

The Voice of Experience VETERAN VOICE

35 cents

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2013



Photo courtesy of Jo Ann Maitland

Front row, from left: Lureen Conte; Linda Shulmann; Kathy Sandburg; JoAnn Maitland, President, Treasure Coast chapter; Georgie Krell, Florida State President and Past National President; Mary Salerno and Devita Taylor. Back row: Pam McNair; Fran Wilson; Sandy Miller; Karen Zook, Sunshine Johnson. Not pictured: Fran Frazer; Ginny Luther and Karen Vaughn.

Gold Star Mothers: A club no one wants to join

By Patrick McCallister
For Veteran Voice

There are some wounds that never heal. But the American Gold Star Mothers of the Treasure Coast helps comfort those that have lost family members who were serving in the military.

On Sept. 19, 1999, a hunter mistook Sgt. 1st Class Timothy John "Hodge" Hodgins for a bear and shot him.

"When he died, my pride in my country died," his mother, Julianne "Sunshine" Johnson, said. "I wasn't against my country; it was just all gone. He would teach us how to salute the flag, and fold the flag."

As Johnson speaks about her son, her emotions are raw. Between audible efforts to hold



back tears, she talks about a 35-year-old who joined the Army shortly after a two-year stint at a Florida Bible college. She tells of a man proud of his service who'd impressed many at his base. He returned from a humanitarian

operation in Honduras after Hurricane Mitch, and excitedly called Mom to tell her about the mission to help a devastated country.

Then came news of his death. Johnson had a crisis of faith. Hodge's wife, Johnson said, descended into alcoholism and drifted from the family. His father died not long after Hodge.

"I didn't know anything about Gold Star Mothers, so for the next 10 years I was all alone (in grief)," Johnson said.

Then she saw a woman in a white dress with a folded flag at the Stuart Veterans Day Parade.

"I said, 'That's me,'" Johnson said.

The woman wasn't Jo Ann

See GOLD STAR page 2

Vet: N. Korea still at war with U.S.

By Patrick McCallister
For Veteran Voice

Editor's note: This is the first of a series of stories commemorating the 60th anniversary of the signing of the armistice of the Korean War.

It's approaching 60 years now. On July 27, 1953, the Korean War ended without ending. That day, an armistice was signed that stopped the shooting, but left the world perilously hanging on an edge called the 38th Parallel.

Today the Korean Demilitarized Zone -- splitting the peninsula into different worlds more than different countries -- remains a glaciated remnant of the Cold War. Many warn that holdout of an otherwise bygone era could ignite into a consuming, possibly nuclear, fire.

"Wars are fought at a time when you can no longer talk to each other," Korean War veteran John Howard said. "You can't really talk to (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea). In the end, it's probably going to be (another) military action."

Howard, 88, is a member of the Korean War Veterans Association Brevard County Chapter, 210. He was in Korea for two of the war's three years.

In '52 Don Rathbun was an ambitious 21-year-old with a wife and 6-month-old baby. In October that year, he stepped on the Korean Peninsula for the first time in his life.

"Within 24 hours of hitting Ko-

See KOREA page 4

GOLD STAR from page 1

Maitland, but it could have been.

Her son, Richard Buckingham Hubbell III, "Buck," died on Dec. 12, 2002. He'd just returned to his base from a difficult job.

According to what Maitland heard, her 22-year-old son was fatigued, but excited to be home. Too excited to get sleep.

"He hadn't been to bed, and went for a ride on his motorcycle," she said. "He lost control and slid and hit a fence post without a helmet on."

Maitland said her son, too, was a soldier's soldier, although not the best student. He was on track to miss getting a high-school diploma. When he found out that would keep him out of the Army, he doubled down in an alternative-education program.

"He went to school at night," she said. "He worked during the day and went to school at night. He did it quick. He wanted to be in the Army."

Maitland, too, audibly holds back tears as she talks about her son, a gregarious young man who'd lost his father. He was excited for Mom when she announced her engagement to Navy veteran Frank Maitland.

"Buck was my best man at my wedding," she said.

Maitland said after her son died she, like Johnson, felt a haunting emptiness. Her hus-

"(My husband) wanted me not to be in pain anymore. He thought I should talk with another woman who had lost her child."

**Jo Ann Maitland, president
Gold Star Mothers of the Treasure Coast**

band found out about Gold Star Mothers and urged Maitland to get involved.

"He wanted me not to be in pain anymore," she said. "He thought I should talk with another woman who had lost her child."

But Maitland found out Gold Star Mother meetings were far away, in Orlando and Miami. She wanted to get a local chapter going. Coincidentally, she was featured in a local newspaper article.

