



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 213E
San Francisco, CA 94102

NEWSLETTER

January–June, 2021 Issue

Phone: (415) 829-7920

Email: info@kwmf.org

Web: www.kwmf.org

June 25 Commemoration at the Korean War Memorial



Photo by KukHwi Jung

On the morning of Friday, June 25, 2021, at the Korean War Memorial in the Presidio of San Francisco, we at KWMF welcomed members of the Korean War veterans' community and the Korean-American community in commemoration of the 71st anniversary of the start of the war. It was our first public gathering since the start of the pandemic, and the unexpectedly large turnout was a clear indication of the pent-up desire to commemorate in person after such a long hiatus.

The ceremony was to honor and remember all who served and sacrificed in that long-ago, faraway war. It was also in special memory of our beloved friend and KWMF Co-Founder John R. Stevens, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), who passed away at the age of 100 just a month earlier, on May 25.

In This Issue:

June 25 Commemoration (p. 1)

In Memoriam: John R. Stevens (p. 8)

In Memoriam: Wallace I. Levin (p. 10)

In Memoriam: Richard Friedman (p. 12)

In Memoriam: Dan Helix (p. 14)

Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway (p. 15)

The following is a photographic record of the June 25 event highlights.



There were three exceptionally beautiful floral wreaths at the ceremony. Two were provided by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco, one in memory of all who served and the other specifically for John Stevens. The third, also in memory of John Stevens, was provided by Kathleen Stephens, former Ambassador to the Republic of Korea and current President of the Korean Economic Institute of America in Washington, DC. Ambassador Stephens is a friend of John's and a generous donor to the Foundation.



KWMF Executive Director Gerard Parker welcomed the guests and paid homage to all Korean War veterans present. Several are visible in the photo above. Seated in right foreground are KWMF President and Chairman Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.) and Rear Admiral Robert P. Tiernan, U.S. Navy (Ret.). Seated at the far end are KWMF Board member Frank Mendez (blue cap) and KWMF supporter Marvin Pheffer (red cap and sunglasses). And standing at the far end in white military hat and khaki shirt is KWMF Vice President Wallace T. Stewart. All are Korean War veterans.

Steven D. Wiegert, Vietnam veteran and Chaplain, Marine Corps League Chapter 686, Santa Rosa, delivered the Invocation.

Photo by Caitlin Parker



The guests came to their feet to sing the Star Spangled Banner. From left to right: Cindy Stevens; her husband and John's son Steve; Jody Stevens's niece Deborah Herceg; John's widow Jody; KWMF Co-Founder and Korean War veteran Donald F. Reid; and Consul General Sangsoo Yoon and Consul Hyun Jung Kim, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco.



Photo by KukHwi Jung

Next, former KWMF Vice President Man J. Kim led the Korean-speaking members of the audience in the National Anthem of the Republic of Korea. Later, in an unofficial exit poll, he was voted "Second Best Singer of the Day." On a more serious note, he does have an impressive singing voice.

Photo by Caitlin Parker





The singing of the National Anthems was accompanied by a string quartet featuring four very talented young women who appeared courtesy of the Consulate General.

Photo by Caitlin Parker

Judge Kopp addressed the audience on behalf of KWMF. He spoke of the debt we owe to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice to keep South Korea free, and said that we were gathered at the Memorial on this 71st anniversary to ensure that their sacrifice is not forgotten. He went on to recount how the war had validated the role of the United Nations as an international organization that would stand up in defense of freedom and against tyranny.



Photo by KukHwi Jung



Photo by Caitlin Parker

The Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco is a dedicated ally and supporter of our Foundation, and helped make this Memorial a reality. Speaking on behalf of his nation, Consul General Sangsoo Yoon expressed his gratitude for the American servicemen and women who sacrificed so much in defense of South Korea during the war, and praised the strong bilateral alliance that has endured since then, ensuring freedom and prosperity in the Republic of Korea for generations to come. The Republic of Korea's gratitude is evidenced by the fact that its Government donated close to \$1 million towards the cost of designing and constructing the Memorial.

