



General Walton H. Walker Chapter 215

THE BULLDOG BUGLE



HONORED CHAPTER MEMBER, COLONEL JAMES L STONE, MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

HOME CHAPTER OF KWVA NATIONAL PRESIDENT: BILL MAC SWAIN

PAST PRESIDENTS: DICK PREDMORE - MARVIN DUNN - MIKE DOYLE

PRESIDENT'S CORNER JULY 2009

As you read this Bill and Barbara Mac Swain, Bettye and I, along with 40+ other Korean vets will be in Korea on the June 2009 KWVA Revisit trip. This will be a very special tour because it falls during their 6/25 holiday period. Bill, as the KWVA President, is scheduled to make a speech on 6/25 at a large gathering in their meeting hall in Seoul. We will return on June 27th after a week in the area around Seoul. If you have an interest in seeing Korea again this is a great opportunity for those of you who served there. The Korean people are very appreciative of Korean vets and welcome the opportunity to express this appreciation.

Jack Cooper and Ted Malcolm will mention the Arlington July 4th parade at the meeting June 20th but I want to mention it here also. This is one of the best ways we have to get recognition in the Arlington community and also to support the city. I would hope that everyone, especially our new members, will make an effort to take part in the parade. If you have questions about the parade Ted Malcolm can help.

My congratulations go to Marvin Dunn who was recently re-elected as a National Director for three more years. Marvin has gained a lot of trust and admiration from the KWVA membership and has done a great job for the past three years.

Congratulations are also in order for the slate of officers and directors for our chapter. We ask for your continued support as we journey together through this next year. We welcome comments and suggestions on how we can make our chapter better. I look forward to working with all of you for the coming year.

Larry Kinard, President



STAYING IN TOUCH

JULY BIRTHDAYS

MEMORY

ANNIVERSARY

James Tew	7	Joe Roberts	24	Betsy & Mike Doyle	7/56
Gene Highsmith	8	Burleigh Casler	25	Neva & Jim Wetmore	14/95
Neta Fowler	9	Albert Rollins	31	Dorothy & Ted Malcolm	29/50

CAN YOU GUESS THIS MONTH'S MEMBER?

This month's member was born in Vernon, TX and lived in Roanoke where he attended school, and graduated in 1946. He farmed 400 acres and had 28 heads of mules. He had no tractor.

He was drafted into the Army on Sept 20th of 1950 and went to basic training at Ft. Sill, OK, after which he spent 28 days on a ship going to Korea, and was sent to the front lines in Feb of 1951.

He served 19 months in minus 60 degree temperatures and sustained frost bite to both hands and both feet. He was wounded in the leg and received a Purple Heart.

He was captured and kept in a P.O.W. camp for 41 days till the Air Force strafed the Chinese front lines scaring them off and the prisoners were let go. He walked 15 days to get back to his lines.

He was discharged on Sept 20th, 1952. After his discharge he went to work for G.M. where he worked for 35 years till his retirement in Dec of 1989.

He met his wife in 1971 at a coffee set up by his future wife's sister, who thought they should meet. They were married in 1973 and brought 2 children to the marriage, a son and a daughter. They now have 2 grand daughters and 3 great grand children.

They've been members in the chapter for 8 years.

Have you guessed Sam and Rho Bass?

KINARD'S AND MAC SWAIN'S RETURN FROM KOREA

This last Saturday night we were able to sleep in our own beds and it really felt good. We had a wonderful and eventful week on the June 22-27 Revisit trip with about 40 other Korean Vets and their families. Since Bill is the current National KWVA President they made a real effort to recognize this and treat him special at every event. The first afternoon Bill, Barbara and I were invited to a personal visit with the KVA President. After a brief visitation, the President's staff appeared and Bill was asked to stand for a presentation. He was officially inducted by the President as an Honorary Member of the Korean Veterans Association (*see picture of Bill & KVA President*)

Pictures and an account of the ceremony followed a day later in the local papers. The pictures looked good but we couldn't read the writing.