"Other Gold Star mothers started seeking me out," she said.

Johnson was one of them after she saw a Gold Star mother at the parade.

"I e-mailed (Jo Ann) and she called me back," Johnson said. "She said, 'Can you be here at the AMVETS at 7 p.m. tonight?'"

Although Johnson was about to head elsewhere, she changed plans on the spot.

"It's the place I needed to be," she said.

In 1918, Grace Darling Seibold, got news that her son, George Vaughn Seibold, died while serving in The Great War as an American volunteer for the British Royal Flying Corps, 148th Aero Squadron. In her grief and

resolve, she reached out to others who'd lost their children in that war. By 1928, they'd organized into American Gold Star Mothers.

The organization's website explains, "During the early days of World War I, a Blue Star was used to represent each person, man or woman in the Military Service of the United States. As the war progressed and men were killed in combat, others wounded and died of their wounds or disease, there came about the accepted usage of the Gold Star."

Maitland said that although the organization has "mothers" in its name, all who've lost family during their military service are welcomed to attend meetings.

"Together we're stronger," she said.

Meetings are at the AMVETS Post 92, 2230 N.E. Dixie Highway, Jensen Beach. They're on the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. For information about the organization, visit goldstarmoms.com.

"It's awesome for us to be able to talk about our boys and girls," Maitland said. "We need to talk about them. People are scared to bring it up with us."



Spc. Richard 'Buck' Hubbell



Sgt. 1st Class Timothy John 'Hodge' Hodgins

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New online resource is vets 'Guide to Long Term Care' option

Helps veterans and their families make important decisions

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs For Veteran Voice

Almost half of our nation's veterans are older than 65.

VA is working to meet their needs by providing information for Veterans and caregivers about long term care services and settings. We are also providing decision aids that help with making plans for long term care now and in the future.

All of this information is available online in the "Guide to Long Term Care," which provides descriptions of home- and community-based services, as well as nursing homes and residential setting options.

Using home- and community-based services allows veterans to remain independent and in their own homes. Some veterans may be able to receive more than one service at a time. And, some of the

services are available in residential care settings.

Home- and community-based services include:

- Adult Day Health Care
- Home Based Primary Care
- Homemaker and Home Health Aide Care
- Hospice and Palliative Care
- The Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)
- Respite Care
- Skilled Home Health Care
- Telehealth and Veteran-Directed Care

Nursing home and residential settings include:

- Adult Family Homes
- Assisted Living Facilities
- Community Living Centers (used to be called VA Nursing Homes)
- Community Nursing Homes
- Medical Foster Homes and State Veterans Homes

The site includes the full spectrum of long-term care options.

Five basic questions

For each service or setting five basic questions are answered to help inform veterans and caregivers:

- What is it?
- Am I eligible for it?
- What service can I get?
- How do I decide if this service is right for me?
- What do other veterans and caregivers say about it?

The site includes the full spectrum of long-term care options and lists services that VA pays for and some that are new and emerging or that VA does not pay for. Eligibility is based on clinical need and service or setting availability.

This Guide also has decision aids — the Shared Decision Making Worksheet (for veterans) and the Caregiver Self-Assessment.

Veterans use the guide to think about their needs and options as they complete the worksheet and to encourage their family caregiv-

See GUIDE page 5

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Pension with A&A: \$2,054/month

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Pension with A&A: \$1,113/month



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Photo courtesy of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

The Florida Korean War Memorial in Tallahassee honors the sacrifices of the state's Korean War veterans. It includes the names of the 555 Floridians who died in the 1950 to 1953 war. They're among the nearly 54,250 Americans who died in the war. According to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, there are about 158,000 Korean War veterans living in the Sunshine State.

KOREA from page 1

rea, I was on the front line," he said. "I didn't know where I was. I read later it was Triangle Hill."

Put another way, Rathbun arrived just in time for the fierce 42-day Battle of Triangle Hill. He survived it, but wouldn't be in Korea very long. In January 1953, Operation Smack rolled around, and Rathbun was in the middle of it. A grenade exploded near him and the young soldier got three fragments through his helmet and into his skull. By March, he'd be stateside recovering his speech and ability to walk.

"It's like recovering from a stroke," he said.

Rathbun is the president of the Brevard County Korean War Veterans Association. He said nationally and locally the organization is reaching out to veterans who served along the Korean DMZ since 1953.

"They've been in harm's way, some have been killed, since the armistice," he said. "We do have a new logo. It says Korean War and Korean Service Veterans. That's the direction the organization is going."