KWMF's other key partner in getting the Memorial built was the Presidio Trust, the federal agency that manages the Presidio National Park. Not the least of the Trust's contributions was its donation to KWMF of the very site, arguably priceless, upon which the Memorial stands. Speaking on behalf of the Presidio Trust was Marie Hurabiell, Immediate Past President of its Board of Directors. Ms. Hurabiell thanked the veterans and their families for their sacrifices, and thanked KWMF for building the Memorial in the Presidio. She spoke of the pivotal role that the Presidio, still a U.S. Army base at the time, played during the Korean War: training the soldiers and then transporting them to Korea, and healing and rehabilitating them at Letterman Hospital upon their return. And she solemnly observed that thousands of those who fought in that war are now in their final resting place just a few yards away from the Memorial, in the adjacent San Francisco National Cemetery.



Photo by Caitlin Parker



In the first of two commemorative wreath ceremonies, Consul General Yoon and Judge Kopp observed a solemn moment of silence at the Memorial wall for all who gave their lives in defense of South Korea.

Photo by Caitlin Parker

At the second wreath ceremony, Jody Stevens observed a moment of silence at the wall in loving memory of John, her husband of 47 years. Accompanying her was John's longtime friend Donald F. Reid, KWMF Co-Founder and generous donor to the Foundation.

Photo by Caitlin Parker



Next came an unexpected and pleasant surprise. Consul General Yoon joined Jody Stevens at the wall, and presented her with a handsome bronze plaque in honor and memory of her husband John.



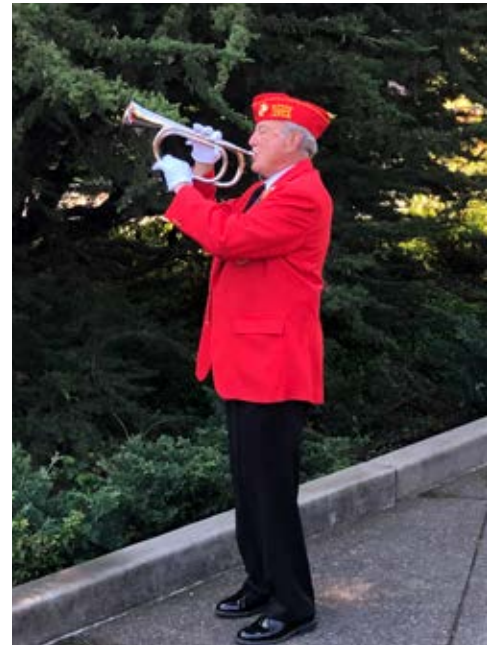
Photo by Caitlin Parker

As the formal program began to wind down, the string quartet treated the guests to a soothing musical recital. Their presence enhanced the day's activities and made it more memorable. Listening appreciatively was Charles K. "Chuck" Paskerian, U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean War.



Photo by Caitlin Parker

Following the wreath and plaque ceremonies, Vietnam veteran and retired SFPD sergeant Steven N. Bosshard played "Taps." Steve is Treasurer of the 1st Marine Division Association, Redwood Empire Chapter, and Adjutant of Marine Corps League, Chapter 686 in Santa Rosa.



Rounding out the the musical program, special guest Noah Griffin sang a moving interpretation of "America the Beautiful." Noah is Founder and Artistic Director of the renowned Cole Porter Society.



Photo by Caitlin Parker

Finally, Chaplain Wiegert offered a Benediction for the guests, and the commemoration came to a close.



Photo by Caitlin Parker

Consul General Yoon and Consul Kim chatted with Jody Stevens.



Photo by Caitlin Parker

KWMF Board member Frank Mendez and Judge Kopp shared a laugh.



Photo by Helen Wong

The quiet end of a special day.



****To watch a brief 8-minute video of the June 25 commemoration's highlights, click here:***

[\[6.25 Event Highlight\] The 71st Commemoration of The Beginning of the Korean War – YouTube](#)

This video was provided courtesy of the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco.

