



## General Walton H. Walker Chapter 215

### THE BULLDOG BUGLE



Honored Chapter Member, Colonel James L Stone, Medal of Honor Recipient

PAST PRESIDENTS: DICK PREDMORE - MARVIN DUNN – MIKE DOYLE

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We had very good attendance at our meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup>, some visitors and a new member. We also had a good program by David Herod the Consumer Affairs Director at the Dallas VA Hospital. He made us all feel a little more comfortable about going there for medical treatment and also tells that the parking situation is going to be improved shortly. Much of what David told us was echoed by the VA Comptroller who was the speaker at the Greater Dallas Veterans Council meeting on May 19. **Jim Hall, Al D'Agostino, Glen Smith** and I attended the meeting at the Veterans Service Office in Dallas. The speaker told us the Psychiatric Ward has been closed since the two suicides this year in March and April. Significant improvements are being made in the facilities and the monitoring of patients. The South area is now open for new patients but the North area is still under modification. Personally, I was impressed that the GDVC has 58 member organizations that pay annual dues and I think **J. D. Randolph** is providing strong leadership for this group.

I hope everyone took advantage of the opportunity to attend one of the Memorial Day services in our area. **Gene and Judy Richards, Bill MacSwain, Marvin Dunn, Roy Hill** and I showed up at the Veterans Park in Arlington Monday morning thinking they were having a program there but when we realized it was not going to happen we all decided to go find one at another place. **Marvin, Roy and the Richards** went to the DAV Memorial in Grand Prairie and I went to the Moore Memorial Gardens in Arlington. In the afternoon several of our members went to the DFW National Cemetery Program to hear Gov. **Rick Perry** and Marine Lt. **General Joseph Weber** honor those who have given their lives in the service of our country. I was particularly impressed with **Mel LaBlanc**, Arlington City Councilman who is a Doctor of Philosophy and spoke with Mayor Cluck at the Moore Memorial Gardens. He recalled the time during the Cold War when Niketa Krushchev said "it wasn't going to be necessary to use the military and weapons against the United States because it was likely over time that the U. S. would crumble from inside because of the culture." Of course, this was during the time that Communism was strong in the USSR and we all know that it was they who crumbled from the inside. He went on to say that we still need to be vigilant and dedicate ourselves to make sure it doesn't happen here. During this time of national elections we have the opportunity and must use our vote to keep our country strong.

Next meeting June 14 will be our Chapter election. Please come and take part in the festivities. If you have a friend who is a Korean Veteran bring him along—remember new members will get a free shirt and patches when they sign up.

*Larry Kinard--President*

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**RECIPES:** Annette White has sent the book back to the publisher and we should receive it around the middle of July. Thanks to Annette, Eileen Montanez, & **all** the ladies who participated.

## STAYING IN TOUCH

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JUNE BIRTHDAYS		MEMORY		ANNIVERSARIES
John Fisher	1	Roy Hill	12	Edna & Louis Holmes 10/51
Al D'Agostino	7	Vernell Cooper	23	Alice & Eldon Armstrong 22/85

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### ROY HILL'S BIRTHDAY

Roy is having a stag party for his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday. He is inviting all men in our chapter to attend. It will be June 12<sup>th</sup> at the "Hong Kong" building. We will enjoy the Taste of Korea. It will be a luncheon at noon on this date. The Hong Kong Building is located at the corner of Great Southwest and 303 or Pioneer Parkway. Dress code will be the FORMAL UNIFORM OF THE KWVA. Bring your appetite and good will and no presents, please. The food that will be served will be authentic Korean "Bulgogi." Golf carts will be furnished for handicapped if needed. **Please RSVP by June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008**, so he can make plans. Roy's phone number is: 972-262-7222. Let's show Roy how proud we are of him and help him celebrate his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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### ***PERSONAL KOREAN WAR STORIES BY GENE C RICHARDS*** **CHRISTMAS IN KOREA: 1952**

