

KWVA Chapter 169, 19147 Park Place, Eustis Florida 32726

To: All 169 Members

Subject: The Veterans Memorial at Fountain Park

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The idea for a memorial was first spawned by our Director, Dick Pfahler. President Art Canale then elevated the idea to a significant memorial with plans. Then another of our members, Executive Director Don Van Beck, was invited to become involved and has elevated it to a 501c3 non-profit corporation.

While the idea for the Memorial originated and evolved in our Chapter, the VMFP, Inc. has become its own legal entity, complete with a significant core of quite professional people. It has its own Charter, Bylaws, and Board of Directors. As the Chapter originating the idea, we have one seat on that Board.

The Memorial's Board has been very active; plans have been finalized, and publicity is underway. It is now entering the fund-raising phase. Almost all planning, design, drafting, publicity, legal and other aspects are pro bono, but material, construction and engraving costs will be substantial, over a half-million dollars. Slated to begin yet this year, VMFP will have the capacity for 30,000 veteran's names.

**Happy Birthday to Everyone
Born in February**



Hence, the Memorial's direction is cast; the only effect 169 can any longer exert is to either add to its momentum, or to get out of the way. (To date, 169 has contributed \$1,000 directly, and an additional \$330 in expenses.)

I have extracted all of the reports on the Memorial from our minutes up to our Jan. 28 meeting, and clearly we are on record as: a) fully supporting the Memorial, and b) having the names of all Regular 169 members except for those who opt out be on the wall.

The VMFP is no longer our project. And we can no longer allow differing views about the Memorial, or personalities, to divert us from our main Chapter missions. So, at our Feb. 25 meeting, we will briefly review Chapter 169's record, quickly determine if any additional action is needed, and then move on to these other very important missions.

Meanwhile, I thank those who volunteered on Jan. 28 to help out with the Memorial, and urge the rest of you to also volunteer. Ph: 314-2100

Tom Thiel, President

Minutes of Jan Meeting

By Ted Morford/Joan Klawunn

➤ **Next Months Speaker** – Hal L. Urban, a WWII Combat Veteran and survivor of the Battle of the Bulge. Hal was a Sergeant with Patton's 11th Armored Division in charge of a pair of Half-track Quad-50's.

➤ **Guests** – Carl Russell, Joe Crivello Norm Cichon. Welcome and glad to have you as our guests.

➤ **Guest Speaker** – State Senator Cary Baker was Chapter 169 guest speaker. Senator Baker is in the Florida National Guard, was called up and deployed to Iraq as 1st Sgt. He related his experiences in the Iraq War and related what it was like in Korea as to what it was like in Iraq as far as equipment and the difference in the Wars.

➤ **Flag Burning** – Dick Phaler thank everyone who attended the flag burning ceremony in Leesburg. He reported it was an excellent ceremony.

➤ **Program Chairman** – Mr. Van Beck was appointed program chairman for Chapter 169. Congratulations to Mr. Van Beck.

➤ **Brochures** – Tom Thiel made brochures for KWVA Chapter 169, very professional done, a motion was passed to purchase 500 of them for handouts.

➤ **Schuttlebutt** – It costs the chapter approximately 9.00 per person to send and print the Schuttlebutt. That is more than we are taking in on dues per person, considering we pay the department 2.00 per member. That does not leave much left for the Schuttlebutt. If you have an email address the Schuttlebutt is going to be emailed to you instead of snail mail, it will cut down on our cost. If you have an email address but would prefer to have the Schuttlebutt mailed please email Klawunn99@aol.com requesting it to be mail.

➤ **Department of Florida Meeting** – It was pointed out that not a lot was accomplished, our primary interest was about funding raising, but the DOF did not seem to give enough time for this part of the program.

➤ **Coldest War** - President Thiel said that members should read the last five paragraphs of THE COLDEST WAR. He indicated it really summed up the GI's situation in Korea.

➤ **Fountain Park Memorial** - Don Van Beck was called on for a summary on the Lake County Veterans Memorial. He indicated that plans had been drawn up and they were done free. (cost would have been over \$10,000). He again stated that all #169 members names would be on the wall regardless of residence (except those that opt out.) being on the wall. Any one else not residing in Lake can not have their names on the Wall. This is being done in difference to the fact we are the founding Chapter. He also asked for volunteers to help out on the phones, collecting monies, etc. Three or four members indicated they would help out. Art Canale then asked the membership to support the VMFP not only by contributing money but also by volunteering.

➤ **Combat Action Badge**. Authorized in 2005 and recognizes U.S. Soldiers who engage the enemy in battle. this is bill H.R.2267. introduced by Congresswoman Jenny Brown-Waite. Those who would like to see the award of this badge to those who meet the criteria prior to 18 Sep 01 are asked to contact their legislators and request they support the bill.

