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164th Infantry News: May 2008

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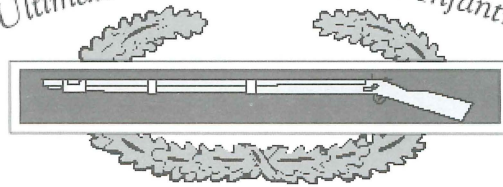
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The Ultimate Weapon the Combat Infantryman



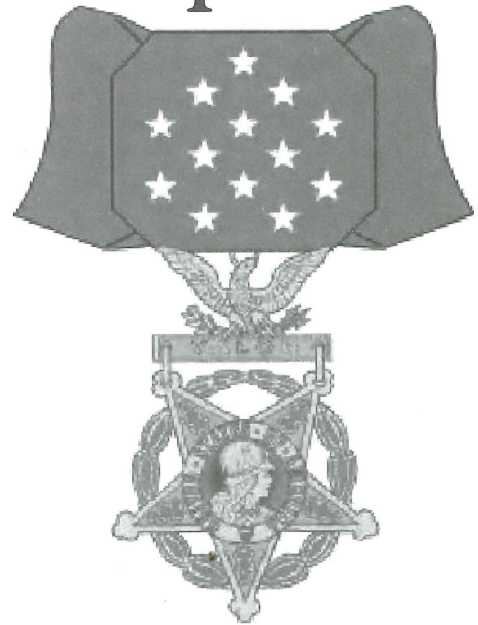
THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS

Vol. 49, "Special Issue"

Documenting 164th History....

May 2008

164's Woodrow Wilson Keeble Medal Of Honor Recipient



Veteran of three years of jungle fighting with the 164th Infantry Regiment in WWII, Keeble wasn't satisfied staying with the Regiment at Ft Rucker in 1951. He volunteered to go to Korea, saying,

"Someone's got to teach these kids how to fight"

First Sioux to Receive Medal of Honor

By Carrie McLeroy, Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, 2008) -- During the final allied offensive of the Korean War, Master Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Keeble risked his life to save his fellow Soldiers. Almost six decades after his gallant actions and 26 years after his death, Keeble [is] the first full-blooded Sioux Indian to receive the Medal of Honor.

Keeble is one of the most decorated Soldiers in North Dakota history. A veteran of World War II and the Korean War, he was born in 1917 in Waubay, S.D., on the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Reservation, which extended into North Dakota. He spent most of his life in the Wahpeton, N.D. area, where he attended an Indian school. In 1942 Keeble joined the North Dakota National Guard, and in October that year, found himself embroiled in some of the fiercest hand-to-hand combat of World War II on Guadalcanal.

Guadalcanal

"Guadalcanal seemed to be on his mind a lot," Russell



Hawkins, Keeble's stepson, said. "His fellow Soldiers said he had to fight a lot of hand-to-hand fights with the Japanese, so he saw their faces. Every now and then he would get a far-away look in his eyes, and I knew he was thinking about those men and the things he had to do." At Henderson Field on the South Pacific Island, Keeble served with Company I, 164th Infantry - the first Army unit on Guadalcanal. "I heard stories from James Fenelon, who served with him there, and he would talk about how the men of the 164th rallied around this full-blooded Sioux Indian whose accuracy with the Browning Automatic Rifle was unparalleled," Hawkins said. "It was said he would go in front of patrols and kill enemies before his unit would get there."

The Sioux have a word for that kind of bravery, according to Hawkins - wowaditaka. "It means don't be afraid of anything, be braver than that which scares you the most." Keeble personified the word according to fellow Soldiers, and earned the first of four Purple Hearts and his first Bronze Star for his actions on Guadalcanal.

Korea

Keeble [re-joined Company I, 164th Infantry Regiment again]... when war broke out...[The unit was at Ft Rucker when he volunteered to go to Korea]... He was a seasoned, 34-year-old master sergeant serving with 1st Platoon, Company G, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Division [at the time of his heroic actions].

According to eyewitness accounts, while serving as the acting platoon leader of 1st Plt. in the vicinity of the Kumsong River, North Korea, on or about Oct. 15, 1951, Keeble voluntarily took on the responsibility of leading not only his platoon, but the 2nd and 3rd Platoons as well.

In an official statement 1st Sgt. Kosumo "Joe" Sagami of Co. G said, "All the officers of the company had received disabling wounds or were killed in action, except one platoon leader who assumed command of the company." The company's mission was to take control of a steep, rocky, heavily fortified hill.

Hawkins recalled how the man everyone knew as "Woody," described the terrain. "We were driving through Colorado on a trip, and Woody was pointing at something out the window," Hawkins said. By that time, Keeble had suffered seven debilitating strokes and lost the ability to speak.

"I pulled over and realized he was pointing at a large, rocky cliff with an almost sheer drop. I asked Woody if that was what it was like during that battle in Korea and he nodded, 'yes,'" Hawkins said. "It wasn't quite a straight drop down, but you could get up the hill faster on your hands and knees than on your feet." Sagami wrote that Keeble led all three platoons in successive assaults upon the Chinese who held the hill throughout the day. All three charges were repulsed, and the company suffered heavy casualties. Trenches filled with enemy soldiers, and fortified by three pillboxes containing machine guns and additional men surrounded the hill.

Following the third assault and subsequent mortar and artillery support, the enemy sustained casualties among its ranks in the open trenches. The machine gunners in the pillboxes however, continued to direct fire on the company. Sagami said after Keeble withdrew the 3rd platoon, he decided to attempt a solo assault. "He once told a relative that the fourth attempt he was either going to take them out or die trying," Hawkins said.

"Woody used to tell people he was more concerned about losing his men than about losing his own life," said Hawkins. "He pushed his own life to the limit. He wasn't willing to put his fellow Soldiers' lives on the line."

Armed with grenades and his Browning Automatic Rifle, Keeble crawled to an area 50 yards from the ridgeline, flanked the left pillbox and used grenades and rifle fire to eliminate it, according to Sagami. After returning to the point where 1st Platoon held the company's first line of defense, Keeble worked his way to the opposite side of the ridgeline and took out the right pillbox with grenades. "Then without hesitation, he lobbed a grenade into the back entrance of the middle pillbox and with additional rifle fire eliminated it," Sagami added.

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Hawkins said one eyewitness told him the enemy directed its entire arsenal at Keeble during his assault. "He said there were so many grenades coming down on Woody, that it looked like a flock of blackbirds." Even under heavy enemy fire, Keeble was able to complete his objective. Only after he killed the machine gunners did Keeble order his men to advance and secure the hill.

"When I first started hearing these stories I was amazed that a man of Woody's size (more than six feet tall and 235-plus pounds), could sneak up on the enemy without being noticed," Hawkins said. "So one day, I was out helping him mow the lawn, and I asked him how he did it. He just shrugged his shoulders.

"I joked with him and told him those soldiers must have been blind or old or something, because he would never be able to sneak up on a young guy like me." Hawkins said he continued to mow then was startled when Woody popped up from behind some bushes near him. "He could have reached out and grabbed me by the ankles, and I didn't even know he was there!" Keeble had slid on his back behind the brush. Although Hawkins was not positive, he believed Keeble might have used a similar maneuver when attacking the pillboxes.

Keeble's selfless acts on that rugged terrain in 1951 did not come without a price. According to Sagami and other eyewitnesses, he was wounded on at least five different occasions by fragmentation and concussion grenades.

"His wounds were apparent in the chest, both arms, right calf, knee, and right thigh and left thigh." Sagami cited blood at the wound locations as evidence.

Hawkins said 83 grenade fragments were removed from Keeble's body, but several others remained. "You could tell that the wounds bothered him sometimes, but he never complained."

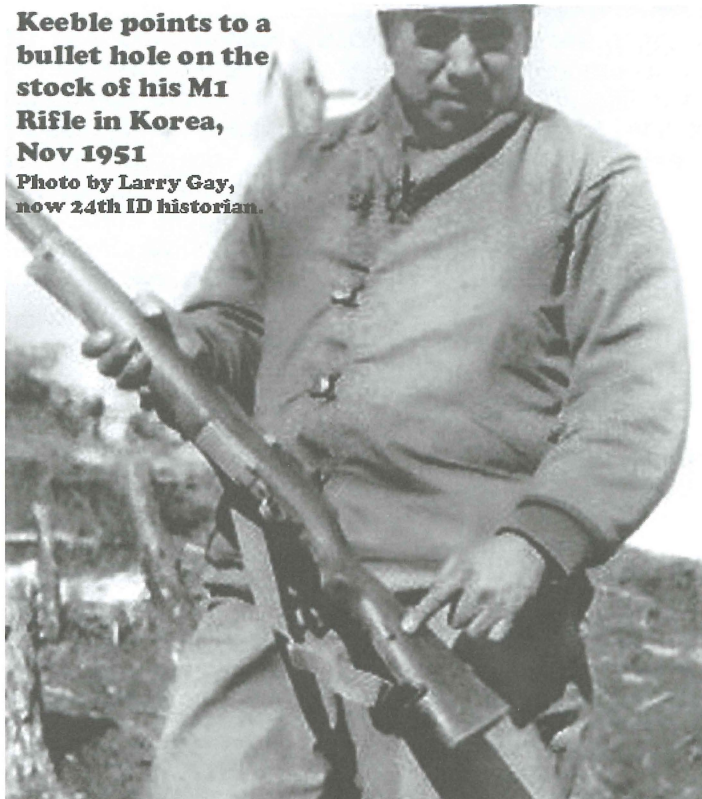
Sagami wrote in his statement that Keeble did not complain on the battlefield either. "At no time did he allow himself to be evacuated during the course of the day. Only after the unit was in defensive positions for the night did he allow himself to be evacuated."

According to Hawkins, every surviving member of Co. G signed a letter to recommend Keeble for the Medal of Honor on two separate occasions, once in November 1951 and then again in December that same year.

On both instances, the paperwork was lost. Keeble was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross Dec. 20, 1952 for his actions in Korea, not the Medal of Honor his men believed he deserved. He also earned the Purple Heart (First Oak Leaf Cluster); Bronze Star (First Oak Leaf Cluster); and the Silver Star as a result of his heroics throughout his tour in Korea. He was honorably discharged March 1, 1953.

Keeble points to a bullet hole on the stock of his M1 Rifle in Korea, Nov 1951

Photo by Larry Gay, now 24th ID historian.



Thanks to Merry Helm for the photos on this page.

Keeble and 1st Plt, Co G, 19th Infantry Reg't, 24th Division - Korea, Oct 1951



photo submitted by 1LT Bill Nichols

Life after the Army

Even after his discharge, Keeble never severed his ties with the Army, Hawkins said, and was a champion for veterans and their causes. "He was always going to different veterans events and he supported the Disabled American Veterans organization. He would wear his uniform in parades, and was the first in line for any type of fundraiser."

Though Keeble knew of his unit's failed attempts to award him the Medal of Honor, Hawkins said he never sensed any bitterness from him. "Whenever someone would bring it up, he just shrugged. He wasn't there to get medals; he was there for his men and his country. He enjoyed the small things in life, and concentrated on what he had, not what he didn't have."

Those who didn't know Keeble the Soldier saw him as a kind-hearted, gentle man full of humility, according to Hawkins. "Woody was a very upbeat person. If you didn't know his war record, you'd think he was just a happy-go-lucky guy. His glass was always half full, never half empty."

In later years, Keeble fell on hard times and was forced to pawn all his medals. He had one lung removed, and in the months and years following the surgery suffered more than a half dozen strokes that Hawkins said eventually left him speechless. "But his mind remained sharp, and he was the same man inside."

Keeble's family was presented with a duplicate set of medals in May 2006, and they, along with his uniform and other memorabilia, are housed at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

Long Road to Medal of Honor

The family's battle to upgrade Keeble's Distinguished Service Cross to the Medal of Honor began in 1972, when both Woody and his wife, Dr. Blossom Hawkins-Keeble, were still alive. According to Hawkins, the family unknowingly started off in the wrong direction. "We thought the paperwork had been lost, but were unaware that it no longer existed. It didn't just get lost on the battlefield, it never made it off the battlefield." When the family finally realized this fact, they sought the support of the Sisseton-Wahpeton tribe and gathered recorded statements from the men who served with Keeble.