The next big event was the placing of the wreath at the National Cemetery (*see picture*) with Bill and the leaders of the Belgian and Columbia groups doing the honors.

Afterward we attended the 6/25 ceremony in a large gymnasium with around 4000 KVA members and their families. It was a very impressive and patriotic service with several

speakers including our own Bill Mac Swain who expressed appreciation for the kindnesses of the Korean people (*see picture*). From there we went to a reception with South Korean President Myun-Bak Lee and Bill sat at the head table with him. The last day was a visit to the Pan Mun Jom area to see Camp Bonifas and the DMZ. This too is impressive primarily because of all the security and North Korean



soldiers watching our every step. On the return to Seoul we stopped at the Imjingang Memorial and placed a wreath there in remembrance of the American dead. Bill and I led the group in formation to conduct this service (*see picture*).



KVA President presented Bill Mac S wain with a medallion

Be sure and ask Bill to show you the Medallion the KVA President gave him when he became an Honorary KVA member. Bill represented us very well.

My daughter and her husband and our youngest son went with Bettye and me on this trip and they have all said that it is something they will never forget.

This is a long trip but well worth the effort. I understand there are still openings for the September and October trips so you might look into it if you are interested. When you see how much they have accomplished in the last 59 years you know that we did indeed have a significant victory in maintaining freedom for the South Koreans.

Submitted by Larry Kinard

SICK CALL

Let's keep the following people in our prayers and if you know of someone who is

sick, please let us know: MARVIN DUNN, JOANN DUNN, MIKE DOYLE, AND GLENN SMITH. As of this writing, Marvin Dunn has returned to the hospital.

GENERAL WALTON H WALKER CHAPTER 215, INC. JUNE 2009 MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The Gen. Walton H. Walker Chapter #215 Membership Meeting was held on Saturday June 20th 2009 at the Arlington Police Substation in Arlington, TX. The Chapter meeting was called to order by Vice President Jack Cooper. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Don Jones followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag conducted by Vice President Jack Cooper. The Chapter Creed was read followed by a moment of silence.

Ken Dillard rendered 2 selections on his harmonica after which Vice President Cooper asked for a motion to approve the May Membership Minutes and the May Financial Report as written in the May issue of the Bulldog Bugle. The motion was made to approve the minutes by William Hoyle and seconded by Nathan Stovall. The motion passed. John Fisher made a motion to approve the May financial report, seconded by Ted Malcolm and the motion passed.

There were three guests present at this meeting, Ron and Jean Lange, and Robert Sullins.

Our guest speaker was Col. James Stone and he spoke on the conditions of P.O.W. camps in Korea during the Korean War. He said there is no firm basis to expect to go back into North Korea to find the remains of those still Missing-in-Action but if we do return it would be to base camps, the Chosen Reservoir and the Unsan Battle Zone, to retrieve war dead. He said more people died at Camp 5 on the Yalu River, up to 1600 men than at other camps. Sixteen hundred dog tags were retrieved but many more were not and their bodies are unaccounted for. Jim Hall and Bill Baker also spoke of collecting dog tags of fallen comrades to return to turn in when they were freed. When the Chinese took over Camp 5 from the North Koreans, record keeping became better and some improvement in the food helped reduce the death toll. In 1954, 208 boxes of remains were returned by North Korea.

Colonel Stone also spoke of a new Grave Restoration Unit for P.O.W. remains identification, is being set up in Hawaii where they will determine the identities of remains sent there through DNA testing.

Jim Hall spoke about his experience at Camp 5 burying the bodies of fellow prisoners and collecting their dog tags. Colonel Stone was at Camp 2 and spoke about being hidden by non coms to avoid, as an

officer, having to sit before a microphone and make anti U.S. statements. He said they looked out for him and he was very impressed with their care.

