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To The Editor & You

From allies to friends...

A Korean War veteran remembers

By James S. Duncan of Houston

In early 1953, I was 23 years old and a second lieutenant just out of officer training school in the U.S. Army.

A half a world away, Americans were slugging it out with the North Koreans and the Chinese Red Army along a line that stretched north of Seoul across the Korean peninsula. Safely ensconced at Fort Knox, I was not looking forward to a transfer from my armored division to a basic training the infantry division.

When I went to my battalion commander and asked him how I could remain in armor, he told me the surest way to stay with the tanks was to volunteer for duty in Korea.

Forty-four years later, it is hard for me to believe that I really thought I was bullet proof, but I must have, because I did, in fact, volunteer to go to Korea as a tank platoon leader.

Just weeks later, I found myself just east of the Punch Bowl, the leader of a M-46 Patton tank platoon with the 51st Infantry Regiment of the 12th Republic of Korea Division.

We were dug in along the main line of resistance and what I saw there

has lived with me ever since.

Like any front line in any other war, it was confusing, frightening and fascinating.

From atop the turret on my tank, I looked across the infamous DMZ at a landscape that had been scared and scorched of all vegetation... no trees, no bushes, not even grass survived the artillery duels and shredding machine gun fire.

A few years ago, I went back to South Korea with some of my old war buddies. We had changed, of course, with time. I now know, for example, that I am not bullet proof.

Korea has changed, too. My particular corner of the war is now verdant, alive and green, rolling hills.

While there, we dined with our old Korean regimental commander. Age had made him wiser, too. Commander and soldier as allies, we were reunited as friends.

Veterans can be forgiven, I think, for sometimes thinking that those who came after us do not appreciate or even remember what we went through.

And who could, who has not heard the rattle of .30 caliber machine guns

or seen the terrible flashes of the artillery fire in the night?

But the Koreans have not forgotten.

Our group of American vets traveled on a touring bus which had a banner on the side saying who we were. Wherever we stopped, older men and women would read the sign, politely bow in our direction and applaud us, showing us that they remembered very well what we and they had lived through.

A similar thing happened last week in Austin.

I serve as a co-chairman of the Texas Korean War Veterans Memorial Committee. We have been raising money - about \$230,000 - to build a memorial to Texas Korean War veterans on the Capitol grounds in Austin.

In the last year, Samsung, a global Korean corporation, built a semiconductor manufacturing plant in Austin.

My co-chair, Story J. Sloane of Houston, and I were invited to meet with company executives in Austin six months ago. We asked the president of the company, Sung W. Lee, if his company would be interested in making a contribution to the war memorial.

Mr. Lee, who would have been about two years old when I was a soldier in his homeland, did not hesitate. "Of course," he said. "We will do something. We will be a team."

Last Thursday, at the site of the memorial on the northwest corner of the Capitol grounds in Austin, I found out just what he meant.

The company presented Gov. George W. Bush and our committee with checks totaling \$180,000 to complete the memorial.

The ceremony closes a great circle that started almost a half century ago. It arcs from Asia to America, from war to peace. From allies to friends.

Lottery sales drop costs executive his job

With ticket sales down \$1 billion over the past year, the Texas Lottery Commission fired its executive director Lawrence Littwin last week.

The slump comes after five years of record-breaking sales.

In the past year, however, the agency also has been troubled by negative publicity over its contract with lottery operator GTECH and a new mandate by the Legislature that places a higher percentage of lottery proceeds into the state budget.

Littwin, who had been lottery chief since last June, blamed the Legislature for the agency's troubles.

"When the public catches on to the fact that they are basically being ripped off by the lottery, they are going to stop buying tickets altogether," Littwin said.

"This is a serious, serious problem for this lottery, and one that the Lottery Commission is unwilling to address."

To build more funds into the 1988-89 state budget, the Legislature lowered the payouts for instant games (scratch-off).

Sales will only get worse, Littwin said, because later this year the lottery will pay out less than 50% of money taken to balance games now being sold at higher payouts, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

Littwin said his investigation of whether GTECH made campaign contributions to state lawmakers may have had something to do with his firing, but GTECH spokesman Marc Palazzo said the company had no role in the commission's decision to fire Littwin.

Deputy executive director Linda Cloud succeeds Littwin.

Bush for Anti-Fraud System

Results of a yearlong study suggest that the Lone Star Imaging System does not work.