The team soon learned that since the statute of limitations for awarding the Medal of Honor was three years from the date of the heroic action, it would literally take, "An Act of Congress," to realize the goal. Beginning in 2002, the tribe involved senators and representatives from North and South Dakota. Armed with written evidence, eyewitness accounts and letters from four senators supporting the effort, tribe officials contacted the Army, which reviewed the evidence and concluded Keeble's actions were worthy of the medal. Finally, on March 23, 2007, North Dakota Senator Byron Dorgan introduced a bill, cosponsored by Senators Kent Conrad (ND), Tim Johnson (SD) and John Thune (SD), authorizing the president, "To award the Medal of Honor to Woodrow W. Keeble for his acts of valor during the Korean conflict." Congress passed the bill in early December 2007.

"We are just proud to be a part of this for Woody," Hawkins said. "He is deserving of this, for what he did in the Armed Services in defense of this country."

Hawkins added that this victory is as important for the Sisseton-Wahpeton tribe and North and South Dakota as it is for Keeble and his family. "We are all extremely proud that Woody is finally receiving this honor. He epitomized our cultural values of humility, compassion, bravery, strength and honor."

He added that Woody was the embodiment of "woyuonihan," or, "honor," always carrying himself in a way so that those who knew him would be proud of him. "He lived a life full of honor and respect."

Hawkins said his feelings about Keeble echo those of all who knew him. "If he was alive today, I would tell him there's no one I respect more, and how he is everything a man should be: brave, kind and generous. I would tell him how proud I am of him, and how I never realized that all this time, I was living with such greatness."



Above: After the ceremony in Wahpeton on 31 May 2006 when replacement awards were presented to Keeble's family. L-R Senator Kent Conrad, Major General Michael J. Haugen, Woody Hawkins (grandson), Russell Hawkins (stepson), Sandra Melius (niece), Cyrus Hawkins (grandson). Seated, Dr. Blossom Hawkins-Keeble, Master Sergeant Keeble's widow. Displayed is one of the Morning Star Quilts that were presented to Senator Conrad and General Haugen that day.
Photo by LTC (ret) Bill Prokopyk

Blossom Hawkins-Keeble passed away on Sunday, 3 June 2007, just 9 days after President Bush signed the authorization for the Secretary of the Army to pursue a Medal of Honor for her husband, Woodrow Wilson Keeble.

Woody Keeble proved his mettle long before earning the Medal

By Capt. Thomas W. Mehl, National Guard Bureau



Woodrow Keeble (2nd from right) with 164th in WWII
Photo used by permission of James Fenelon

North Dakota National Guard Soldier Woodrow Keeble (second from right), began fighting on Guadalcanal with the 164th Infantry in October 1942, nine years before he did the deeds in Korea that eventually earned him the Medal of Honor. (Photo courtesy of James Fenelon)

National Guard Master Sgt. Woodrow Wilson Keeble had already established his reputation as one of the U.S. Army's finest fighters long before his actions of October 1951 in Korea for which President George W. Bush presented him the Medal of Honor posthumously at the White House on March 3.

Born May 16, 1917, in Waubay, S.D., Keeble, a full-blooded Sioux Indian, began his military career in the North Dakota National Guard, serving in **Company I, 164th Infantry** of Wahpeton, N.D., his hometown. Keeble was called to active duty with this unit on Feb. 10, 1941, and sent to Camp Claiborne, La., as a member of the 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division.

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941, the 164th Infantry was relieved from assignment to the 34th Division and sent to California, where it sailed from San Francisco on March 19, 1942 and arrived in Australia on April 7. Moving to New Caledonia on April 19, the 164th was assigned to the newly organized **Americal Division** composed primarily of National Guard units from Massachusetts and Illinois. Following a period of training, Keeble and the **164th** sailed for the **Solomon Islands** in October 1942 to an island called Guadalcanal, where the regiment would become the first U.S. Army unit to engage in offensive operations in World War II. The **164th Infantry** went ashore at **Guadalcanal** on Oct. 13, 1942, reinforcing U.S. Marines, who had landed on Aug. 7, 1942. Keeble and his fellow Citizen-Soldiers were a welcome sight to the battle-weary veterans of the 1st Marine Division. The Marines had dug a perimeter about 10 miles around Henderson Field against an estimated Japanese force of more than 20,000.

James Fenelon of Minneapolis, Minn., served with Keeble in the **164th Infantry on Guadalcanal**. He remembers Keeble, who stood 6-foot-2 and weighed 180 pounds, as a great Soldier and leader. "We were a bunch of country boys," Fenelon said. "Woody was a damn good Soldier. I've never seen a finer one. He carried a BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) and would always go out ahead on patrols." Fenelon said Japanese planes bombed them continuously on Guadalcanal. "We realized right away that those weren't flour-filled potato sacks being dropped on us like in training. They were real bombs," he said.

Japanese forces commenced a counteroffensive against the Soldiers and Marines defending Henderson Field beginning on Oct. 23. Although Keeble's 3rd battalion was the 164th's regimental reserve, it was committed in the early morning hours of Oct. 25 to support the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, which were commanded by the most decorated U.S. Marine in history, Col. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, recipient of five Navy Crosses.

The U.S. Army's official history of the campaign, "Guadalcanal: The First Offensive," by John Miller Jr., details the action: "The two battalions, as disposed that night, did not defend separate sectors, but were intermingled along the front. The Japanese attacked with characteristic resolution all through the night, but every charge was beaten back by the concentrated fire of American small arms, heavy weapons and artillery." Although the Marines on Guadalcanal were armed with bolt action 1903 Springfield rifles, soldiers of the 164th Infantry were armed with the new eight-shot M1 Garand rifle. This greatly increased the Americans' firepower at Guadalcanal.

"The M1 made the difference," Fenelon said. "The Japanese attack was supposed to be a three-pronged attack, but some of them got lost in the jungle. Otherwise, I might not be here today."

The Guadalcanal Campaign would rage for another four months as soldiers of the 25th and 43rd Infantry Divisions joined the fight. The campaign closed on Feb. 21, 1943, and was a decisive victory for U.S. Forces. Keeble and the rest of the Citizen-Soldiers in North Dakota's 164th Infantry played a vital role in America's victory. It helped signal the beginning of the end for the Japanese war machine, ultimately leading to its formal surrender on Sept. 2, 1945, and the end of World War II.

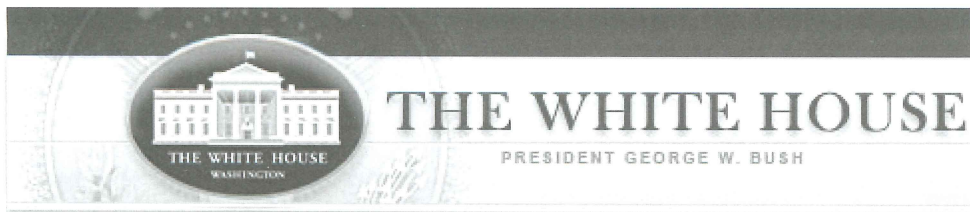
"Chesty Puller said after the battle, 'You country boys sure can fight,'" Fenelon said.

For his actions on Guadalcanal, Keeble received his first Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. It was the beginning of a distinguished military career for Keeble that would see him mobilize again with **Company I, 164th Infantry on Jan. 16, 1951 for the Korean War**.

The regiment was sent to Fort Rucker, Ala., but Keeble, a veteran of three years of fighting in World War II, volunteered for immediate duty in Korea.

The commanding officer of **Company I, Capt. E. Duane Holly**, said that Keeble volunteered to go to Korea in place of another man, stating: "Someone's got to teach these kids how to fight."

Thus the stage was set for Keeble's heroic actions in Korea with Company G, 19th Infantry in October 1951 – actions "above and beyond the call of duty."



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March 3, 2008

White House photos by Eric Draper

Special thanks to Carrie McLeroy for
photos and story used in this issue

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/03/20080303-3.html> (video link at this site)

President Bush Attends Medal of Honor Ceremony for Woodrow Wilson Keeble

East Room 2:35 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Welcome. Thanks for coming. Mr. Vice President, Mr. Secretary, members of the Dakotan Congressional Delegations, Senator from Alaska, other members of Congress, Members of my Cabinet, members of the administration, members of the United States Armed Forces, distinguished guests: Welcome to the White House.

The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor a President can bestow, and I'm honored recipients of the Medal of Honor have joined us. Thank you for coming. During my time in office, I've had the privilege of performing this duty on nine separate occasions. Every ceremony has been inspiring. Many have been joyful. Some have been poignant. But I'm not sure I can remember many ceremonies quite like this one.

It's taken nearly 60 years for Master Sergeant Woodrow Wilson **Keeble** to be awarded the medal he earned on the battlefield in Korea. His nominating paperwork was lost, and then it was resubmitted, and then it was lost again. Then the deadline passed, and Woody and his family were told it was too late. Some blamed the bureaucracy for a shameful blunder. Others suspected racism: Woody was a full-blooded Sioux Indian. Whatever the reason, the first Sioux to ever receive the Medal of Honor died without knowing it was his. A terrible injustice was done to a good man, to his family, and to history. And today we're going to try to set things right.

Few people worked harder for this day than Woody's family. I thank the members who are with us, including his son, Russell, who is accepting this award on their behalf, along with his cousin -- a cousin.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Nephew.

THE PRESIDENT: Along with his nephew. I want to welcome you here. Thank you for supporting Woody. Thank you for your understanding, your patience and, most of all, your persistence. I also offer special thanks to the determined delegations of North and South Dakota, including the Governor of North Dakota and the former Governor of South Dakota. Woody had ties to both Dakotas. Each state claims him as its own. (Laughter.) I think I'm going to stay out of the argument. I want to thank you for carrying Woody's banner to the Pentagon, and to the halls of Congress. You did the right thing.

It's easy to understand why so many people argued so passionately for the Medal once you hear the story of what Woody **Keeble** did. This story unfolded at an important time in our history. The year was 1951. The world was divided by a Cold War. America was under threat and -- some believed -- overmatched and out of heart. The great evil of communism was said to be the future of the world. It was on the advance in Europe, and in China, and on the Asian peninsula of Korea.

On that peninsula, a battle raged between communist forces in the North and the forces of freedom in the South. And Woody **Keeble**, a decorated veteran of **Guadalcanal**, raised his hand to serve his country once again. Woody said he volunteered for Korea because, "somebody has to teach those kids how to fight." And that's exactly what he did. In George Company, he quickly became a mentor, a teacher, and a legend. He was so strong that he could lift the back of a jeep and spin it around.

Some people knew he had been scouted by the Chicago White Sox. He had a heck of an arm, and he threw grenades like a baseball. One soldier remembered the time Woody walked through a mine field, leaving tracks for his men to follow. Another recalled the time Woody was shot twice in the arm and he kept fighting, without seeming to notice.



That fall, Woody's courage was on full display during a major offensive called Operation No Man [sic]. His company was ordered to take a series of hills protecting a major enemy supply line. High up in those hills and manning machine guns were Chinese communist forces. After days of fighting, the officers in Woody's company had fallen. Woody assumed command of one platoon, then a second, and then a third, until one of the hills was taken, and the enemy fled in wild retreat.

That first advance nearly killed him. By the end of the day, Woody had more than 83 grenade fragments in his body. He had bleeding wounds in his arms, chest, and thighs. And yet he still wanted to fight. So after a day with the medics, he defied the doctor's orders and returned to the battlefield. And that is where, on October 20, 1951, **Master Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Keeble** made history.

Communist forces still held a crucial hill that was the "pearl" of their defenses. They had pinned down U.S. forces with a furious assault. One soldier said the enemy lobbed so many grenades on American troops that they looked like a flock of blackbirds in the sky. Allied forces had tried heavy artillery to dislodge the enemy, and nothing seemed to be working. The offensive was failing, and American boys were dying. But our forces had one advantage: Woody was back, and Woody was some kind of mad.

He grabbed grenades and his weapon and climbed that crucial hill alone. Woody climbed hundreds of yards through dirt and rock, with his wounds aching, bullets flying, and grenades falling all around him. As Woody first started off, someone saw him and remarked: "Either he's the bravest soldier I have ever met, or he's crazy." Soldiers watched in awe as Woody single-handedly took out one machine gun nest, then another. When Woody was through, all 16 enemy soldiers were dead, the hill was taken, and the Allies won the day.