Jim Wetmore gave a short report on health issues within the membership. He said he spoke to Betsy and Mike Doyle and said Betsy is feeling better but Mike was down with a very painful bladder infection. Glenn Smith is down with a case of shingles. Joanne Dunn is still having back problems, and Marvin is going to have surgery on Wed June 24th. We wish them all well.

John Fisher spoke about the next Meet The Troops visit at DFW Airport that is going to be Wed. June 24th, and will call on Tuesday evening all those who signed up to go.

Jim Wetmore said he has a folding table & chairs to get rid of and asked if anyone was interested in having them.

Ted Malcolm gave the particulars on the July 4th parade in Arlington. It will leave from the south parking lot of UTA at 9:00 and our float is in the red zone and is number #87 in line. Once again Sam Bass is lending his trailer to be used as our float, and decorating it will take place on Friday at 4:00 at the Arlington School District Bus Barn on Davis and Arkansas.

The 2009 Election Results were as follows with the votes being unanimous:

President	Larry Kinard
1st V.P.	Bill Hoyle
2nd V.P.	Al D'Agostino
Secretary/ Treasurer	Bill Mac Swain
Directors:	Roy Hill, Marvin Dunn, and Jack Cooper



These gentlemen were sworn in by our JAG, Bill Hoyle.

Vice President Cooper reminded the members of the Korean War Remembrance Program July 26th at the V.A. Hospital in Dallas starting at 2:30p.m.in the Atrium. He said to wear your uniform if you plan to attend. He also reminded the members of the cookout on June 26th for a pre-July 4th celebration and it will run from 11:00 -3:00 and encouraged all to attend, wear your uniform, and help cook hot dogs.

There was a membership vote on a motion to endorse making the National Cemetery a project for the Chapter. John Fisher made the motion, seconded by Ted Malcolm, and the motion carried.

It was Roy Hill time and he provided the ladies of the chapter with sets of earrings & had some little flower pots and ceramic table statues as gifts for the drawing. The fifty-fifty pot held \$130 with \$65 going to the winners who were Jack and Vernell Cooper. The table gifts were won by Janet Baker, Burleigh Casler and Sim Goodall.

Motion to adjourn, with closing prayer by Chaplain Casler. Motion carried and our meeting closed at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Montanez, subbing for Bill Mac Swain.

June 24, 2009

BILL SEEKS TO END DELAYS IN VETERANS' CARE

By [JAMES DAO](#)

The House approved legislation on Tuesday that is intended to prevent delays in federal financing for veterans' health care programs, a problem that has disrupted services provided by the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) for decades, officials say.

The bill, which has been a major lobbying priority of veterans' organizations in Washington, would allow Congress to appropriate funds for health care programs one year in advance.

Officials say that for 19 of the last 22 years, the department's budget has been approved late, usually because of fiscal wrangling on Capitol Hill. As a result, veterans' groups and officials say, the directors of veterans' health care centers and clinics have often been unable to proceed on time with new services, staff expansions or renovations.

"Our veterans pay the price with fewer doctors, longer waiting times and more restricted access for the six million veterans using V.A. health care," said Representative Bob Filner, Democrat of California and chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Under current rules, if a new budget is not in place by the start of the federal fiscal year on Oct. 1, the Department of Veterans Affairs is required to operate on its previous year's budget. Often, those budgets have lacked money to pay for even existing programs because of inflation, contractual increases and growing caseloads.

Programs have often been postponed or canceled while hospitals and clinics await their new budgets, officials said.

"If there were scheduled pay raises, we wouldn't have sufficient funds to maintain the status quo, because the pay raise would have to be paid," said Bob Perreault, a former director of veterans' health centers in Atlanta, Philadelphia and Charleston, S.C. "That means we would not buy equipment and not do maintenance projects."

Veterans' groups say the problem has become more troubling as caseloads have grown with veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"When you have a flat-line budget, you can't treat the new people coming into the system, which leads to rationing," said Peter Dickinson, a consultant to Disabled American Veterans, an advocacy group.

