

169 - LAKE COUNTY [FL]

In an article in the March-April 2011 issue of *The Graybeards* (pp. 44-46), I discussed in some detail the first two years of our chapter's Tell America program. This article will show you where we have grown with the program, mainly with photographs from our recent activities in various Lake County, FL, schools.

Tell America tells people, especially young people, "The Where, When and Why of the Korean War." We add "The So What." We have made contact with high schools through the ROTC programs. We have also gone to a middle school and to several private schools, with students from

mid-level on up.

One of the major improvements we have made has been the addition of exhibits and visual aids to our program. These, especially the helmets and bayonets, intrigue students.

Another significant addition to our program has been the contributions of our Gold Star Spouse member, Carol Becker. Carol tells of her experiences as a very young bride, expecting word from her husband Bob Becker telling her he was coming home; after all it was after the signing of the cease-fire in August 1953. Instead, she tells of receiving a telegram that said "We regret to

inform you" The schoolroom was deathly silent!

Another addition to our TA Program is being contributed by Gloria Corbet, who retired from the military as a Colonel. Gloria is an Honorary Chapter 169 member, and her contribution uniquely addresses questions female students raise about a military career for them.

Yet another addition to our program is a fold-out display panel, which I have prepared from photos of my time in Korea in 1951-52. This provides a very good means of illustrating a certain point in my presentation, such as Hill 633 near the center of the panel, or that I never slept in a building or off the ground in my total time in Korea.

We also use a chapter-prepared tri-fold brochure to strengthen our message to students and to the public at large. We have distributed several thousand of this

short two-page handout, both directly to students, and also extensively to Publix [Supermarket] shoppers at our Tell America fund drives. Note: TA Fund Drives—yes we treat our fund drives as Tell America events! (Access the brochure at <http://cid169.kwva.org/tell-america/Images/Brochure%2012-04-22.pdf>)

We always donate to the programs we visit. We have, for example, donated \$500.00 each to the Leesburg, Mount Dora, and Eustis AF Jr. ROTC programs to be used where it will be of the most benefit to the corps. We contribute a lesser amount to the middle schools we visit. All of our visits to high schools, indeed all schools we visit, are outstanding, and our chapter's Tell America team members truly enjoy participating.

But 2012 was our first time to Eustis High School, and AF Jr. ROTC program leader Col.

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An unknown Eustis High School student interviews Dick Pfahler of Ch 169



Three St. Paul Catholic School students look sharp in assorted headgear from Dwight Brown's Tell America exhibits



Jack Reynolds of Ch 169 points to items he has in his exhibit box at Eustis High School

Ch 169 Gold Star Spouse member Carol Becker talks to students of the AF Jr. ROTC Program at Mount Dora High School; Claus Tiesman is at left



Ch 169 Honorary Member Gloria Corbet, with Sgt. Young of the Eustis High School AF Jr. ROTC Program, addresses questions raised by women regarding military careers

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Edward Cangelosi brought a new dimension to our presentation there. He invited us to present at four ROTC classes (the most we had done before was three). More significantly, he invited a history class to each of our presentations! History students—they have been one of our goals for some time now. That went very well; some of the nearby photos are from those sessions. But, it did not stop there!

The History, English, Video Production, and ROTC departments at Eustis High School invited us to provide veterans for their students to interview and video-record the interviews for special projects in each department. We provided veterans for seventeen of these interviews, the last of which took place on May 30, 2012.

We have not seen the full outcome of this effort; the final products of the project will not be

completed until after school begins this fall. But everyone—students, staff, and the veterans—all came away really excited at their participation. We anxiously look forward to resuming the project next fall.

So, what does Tell America mean for the chapter, and for KWVA? I cannot say there is a cause and effect, but bona fide chapter membership is at an all-time high—87 members! And all members are KWVA members!

Tell America offers our members a way to communicate with youngsters 65 years younger than they are in a way that is genuine and welcome at both levels. It is another way our members can be active in the Chapter. And, I believe there is a direct correlation between activity levels, and membership!

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Tom Thiel of Ch 169 in front of his fold-out photo display panel with unidentified Eustis High School student



Eustis High School students John Cribbs, Melissa Arjona, Hayley Carroll, and Morgan Holley (L-R) interview Tom Thiel



Tom Thiel of Ch 169, with Shannon Bolton of the Mount Dora High School ROTC program



President Tom Thiel of Ch 169 presents a \$500.00 check to Leesburg High School AF Jr. ROTC Director Chief Daniel Dixon

Death Notice of a Member of KWVA

The following notice is submitted for publication:

Name of deceased _____

Date of death _____

Department/Chapter _____

Address _____

Army Navy Marine Corps Air Force Coast Guard

Other _____

Primary Unit of service during Korean War

Submitted by _____

Relationship to deceased _____

Send to:

Membership, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407