Woody Keeble's act of heroism saved many American lives, and earned him a permanent place in his fellow soldiers' hearts. Years later, some of those tough soldiers' eyes would fill with tears when they saw Woody again. One said: "He was the most respected person I ever knew in my life." Another said: "I would have followed him anywhere." A third said: "He was awesome." Those brave boys battled tyranny, held the line against a communist menace, and kept a nation free. And some of them are with us today. We are honored to host you at the White House. We thank you for your courage. We thank you for honoring your comrade in arms. And we thank you for your service to the United States.

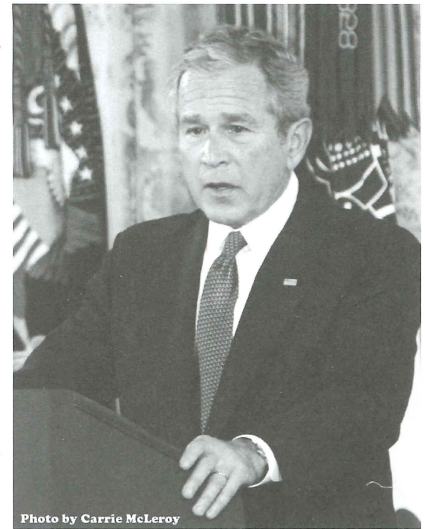


As the war ended, Woody went back to North Dakota. In some ways, his return was a sad one. Within a few years, his first wife died. He would suffer from numerous affects of the war. A series of strokes paralyzed his right side and robbed him of his ability to speak. And the wounds he sustained in service to his country would haunt him for the rest of his life.

Yet Woody was not a bitter man. As a member of his family put it: "Woody loved his country, loved his tribe, and loved God." Woody even found love again with a woman named Blossom. Woody may not have been able to speak, but he could still get a message across. He wrote a note asking Blossom to marry him. She told him she needed some time to think about it. So while she was deliberating, Woody put their engagement announcement in the newspaper. (Laughter.) This is a man who was relentless in love as well as war. (Laughter.)

In his community he was an everyday hero. Even in poor health, he would mow lawns for seniors in the summers and help cars out of the snow banks in the winters. He once picked up a hitchhiker who was down on his luck and looking for work. Woody wasn't a rich man, but he gave the man \$50. Those who knew Woody can tell countless stories like this -- one of a great soldier who became a Good Samaritan.

To his last days, he was a devoted veteran. He proudly wore his uniform at local events and parades. Sometimes folks who loved him would see that uniform and ask him about his missing medal. They felt he was cheated, yet Woody never complained. See, he believed America was the greatest nation on Earth, even when it made mistakes. And there was never a single day he wasn't proud to have served our country.



Woody suffered his eighth -- and final -- stroke in 1982. His son, Russell, took him to the hospital and prayed it wasn't the end. But Woody knew, and he wasn't afraid. Woodrow Wilson **Keeble** died in graceful anonymity, unknown except to the fortunate souls who loved him, and those who learned from him. Russell put it this way: "Woody met death with a smile. He taught me how to live, and he taught me how to die."

I am pleased that this good and honorable man is finally getting the recognition he deserves. But on behalf of our grateful nation, I deeply regret that this tribute comes decades too late. Woody will never hold this Medal in his hands or wear it on his uniform. He will never hear a President thank him for his heroism. He will never stand here to see the pride of his friends and loved ones, as I see in their eyes now.

But there are some things we can still do for him. We can tell his story. We can honor his memory. And we can follow his lead -- by showing all those who have followed him on the battlefield the same love and generosity of spirit that Woody showed his country everyday



At the request of the **Keeble** family and in accordance with the Sioux tradition, two empty chairs have been placed on this stage to represent Woody and Blossom and to acknowledge their passing into the spiritual world. The Sioux have a saying: "The life of a man is a circle." Well, today, we complete Woody **Keeble's** circle -- from an example to his men to an example for the ages. And if we honor his life and take lessons from his good and noble service, then Master Sergeant Woody **Keeble** will serve his country once again.

I want to thank you all for coming. May I ask for God's blessings on you and Woody **Keeble** and the **Keeble** family. May God continue to bless our country. And now I ask Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Bluedog to join me.

Commander Thompson will read the citation.

COMMANDER THOMPSON: THE PRESIDENT of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor to Master Sergeant Woodrow W. **Keeble**, United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty:

In action with an armed enemy near Sangsan-ni, Korea, on 20 October, 1951. On that day, Master Sergeant **Keeble** was an acting platoon leader for the support platoon in Company G, 19th Infantry, in the attack on Hill 765, a steep and rugged position that was well defended by the enemy. Leading the support platoon, Master Sergeant **Keeble** saw that the attacking elements had become pinned down on the slope by heavy enemy fire from three well-fortified and strategically placed enemy positions. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Master Sergeant **Keeble** dashed forward and joined the pinned-down platoon. Then, hugging the ground, Master Sergeant **Keeble** crawled forward alone until he was in close proximity to one of the hostile machine-gun emplacements. Ignoring the heavy fire that the crew trained on him, Master Sergeant **Keeble** activated a grenade and threw it with great accuracy, successfully destroying the position. Continuing his one-man assault, he moved to the second enemy position and destroyed it with another grenade. Despite the fact that the enemy troops were now directing their firepower against him and unleashing a shower of grenades in a frantic attempt to stop his advance, he moved forward against the third hostile emplacement, and skillfully neutralized the remaining enemy position. As his comrades moved forward to join him, Master Sergeant **Keeble** continued to direct accurate fire against nearby trenches, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Inspired by his courage, Company G successfully moved forward and seized its important objective. The extraordinary courage, selfless service, and devotion to duty displayed that day by Master Sergeant **Keeble** was an inspiration to all around him and reflected great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



(The Medal is presented.) (Applause.) END 2:51 P.M. EST

Medal of Honor Recipient Inducted Into Pentagon's Hall of Heroes

Mar 05, 2008 By John J. Kruzal



Gen. Richard A. Cody, Army vice chief of staff, talks about Master Sgt. Woodrow Wilson Keeble's life and service during the Hall of Heroes induction ceremony at the Pentagon 4 March. Photo by Carrie McLeroy

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, March 5, 2008) - The Defense Department posthumously inducted Army Master Sgt. Woodrow Keeble into its Hall of Heroes Tuesday, a day after President Bush bestowed the Medal of Honor for combat valor in the Korean War.

Keeble is the first full-blooded Sioux Indian to receive the nation's highest military award. Almost six decades after the gallant actions that earned him the nation's highest military award, and 26 years after his death, his relatives unveiled his name during a ceremony here at the Pentagon. He joins 131 other veterans to receive the Medal of Honor for combat valor in the Korean War.

Keeble risked his life to save fellow Soldiers in 1951 during the final allied offensive in Korea. He was recommended for the medal by every surviving member of his unit at the time, but "administrative errors" and "bureaucratic processes" delayed the honor, said Gen. Richard A. Cody, the Army's Vice Chief of Staff, who praised Bush for "setting the record straight."

"Over 300 million Americans are free today because ... (Keeble) fought bravely with honor and humility to defend this country and his fellow citizens," Gen. Cody told the audience gathered here for the ceremony. "The personal courage and selfless service of Master Sgt. Keeble lives on in the Soldiers that have succeeded him."

Calling it an honor to salute the master sergeant, to whom he affectionately referred as "Woody," Gen. Cody held his straightened right hand to his brow in a sign of deference to Keeble, a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War.

When war broke out in Korea, Keeble...[rejoined the North Dakota Army National Guard in Company I, Wahpeton, and was sent with the unit to Ft Rucker, AL]. He'd joined the North Dakota National Guard in 1942 and already had earned the first of his four

Purple Hearts and his first Bronze Star for actions on Guadalcanal. [While at Ft. Rucker with the 164th], Keeble volunteered to go to Korea, saying that "somebody has to teach these young kids how to fight," Gen. Cody said.

The division was serving in central Korea in October 1951 when it was called to take a series of mountains protecting a major enemy supply in the town of Kumsong. Operation Nomad-Polar, known as the "Big Push," was the last major United Nations offensive of the war. [Keeble]...was a 34-year-old master sergeant serving with 24th Infantry Division's 1st Platoon, Company G, 19th Infantry Regiment.

U.S. casualties mounted as enemy soldiers barraged them, fortified by three pillboxes containing machine guns during ferocious fighting over a six-day span. Keeble's officers had all fallen, so he continued the assault with three platoons under his leadership.

Despite extensive injuries himself, with 83 grenade fragments in his body, Keeble defied the medics and took matters into his own hands. On Oct. 20, 1951, he charged the hill solo. "Woody knew the enemy machine guns in the heavily-fortified pillboxes were the problem. He resolved, 'I'm going to take them out or die trying,'" Gen. Cody said.

Armed only with grenades and his Browning automatic rifle, he shimmied across the ridge, single-handedly eliminating one pillbox after another as he dodged a barrage of enemy fire. Only after Keeble had taken out all three pillboxes and killed the machine gunners did he order his troops to advance and secure the hill.

Army Secretary Pete Geren said Keeble was known on the battlefield for his resolve and tenacity in the face of danger and adversity. "The safest place to be was right next to Woody," said Mr. Geren, quoting a WWII veteran who fought alongside Keeble.

Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England told the audience that Keeble's heroism and sacrifice reminds Americans of the high price of freedom.

"Woodrow Keeble showed us -- again and again on desperate battlefields from the home he loved, first in the Pacific and then in Korea -- the very best we can be," he said. "America needs its heroes, needs men like Woodrow Keeble -- we need their service, and perhaps most of all, we need their example."

(John J. Kruzal writes for the American Forces Press Service. Reports from ARNEWS's Carrie McLeroy and AFPS's Donna Miles contributed to this article.)

[Items within brackets were added by the Editor, 164th Infantry News to more accurately depict Keeble's National Guard service]

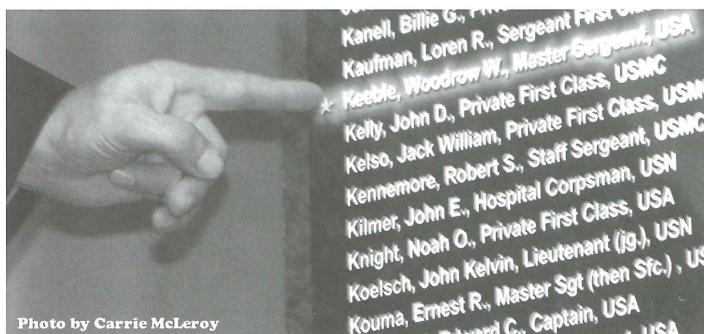


Photo by Carrie McLeroy

Above, Russ Hawkins points to MSgt Woodrow Wilson Keeble's name on the Roster of Medal of Honor recipients listed in the Hall of Heroes in the Pentagon.

164's Wagner & Fenelon go to the White House!


The President
requests the pleasure of your company
at a ceremony and reception
to be held at
The White House
on Monday, March 3, 2008
at two-thirty o'clock
On the occasion of
the presentation of the
Medal of Honor
(Posthumously)
to
Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble, USA



Photo by Chuck Wagner



Photo Courtesy Jim Fenelon

Bernie Wagner; Mark Eriksson, grandson of Jim Fenelon; Fenelon; and Wendel Crook of the Shakopee Sioux Tribe, assemble at the Crystal City Marriot awaiting the trip to the White House




Keeble's nephew, Kurt Bluedog, and stepson, Russell Hawkins, stand with the President at the White House ceremony. Photo by Chuck Wagner

"The Events" by Bernie Wagner

When I received an invitation to attend the Medal of Honor recognition for my friend Woody from the Vice Chairman, Jake Thompson of the Oyate Tribe in Sisseton, South Dakota, I immediately starting making plans. I contacted my Son, Chuck, who is a Life Member of the 164th Infantry Association, asking him if he would make the Air Reservations and the Hotel Reservations. We flew out of Bismarck and, on arrival in Washington, D.C., we went directly to our Hotel which was just a few minutes from the Headquarters Hotel. Beginning the next morning (Monday), we were involved in 2 Days of Ceremonies, beginning at the White House with the President of the United States, followed by an outstanding reception.

More on the next page....

THE PRESIDENT
welcomes you to
THE WHITE HOUSE
on the occasion of the presentation of the
MEDAL OF HONOR
to
MASTER SERGEANT
WOODROW W. KEEBLE
 UNITED STATES ARMY



Monday, March 3, 2008

....And The Pentagon

The Congressional Medal of Honor



The Congressional Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States.