We lost four friends this year.

They will all be missed and remembered. . .

In Memoriam: John R. Stevens **April 22, 1921 — May 25, 2021**



John Stevens: Marine Photo credit: Wayne Freedman

On May 25, 2021, just a month after celebrating his 100th birthday, John R. Stevens, Lieutenant Colonel, USMC (Ret.), passed away in San Francisco. John was a decorated World War II and Korean War veteran, and Co-Founder of, and generous donor to, the Korean War Memorial Foundation.

John volunteered for the Marine Corps in 1939. He was a young sergeant at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and served throughout World War II in the Pacific, including the bloody Battle of Okinawa in 1945, where he received the first of his two Bronze Stars for valor. When the Korean War began in 1950, John, by then a captain, was commander of A Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. He fought at the Pusan Perimeter where he was awarded his



John's boot camp graduation photo, 1939 Photo credit: John Stevens

second Bronze Star at the Battle of Obong-ni, which the Marines called "No-Name Ridge." Next came the game-changing Inchon Landing, the Liberation of Seoul, and the epic Chosin Reservoir campaign.

Twelve years after returning from Korea, John retired from the Marine Corps, settled in San Francisco, and launched a successful business career that spanned four decades. After co-founding the Korean War Memorial Foundation in 2009, John worked six, often seven days a week for years to bring the Korean War Memorial in the Presidio from dream to reality. The Memorial finally opened in August, 2016. Many hearts and hands helped with the demanding mission of funding and building it, but without John's quiet but dogged

determination and indomitable spirit, the Memorial would not be standing today.

John is survived by his wife of 47 years, Jody, and by four children, seven grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren. John's ashes will be interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on November 4, 2021. He will be missed and remembered by all whose lives he touched. John Stevens, Marine. May you rest in peace.

For a more detailed tribute to John by Marine veteran and author Ned Forney, click here: <https://nedforney.com/index.php/2018/09/28/john-stevens-marine-wwii-korean-war/>



John just before his retirement from the Marine Corps
Photo credit: John Stevens



Photo credit: John Stevens

"John was without question a man of few words – but they were usually words that were just right in context. A few years ago, a San Francisco TV news reporter was interviewing him for a Memorial Day story. While discussing the Chosin Reservoir battle, where John and the understrength 1st Marine Division were surrounded by over 100,000 Chinese troops, the reporter asked, 'So what's it like to be surrounded?'" Without missing a beat, John quietly replied, 'Lots of targets.' Not a politically correct answer, but a candid and pragmatic one that any combat veteran can relate to."

—Gerard Parker, Executive Director, Korean War Memorial Foundation

In Memoriam: Wallace I. Levin

April 28, 1930 – July 19, 2021



Photos courtesy of Michael Levin

Wallace I. Levin, Lieutenant Colonel, CSMR (Ret.), member of the KWMF Board of Directors, passed away of heart failure in San Francisco on July 19, 2021. His death fol-

lowed that of his beloved wife of 68 years, Arlene, who died on October 30 last year. Wallace was a devoted caregiver for Arlene in her later years when she was in failing health. They

are survived by their son Michael, daughter Debbie, and grandson Matthew.



**Arlene and Wallace
celebrating their 65th
wedding anniversary**

A third generation San Franciscan, Wally, as he was known to friends, attended Lowell High School and the College of the Pacific. After college he enlisted in the Army and served 3 years active duty. Following his training with the Tenth Mountain Division, he was assigned to the top-secret Army Security Agency. He became a Korean War veteran by serving 19 months overseas in theater. Wallace also served 17 years in the California State Military Reserve (CSMR) and retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1997, with 20 years federal and state service.

Wally was a San Francisco reserve police officer for 25 years and has been a California licensed private investigator since 1980. He is a former San Francisco District Attorney investigator and former City Attorney investigator. He was on the Delinquency Prevention Commission for a decade and the Veterans Affairs Commission for three decades.