The system - part of a \$1.7 million welfare reform program - uses fingerprint images to detect when welfare recipients are doubling up on applica-

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

tions for cash or food stamp benefits.

The study was conducted at 10 Department of Human Services offices serving Bexar and Guadalupe counties.

"We don't have any evidence to suggest that this would be an effective tool to detect or deter the receipt of duplicate benefits," said Deanna Schexnayder of the University of Texas at Austin's Center for the Study of Human Resources.

Schexnayder said only one person was caught applying for duplicate benefits.

Despite the study's conclusions, Gov. George Bush still supports implementation of the fraud-detection program statewide, his spokesman Ray Sullivan said.

Expansion of the program, which is projected to cost \$13 million over the next three years, is expected to foil cheaters who reapply for benefits in counties other than where they reside.

Prisoners and Personal Data

Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock asked the Senate Joint Committee on Criminal Justice to determine what type of personal information about Texans that inmates have access to while working in prison.

Bullock, who presides over the Senate, said he wants lawmakers to make sure prison inmates are not able to misuse information they get while working in prison industries.

"Strong policies must be in place to ensure prisoners don't have the chance to violate the privacy of anyone. While it is important for inmates to work to help to repay their debt to society, safety must always come first," Bullock said.

Other Capital Highlights

•State agencies are cutting pay-rolls and laying off workers to comply with a Sept. 1 cap on the number of state employees. The Texas Department of Health plans to lay off 165 workers and the Texas Department of Human Services, 266.

•Land Commissioner Garry Mauro, who still hasn't formally declared his intention to seek the Democratic nomination for governor, told supporters he is in a statistical "dead heat" with Republican Gov. Bush. "Polling, focus groups and mall testing ... have convinced me that I can win the governor's race in 1998," Mauro said.

•The University of Texas at Austin's student body is the nation's largest, totaling 48,866 students this semester. Second is Ohio State University with 48,278 students enrolled.

•Texas school districts should not tempt students to take "cream puff" courses because of a new state law that requires public universities to admit students who finish in the top 10% of their high school graduating classes, Education Commissioner Mike Moses said last week.

•Following an investigation by the Department of Human Services, the state of Texas has sued five nursing homes and an unlicensed care home for inadequately caring for residents. Attorney General Dan Morales is asking courts to fine homes \$10,000 per violation and order the unlicensed home to cease operating without a license.

Texas insurer profiles are on the web

For the first time ever, individuals and businesses can use the Internet to obtain profiles of 150 insurance companies doing business in Texas.

The companies are those asked about most in calls to the Texas Department of Insurance's (TDI) Consumer Helpline.

The profiles, now available on the TDI web site at www.tdi.state.tx.us, provide complaint and financial data, as well as other information to help consumers and businesses shop for insurance coverage.

"For some time now, we've wanted to offer the public easy access to more information about insurance companies," Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer said.

"Now, that information is available to anyone with an Internet connection or access to one through a school or public library."

The insurance company profiles provide license status, contact information, financial ratings and complaint data and a listing of penalties levied against the company during the last five years.

The profiles can help consumers and businesses determine:

- (1) whether an insurance company is licensed;
- (2) what is its claims-paying ability; and,
- (3) whether a company has a relatively high or low volume of complaints.

Anyone who does not have access to the Internet or wants to check a company not profiled on TDI's web site should call TDI's toll-free Consumer Helpline, 1-800-252-3439.

Library acknowledges memorials

The Eula and David Wintermann Library gratefully acknowledges the following memorials and donations made April 1 through Oct. 20, 1997:

In memory of Claudia Crim Holder: Ms. Laura L. Crim; in memory of David R. Wintermann: Mr. & Mrs. George Horton, Ms. Gail W. Brown; Mr. & Mrs. Donald Kainer, Colleen Willrodt, Mr. & Mrs. Meredith J. Long, Ms. Tommy Lynn Holden, Mr. & Mrs. John Waddell, Mr. William N. Lehrer; in memory of Jonie M. Muzny: Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Wells Jr.; in memory of Jerry Clipson: Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Wells Jr., Mr. & Mrs. George Causey.