The Medal of Honor is awarded by the President in the name of Congress to a person who, while a member of the Armed Services, distinguishes himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life or her life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his comrades and must have involved risk of life. Incontestable proof of the performance of the service will be exacted and each recommendation for the award of this decoration will be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit.

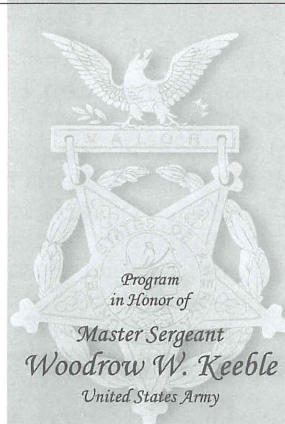
The Army Song

*First to fight for the right
And to build the Nation's might
And The Army Goes Rolling Along.*

*Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And The Army Goes Rolling Along.*

*Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey!
The Army's on its way,
Count off the cadence loud and strong
(Two! Three!)*

*For where e'er we go,
You will always know
That The Army Goes Rolling Along.*



Hall of Heroes
Induction Ceremony

4 March 2008
The Pentagon Conference Center
Washington, DC

Sequence of Events

- Arrival of Official Party
- National Anthem
- Remarks by General Richard A. Cody, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army
- Remarks by The Honorable Pete Geren, Secretary of the Army
- Remarks by The Honorable Gordon England, Deputy Secretary of Defense
- Unveiling of Picture and Citation
- Unveiling of the Hall of Heroes Plaque
- Army Song
- Conclusion of Ceremony

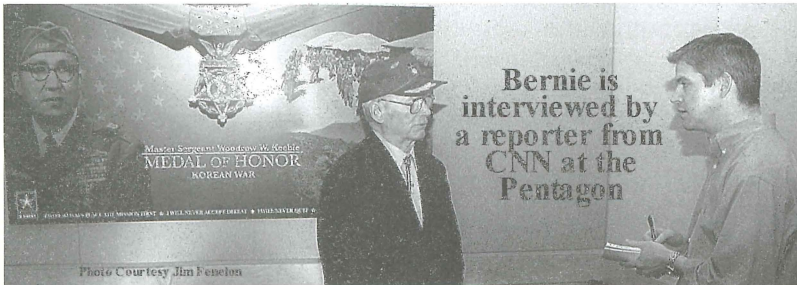
“The Events” by Bernie Wagner (continued from page 10)

On Tuesday, it was to the Pentagon for more recognition Ceremonies and reception, and that evening it was to Fort Meyers Officer Club for another outstanding reception. Transportation was by Bus, escorted by the D.C. Police Department with non stop travel from our Hotel to the program areas. We went through security screenings when boarding the bus at the Marriott and again at each destination, but it was a quick process.

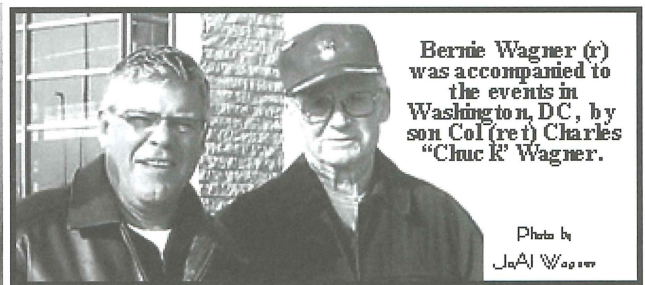
About 200 people attended the events, including Woody’s family, Korean War buddies, two of us WWII comrades, military officials, political dignitaries, and members of the Sioux Nation.

Overall, it was an outstanding recognition for our friend Woody Keeble.

More on the next page

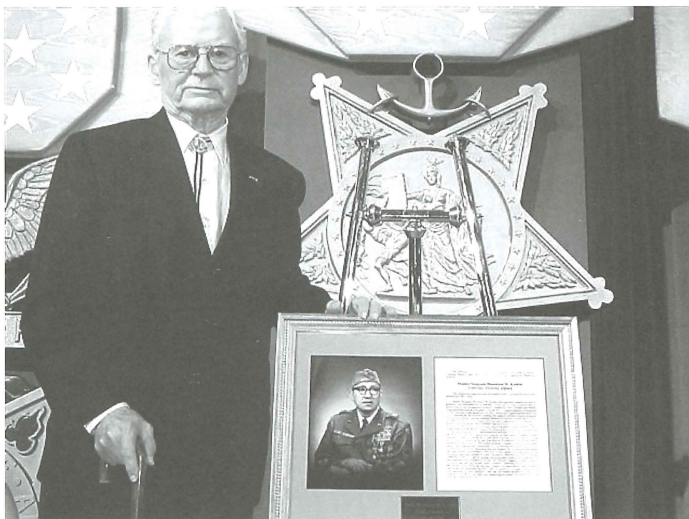


Bernie is interviewed by a reporter from CNN at the Pentagon



Bernie Wagner (r) was accompanied to the events in Washington, DC, by son Col (ret) Charles "Chuc R" Wagner.

Photo by Jim Wagner



Welcome Home Warrior Ceremony

“The Events” by Bernie Wagner (continued from page 11)

In March we were invited to attend a reception and Pow Wow at the Dakota Magic Casino in Hankinson ND, which was an outstanding program with Honor Guards from the Indian Reservations in North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Iowa.

In May there is a program in Sisseton, South Dakota where the Medal of Honor Headstone will be replacing the original Veterans Headstone. This again will include a large recognition program with entertainment.

As President of the 164th Infantry Association, I was honored to witness and be a part of the Medal of Honor activities for an outstanding Soldier and friend. I want to thank Vice Chairman Jake Thompson to have included my family in the overall activities since we met at the Engelstad Arena in Grand Forks. Jake Thompson's Dad, Cliff, Thompson was a Mortar Squad Sergeant in my Platoon on Guadalcanal.

Daily News
On-Line From: Wahpeton, ND and Breckenridge, Minn.

Keeble Honored by Tribes

By Anna Jouhala, Wahpeton Daily News

Hundreds gathered Saturday afternoon [22 March 2008] and into the evening at the Dakota Magic Convention Center to celebrate the life of Master Sgt. Woodrow Wilson Keeble, the most decorated soldier in North Dakota.

Keeble recently received the Medal of Honor posthumously, being only the third American Indian to receive the nation's highest honor; he is the first to receive it in the Dakota Nation. Members of the several tribes who serve or have served in the military lined the front of the convention center Saturday to honor Keeble. From current soldiers to those who served in the Korean War, some dressed in fatigues of today and others dressed in VFW uniforms, all to honor Keeble. In front of the podium are Keeble's many citations, including the Medal of Honor, a helmet he wore with the bullet hole in it, and the Eagle Staff, which represents the 13 wounds he sustained in battle.



Photo By Merry Helm

Those who spoke of Keeble spoke of a quiet man, who simply smiled and introduced himself, "Hi, I'm Woody." He rarely spoke of his heroics during the Korean War, he was more dedicated to caring for his family and those who needed a friend. He joined the Wahpeton community when he was young and his mother found employment at what is now Circle of Nations School. After Keeble's mother died, he stayed on in Wahpeton and called the town his home.



Russ Hawkins speaks about Woody. In front of the podium were Keeble's many citations, including the Medal of Honor, a helmet he wore with the bullet hole in it, and the Eagle Staff with 13 feathers to represent the 13 wounds he sustained in battle.

Photo by Anna Jouhala

Amid drums, singing and applause, Rosebud Sioux Tribe President Rodney Bordeaux announced the tribe officially named March 22, 2008, Woodrow Keeble Day. Hollers and yells of delight filled the center and Bordeaux shook Russell Hawkins' hand. Hawkins is Keeble's step-son.

Hawkins spoke of his step-father as his best friend. At the age of 12, Hawkins met Keeble and thought Keeble was over to see him. It wasn't until Keeble proposed to Hawkins' mother did Hawkins realize Keeble had actually been to see her. This didn't stop Hawkins and Keeble from having a good relationship. Hawkins spoke of his step-father's valor and bravery — it didn't come from hatred he had for his enemies, "it came from his love for his fellow man," Hawkins said. He fought for his comrades, his family at home and his country.

He was wounded 13 times during battle, which was symbolized Saturday with an Eagle Staff. The Eagle Staff had 13 feathers, six of which were for rifle wounds and seven of which were for shrapnel wounds, Hawkins said.

Hawkins also spoke of the end of Keeble's life, after he had seven strokes and could no longer speak. Keeble communicated through notes, one of which said, "Woody Keeble, World War II, Korean War, 250 kills, hell." Hawkins asked Keeble if he thought he was going to hell for killing so many people. Keeble answered yes. Hawkins asked if he could remember each person he killed and Keeble answered yes. Seeing his step-father and good friend was deeply troubled by this, he called his sister Catherine to comfort him in his last month.

Keeble died after his eighth stroke in 1982 and was specially welcomed home Saturday by his and many other Dakota Sioux tribes. A sign in the background said "Welcome Home Akicita" which means "Welcome Home Soldier".

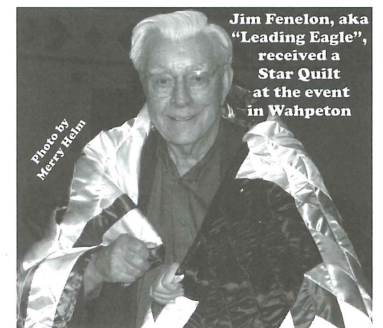


Photo by Merry Helm

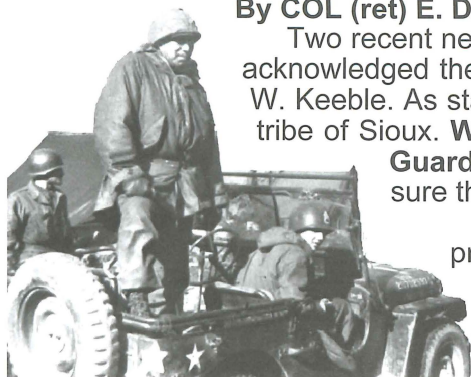
Jim Fenelon, aka "Leading Eagle", received a Star Quilt at the event in Wahpeton

Article reprinted with Permission from the Wahpeton Daily News

Keeble left a legacy of honor and duty

By COL (ret) E. DUANE HOLLY, Bismarck [Commander, Company I, at Camp Rucker]

Two recent newspaper pieces (an AP story, the other a Tribune editorial) announced and acknowledged the awarding of the Medal of Honor, posthumously, to Master Sgt. Woodrow W. Keeble. As stated, Keeble was a Native American, a member of the Wahpeton-Sisseton tribe of Sioux. **What is not mentioned is the fact that he was a North Dakota National Guardsman as well.** I don't mean to imply that this omission was deliberate. I'm sure the authors simply were not aware of this fact.



Keeble enlisted in **Co "I", 164th Infantry Regiment**, at Wahpeton prior to World War II. The Regiment was mobilized in 1941, sent to Camp Clairborne, La., for training and eventually took part in the bloody fighting on Guadalcanal, in support of the 1st Marine Division. He was the first Army unit to take offensive action in the Pacific.

Following four years of combat in the Pacific, Keeble returned to Wahpeton and was employed at the Wahpeton Indian School. In January 1951, the North Dakota Army National Guard was mobilized again, during the Korean conflict. Keeble, just two weeks prior to the unit's departure for Camp Rucker, Ala., **re-enlisted in Co "I" at Wahpeton** and went again on active duty, explaining, "Someone has to teach these kids how to fight."

Later that year, he volunteered—literally asking for the short straw in the company draw—to go to Korea as an individual replacement. From that time on his heroic exploits were numerous as evidenced by his four Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star with (valor) device, the Silver Star and the Distinguished Service Cross.

The whole point of this letter is to point out that Keeble was at all times a North Dakota National Guardsman. He was proud of being a Guardsman, proud of his heritage, equally proud of his state, and represented all three above and beyond.

He left a legacy that North Dakota National Guard members are continuing to live up to. All of us today can take justifiable pride in the fact that our North Dakota Guard is fully willing and capable of fulfilling the legacy left behind by Master Sgt. Keeble.

Rough Rider Award!