In my "Thrust Into Combat" story, I told of arriving at Pusan, Korea on 18 October 1952, then being on the front lines by the 26<sup>th</sup>. At this point, I had been moving so fast in the Army's pipeline system (since leaving the States), that I could not begin writing letters to Joyce nor any of my family - - wouldn't have an address for them to write to me, until I arrived at my permanent unit in Korea. After rotating through 8<sup>th</sup> Army, then down to 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, then being assigned to the 57<sup>th</sup> FA Bn of the 7<sup>th</sup> Div, I landed in "C" Btry of the 57<sup>th</sup> on 25 Oct 1952, where I finally had an address for folks to write to me.

So, after getting settled in at an FO bunker on the MLR with "L" Company of the 31<sup>st</sup> Inf Regt, I was able to start writing letters to my wife, Joyce in Eastland, Tx, to my folks in Weatherford, TX, and to my twin brother at an Air Force base in Japan. I had probably been on the front lines for a couple of weeks before getting my first letter from Joyce, and maybe 3 weeks or so before getting a letter from Mama (from Weatherford). It was in the letter from Mama that she expressed much concern for my safety in a combat zone (I could sort of "read between the lines").

By this time, it was already early to mid November, and Mama said she knew that Jack and I would not be home for Christmas - - and it would be our very first Christmas away from home, ever. Then, she went further, to say that since we would NOT be home for Christmas, maybe the two of us might get together for Christmas! I don't think that Mama realized just how far away even Japan was, from my location on the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel in Korea. I thought to myself - - "Fat chance of that ever happening! Here I am, with an infantry rifle company on the front lines, living in trenches and bunkers, and Jack is over there in a barracks at a plush air force base". I didn't tell Mama, in my reply letter, that I doubted it could ever happen. But - - oh Ye of little faith!

During the first few weeks on the front lines, my goal each morning was just to live thru that day, and so get one day closer to when I would get to go home. But the weeks went by quickly, and before mid December, I had lucked out and was transferred to the Division Air Section, which was about 7 miles behind the MLR, with much better living quarters and no every-day incoming artillery and mortars from the enemy. I immediately wrote to Joyce, to my folks, and to twin brother Jack, to tell them of my new assignment and my new address.

Within a few days of Jack's receiving my 1<sup>st</sup> letter from the Buzz Air Section, he was in his CO's office, just doing routine duty, and got to carrying on a friendly conversation with Major James Sneed,

his CO. Jack was his assigned jeep driver, and really liked Maj Sneed. Jack just happened to mention (off the cuff) that he had a twin brother in Korea, with the 7<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Air Section. Major Sneed looked at Jack and said "How would you like to spend Christmas day with your brother"? At first, Jack thought he was kidding, but his CO quickly told him that he could cut TDY orders for him, to deliver some commo equipment to K-16, an air force base near Seoul, Korea (His Communications Squadron had detachments at 6 or 7 different air force bases, scattered out across South Korea). His CO then suggested that once he got to K-16 and made his delivery, he could get himself a 3-day pass, and it would be up to him to figure out how to get from K-16 to where I was.

So Jack quickly conveyed this information to me by letter, giving me the time that he was scheduled to start his 3-day pass from K-16 AFB. It just so happened that the 7<sup>th</sup> Inf Division had an L-20 Beaver airplane that, among other duties it performed, it was used as the division's mail plane (the mail was always picked up from 8<sup>th</sup> Army, at K-16). I wrote Jack a quick letter back, telling him the time our 7<sup>th</sup> Div mail plane would be landing there at K-16, on Christmas eve day.

On Christmas eve morning, I chatted with the pilot who was scheduled to fly the Beaver mail plane that morning to K-16 to pick up the 7<sup>th</sup> Division mail. I told him to find my twin brother, Jack, down there at K-16, and bring him back with him, to Able-7 airstrip. So - - what Mama had told me in a letter, just a few weeks back, that maybe Jack & I could get together for Christmas - - actually happened! Here we were, 9,000 miles from home, and the very first Christmas for either of us to be away from home, but at least the two of us were together! Does the Lord make miracles happen, or what?