Wally as a young PFC, U.S. Army

He was deeply supportive of veterans, and made selfless contributions to their organizations and causes. He served as San Francisco County Veterans Service Officer from 2001 to 2016. He is a Past Commander of American Legion Post 244, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1205, and Jewish War Veterans Post 152. For decades he had been the Veterans of Foreign Wars coordinator of San Francisco's Memorial Day Ceremony and the Veterans Day Parade. In recent years he served on the San Francisco War Memorial Board of Trustees as well as the KWMF Board of Directors. At KWMF, he put his heart and soul into everything he did, and he was a true gentleman. Wally will be missed by all of us. Ave atque vale, Wally. May you and Arlene rest in peace.



Wally with his son Michael and grandson Matthew

Thank you, Lighthouse Worldwide Solutions

KWMF wishes to thank Dr. Kim Tae Yun and her staff at Lighthouse Worldwide Solutions in Fremont, CA — www.golighthouse.com — for their generosity in underwriting the costs of printing and mailing this newsletter.

In Memoriam: Richard Friedman January 28, 1933 – June 10, 2021



Richard Friedman at the Korean War Memorial, wearing his Ambassador for Peace medal from the Republic of Korea
Photo by Gerard Parker

On June 10, 2021, Richard Friedman, 88, passed away of heart disease at his home in the Marina District of San Francisco. He is survived by his wife of 35 years Mary Kathryn; his children Brian Friedman and Lisa Rosenberg; his stepchildren Jill, Jay, and Joy Ottaviano; and ten grandchildren.

A third generation San Franciscan, Richard was born at Mt. Zion Hos-

pital on January 28, 1933 to parents Fay and Eddie Friedman. He attended Abraham Lincoln High School, Class of 1951, where he was Captain of the football team his senior year, an All-City quarterback, and elected to the Abraham Lincoln High Athletic Hall of Fame. In 1952 he enlisted in the U.S. Army, and after boot camp at Fort Ord, California he was assigned to the 9th Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Divi-

sion. He landed at Inchon, Korea in the fall of 1952, and served the next sixteen months in combat.

He eventually rose to the rank of sergeant first class, and became the top sergeant of G Company. Major combat actions in which Richard served included Little Gibraltar, Heartbreak Ridge, the Iron Triangle, and Papsan (Hill 1062). The medals Richard received for his combat service in-



Richard and his plaque at the Abraham Lincoln H.S. Hall of Fame. Photos courtesy of the Friedman Family



Richard (right), with friend Pak Hi Mo, ROK Army, on the front lines, January, 1953

Photo courtesy of the Friedman Family

clude the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

After his discharge from the Army, Richard attended the University of Southern California, where he played on the football team. He subsequently trained to be a Master Furrier, and joined his family's renowned Union Square fur business. Over the course of his career Richard was active in numerous professional and volunteer organizations. He served on the Board of Directors of the City of Hope, was President of the San Francisco Fashion Industry, and taught at the San Francisco Fashion Institute. He also volunteered as a Cub Scout leader and Pop Warner football coach, and was an active supporter of the Abraham Lincoln High School Alumni Association.



Guest speaker Richard recounts his experiences in Korea to a group of young Korean-American parents and children visiting the Memorial

Photo by Gerard Parker

Richard was a devoted member of the Korean War Memorial Foundation ever since its inception. He was a generous donor to our Memorial, a steadfast participant in all our activities, and a loyal friend to his brothers in arms. He selflessly spent many hours with young American and visiting Korean student groups,

relating how young men of his generation had sacrificed so much so long ago to defend the freedom of South Korea. He was a gentleman, he loved life, and he will be missed and remembered.