BISMARCK, N.D., 7 May 2008 – Governor John Hoeven today announced that the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award will be presented to Master Sgt. Woodrow "Woody" Wilson Keeble, Medal of Honor recipient and one of North Dakota's most decorated soldiers. The award is presented to individuals who have achieved national recognition, reflecting credit and honor upon North Dakota and its citizens. Keeble is the 36th North Dakotan to receive the award. "Woody Keeble twice answered the call of his nation, fighting in two wars, and serving with dedication, selflessness, and the courage to continually risk his life for his fellow soldiers," said Hoeven. "His receiving the Medal of Honor was long overdue. Master Sgt. Keeble is truly symbolic of all of our military servicemen and servicewomen, and our veterans." Three of the 35 Rough Rider Award's recipients were honored for their military service; all are general officers. A letter on Keeble's behalf, signed by more than 50 people, claimed the state would be recognizing all North Dakotans who serve in the military. "You will send a message to all of North Dakota's brave men and women who have, or are, serving their (country) in the military," the letter says. "That message is that, even if they do not reach the ranks of general or admiral, if they serve with great distinction and courage, their service is worthy of the highest recognition the state of North Dakota can bestow." Hoeven said he understood the argument. "I think, particularly now, with the war on terror ... all of our military is doing such an incredible job, and our Guard has played such a big role". A formal ceremony to present the award to Keeble's family is currently being planned for this summer.

Roughrider award: www.governor.state.nd.us/awards/rr-gallery/



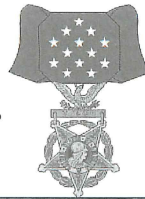
Baseball Between Battles

The player with Woody Keeble is Harold 'Sport' Lenzmeier. Heb Diederick took the picture in 1947. The team was the Wahpeton Red Sox, a city amateur team that won the ND State Amateur Tournament

Thanks to Merry Helm for the photo, and Lane Wateland, Wayne Beyer, & Heb Diederick for the info!

Master Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Keeble...

...A Brave Citizen Soldier



Awards and Citations: Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star w/1 Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC) & "V" Device, Purple Heart w/OLC, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal w/bronze service stars, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal w/Japan clasp, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, United Nations Service Medal, ROK Korean Service Medal
 Combat Infantryman Badge (2nd Award), US Army Presidential Unit Citation (K), US Navy Presidential Unit Citation (WWII), Meritorious Unit Commendation (K), Republic of the Philippines Presidential Unit Citation (WWII), Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation (K), Honorable Service Lapel Button (WWII)

**K
O
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A**




**24th Division
19th Infantry Regiment**



**W
W
II**




**Americal Division
164th Infantry Regiment**



Near Sang-san-ni, Korea, on 20 Oct 51, Sgt. Keeble, leading the support platoon, suddenly saw that the attacking elements had become pinned down on a precipitous slope by... machine-gun fire from three well fortified and carefully placed enemy positions.he dashed forward and joined the pinned down platoon. Then, hugging the ground, he crawled forward alone until he was in close proximity to one of the hostile machine-gun emplacements... he activated a grenade and... successfully destroyed the position. Continuing his one-man assault, he moved to the second enemy position and destroyed it with another grenade. Despite the fact that the hostile troops were now directing their entire firepower against him and unleashing a shower of grenades in a frantic attempt to stop his advance, he moved forward against the third hostile emplacement. Stunned by an enemy concussion grenade, he... renewed his assault and skillfully neutralized the remaining enemy position with exceptionally accurate rifle fire.he continued to direct deadly accurate fire against nearby enemy trenches, inflicting extremely heavy casualties on the foe. Inspired by his courageous example, the friendly troops secured the important objective. [Excerpt]



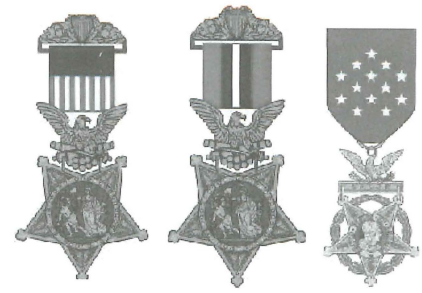
M. Sgt. Woodrow W. Keeble, distinguished himself by courageous action near Chuk-Tong, Korea, on 18 Oct. 1951. His company had the mission of taking and securing Objective F. one of a series of steep, wooded, enemy-held hills. As he led the assault platoon into the attack the enemy placed the unit under murderous automatic weapons and small arms fire, thereby halting their advance, and was on the point of securing the objective when the enemy counter-attacked. The friendly troops being low on ammunition, were forced to withdraw. When the support platoon replaced them, Sgt. Keeble, with complete disregard for his own safety, volunteered to lead it into the attack. Advancing well ahead of the other men, he fired an enemy automatic weapon from the hip until it ran out of ammunition, and then continued to deliver marching fire with his own rifle. The platoon, inspired by his fearlessness, quickly overran the objective and forced the enemy to flee in wild disorder, leaving 15 dead behind. [Excerpt]



For heroic action near Yoho-Eagae, Korea, on 24 Nov 1951. His platoon had the mission of making a combat patrol to Hill 747, a steep and rocky terrain feature. As the platoon moved up the finger ridge to the objective it ran into an enemy mine field and a man was wounded by an exploding mine. Sgt. Keeble immediately ordered his patrol to the other slope of the finger ridge. After evacuating the wounded man, the patrol moved on up the hill until the enemy, from a flanking position, placed in an intense barrage of mortar, automatic weapon and small arms fire upon the patrol, forcing them to withdraw to the slope containing the mines. The patrol was then ordered to return to the company. Having no other alternative but to move through the minefield. Sgt. Keeble, fully aware of the danger, advanced to a point about 25 yards in front of the platoon. Then, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, he slowly made his way through the minefield with his men following in his path... successfully led his men to safety without a casualty. [Excerpt]

History of the Medal of Honor

General George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit in 1792 but it fell into disuse after the Revolutionary War. Decorations, as such, were still too closely related to European royalty to be of concern to the American people. However, the fierce fighting and deeds of valor during the Civil War brought the realization that such valor must be recognized. Legislation was introduced in the Senate in 1862, which authorized the medal for the Army. The Resolution provided that: "The President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause two thousand "medals of honor" to be prepared with suitable emblematic devices, and to direct that the same be presented, in the name of Congress, to such noncommissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish them-selves by their gallantry in action, and other soldier-like qualities during the present insurrection...." The initial law was amended by Congress on 3 March 1863 to include officers.



L-R: 1862, 1896, & 1904 designs

Design: The original design for the Army pendant was identical to the design approved by the Navy, with the exception of the suspension and clasp. In 1896, misuse of the medal led to a change in the design of the ribbon because the original had been imitated by nonmilitary organizations. At this time a bowknot (rosette) was adopted to be worn in lieu of the medal. The ribbon and bowknot, established and prescribed by the President, was promulgated in War Department Orders dated 10 November 1896. Congress authorized a new design of the medal in 1904; it is the one currently in use. The medal was worn either suspended from the neck or pinned over the left breast in precedence to other military decorations. The present neck ribbon was adopted in 1944. It is worn outside the shirt collar and inside the coat, hanging above all other decorations.

Criteria: The Medal of Honor is awarded by the President, in the name of Congress, to a person who, while a member of the Army, distinguishes himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades and must have involved risk of life. Incontestable proof of the performance of the service will be exacted and each recommendation for the award of this decoration will be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit.

Description (Army): A gold five pointed star, each point tipped with trefoils, 1 1/2 inches wide, surrounded by a green laurel wreath and suspended from a gold bar inscribed "VALOR", surmounted by an eagle. In the center of the star, Minerva's head surrounded by the words "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA." On each ray of the star is a green oak leaf. On reverse is a bar engraved "THE CONGRESS TO" with a space for engraving the recipient's name. The medal is suspended by a neck ribbon, 1 3/8 inches wide. A shield of the same color ribbon with thirteen White stars, arranged in the form of three chevrons is above the medal. The service ribbon is 1/38 inches wide with five White stars in the form of an "M".



Only Woman Medal of Honor Holder Ahead of Her Time

Mary Edwards Walker was the first American woman to be a military doctor, a prisoner of war, and a Medal of Honor recipient. She was also a Union spy and a crusader against tobacco and alcohol. She was born in 1832, in N.Y., and graduated from Syracuse Medical College in 1855. She set up a medical practice in Rome, N.Y., but the public wasn't ready to accept a woman physician. When the Civil War started, the Union Army wouldn't hire women doctors, so Walker volunteered as a nurse...and treated wounded soldiers at the Battle of Bull Run. In 1862, she received an Army contract appointing her as an assistant surgeon with the 52nd Ohio Infantry. The first woman doctor to serve with the Army Medical Corps, Walker cared for sick and wounded troops in Tennessee at Chickamauga and in Georgia during the Battle of Atlanta. Confederate troops captured her on April 10, 1864, and held her until the sides exchanged prisoners of war on Aug. 12, 1864. The Army nominated Walker for the Medal of Honor for her wartime service. President Andrew Johnson signed the citation on Nov. 11, 1865, and she received the award on Jan. 24, 1866. Her citation cites her wartime service, but not specifically valor in combat. It was revoked during the MOH "reform" of 1916, but it was restored by President Jimmy Carter on June 11, 1977. Today, it's on display in the Pentagon's women's corridor. A Nov 25, 1974, letter from the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee read, in part, "It's clear [Mary Walker] was not only courageous during the term she served as a contract doctor in the Union Army, but also as an outspoken proponent of feminine rights. Both as a doctor and feminist, she was much ahead of her time and, as is usual, she was not regarded kindly by many of her contemporaries. Today she appears prophetic." Walker is quoted as saying 'Let the generations know that women in uniform also guaranteed their freedom.'

Excerpt article by Rudi Williams defenseink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=42772

More MOH statistics at history.army.mil/html/moh/mohstats.html

Medals of Honor	Total	Army
Civil War	1522	1198
Indian Campaigns	426	426
Korea 1871	15	0
Spanish American	110	31
Samoa	4	0
Philippine Insur.	80	69
Philippine Outlaws	6	1
Boxer Rebellion	59	4
Mexican Campaign	56	1
Haiti	6	0
Dominican Republic	3	0
World War I	124	95
Haiti 1919-1920	2	0
Nicaraguan	2	0
World War II	464	324
Korean War	133	80
Vietnam	246	160
Somalia	2	2
Afghanistan	1	0
Iraq	3	1
Non-Combat	193	3
Unknowns	9	9
TOTALS	3466	2401

Keeble: "A one-man Army from North Dakota" – Soldier of Fortune Magazine

FACT SHEET



The Army National Guard in the Korean War

From the National Guard Bureau Website

Within days of North Korea's June 25, 1950, invasion across the 38th parallel into South Korea, President Harry Truman and his military advisors made the decision to mobilize part of the Reserve components of the Army National Guard. On June 30, 1950, the Selective Service Extension Act continued the military draft in effect since 1948 and authorized the president to order Reserve component units into federal service for a period not to exceed 21 months (later increased to 24 months).

In the days immediately following the North Korean invasion, mobilization planners envisioned activating only a limited number of specialized Reserve units. However, after a string of military disasters on the Korean Peninsula forced U.S. and Republic of Korea (ROK) troops steadily back toward their final defensive perimeter around the port city of Pusan, it became obvious that more Reserve and National Guard troops would be needed. Accordingly, the first Army National Guard units alerted for federalization in July 1950 included the 40th (California) and 45th (Oklahoma) Infantry Divisions, both of which reported for active duty on Aug. 14, 1950. Two weeks later Pennsylvania's 28th Infantry Division and the 43d from the New England states were also federalized. These two divisions were sent to Germany to shore up U.S. strategic defenses there; the 40th and 45th would later see combat in Korea.

The mobilization of the Army National Guard for Korean War service occurred in 19 separate increments, with units reporting for active duty between Aug. 14, 1950, and Feb. 15, 1952. It included eight infantry divisions, three regimental combat teams, and 714 company-sized units.

The 138,600 personnel federalized with their units represented about one third of the Army National Guard's total strength. **Many Guardsmen went to Korea not with their units, but as individual replacements for units already in theater.**

The first Army National Guard units reached South Korea in late December 1950 as the U.S.-led United Nations Command was recovering from the shock of the Chinese communists' entry into the war two months before. The forces of the U.S. and its U.N. allies, which had driven through North Korea almost to the Manchurian border, were forced to retreat after one of the worst defeats an American army has ever suffered. Later, the regrouped Eighth U.S. Army mounted limited offensives against the Chinese and North Koreans, and as spring approached was joined by increasing numbers of Army National Guard units, including many engineer, field artillery and transportation units.