I had flown my very first mission on December 11, 1952, just a couple weeks before. On Christmas Day (the war didn't stop or take a recess, just because it was Christmas), I flew my 13<sup>th</sup> mission. When we returned to the airstrip and landed, Jack was there to greet me, and before I could even get my parachute off, he grabbed me and gave me a big hug! It was indeed, my most memorable Christmas ever. And it happened (from this March '08 writing of this story) over 55 years ago - - as suggested by our Mama, who had more faith than anyone I have ever known. I didn't think it could happen. Oh Ye of little Faith!

There is a special bond between twins. I cannot explain it, but I know it is there. There were 10 of us brothers and sisters in our family. I have always loved them all (and at the time of this writing, we have lost 3 of those 10). Even though Jack and I have gone our separate ways, lived somewhat different lives (he was a carpenter, like 4 other brothers), he and I have always had a closeness, and I think we sense it anytime we get together. That special bond that most twins have is there. That bond and closeness that we both felt on a Christmas day, more than 55 years ago, and more than 9,000 miles from our home.

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GENERAL WALTON H WALKER CHAPTER 215, INC.  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES MAY 17, 2008

The Gen. Walton H. Walker Chapter #215 Membership Meeting was held on May 17, 2008 at the Martin Sprocket & Gear Facility in Arlington, Texas. The Chapter meeting was called to order by President Larry Kinard with 39 members and 10 guests present. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Burleigh Casler and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was conducted by Roy Hill. Ted Malcolm read the Creed followed by a moment of silence.

President Kinard asked for membership approval of the April Minutes as printed in the May Bulldog Bugle. Ted Malcolm made a motion to approve the minutes and John Fisher seconded. The motion carried. He then asked for a motion to approve the Financial Report for April also printed in the May Bulldog Bugle. Russell Stephens made the motion and Marvin Dunn seconded and the motion passed.

President Kinard then welcomed five Korean War Veteran guests and each gave a brief introduction of their service during the Korean War. Ken Dillard, William Hoyle, Bob Shaw, Delbert Goss and Robert Sullins reported their service organizations and the areas they served in.

Sim Goodall then introduced our guest speaker David Herod the Consumer Affairs Officer at the Dallas Veterans Hospital. Mr Herod who was a Vietnam Veteran then explained his functions within the VA system. He gave the membership his phone number (214-857-1450) and told them if they were first time users of the VA Facility to give him a call or to drop by his office and he would personally give them information on where to get help in starting a claim process. He also talked about the parking problem and said it should be fixed in a couple of weeks by moving some of the operations to other areas for some workers at the VA. The membership then asked questions and Sim Goodall then presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Chapter.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Chapter Cookbook Fund Raiser update was presented by Chairman Annette White. She stated that confirmation had been received for the printing of 200 Cookbooks. She Thanked those who contributed and stated that she had received orders for around seventy of the books already. She also said that she would try to get a copy of the cookbook so the membership could see it before the final printing took place. She also volunteered to look into a way to publish a Chapter Pictorial Membership Booklet.

Newsletter Editor, Marvin Dunn requested that those interested in helping with the newsletter would meet at 10:00 am Tuesday at the Atlanta Bakery on May 27, 2008.

Parade Chairman Ted Malcolm reminded the membership that he would receive our place assignment in the Arlington 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade on June 22, 2008 and all of the paperwork has been completed and we will be using the Barn to prepare our float again this year. Its use was given at no cost.

Publicity Chairman Faye Landham reported she had begun a special fund raiser selling pecans and all the proceeds would go to the chapter. She sold \$100 worth at the meeting and took more order from those who did not get an opportunity to purchase when she ran out.