Richard with his son, Gunnery Sergeant Brian David Friedman, USMC, an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran, and his seven-year-old grandson

Photo courtesy of the Friedman Family

In Memoriam: Dan Helix

August 24, 1929 – March 9, 2021



Dan Helix in the City of Concord, CA Council Chambers in 2012 *Photo by Anda Chu*

Daniel C. Helix, Major General, U.S. Army (Ret.) and Director Emeritus, Korean War Memorial Foundation Board of Directors, passed away on March 9, 2021 at the age of 91. Dan retired as a major general in the U. S. Army in 1989 after 41 years of service to his country. He enlisted as a private in 1948, was commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry in 1951, and served in combat in Korea as a rifle platoon leader and company commander with the 45th Infantry Division. His final military assignment was as Deputy Commanding General, Sixth U.S. Army, at the Presidio of San Francisco.

General Helix's decorations and awards include: The Combat Infantryman's Badge, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with "V," Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and numerous other awards. He was a member of the U.S. Army's Infantry Hall of Fame in Fort Benning, Georgia, and authorized to wear the parachutist badge, which he earned at the age of 50.

Dan earned a bachelor's degree in History from the University of California at Berkeley, and a master's in Political Science from San Francisco State University, both with honors. He is a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College, the War College, and he was a Senior Fellow at the JFK Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. A true Renaissance man, Helix was also the author of an award-winning novel, *The Kochi Maru Affair*, set in the Korean War era. And in his youth, he had been a star pitcher with the Army's baseball team, and had even been offered a contract and signing bonus by the Pittsburgh Pirates.

He served as Mayor and Councilman of the City of Concord, CA from 1968 to 1976, and as a Director of BART, the Bay Area Rapid Transit District. He was re-elected for a four-year term in Concord in

2012, and remained in public service with the City until December, 2016.

Dan is survived by his wife of 67 years, Mary Lou (Hiott) Helix, and their two children Dr. Daniel E. Helix and Marilu Elliot, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. He will be missed and remembered by all whose lives he touched.



Dan in uniform, with an impressive array of awards *Photo courtesy of the Helix Family*

Part of California Highway 37 In North Bay to Be Designated as “Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway”

Help Us Pay for the New Signage!

For the past year, KWMF President and Chairman Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.) has expended considerable energy on a labor of love: fighting to get a portion of California State Route 37, which crosses the North Bay from U.S. 101 in Novato to I-80 in Vallejo, officially designated as the **Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway**. Not coincidentally, that road is about one degree north of the 38th Parallel, which famously separates the two Koreas on the other side of the world.

Quentin approached his friend and former colleague in the California State Senate, Senator Tom Umberg of Orange County, representing the state’s 34th Senate District, about the project. Senator Umberg, a retired U.S. Army Colonel, responded with enthusiasm and agreed to be the principal author of a resolution so naming a stretch of the highway. Quentin then brought his former colleagues Senator Bill Dodd of Napa, representing the 3rd Senate District, and Senator Jim Nielsen of Red Bluff, representing the 4th Senate District, on board as co-authors in a bipartisan effort.

The Resolution has now received final approval from the State Legislature. At some point soon, the California Department of Transportation, Caltrans, will install prominent signs reading **Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway** on State Route 37 near its junction with U.S. 101 at Novato in the west, and on State Route 37 near its junction with State Route 121 at Sears Point in the east.