Enemy forces launched another major offensive during spring 1951, and recaptured Seoul for the third time. U.S. artillery, often firing at point-blank range, was a major weapon against the terrifying "human wave," attacks which had come to characterize the fighting in Korea. Three Army National Guard artillery battalions, the 196th Field Artillery (Tennessee), 937th Field Artillery (Arkansas), and 300th Armored Field Artillery (Wyoming) won Presidential Unit Citations for supporting Army and Marine divisions.

As their company- and battalion-sized counterparts arrived in South Korea to join the fighting, the Army National Guard's 40th and 45th Infantry Divisions were training in Japan. While there had been talk of leaving the two divisions in Japan, in November 1951 the decision was made for a "swap in place" between the two Guard divisions and the 1st Cavalry and 24th Infantry Division. In December 1951, the 45th Division arrived in South Korea to take over the positions, equipment, and mission of the 1st Cavalry Division; in January, the process was repeated by the 40th and the 24th Infantry Divisions.

The sweeping back-and-forth drama of the first year's fighting in Korea was over, and the two National Guard divisions found themselves in a different kind of combat environment. As formal peace talks began in November 1951, U.N. and communist forces had settled themselves on either side of the 38th parallel. The National Guard divisions joined in a static warfare of entrenched positions and frequent combat patrols, punctuated by small-unit actions initiated by both sides.

Combat operations intensified once again in the spring of 1953, as both sides jockeyed for territory before a final border settlement. Both the 40th and 45th Infantry Divisions were still occupying their positions when the signing of an armistice at Panmunjon finally ended the fighting on July 27, 1953.

By this time, Army Guardsmen who had arrived in South Korea during 1951 and early 1952 had returned home, their term of active federal service completed. But most National Guard units, now filled with draftees and enlistees, remained on active duty. Some stayed in Korea for several years, helping to monitor the fragile peace, but by 1955 almost all of the units federalized for the Korean War had been returned to state control.

The 164th Infantry News, "Special Issue" May 2008

FACT SHEET



South to the Naktong

Ground forces most readily available to MacArthur included the 1st Cavalry Division and the 7th, 24th and 25th Infantry Divisions, all under the Eighth U.S. Army (EUSA) headquartered in Japan; the 29th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) in Okinawa, Japan; and the 5th RCT from Hawaii. But these units were hard pressed to defend the ROK because they were undermanned and their mobility and firepower had been reduced by shortages of organic units and equipment. In an effort to delay the NKPA advance, MacArthur ordered the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division moved to a defensive position astride the main road near Osan, 10 miles below Suwon. Named Task Force (TF) Smith after the battalion commander, this 540-man command lacked effective anti-tank weapons and was ill-prepared to stop the NKPA. Outflanked by an NKPA division and suffering some 200 casualties and the loss of all equipment, TF Smith broke into a disorganized retreat.

Meanwhile, at the United Nation's request, the United States formed the United Nations Command (UNC), which would integrate all American and allied forces. General MacArthur became its commander. He assigned command of ground forces in the Korea to Eighth U.S. Army under Lieutenant General Walton H. Walker. At the request of ROK President Syngman Rhee, Walker also assumed command of the ROK Army.

By the beginning of August, after the arrival of the 29th RCT from Okinawa on July 26, Eighth U.S. Army held only a small portion of southeastern Korea. Walker ordered a stand along a 140-mile line arching from the Korea Strait to the East Sea (Sea of Japan) west and north of Pusan. Known as the "Pusan Perimeter," American divisions occupied the western segment, basing their position along the Naktong River; the ROK Army defended the northern segment. With Pusan secure, additional troops and equipment began arriving to reinforce EUSA's perilously long, thin defensive line. At the same time the arrival of the U.S. Army's 5th RCT from Hawaii, the 2d Infantry Division and the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade from the United States, and a British infantry brigade, strengthened EUSA.



Photo Caption: Pershing medium tank M26 in position to stop enemy attempts to cross the Naktong River. Sept. 3, 1950



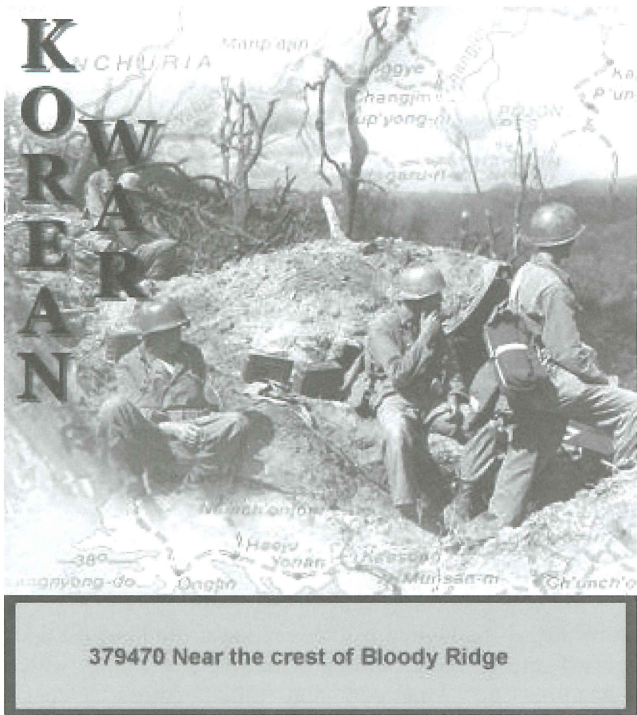
Photo Caption: Men of the 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, work their way over the snowy mountains about 10 miles north of Seoul, Korea, attempting to locate the enemy lines and positions.

<http://korea50.army.mil/history/factsheets/army.shtml>

Outbreak of the War

The Korean War began with a surprise attack June 25, 1950, when eight divisions and an armored brigade (90,000 soldiers) of the North Korean People's Army (NKPA) attacked in three columns across the 38th parallel and invaded the Republic of Korea (ROK). Many of the NKPA were battle-tested, having served in the Chinese and Soviet armies in World War II. The 98,000-strong ROK Army (ROKA), its combat training incomplete, and having no tanks and only 89 howitzers, was no match for the better-equipped NKPA. Aided only by a 500-man U.S. Korean Military Advisory Group, the ROKA was overwhelmed. Spearheaded by tanks, NKPA forces moved rapidly through the Uijongbu Gap on the west side of the Korean peninsula and captured Seoul, South Korea's capital. The ROKA fled south in disarray across the Han River toward Pusan, a major port at the southeastern tip of the Korean peninsula.

On June 25, the U.N. Security Council denounced North Korea's actions and called for a cessation of hostilities and withdrawal of the NKPA to the 38th parallel. President Harry S. Truman directed General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, whose Far East Command (FEC) was located in Tokyo, to evacuate American dependents from Korea and send ammunition to the beleaguered ROKA. The following day, Truman sanctioned the use of American air and naval forces below the 38th parallel. The next day, as the situation worsened, the United Nations requested its members to furnish military assistance to repel the invasion. Truman then extended American air and naval actions to North Korea and authorized the use of U.S. Army troops to protect Pusan. MacArthur, however, recommended committing a U.S. Army regiment in the Seoul area. Truman agreed, and on June 30 he told MacArthur to use all forces available to him.



379470 Near the crest of Bloody Ridge

Inchon

aving traded space for time, **H**MacArthur saw that the deeper the NKPA drove south, the more vulnerable it became to an amphibious envelopment. The amphibious force consisted of the 1st Marine Division and the 7th Infantry Division, its ranks fleshed out with several thousand Korean recruits. MacArthur's decision to land at Inchon was a dangerous but remarkably bold and successful gamble. Tidal conditions allowed only a small window of opportunity for the landing. Moreover, he would be committing his last major reserves at a time when no more general reserve units were available in the United States.

Following the successful, lightly opposed landings at Inchon on Sept. 15, arduous street-to-street combat took place to liberate Seoul. On Sept. 29, the capital city was returned to President Rhee. Although many communist guerillas would remain behind, the NKPA virtually disintegrated and ceased to be an effective fighting force.

North to the Yalu

Truman authorized MacArthur to send his forces north of the 38th parallel on Sept. 27, provided there was no indication that major Soviet or Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) would enter the war. The U.N. General Assembly approved the UNC's entry into North Korea 10 days later, when it called for the restoration of peace and security throughout Korea. American and ROK Army forces rapidly advanced northward.

Warnings of Chinese intervention increased as the UNC pressed deeper into North Korea. At a Wake Island meeting on Oct. 15, Truman directed MacArthur to continue his advance if he believed UNC forces had a reasonable chance of success. Hoping to end operations before the onset of winter, MacArthur ordered all ground forces to advance to the northern border as rapidly as possible.

The New War

Beginning on Oct. 25, UNC forces met stout resistance almost everywhere across their front. On November 1, the 1st Cavalry Division's 8th Cavalry Regiment fought fierce battles with the CCF. Severe fighting continued Nov. 5–6, after which the CCF abruptly halted its activities in all sectors, leaving the UNC uncertain as to whether the CCF's actions had been merely defensive.

Tenth Corps, reinforced by the U.S. 3d Infantry Division, and EUSA slowly renewed their offensive. Thinning logistical lines of support, inadequate intelligence and sub-zero cold added to the difficulties of the UNC. With the 7th Division leading, X Corps reached the Yalu at the town of Hyesanjin. Eighth Army units began moving forward from the Chongchon on Nov. 24, and were hit hard by strong CCF attacks. On Nov. 27, the attacks engulfed the leftmost forces of the X Corps at the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir, and by Nov. 28th, UNC positions began to crumble. MacArthur informed Washington that the UNC faced an entirely new war. With more than 300,000 Chinese in North Korea, he directed Walker to withdraw to escape envelopment by the CCF. MacArthur ordered X Corps to fall back to a beachhead around the port of Hungnam.

Unrelenting CCF pressure, which often included surprise nighttime assaults and hand-to-hand combat and the rigors of a harsh winter, made the UNC's retreat dangerous and costly. The 2d Division, covering the withdrawal of I Corps and the ROK II Corps from the Chongchon, encountered an entrenched CCF force below the town of Kunu-ri. The CCF surrounded and severely punished the 2d Division as the unit fought its way through the gauntlet to escape.

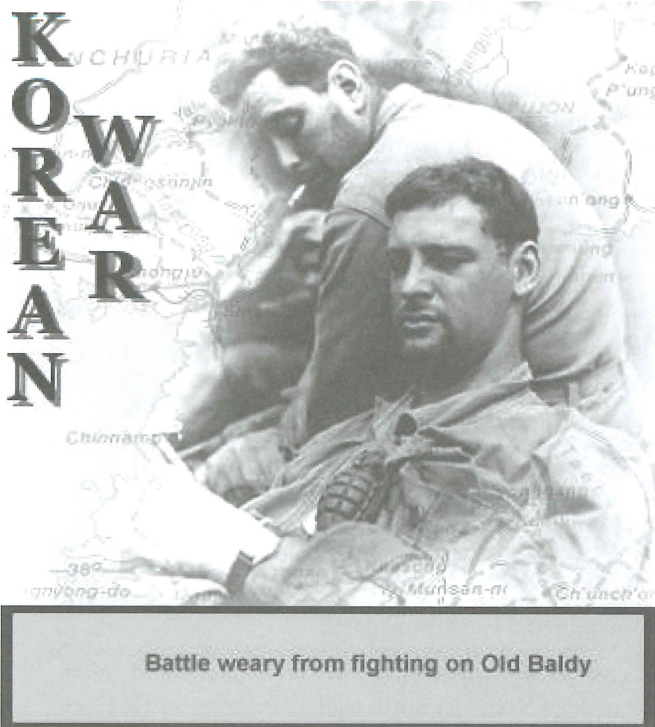
Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir

Abandoning Pyongyang on Dec. 5, elements of EUSA reached the 38th parallel 10 days later, where it prepared to protect Seoul and develop a coast-to-coast defense. Tenth Corps fought a 13-day running battle to the east coast as it withdrew to Hungnam. Near the Changjin Reservoir, the 1st Marine Division and elements of the U.S. 7th Division met stiff opposition from the CCF in positions overlooking the mountain road to the sea. The 3d Division, positioned near Hungnam with X Corps, was sent inland to open the road and protect the withdrawal of the Army and Marine Corps units. On Dec. 11, X Corps completed its move to Hungnam, and American and ROK Army forces began their evacuation to Pusan the same day. Tenth Corps, now part of EUSA, completed the evacuation Christmas Eve.