Small numbers of North Korean soldiers have crossed the Korean DMZ and retreated for several decades. It's happened as recently as 2006. The DMZ's 160 miles remains the most heavily militarized boarder in the world.

To its north, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been a persistently belligerent state plagued with constant poverty and repeated famines, yet eagerly developing nuclear and missile technologies that have kept the world on edge. In 2009, the International Atomic Energy Agency declared North Korea a nuclear state. The Central Intelligence Agency has opined that it is a massive chemical weapon state as well.

The country is a single-party state led primarily by the Kim family. For decades, it operated on a hybrid and heavy-handed admixture of traditional Korean monarchy and communism. In 2009, all references to communism were stripped from its constitution.

To the south, the Republic of Korea was strongly influenced by its strong ties to the highly structured Confucianism as it developed toward a democratic representative republic with free-market capitalism.

"I had a hand in freeing the country, to come from an impoverished agrarian society to becoming a world manufacturer," Rathbun said. "Their standard of living is quite high. The thing I feel good about, is what I can see firsthand what has happened to the country and how it's built up."

Now, more than ever, Rathbun and Howard said the association and its chapters are important for helping the country understand the history of an unfinished war with a dark, 60-year shadow.

"The fact we didn't end the war means that the North Koreans over and over are saying we're still at war," Howard said. "Technically we've never terminated the Korean War. I don't think that's a good idea."

Rathbun and his wife visited South Korea a couple years ago. He said the people venerate the members of the United Nations forces that kept them from being swallowed by the North.

Howard said reports of persistent North Korean poverty bother him greatly. His grandson served in Korea and married a Korean woman. He said Koreans are a charming, industrious and proud people who achieve remarkable things when they have the chance.

"With our help, North Korea would be a very prosperous country," he said. "They're just a source of conflict."

Howard said the Korean War likely changed America for the better. He said many black soldiers served alongside others and earned tremendous respect. That, he believes, likely translated to softening racial attitudes in America in the 1950s. Howard was an officer in the Third Battalion, 16th Infantry.

"It was the black battalion," he said. "At the time, there was a lot of bias against black soldiers. I was tickled to be able to say we had some tough fighting and black soldiers were tough fighters."

The Brevard Korean War Veterans Association hasn't yet made plans to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the armistice. Rathbun said the organization likely will. It has about 60 members. The chapter meets at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, 400 S. Sykes Causeway, Merritt Island. Those meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m.

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The national organization is on the web at kwva.org.

VETERAN VOICE

The Voice of Experience

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Tico Warbird Airshow advance tickets on sale now

For Veteran Voice

The Valiant Air Command will present the 36th annual TICO Warbird Airshow March 22, 23 and 24 and advance tickets are on sale now, through www.TicketDerby.com, or at the museum's website at www.vacwarbirds.org for electronic ticket or to see ticket sales locations in our area. Don't wait! The theme this year honors the B-17 Flying Fortress with a special appearance of the USAF Thunderbirds.

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tickets for other venue options. We will have our "Beer Garden" on the crowd line, close to all the action; with food, drink and airshow pilots on hand to sign autographs. Again, there will be limited seating each day, so purchase this special option early.

You can go to www.vacwarbirds.org or www.TicketDerby.com to get your advance tickets and purchase a Beer Garden Ticket with ease from your home or office.

Gates open at 8:30 and the airshow starts around 1 p.m., but there is plenty to do in the morning. There will be a flight line full of warbirds on exhibit, with veteran pilots or aircraft historians standing by to tell you all about them; WWII re-enactors, antique automobiles, vintage armor, games, music, lots of vendors, exhibitors and more.

For more information, contact (321) 268-1941, or visit our website at www.vacwarbirds.org.

GUIDE from page 3

er or other support person to complete the Caregiver Self-Assessment. Then, when veterans are ready, they can talk with their care providers about their health needs and call or visit a VA social worker to talk about long term care.

Personal stories help explain the process

Four personal stories, created from veteran and caregiver experiences, illustrate the shared decision making process, which encourages planning ahead and involving VA health care team members and social workers to make decisions about current and future long term care needs.

Read about Mr. Peterson, a Vietnam vet who served in the Army; Ms. Williams, an Operation Iraqi Freedom Army vet; Mr. Garcia, a Marine and Korean War vet; and Mr. Jenkins, a WWII Navy vet.

The "Guide to Long Term Care" also links to many helpful websites for veterans and caregivers, as well as sites that help locate long term care and caregiver support services.