President Kinard reported that we made a two day Tell America presentation at Arlington High School and talked to 736 Students.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Jim Wetmore reported that he would be gone until after the next scheduled meeting. He said he would still do calling to remind the membership of the meeting and gave his cell phone number in case members needed to report an illness or death and would then notify the President. That is real dedication of this Committee Chairman. His Cell Phone Number is 817-312-6369.

The Secretary reminded the members about the voting and how to submit their ballots either by mail or at the next meeting which would be June 14, 2008 on week earlier than normal.

The membership was told that we are now having a membership drive and that the Executive Council had decided to supply a shirt, hat and Chapter Patch to all new members after May 13. The Secretary will supply a list of those eligible to receive these articles.

John Fisher reported that the National Cemetery would have the Governor of Texas Rick Perry as the speaker at the Memorial Service on Memorial Day Monday May 26, 2008. The program will start at 3:00 pm and to bring chairs and arrive early.

President Kinard reported to the membership that another Auction would be held in November since our last Auction was not well attended and the amount of money generated was not enough.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

President Kinard reported the next meeting of the Chapter will be on June 14, 2008 at the Martin Sprocket and Gear Facility.

He reported we have another Tell America Presentation on May 28, 2008 at 1:00 pm at the Donna Shepard Middle School in Mansfield. He invited all members who wished to participate to let him know. He also reminded the members to be sure and vote in the National Election.

Roy Hill told the membership that he appreciated all the cards and calls during his and his wife's sickness and he was glad to be back to have his Roy Hill time again. He gave Marvin Dunn a blanket for his time and giving so much for Freedom we now enjoy in America. He then had all the Ladies to pick up a Bowl, that completes the grouping he began in earlier meetings, for their work within the Chapter furnishing food and other services. He also furnished two additional prizes for the 50/50 drawing.

The 50/50 Drawing was held and Jim Wetmore won \$61 and donated it back to the Chapter, Thus the Chapter collected \$122. A report was given Col Stone and his wife being ill and that Chester Haynes would be having back surgery. Sim Goodall & John Fisher won the 2 other Roy Hill furnished gifts.

John Fisher made a motion to adjourn with a prayer and Burleigh Casler seconded. The motion carried and Chaplain Don Jones asked for the healing power of God to be with those Chapter members who are ill or going into surgery and to be with all our members and our Armed Forces.

*Respectfully submitted, Bill Mac Swain, Secretary*

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## **PRESIDENT LEE MYUNG-BAK US MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE**

### **National Cemetery, Seoul, Korea**



National Cemetery, Seoul, Korea

President Lee Myung-bak

The day is abundant in meaning, a venue and an opportunity to honor the sacrifices of the United States servicemen during the Korean War.

We take this moment to pay tribute to their divine deeds in protecting the banners of peace, freedom, and democrat.

The sacrifice is now a cornerstone of peace and freedom basking all corners of our globe.

Through US soldiers' dedicated sacrifices the Republic of Korea was able to prosper to new economic heights whilst ushering democracy.

Koreans will remember all 33,000 champions of the Korean War, for their fight in peace and freedom's cause left us an indelible imprint.

On behalf of all Korean people, I would like to sincerely thank USFK\* service members for your effort in ensuring security of the peninsula even at this current moment.

Since the formation of our government in 1948 the ROK-USA alliance has progressed infinitely through thick and thin of history. Now the Alliance is more mature and steadfast.

The blood-forged brothers of ROK and US military boast world's greatest combined defense, bar none. It bolstered not only the relationship between the two nations but also peace and stability in Northeast Asia as well as in the peninsula.

Now the time calls for a mightier Alliance that best suits the Twenty-first Century.

In April's summit, President Bush and I pledged for a strategic alliance that seeks to enlarge common interests on the basis of universal values, strong trust, and strive for peace.

To strive for peace in Northeast Asia and to allay tensions in the peninsula, ROK-US Military Alliance built on trust is an absolute must.

That is the way forward for the peninsula and world peace, also a way to repay the debt of gratitude to those who sacrificed their lives.

I offer my most devout prayers to those who remain in our hearts, and may God's blessings shine on every USFK soldier and their families.