Men of Headquarters Company, 7th Regimental Combat Team, 3d Infantry Division, relax in their new winter quarters. Nov. 5, 1951

The 164th Infantry News, "Special Issue" May 2008



A Change in Leadership

Chinese Communist Force (CCF) attacks and successive withdrawals had weakened EUSA, and General Walker's accidental death on Dec. 23, was another dispiriting blow. Lt Gen Matthew B. Ridgway, who arrived from Washington, D.C., on Dec. 26, took command of EUSA. Despite Ridgway's hurried efforts to brace the defensive line across the peninsula, he and his men could not contain the CCF's New Year's offensive. Seoul fell in early January 1951. Ridgway pulled EUSA's entire front below the 38th parallel.

When the CCF offensive faltered in mid-January, Ridgway was ready to resume the offensive and adopted a strategy to inflict maximum casualties on the enemy with minimum losses to his troops. Ridgway proposed a war of maneuver, slashing the enemy as it withdrew and fighting delaying actions when the enemy attacked. Land gains became less important than damaging CCF/NKPA and keeping the enemy off balance.

Ridgway's offensive began on Jan. 25, advancing slowly and methodically, ridge by ridge, phase line by phase line, wiping out each pocket of resistance before moving farther north. Operations THUNDERBOLT, KILLER, RIPPER and RUGGED carried the U.N. forces forward. EUSA liberated Seoul in mid-March and neared the 38th parallel. For the next month, EUSA cautiously probed north of the parallel, expanding the front first to phase Line KANSAS, 10 miles above the 38th, and then to the Iron Triangle, an enemy logistical area north of Line KANSAS.

Ridgway's ground strategy proved apt for the new, more limited objectives that American and U.N. officials adopted of clearing the CCF/NKPA from South Korea and opening negotiations with the enemy. Because of differences regarding war strategy and goals, Truman relieved MacArthur as United Nations Forces commander on April 11, and replaced him with Ridgway. On April 14, Lieutenant General James A. Van Fleet succeeded Ridgway as head of EUSA.

Eight days after Van Fleet assumed command, the enemy began its spring offensive. The major CCF and NKPA attack was directed at Seoul. The I Corps contained the enemy's advance. EUSA halted the attack on May 20, after the enemy had penetrated 30 miles. Seeking to preclude another enemy attack, Van Fleet ordered EUSA forward. By the end of May, EUSA had progressed to a position just short of Line KANSAS, having virtually cleared the ROK of enemy troops. Van Fleet moved next to reach Line WYOMING, which would give EUSA control of the lower portion of the Iron Triangle.

When the Soviet Union's delegate to the United Nations proposed a cease-fire in Korea on June 23, EUSA occupied Line KANSAS and the Wyoming Bulge, ground suitable for a strong defense.

The Static War

As the fighting lapsed into patrolling and small local clashes, armistice negotiations began on July 10, 1951, at Kaesong. The opposing delegations agreed that hostilities would continue until an armistice was signed. Except for brief episodes, action along the front for the next two years never regained the momentum of the first year. On Nov. 17, the two delegations agreed that a line of demarcation during the armistice would be the existing line of contact provided an agreement was reached in 30 days. On Nov. 12, Ridgway ordered Van Fleet to cease offensive operations. Fighting tapered off to patrol clashes, raids and small battles for possession of outposts in no-man's land.

The battlefield stalemate was periodically interrupted by artillery duels, ambushes, raids and costly small-scale hill battles such as Old Baldy. The battlefield lull enabled the Army to return the 1st Cavalry and 24th Infantry Divisions to Japan and to replace them with the 40th and 45th Infantry Divisions, two of the eight Army National Guard divisions that were mobilized during the war. A new United Nations Forces commander, General Mark W. Clark, replaced Ridgway in May 1952, and Lieutenant General Maxwell D. Taylor replaced Van Fleet as EUSA commander in February 1953.

As armistice negotiations entered their final and decisive phase in May, the enemy stepped up combat action. CCF forces launched regimental attacks against EUSA outposts in the west. In July, the enemy sought to wrest more ground from the UNC by driving a wedge eight miles deep into EUSA's central sector. Taylor quickly contained the enemy and counterattacked, but with an armistice agreement imminent, EUSA halted its attack on July 20 short of the original line. Finally, on July 27, 1953, the Armistice was signed and all fighting stopped.

After 37 months of combat, total UNC casualties reached more than 550,000, including 95,000 dead. American losses included 33,686 killed and 103,284 wounded. United States Army casualties alone totaled 27,728 dead and 77,596 wounded. The bulk of these casualties occurred during the first year of fighting. The estimate of enemy casualties, including prisoners, exceeded 1,500,000 of whom 900,000 were Chinese.

The Army deployed eight divisions to Korea--the 1st Cavalry Division; the 2d, 3d, 7th, 24th, 25th, 40th and 45th Infantry Divisions; and the 5th, 29th and 187th RCTs. U.S. Army personnel received 78 of the 131 Medals of Honor awarded to military members who served in Korea.

Overview of Korean War Battles/Offensives



Flow of transportation continues across a bridge under construction in Korea.

(Army and Corps) (General time frames)

- North Korea attacks South Korea 25 June 1950
- Task Force Smith at Osan, South Korea 5-6 July 1950
- Kum River Line defense (Taejon) 11-22 July 1950
- Pusan Perimeter defense 4 Aug -- 16 Sept 1950
- Inchon Landing 15 Sept 1950
- Liberation of Seoul (1st return) 21-30 Sept 1950
- Advance into North Korea (west coast) 1 Oct -- 27 Oct 1950
- Withdrawal to Ch'ongch'on River Defense Line, 2nd advance toward Yalu (w coast) 28 Oct -- 25 Nov 50
- Landing at Iwon and race to the Yalu (east coast) 31 Oct -- 27 Nov 50
- Withdrawal to Imjin River Line (west coast) 28 Nov -- 23 Dec 1950
- X-Corps withdrawal (east coast) 1 Dec -- 24 Dec 1950
- Withdrawal to Defense Line "D" (37th Parallel -- P'yongt'aek [W] to Samch'ok) 26 Dec 50 -- 29 Jan 51
- Advance to Line Boston (south bank of Han River south of Seoul - I Corps) 18 Feb 1951 -- 6 Mar 1951

- Advance to Phase Line Kansas (north of Seoul to just north of the 38th Parallel - east coast [2nd Liberation of Seoul) 4--21 April 1951
- 1st Chinese Spring Offensive 22 -- 29 Apr 1951
- Defense lines Golden (I Corps) and No Name (IX & X Corps) 29 Apr 1951 -- 19 May 1951
- 2nd Chinese Spring Offensive 17 -- 22 May 1951
- Advance to Phase Line Kansas (3rd Liberation of Seoul) 22 May 1951 -- 10 Jun 1951
- Advance to Phase Line Wyoming (Imjin River in I Corps sector north of Seoul to north of 38th Parallel in IX Corps and X Corps sectors) 13 Jun 1951 -- 4 Oct 1951
- Line Jamestown (MLR in I Corps Sector -- West) 7 Oct 1951 -- 27 July 1953
- Line Missouri (MLR in IX Corps Sector -- Central) 23 Oct 1951 -- 27 July 1953
- Line Minnesota (MLR in X Corps Sector -- East) 16 Oct 1951 -- 27 July 1953

MAJOR COMMUNIST OFFENSIVES

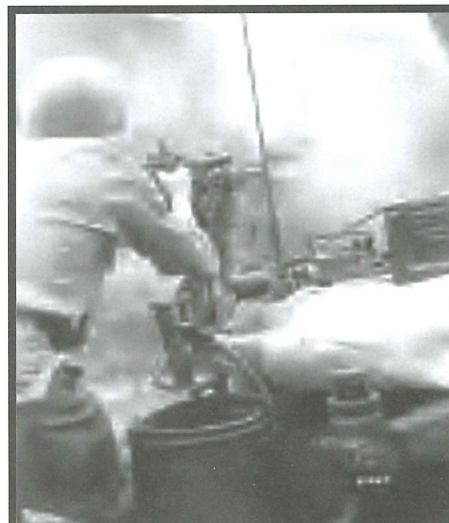
- NKPA 1st Phase (Seoul) Operations 25 Jun 1950 -- 29 Jun 1950
- NKPA 2nd Phase (Suwon) Operations 30 Jun 1950 -- 6 Jul 1950
- NKPA 3rd Phase (Taejon) Operations 7 Jul 1950 -- 20 Jul 1950
- NKPA 4th Phase (Naktong) Operations 21 Jul 1950 -- 30 Aug 1950
- NKPA 5th Phase (Pusan) Operations 31 Aug 1950 -- 15 Sep 1950
- CCF (PLA) 1st Phase (warning) Operations 25 Oct 1950 -- 24 Nov 1950
- CCF (PLA) 2nd Phase (main attack) Operations 25 Nov 1950 -- 24 Dec 1950
- CCF (PLA) 3rd Phase (counterattack in Wonju - Chip'yong-ni areas) Operations 11 Feb 51 -- 17 Feb 51
- CCF (PLA) 4th Phase (First Spring Offensive) Operations 22 Apr 1951 -- 29 Apr 1951
- CCF (PLA) 5th Phase (Second Spring Offensive) Operations 17 May 1951 -- 22 May 1951
- CCF (PLA) 6th Phase - canceled and strategic objectives switch to limited operations 1 Sep 1951
- CCF attack on Western & Central Fronts 6 Oct 1952 -- 13 Oct 1952
- CCF Kumsong River Offensive (ROK II Corps) 14 July 1953 -- 20 July 53

MAJOR WITHDRAWAL OPERATIONS BY US FORCES

- Withdrawal to the Pusan Perimeter 3 July 1950 -- 3 Aug 1950
- Evacuation of Hungnam 1 Dec 1950 -- 24 Dec 1950
- Withdrawal from North Korea to Line "D" 2 Dec 1950 -- 16 Jan 1951

MAJOR UN OFFENSIVES

- Inchon Landing & capture of Seoul 18 Sept 1950 -- 30 Sept 1950
- Breakout from the Pusan Perimeter 16 Sept 1950 -- 27 Sept 1950
- Operation Thunderbolt 25 Jan 1951 -- 20 Feb 1951
- Operation Killer 21 Feb 1951 -- 7 Mar 1951
- Operation Ripper (Flanking of Seoul) 7 Mar 1951 -- 4 Apr 1951
- Operation Rugged (securing Phase Line Kansas) 1 Apr 1951 -- 15 Apr 1951
- Operation Dauntless (securing Phase Line Utah) 10 Apr 1951 -- 22 Apr 1951
- Operation Detonate (3rd return to Seoul/retaking Phase Line Kansas 38th Parallel) 20 May 51 -- 8 Jun 51
- Operation Piledriver (securing Phase Line Wyoming and The Iron Triangle) 3 Jun 1951 -- 12 Jun 1951
- Operation Commando (Securing Phase Line Jamestown) 3 Oct 1951 -- 15 Oct 1951
- Operation Nomad and Polar (Securing Phase Line Missouri) 13 Oct 1951 -- 22 Oct 1951



Sgt. Douglas D. Tompkins of Jud, ND, Tank Co, 5th RCT, 24th U.S. Inf Div, fires a .50 caliber machine gun during an assault against the Chinese Communist forces along the east central front, Korea. 14 July 1951.

Overview of Korean War Battles/Offensives (pg 2)

PURSUIT AND MOPPING UP OPERATIONS

- Pursuit and mopping south of the 38th Parallel 28 Sept 1950 -- 30 Nov 1950
- Pursuit north of the 38th Parallel to Yalu River 5 Oct 1950 -- 27 Oct 1950
- Iwon Landing & pursuit to Yalu River (E coast) 31 Oct 1950 -- 27 Nov 1950



Mortar crew fires on North Koreans near Chochiwan, Korea.
11 July 1950.