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Dedication

U.S. Navy veteran Frank Maitland hugs Karen Vaughn while shaking hands with Billy Vaughn following the unveiling of a memorial in honor of their son, Aaron Vaughn, outside the Sailfish Splash Water Park in Stuart Thursday, Jan. 17. Vaughn, a U.S. Navy SEAL, died Aug. 6, 2011, in Afghanistan when his helicopter was shot down.



Mitch Kloorfain
chief photographer

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Mitch Kloorfain/chief photographer
Karen and Billy Vaughn, parents of the late U.S. Navy SEAL Aaron Vaughn, show their daughter, Tara Baldwin, her connection on a memorial for her brother during the unveiling outside the Sailfish Splash Water Park in Stuart Thursday, Jan. 17.

ARE YOU READY FOR LAORETTI?



Larry's Golf Tips of the Week

FAMOUS GOLF QUOTES

1. No one knows exactly when the first golf quotation was spoken; nonetheless we can be very sure it was unprintable. The game is a source of endless study, endless fascination and endless frustrations, which has led to an endless pursuit of wisdom about How to Play it Better.

Quote from book "As Hogan Said"

2. "Never had a lesson in my life" is a phrase uttered with smug satisfaction by a good many people. The correct reply is of course, "That's why you are no better than you are"

Henry Longhurst

3. If profanity had an influence on the flight of the ball, the game would be played far better than it is.

Horace Hutchinson

More tips to follow in coming weeks.

- Larry Laoretti

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State Veterans Hall of Fame to nominate first members for induction in November

By Patrick McCallister
For Veteran Voice

For most, service continues long after their military days are done. To honor that continued service, the first inductees will enter the Florida's Veterans Hall of Fame in November. The Hall of Fame will be at the Capital Complex in Tallahassee. The Veterans Hall of Fame Council had its first meeting in December.

"It's an opportunity to honor veterans of Florida, who either reside or were born in Florida, for their service after they left the military," Bruce J. Hose, chair, said. "It is not a military hall of fame. It is a veterans hall of fame for their service after they left the military."

For example, *Veteran Voice* recently reported on Army veteran Dick "Lovi" Lovisone's efforts to help homeless families become self-sufficient through Family Promise of Brevard. Hose said that's the kind of post-military service the council seeks to honor.

"Whatever they chose to do in



Dr. James Harrell, third from left, front row, is among the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame council's seven members. His wife, Rep. Gayle Harrell, R-District 83, introduced the legislation that created the hall of fame. She represents parts of Martin and St. Lucie counties. Dr. Harrell is pictured here in the audience at Indian River State College in November during IRSC's annual Veterans Summit.

Veteran Voice
file photo

their post-military time," Hose said. "It must have been of some significance and in some way been done in Florida for the good of Florida."

In addition to charity efforts, Hose said work in government, politics and business can qualify a veteran for the hall of fame.

Dr. James Harrell, who lives in

Stuart, is among the council's seven members. His wife, Gayle Harrell, is the Florida Representative who introduced the legislation that created the hall of fame. She represents parts of Martin and St. Lucie counties. He was appointed to the council by Jeff Atwater, chief financial officer of the state.

"This is for people who were in the military who did something outstanding for the state of Florida," Harrell said. "It's a way to honor people (for civilian accomplishments). There are an awful lot of people who come back and are very successful in medicine,

See HALL page 9

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HALL from page 8

or business, politics.”

The first class of inductees will be unveiled on or near Veterans Day at the Capital. Their names will be placed on a large plaque that'll be placed in the rotunda. Inductees will be notified and invited to ceremonies. There will be up to 20 inductees a year.

Hose said that with about 1.6 million veterans living in Florida, the council expects to receive many nominations. Those nominated must be honorably discharged, and have no felony convictions. He said that one nominating a veteran for the hall will have to fill out an application and compose a narrative, with supporting documents, to explain why a veteran deserves the honor.

“We're not ready for that yet,” Hose said. “We've got to put in place a nomination form and process.”

When readied, the nomination forms will be available through the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, which is separate from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. The state department will also receive nomination packets. The council will have irregular meetings based on need, but those meetings will be open to the public and may have telephonic public participation

Hose said that with about 1.6 million veterans living in Florida, the council expects to receive many nominations. Those nominated must be honorably discharged, and have no felony convictions.

through the state's teleconference system, too.

“What we do is screen the nominees,” Hose said. “We have to determine a process for scoring those people who are nominated. (Deciding who to induct) is going to be a very difficult job for this council.”

Harrell said that after the council has made its selections, another body will give the final approval.

“It goes from there to the (Florida Cabinet),” he said. “The cabinet will be the final people who say OK. But, we expect they'll pretty much go along with our choices.”