\*USFK-US Forces Korea, the command name for all US military personnel assigned to Korea since 1970s, including 8th US Army.

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**GENERAL WALTON H WALKER CHAPTER 215, INC.  
KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC  
MAY 2008 FINANCIAL REPORT**

**[omitted from online version]**

## WOMEN VETERAN'S REPRESENTATIVE

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has created a comprehensive array of benefits and programs. "Women who served this country in uniform-- whether veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, on Terror or peacetime service--have earned our respect and thanks," said Dr. James B. Peake, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "They have also earned the full range of VA programs offered by a grateful nation.

Secretary Peake also announced the fourth National Summit on Women Veterans Issues to be held June 20-22 in Washington D.C. The Summit will offer attendees an opportunity to enhance future progress on women veterans' issues, with sessions specifically for the Reserves and National Guard, information on military sexual trauma and readjustment issues, after the military veteran resources, and many more programs and exhibits.

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## MEMORIAL DAY

There were over 2000 people at the National Cemetery to hear General Weber and Governor Perry talk about the importance of MEMORIAL DAY. I found a poem that describes this day, *Freedom is Not Free*. (See below left)

### FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

*By Kelly Strong, USCG*

I watched the flag pass by one day,  
It fluttered in the breeze.  
A young Marine saluted it  
And then he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform,  
So young, so tall, so proud;  
With hair cut square and eyes alert,  
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him  
Had fallen through the years.  
How many died on foreign soil,  
How many mothers' tears.

How many pilots planes shot down,  
How many died at sea.  
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves  
No, Freedom Is Not Free.

I heard the sound of Taps one night,  
When everything was still.  
I listened to the bugler play  
And felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times  
That Taps had meant "Amen"  
When a flag had draped a coffin  
Of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,  
Of mothers and wives,  
Of fathers, sons and husbands  
With interrupted lives.

### STAPH INFECTIONS AT VA FACILITIES

Building on the success of a pilot program that reduced a worrisome staph infection by 70%, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has tough new screening requirements now in place in all of its 153 hospitals.

In addition to emphasizing its commitment to hospital hygiene and flagging affected patients for special precautions, VA facilities monitor all incoming patients on key units with nasal swabs and cultures for Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

"VA demonstrated that dramatic reductions in MRSA-related infections are possible," said Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Gordon H. Mansfield. "VA's completion of our national deployment of these serious prevention measures reinforces VA's stature as one of the safest health care environments nationally."

Recently published data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in collaboration with other researchers estimated there may be more than 94,000 MRSA cases a year in the United States associated with 18,650 deaths annually.

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar\\_MRSA.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_MRSA.html)

(Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is a type of bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics. These antibiotics include methicillin and other more common antibiotics such as oxacillin, penicillin and amoxicillin.)

GENERAL WALTON H. WALKER CHAPTER 215  
KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
P.O. BOX 122084  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76121-2084

*Chapter 215 monument donated to the National Cemetery*



### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

1. Executive Meeting, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at Hugh Smith Center at 7:00 P.M.
2. Roy Hill's birthday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008
3. Regular meeting, June 14, 2008, at Martin Sprocket & Gear at 11:15, eat at 12:00 and business meeting at 1:15 P.M.
4. Newsletter meeting at Atlanta Bread Company June 23 at 10:00 A.M.  
Everyone is invited.

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### **COMBAT- RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION ACT**

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend eligibility for combat- related special compensation (CRSC) paid to certain uniformed service retirees who are retired under chapter 61 of such title with fewer than 20 years of creditable service. Refer to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. Companion Bill S.986.

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**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MAKES OUR CHAPTER SUCCESSFUL, ESPECIALLY MARTIN SPROCKET & GEAR FOR THE USE OF THEIR BUILDING.**

**3RD WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH – HAMBURGER COOK-OUT  
DALLAS VA HOSPITAL 10:30 A.M. WE NEED HELPERS!**