9 - Nov. 27, 1951 | |
| Second Korean Winter | Nov. 28, 1951 - April 30, 1952 | |
| Korea, Summer-Fall 1952 | May 1 - Nov. 30, 1952 | |
| Third Korean Winter | Dec. 1, 1952 - April 30, 1953 | |
| Korea, Summer 1953 | May 1 - July 27, 1953 | |

CCF = Chinese Communist Forces



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