➤ **Appreciation** – Certificate of Appreciation was given to the following people: Joan Klawunn for the Schuttlebutt, Joe Guber for accepting the position of 1st Vice President, Ted Morford for Secretary/Treasury (hopefully he won't run away with all the funds), Tom Thiel for stepping up to the job of President.

➤ **Eddie Koe Award** – Art Canale was nominated by the members and the board for the Eddie Koe Award. His name and resume will be put into the department by next month.

➤ **50/50** – Won by Art Canale, split the proceeds between 169 and Fountain Park. Good going Art, it was probably fixed.

➤ **Donation** – Chapter 169 received a thank you card for the color guard services at Bushnell for Bill Taylor and also a donation for the Chapter. Thanks to Ms. Taylor and family for all their support for our Chapter.



News Briefs around the World

- ***Top Pentagon Officials Send Super Bowl Message to Troops***

By John J. Kruzel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30, 2009 – Deployed troops watching the Super Bowl on Feb. 1 will be greeted with messages from their new commander in chief and top Defense Department officials.

Instead of commercials, part of the content carried between downs on the American Forces Network will be public service announcements recorded by President Barack Obama, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“As we all take this time to watch the big game, I wanted to be sure to send all of our military men and women a special greeting,” the transcript of Obama’s salutation reads. “You are tuning in from all over the world. But no matter where you are and no matter which team you’re rooting for, this event is bringing you a little closer to home.”

Obama, who recorded his video message this week during his first visit to the Pentagon as commander in chief, tells troops that American events like the Super Bowl are possible only because of the sacrifice and duty paid by service members and their families.

- ***“A Bright Example of Volunteerism”***

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake today honored actress Bo Derek for her work to increase public awareness of the rehabilitative programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

“Ms. Derek has worked tirelessly to shine the public spotlight on veterans, especially those who have been severely injured while serving this nation,” Peake said. “She has been a good friend of veterans and a bright example of dedicated volunteerism.”

Since 2000, Ms. Derek has been the honorary chair of VA’s National Rehabilitation Special Events, improving public understanding of veterans issues, encouraging veterans to take advantage of VA’s rehabilitative programs and visiting VA medical centers around the country.

“I am deeply humbled and honored to serve as the Honorary Chair of VA’s National Rehabilitation Special Events,” Ms. Derek said. “I have met so many amazing veterans who have sacrificed so much on our behalf. They are truly among our nation’s finest citizens, and it is a privilege to stand by their side.”

Ms. Derek has also taken part in USO tours to support troops and works with the Special Forces Association, which named her an honorary Green Beret.

Humor – by Ted Jensen

- ***Warms the Heart***

Back in September of 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a social studies school teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something not to be forgotten.

On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks out of her classroom. When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks. Looking around, confused, they asked, ‘Ms. Cothren, where’re our desks?’

She replied, ‘You can’t have a desk until you tell me what you have done to earn the right to sit at a desk.’ They thought, ‘Well, maybe it’s our grades.’

‘No,’ she said. ‘Maybe it’s our behavior.’ She told them, ‘No, it’s not even your behavior. And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom. By early afternoon television news crews had started gathering in Ms. Cothren’s classroom to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room. The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the deskless classroom.

Martha Cothren said, ‘Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he/she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you.’ At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it.

Twenty-seven (27) U.S. Veterans, all in uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.

Martha said, ‘You didn’t earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. Now, it’s up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don’t ever forget it.’ By the way this is a true story. If you can read this thank a teacher, Since you read it in English thank a soldier.

KWVA News Briefs – by Harold Sievers

- ***Charlie Price*** - The Seventh Circuit Unlicensed Practice of Law Committee “B” has finished its investigation into the above-referenced matter. The Committee has concluded that while Charley D. Price may not have expressly stated he is an attorney, some of his actions are questionable in that they may lead the average lay person to reasonable think otherwise. The Committee has elected to close the file with a Letter of Advice to Mr. Price.

Officers

President – T. Thiel

1st Vice President – J. Gruber

2nd Vice President – C. White

Sec/Treasure – T. Morford

Chaplain – H. Sievers

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Richard Pfahler

Robert McGinty

Ted Jensen

Jackie Gleason

John Yohn

IPP

Art Canale

Editor/Reporter

Joan Klawunn

Co-Founders

Jackie Gleason

Joe Turner

Dates To Remember

Feb 25 KWVA Meeting

2:00 PM General Membership Meeting

12:30 Board Meeting