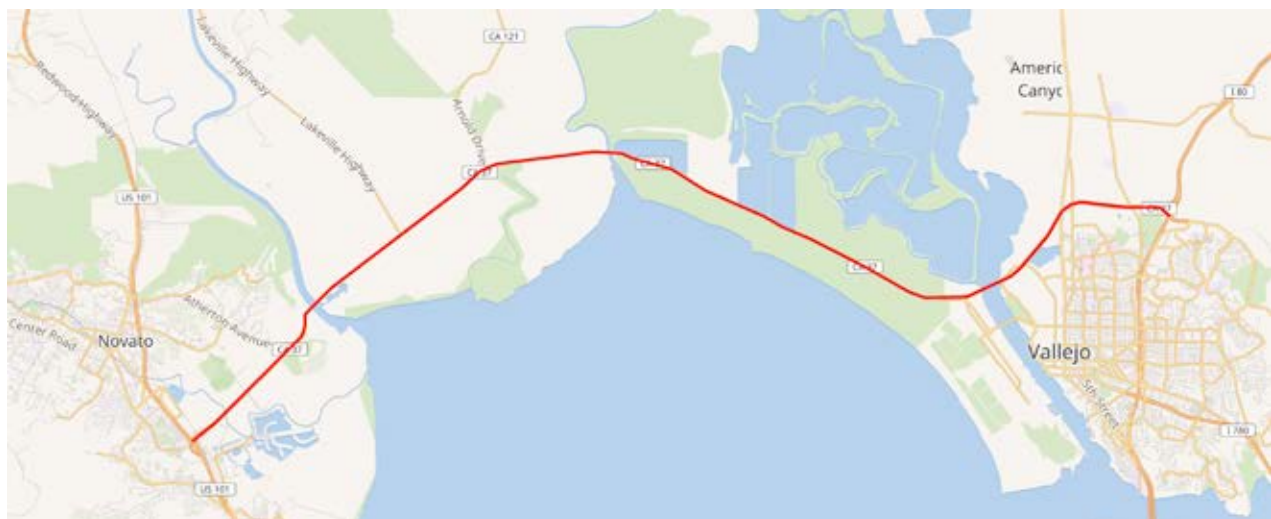
KWMF will then announce a date for a formal ceremony to unveil the signs and celebrate the new highway name honoring all Korean War veterans. The three authoring senators, all KWMF members, all Korean War veterans and their families, and the media will be invited to attend.

That’s the good news. The bad news is that KWMF has to pay Caltrans to fabricate and install the new signs—and the cost is approximately \$6,500.

Help us pay for these signs to honor all who served and sacrificed in that so-called “Forgotten War.”

- **Make a tax-deductible donation of any size today. Give what you can, for those who gave everything they had.**
- **Make your check payable to KWMF, identify it as for “KWV Highway Signs,” and mail it to: Korean War Memorial Foundation, 401 Van Ness Ave., Suite 213E, San Francisco, CA 94102**
- **Or donate online at: https://www.paypal.com/donate?token=vO6tLxX55mt9Kaq_Xl-4gj5JgRb9aFhaAEJ14KD-kwA_qaFoprA_pD04Ci8NCuWmXjk86i3pq0kMSaqpE**

Thank you!





KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Board of Directors

President

Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.), Capt, USAF

Vice President & Educational Director

Wallace T. Stewart, Cpl, USMC

Secretary

Mitchell J. Leiber

Treasurer

Donald F. Reid, Sgt, USMC

Board Members

Peter Fatooh

Jeremiah F. Hallisey

Frank M. Jordan, SP2, USA

Frank Mendez, US Merchant Marine (Ret.)

Won Yi

Staff and Associates

Executive Director & Newsletter Editor

Gerard Parker, Capt, USMC

Office Manager

Heejin Lee

Legal Counsel

John Wiley, Atty at Law

Accountant

Harry H. Kim, CPA

Advisor in the Republic of Korea

John Y. Lee, Atty at Law, 1st Lt, ROKA

Directors Emeritus

Pete McCloskey, Colonel, USMCR (Ret.)

J. Michael Myatt, Major General, USMC
(Ret.)

Directors In Memoriam

Thomas F. Brown III, RADM, USN (Ret.)
(Deceased)

Arthur W. Curtis, LCDR, USCG (RET.)
(Deceased)

Russell W. Gorman, RADM, USN (Ret.)
(Deceased)

Kong Jung Shik, LtGen, ROKMC (Ret.)
(Deceased)

Eddie LeBaron, Maj, USMC
(Deceased)

Wallace I. Levin, LtCol, CSMR (Ret.)
(Deceased)

John R. Stevens, LtCol, USMC (Ret.)
(Deceased)

Copyright © 2021, Korean War Memorial
Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, Federal Tax
ID #27-2773272.

Phone: (415) 829-7920 Email: info@kwmf.org

Web: <https://www.kwmf.org>



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 213E
San Francisco, CA 94102