In memory of Charlie Morgan: Mr. Bruce Waddell; in memory of (See Memorials, Page 4)

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Foot Facts



By Dr. Eric R. Tepper, Podiatrist

SKIHOTICS: A FOOT UP FOR SKIERS

Skiers put tremendous demands on their feet every time they take off down a slope. In an attempt to "give them a foot up" with those pressures, ski equipment manufacturers have come up with "skihotics" - boot inserts that help hold the foot in position while skiing. Skihotics are designed to prevent the foot from tilting to the inside or outside. When the feet are allowed to cave inward, it's hard on the feet as well as on the knees, which are forced further out to keep the skis in neutral position. Skihotics can help shave fractions of seconds off the times of competitive skiers, and improve the skiing mechanics of even novice skiers.

There's no question that exercise is good for you, but it can put extra demands on your body. When your feet hurt, it's all too common to accept this as due to a hard day at work or play. Healthy feet aren't supposed to hurt, and it's our job to find out why yours do. If being active is a big part of your life, consult your podiatrist about how to prevent as well as treat foot injuries and conditions. Office hours for complete foot care for the family are by appointment on Tuesdays at Rice Medical Center. Call 234-5571.

P.S. Skihotics are no substitute for prescription orthotics or other professional foot care. See your podiatrist if you have a problem!

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Dec. 28, 1972

Fire heavily damaged the Emmett Botard home in downtown Sheridan last Saturday morning and quick work by the Sheridan Volunteer Fire Department was credited with keeping the fire from causing even greater damage...

Mrs. Sidney Miller, owner of the House of Fabrics, and Mrs. Raymond Kohleff, owner of Eagle Lake Sewing Center, both located in downtown Eagle Lake, will hold an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. on New Year's Day, Jan. 1...

Some 698 Sam Houston State University students received diplomas at

commencement exercises Thursday, Dec. 21. From Eagle Lake: John Anthony Contreras received a bachelor of arts in teaching degree in P.E.; and Miss Cynthia Spanihel received a bachelor of arts in teaching in math...

Hearts of the community were heavy-laden with sorrow at the passing of Mrs. M.E. (Alma) Selph, a lifelong resident of this community, who passes away in a Houston hospital last Wednesday, Dec. 20th...

Tommie Lynn Schmidt, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. D.A. Thornton of Eagle Lake, and Jody Heard of Bay City were married in a quiet ceremony last Friday, Dec. 22nd...

Jesus Ramirez closed his eyes to a peaceful sleep in John Sealy Hospital in Galveston on Friday, Dec. 22, at five o'clock in the afternoon following an illness of 11 months.

Sept. 9, 1949

Thomas and Clipson of Eagle Lake who Wednesday received another load of Montana bucking horses, will furnish the stock for the Wharton

County Fair...

Grady Stegall, 21, son of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Stegall, who was injured in an automobile accident Aug. 16 near Cheyenne, Wyoming, was moved last week to the Veterans Hospital in Denver where he is getting good medical attention...

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Hinton of Bay City visited here Sunday with his father, W.B. Hinton Sr....

A party at Boothe Park Monday attended by about 30 of John Waddell's little friends and their mothers, marked the occasion of John's 3rd birthday. Birthday cake and ice cream were served...

Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Nelson of Bernardo have announced the engagement of their daughter, Vernell, to Wilbert D. Kucherka, son of Mr. & Mrs. S.L. Kucherka Sr. of Eagle Lake. The wedding will take place some time in Nov. ...

Mr. & Mrs. R.F. Spanihel and daughter, Dolores, went to Karnes City Sunday to attend the wedding of (See 24 & 48, Page 3)

JOHN B. MYRES, D.D.S.
234-3525

Located in the
Rice Medical Center

Views On Dental Health

"DEAD-LIP" SYNDROME

Most of our patients don't have any problems with the use of local anesthetics that we use to reduce the discomfort caused by some dental procedures. For some of you, the anesthetic needle may inspire some fear. Others are disturbed by the numbness in your lips and tongue - the "dead-lip syndrome". Well, modern advances in anesthesia technique can help with both these problems.

First, improved topical anesthetics can numb the surface of the gum and reduce - or even eliminate - the prick of the needle.

Secondly, a new technique em-

ploying extra-fine injection needles now makes it possible to "dead-end" only a single tooth rather than the whole jaw. With these extremely delicate needles, we can place the anesthetic through the ligament and into the nerve that is connected to the individual tooth. This kind of intraligamentary injection works quickly, leaves no "dead-lip", and according to some patients, is almost unnoticeable.

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