Hose said the public can financially contribute to the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame through the Florida Veterans Foundation, a not-for-profit organization operating through the state's department of veterans affairs.

For donation information, visit floridaveteransfoundation.org. Any donations specifically for the hall of fame have to be so noted.

CROSSWORD

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Point that is one point E of due S
- 4. Slithered
- 8. Brain and spinal cord (abbr.)
- 11. Direct the steering of a ship
- 13. Chops with irregular blows
- 15. Plural of hilum
- 16. Incline from vertical (geo.)
- 17. Simple word forms
- 18. Paddles
- 19. Roman garment
- 21. Meat skewers
- 23. Ethiopia (abbr.)
- 25. The cry made by sheep
- 26. Beatty-Benning movie
- 30. Concealed
- 33. Political action committee
- 34. High rock piles (Old English)
- 35. Scottish county (abbr.)
- 36. Goat and camel hair fabric
- 37. A very large body of water
- 38. Fabric stain
- 39. Israeli city ___ Aviv
- 40. Shoe's underside
- 42. Military legal corps
- 43. Patti Hearst's captors
- 44. Undecided
- 48. '___ death do us part

CLUES DOWN

- 49. Supervises flying
- 50. Many headed monsters
- 54. Literary language of Pakistan
- 57. Halo
- 58. Hawaiian hello
- 63. Lubricants
- 65. Mild exclamation
- 66. Greek fresh-water nymph
- 67. Nickname for grandmother
- 68. A restaurant bill
- 69. Automaker Ransom E.
- 70. A young man

- 20. Ingested
- 22. Swiss river
- 24. Protects head from weather
- 25. Lava rock
- 26. Designer identifier
- 27. 34470 FL
- 28. Petrified ancient animal
- 29. Gas used in refrigeration
- 30. Journeys to Mecca
- 31. 8th month, Jewish calendar
- 32. Small indefinite quantity
- 33. Taps
- 41. Extremely high frequency
- 44. Iguanidae genus
- 45. From the Leaning Tower's city
- 46. Cologne
- 47. Moses' elder brother (Bible)
- 50. A minute amount (Scott)
- 51. Hindu name for 4 epochs
- 52. Faded and dull
- 53. Radioactivity unit
- 55. The face of a clock
- 56. The inner forearm bone
- 59. Tai language of the Mekong region
- 60. Embrocate
- 61. Possessed
- 62. Public promotions
- 64. Sorrowful

SUDOKU

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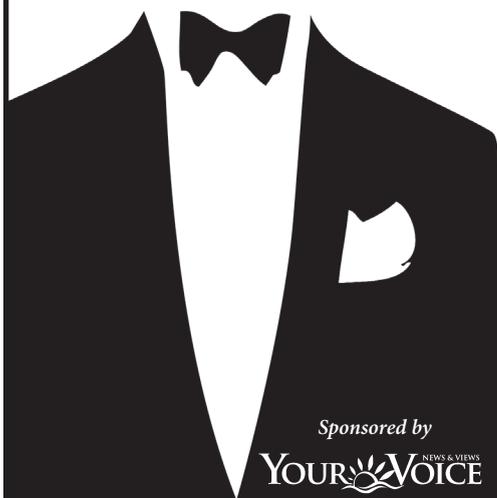
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Veteran Voice is a weekly publication designed to provide information to and about veterans to veterans and to the broader community. Veterans are an integral part of their Florida communities, which currently have individual organizations of their own, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Vietnam Veterans of America and many other groups with a narrow focus, but no convenient way to connect to a wider population of veterans and to the community in general within a limited geographic area, their community.

The mission of Veteran Voice is to publish a weekly source of information that will provide, in one place, a listing of resources available to veterans, articles about changes in policies or organizations affecting veterans and events of interest to veterans as well as articles about veterans of interest to the general public.

Veteran Voice LLC is organized as a partnership of experienced newspaper executives with an interest in veterans and in the communities of Florida veterans and friends. VV is a start-up intended to address a perceived lack of information readily available to veterans on programs and policies affecting them and objective reporting of veteran affairs to the public.

To our knowledge, and based on comments from leaders of local veterans organizations, there was no media or website currently meeting this need until the launch of VeteranVoice.

We hope you agree, and will support this publication with your subscription. Without subscriptions there will be a limited number of people we can help, without which this mission will not be realized. As part of our commitment to supporting local veteran communities, we will donate 10 percent of our profits each quarter to qualified veteran charities recommended by you, our readers and subscribers. Please let us know what you think by emailing editor@veteranvoiceweekly.com or mailing your comments to us at **1919 S.W. South Macedo Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34984.**

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