A similar bill sponsored by Senator Daniel K. Akaka, Democrat of Hawaii and the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, has bipartisan support and is expected to pass the full Senate.

[President Obama](#) has endorsed the idea of advance appropriations for veterans' health care. In testimony before the House veterans committee in March, Veterans Affairs Secretary [Eric Shinseki](#) said: "The care our veterans receive should never be hindered by budget delays. I share the president's concern as well as his support for advance appropriations as a way to provide uninterrupted care."

In addition, the House Appropriations Committee approved a bill that appropriates \$48.2 billion for veterans' medical care in the 2011 fiscal year.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/24/us/politics/24vets.html?sq=bill%20seeks%20to%20end%20delays%20in%20veterans&st=cse&scp=1&%2339;%20care=&pagewanted=print>
Reprint from the New York Times

TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION:

- **This exemption applies to a veteran:**

- o with a service-connected disability,
- o who receives compensation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at the 100% level due to either:

- ? a 100% disability rating OR
- ? individual unemployability.

- **The TOTAL VALUE of an applicable disabled veteran's residence homestead (principal residence) is EXEMPT from any calculation of property taxation.**

- o Regardless of the number of taxing units (school districts, utility districts, hospital districts) in which a veteran's homestead may be, the property's value is virtually worth \$0 for the calculation of a property tax bill.

- ? EXAMPLE: If a school district charges \$1.00 per \$100 of a home's value, your home costs \$100,000, AND you are a totally disabled veteran, then the appraisal district reports your home's value as \$0. One dollar and fifty cents times zero is zero. You would owe \$0 in property taxes to your school district, and this holds true for every other taxing district your property is in.

- **The effective tax year for this exemption is 2009.**

- o Despite the bill being originally filed with an effective tax year that was essentially 2010, the bill was amended to apply this exemption to taxes calculated in "the tax year beginning on or after January 1st, 2009."

- o The effective tax year should not be confused with the effective date of the bill.

- ? As amended into HB 3613, the language of SB 469 says that it takes effect either September 1st or immediately if it gets 2/3 vote from both Houses.

- HB 3613 received more than the necessary amount of votes in the House and Senate, so it takes effect immediately upon the Governor's signature.
- However, even if it had gone into effect on September 1st, the language still specifies that it applies to the 2009 tax year.

• Applying for the totally disabled veteran property tax should be much easier with a new certification letter created by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in anticipation of this bill passing the State Legislature.

- o The new certification letter should now address
 - ? the specific percentage rating of a veteran's disability,
 - ? the veteran's individually unemployable status, and
 - ? whether the disability was service-connected.
- o Veterans should contact their County Appraisal District to:
 - ? obtain an application for applying for a disabled veteran property tax exemption (also available online through the Comptroller's website) AND
- ? ensure that a copy of his new letter of certification from the VA was received with that application.

CHAPTER OFFICER'S

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Director (09 - 11)	Roy Hill	972-262-7222	None

STANDING COMMITTEE OFFICERS:

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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:

- July 3rd** Decorating the float for the Arlington Parade
- July 4th** Arlington Parade
- July 9th** Executive Board Meeting
- July 18** Regular Monthly Meeting

3RD WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH – HAMBURGER COOK-OUT

Dallas VA Hospital 10:30 a.m. Helpers needed– please volunteer!

For the friendship to our chapter and all the donated bakery goods, remember to patronize Atlanta Bread Company located at 3700 S Cooper St., Arlington, TX 76015. They offer pastries, salads, and pizzas.

PEOPLE TO THANK

The Police Department for the use of their building

The fantastic ladies for all the great food they bring. We couldn't have a chapter without you.

Thank Jim Wetmore for all the work he does getting people to the meeting.

Thanks to the Executive Board for meeting once a month for about two hours which really helps our chapter.