



PHOTOS BY TOM BENITEZ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vets share stories of Korean War



LEESBURG — Korean War veteran Tom Thiel, above, said a St. Paul Catholic School student approached him after a visit and asked him how it feels to be shot. The Eustis resident told the student he didn't know — he had never been shot. Then he added, "But let me tell you how my friend died. He fell on me, and I heard his last breath."

He and other members of Chapter 169 of the Korean War and Korean Service Veterans recently went to the school, which they've visited for the past few years, "trying to inform young people [left] of the significance of the Korean War, as we see it."

He added: "One of the things that I've tried to do is allocate a significant amount of time after our presentation for one on one, and that's when you really get in depth with kids. I just deal with each situation, each question, as they come. ... These kids are trying to understand the world."

Staff report