

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER



ANTIETAM CHAPTER 312 . PO BOX 868 . FUNKSTOWN, MARYLAND 21734-0868

Chapter Members Attend Dinner for South Korean President

Thirty-nine of us from Antietam Chapter 312 attended a dinner for the new South Korean President Park Geun-Hye at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. on May 7th. The group, which included 27 members and 12 ladies, were taken to Washington on a bus provided by the Korean Embassy. It was a trip that we will not forget.

The dinner was held in the courtyard at the museum and, although we had some difficulty with the lines through security, the venue was elegantly decorated and the service was great. There were about 500 people present, which included about 120 Korean War veterans as well as business, government and military personnel. As someone noted, there were more stars seated around the room than there are in the Milky Way.

Although the emphasis of the speeches was on the 60 years of South Korean and United States cooperation, both President Park and Secretary of Defense Hagel noted that the tremendous growth of South Korea would not have been possible without the sacrifice of American forces during the Korean War. President Park used the phrase "freedom is not free" and when Secretary Hagel asked the Korean War veterans to stand, there was overwhelming applause. For this old enlisted man, it was quite a sight to see all those stars applauding the old vets.

After dinner, the audience was entertained by performances by two magnificent musicians, one on piano and the other a violinist. After their stunning performances, a mixed American and South Korean chorus sang and just captured our hearts. In the closing remarks, the Korean War veterans were again lauded for their bravery and sacrifice. All in all, it was a magnificent evening, even though most of us did not get home until midnight. See pictures elsewhere in this newsletter.

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Committee Chairmen

Ways & Means
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Activities

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Membership

Leon Geibel

Newsletter

Les Bishop

Next Meeting - June 5, 2013 - 2PM - Funkstown Legion Post 211

The Bulletin Board:

This month, I am going to use this section to review those (*) items in the **Important Dates** section. This will be important as we go through June and July.

If you get this Newsletter before May 30th, please try to attend the Joint Veterans Council's Memorial Day ceremony at "Marty" Snook Park on May 30th at 9AM. Col. Bill Weber will be the featured speaker. We are looking for a great turnout!

June 9th - The first band concert at HCC will be dedicated to Korean War veterans. Since they are taking this extra effort to recognize us, it would be nice if we showed up in large numbers for this concert. The Maryland Defense Force Band is a good band. It is at 6:15PM. Please try to attend.

June 23rd - This is the day for our Korean War Veterans Monument dedication. I hope it goes without saying that we would like to see as many chapter members as possible there. We have worked long and hard to see this project through to fruition. A wonderful program has been planned. This ceremony is open to the public and we are expecting a large crowd to attend. Look for ads and stories in the newspaper. Remember: June 23rd - 2PM - the Mealey Parkway site .

July 8th - The Green Turtle Restaurant will be donating a portion of that day's receipts to our chapter. What a great excuse to have lunch or dinner out with that special someone! They are supporting our Chapter; let's support their charity program. No special time – lunch or dinner – maybe we'll see you there!



Apple Blossom Festival Parade

Four of us went down to the Apple Blossom Festival parade last month. It was a fantastic event with great companions from the Winchester chapter, nice, sunny weather and absolutely wonderful reception from the parade spectators. The four who went were Commander Les Bishop, Roy May, Jim Mobley and Charlie Morris.

July 11th - The Hagerstown Suns are going to have a Korean War Veterans Night again this year. The tickets are \$9 each for seats in the grandstand. We will get \$4 back on each ticket we sell. This event will not only be a fundraiser, but it is a fun time and will enhance our image in the community. It will be a great time to have a night out with our kids, grandkids or friends. Les Bishop has tickets and we are asking members to sell as many as they can. Game time – 7PM.

July 14th - There are two events. First, we have been invited to participate in a church service honoring Korean War veterans at Paramount Baptist Church at 10:30AM. Several members of our chapter will be participating. It would be nice if other members would attend the service. Please see Bud Johns for more info. In the afternoon, we will be holding an information social at the Funkstown Legion Post 211 at 2PM. COL. Warren Wiedhahn, a Marine and Chosin survivor, will be the featured speaker and there will a short film on the Korean War. Snacks will be available afterwards. The whole idea of this event is to inform the public about the Korean War and the activities of our chapter. And, it will be a good opportunity for us to socialize as a chapter.

July 21st - As of this time, the 60th Anniversary Commemoration is a little up in the air. We have heard that the USMC Silent Drill Team may not be able to attend because of the sequestration cutbacks. We will still hold the event, but we may have to change the venue. Stay tuned for the latest at our June chapter meeting.

July 27th - The bus trip to the 60th Anniversary Commemoration event at the Korean War Monument is still on. We have chartered coaches to take us to Washington. The cost will be \$20 per person. Our plans are to leave at 6AM from Hagerstown. The bus will leave from the Martin's on Dual Highway parking lot. The ceremony in DC is at 10AM, so we should be home around 3PM. In all likelihood, this will be the last big ceremony for Korean War veterans!

Korean War Exhibit - Our 60th Anniversary Korean War exhibit will be held at HCC in the Kepler Theater lobby. It will be there from July 15 – July 29, 2013. We would like to display any souvenirs you brought home from the war, anything related to your service tour or anything that might be significant to that early 1950s period. This display is another opportunity to reach out to the community.