LIMITED OPERATIONS -- 26 JUNE 1951 THRU 27 JULY 1953 (After peace talks initiated)

I CORPS

- Operation Doughnut (to seize dominate terrain features in the Sobang Mountains) 1-4 July 1951
- Raid on Kwijon-ni 3-8 Aug 1951
- Operation Citadel (to move MLR forward existing Outpost Line of Resistance -- OPLR) 18-19 Aug 51
- Operation Clean-Up (attempt to sweep enemy forces from front of I Corps positions) 9-10 Sept 1951
- Operations Clean-up II (to secure railroad running north from Uijongbu) 29 Sept -- 3 Oct 1951
- Operation Polecharge (to secure dominate three hills) 16-18 Oct 51
- Attack on Hill 199 24-30 Oct 1951
- Defense of Hill 200 5-10 Nov 1951
- First battle of Porkchop Hill 22-25 Nov 1951
- Operation Clam-up (ceased activity to lure enemy patrols) 10-16 Feb 52
- Operation Counter (secure 11 key terrain features on outpost line) 7- 25 Jun 52

- First Battle for Old Baldy 26 June -- 17 July 1953
- Second Battle for Old Baldy 17 - 22 July 1952
- Third Battle for Old Baldy 1-4 Aug 1952
- Forth Battle for Old Baldy 18-21 Sept 1952
- Defense of Outpost Kelly 18-30 Sept 1952
- Fifth Battle for Old Baldy 23-26 Mar 1953
- Third Battle for Porkchop Hill 23-26 Mar 1953
- Defense of Outpost Carson, Elko, and Vegas 28-30 Mar 1953
- Forth Battle for Porkchop Hill 6-11 July 1953
- Defense of Outpost Dale & Westview 23-24 July 1953

IX CORPS

- Operation Cat & Dog (to destroy enemy positions and capture prisoners.) 26-28 June 1951
- Attack on Hill 272 and 487 12-15 July 1951
- Operation Cow Puncher (to move Phase Line Utah forward to Phase Line Wyoming) 2-3 Aug 1951
- Operation Ohio-Sloan (to secure new positions on Phase Line Wyoming) 8-12 Sept 1951
- Operation Cleaver (Tank/Infantry raid into Iron Triangle) 21 Sept 1951
- Operation Clam-up (to lure enemy patrols and capture prisoners) 10-15 Feb 1952
- Operation Showdown (to secure Hill 598) 14-24 Oct 1952
- Defense of Hill 301 24-28 Oct 1952



Members of the 25th Inf Division, use Korean to transport supplies near the Korean fighting front.

- Defense of Outpost Charlie and King 28 Oct - 4 Nov 1952
- (IX Corps withdrawn Nov 1952)

X CORPS

- Attack on Hills 1059, 1120 and 1179 26-30 July 1951
- Battle of Bloody Ridge (ridge between Hills 900 & 983) 27 Aug -- 5 Sept 51
- First battle of Heartbreak Ridge 9-12 Sept 1951
- Second battle of Heartbreak Ridge 13-29 Sept 1951
- Attack on Hills 851, 1220 & adjacent ridges 7-15 Oct 1951
- Operation Clam-up (to lure enemy patrols and capture prisoners) 10-15 Feb 52
- Defense of Heartbreak Ridge area 6-7 Sept 1952
- Defense of Heartbreak Ridge area 3-4 Nov 1952



24th Infantry Div Artillerymen fire 155mm howitzers at dusk, Korea

<http://www.korean-war.com/TimeLine/KoreanWarOverview.html>

The Korean Conflict: North Dakota Goes to War....Again

Excerpts from the book "Citizens as Soldiers: A History of the North Dakota National Guard" by Jerry Cooper

The cold war [began] with North Korea's invasion on 25 Jun 50. Within a month, the US found itself unprepared--but committed--to ground operations in an area where it had not expected to act. Cold war policy was ultimately aimed at the prevention of a Third World War...through restricted commitment of forces to assist threatened nations fight communism from within. President Truman had no intention of threatening Russia with full-scale war. His failure to explain to his fellow citizens why the US did not seek a WWII-style victory caused him endless political difficulties and cost him the support of the American people.

The Army initiated a partial call to arms in July [1950], when it increased monthly draft quotas, then called over sixty thousand reservists in August and ordered a limited National Guard mobilization, mostly non-divisional units. As a non-divisional unit, the 231st Engineer Battalion became ND's first outfit to prepare for war. In September, four of the 27 National Guard divisions were activated.

The 164th Infantry and 188th Field Artillery were ordered into service along with the rest of the 47th Division on 15 Jan 51. Alerted on 16 Dec 50, the [units] had a month to recruit and prepare. Although the 164^s authorized enlisted strength was 2,671, it had only 913 men and needed 54 more officers. Limited National Guard Bureau appropriations over the previous years had created these deficits, but some infantry companies had fewer than 40 men, indicating a continuing difficulty in the older companies to win recruits. At induction, the Regiment remained 1,450 enlisted and 40 officers below quota.

After a few days on duty at home station, the [units] boarded troop trains for Camp Rucker, Ala., where they joined the Minnesota regiment of the division. Like the 231st Engineers, the 164th and 188th served throughout their active duty as training organizations. They began to lose their original members to overseas assignments after the first six months of active duty. For a time, Joseph Walter, commander of the 164th's Hqs Co, recalled, "We would try to protect our own," but when division made large requests for specific occupational specialties, he no longer could save ND men, and "towards the end, it cleaned us out." Warrant officers were especially needed by the Army and almost all went overseas.



Above: Co F Passing in Review, Camp Rucker, AL, 1951

This transfer of individuals out of the units offended North Dakota Guardsmen. Mobilization upset them less than seeing their comrades transferred piecemeal to overseas duty and their units filled with strangers. And it was happening in all the units. Colonel Ira M. Gaulke from the 231st, an "old-time Guardsman", sincerely believed in the fundamental Guard recruiting appeal—serve with your friends in peace and war. Lt. Lowell Lundberg (*a current member of the 164 Assoc*) stated that "many of us [in the 231st] felt abused because the unit wasn't sent overseas as such". A captain in the 188th Field Artillery recalled that the commander, Colonel Carlson, also was "disgusted when the whole group didn't go" to Korea. The editor of the Bismarck Tribune reported similar feelings in the 164th Infantry, where the major complaint concerned "the dismembering of their units to provide Korean War replacements".

The unit structure was also degraded by wartime policy. In 1952, Congress gave the President the authority to retain National Guard units "exclusive of personnel". Though individual Guardsmen would receive their discharges after two years of active duty, the states lost their units and equipment for a period of 5 years. Not surprisingly, the policy deeply angered Guardsmen and state officials.

The Army released Guard soldiers at various times, and they came home anywhere from the summer of 1952 to early 1953. If they remained in the Guard,

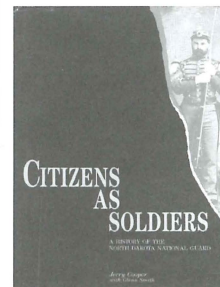
they were assigned to holding units until enough men returned to establish provisional unit structures.

Over twenty-four hundred North Dakota Guardsmen (Army and Air) served during the Korean War. About 800 of them went overseas, and sixteen died in combat.

The North Dakota National Guard has been involved in 9 federal mobilizations during 118 years of statehood. Operations Enduring Freedom/ Noble Eagle/ Iraqi Freedom mark the largest mobilization of personnel in North Dakota History.

	War	Dates	Personnel
1 st	Iraqi War/Iraqi Freedom	2001-Pres	4,300
2 nd	World War I	1917-1918	3,700
3 rd	World War II	1940-1945	2,828
4 th	Korean War	1950-1953	2,404
5 th	Mexican Border	1916-1917	1,090
6 th	Berlin Crisis	1961-1966	790
7 th	Spanish American War & Philippine Insurrection	1898-1899	635
8 th	Desert Storm	1990-1991	632
9 th	Bosnia/Kosovo	1997-2000	164

Statistics from ND National Guard Public Affairs as of March 2008



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Use your Computer to find United States Units that served in Korea

<http://www.korean-war.com/USUnits.html>



Eighth Army & Major Units

<http://www.korean-war.com/8thArmy.html>

Army Units List

<http://www.korean-war.com/USArmyUnits.html>



US Navy

<http://www.korean-war.com/USNavy/usnavy.html>

US Marine Corps

<http://www.korean-war.com/USMarines/us-marines.html>

US Coast Guard

<http://www.korean-war.com/USCoastGuard.html>

"THE FORGOTTEN WAR"

Total Served 5,720,000
In Korean Theater 1,789,000
33,741 US Dead
23,615 Killed In Action
92,134 US Wounded**
4,820 US Missing In Action
(Declared Dead)
7,245 Prisoners Of War
2,847 Died in POW Camp

**Lightly wounded who were treated and released back to duty are not included in these figures.

(04/17/2001 Statistics)



MIA/KIA Lists Link

<http://www.korean-war.com/miakia.html>



US Air Force

<http://www.korean-war.com/USAirForce/usairforce.html>



CIA

<http://www.korean-war.com/USCoastGuard.html>

Partisans/Special Ops

<http://www.korean-war.com/specops.html>

Military Advisory Group

<http://www.korean-war.com/kmag.html>

50th Anniversary of the KOREAN WAR

<http://korea50.army.mil/>

FYI: The United States of America's Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War was 25 June 2000 through 11 November 2003.

About The Flag and Logo



Flag: The Flag is symbolic of the unified effort of the United States, the Republic of Korea, and our allies to stop communist aggression on the Korean peninsula. The blue & white U.N. Battle Streamer runs through the center of the flag. The 22 stars represent the 22 allied nations that fought side-by-side to save South Korea. The words "Freedom is not Free" were added by our veterans who, more than anyone else, know the great price of liberty. The flag is in both the English and Korean (Hangul) languages. In the center is the "Tae Guk" symbol from the South Korean flag. South Korea adopted this as their commemoration flag.

Logo: The focal point of the Crest is the three-lobed Tae sam-Taeguk. The Red and White stripes represent the United States; Dark Blue represent South Korea; The United Nations Light Blue with 22 Gold stars represent the 20 United Nations member states, plus ROK and Italy, that formed the Allied Coalition. The gold wreath symbolizes honor and excellence.



REPUBLIC OF KOREA KOREAN WAR SERVICE MEDAL



Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal: On Aug. 20, 1999, the Secretary of Defense approved the acceptance and wear of the Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal in recognition of the sacrifices of United States veterans of the Korean War. To receive this medal, military veterans must have served in Korea, its territorial waters or airspace within the inclusive period of June 25, 1950 - July 27, 1953. Service must have been performed while on permanent assignment in Korea, or while on temporary duty in Korea for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days, or while as

a crewmember of aircraft in aerial flight over Korea participating in actual combat operations or in support of combat operations. Note: Veterans who served in Japan, Guam, Okinawa or the Philippines are not eligible.

To obtain the medal, those who meet the criteria above, from any branch of service, must provide a copy of their discharge paper DD-214, DD-215, or NGB Form 22 to **US Air Force Personnel Center**, HQ AFPC/DPPRA, 550 C St W, Suite 12, Randolph Air Force Base, TX 78150-4612. Download the request form at the following website link: http://korea50.army.mil/medal/VET_REQ_FORM_rev2.doc

Where to Get Military Records & Replacement Awards

Military Awards and Decorations: The National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Ave, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100, will verify the awards to which a veteran is entitled and forward the request with the verification to the appropriate service department for issuance of the medals.

<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/public/awards-and-decorations.html> (eVetRecs)

Military Personnel Records: All requests **must** be in writing, signed and **mailed** to National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Ave, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/> (eVetRecs)



Members and Friends :

I hope you enjoy this special issue of The 164th Infantry News that outlines the Korean War era and is dedicated to the memory and heroic deeds of one of our fellow soldiers, MSgt Woodrow Wilson Keeble.

Bernie
Bernie Wagner

North Dakota Medal of Honor Recipients

According to the ND State Historical Society, The Great State of North Dakota has the highest per capita number of Medal of Honor recipients in the nation.

The 17 North Dakota Medal of Honor recipients and the area their award is accredited to are W. W. Keeble, Wahpeton; Joseph E. Carter, North Dakota; Frank L. Anders, Fargo; Otto A. Boehler, Wahpeton; Charles P. Davis, Valley City; Willis H. Downs, Jamestown; Gotfred Jensen, Devils Lake; John B. Kinne, Fargo; Richard M. Longfellow, Mandan; Frank F. Ross, Langdon; Thomas Sletteland, Grafton; Willis W. Bradley, Jr., Forman; Fred E. Smith, Bartlett; Nels T. Wold, Minnewauken; Orville E. Bloch, Streeter; Henry Gurke, Neche; and Loren D. Hagen, Fargo. Two more recipients were born in North Dakota but their awards are accredited to other states: Michael J. Fitzmaurice, born in Jamestown, award accredited to SD; Jack James Pendleton, born in Sentinel Butte, award accredited to WA.

North Dakota's only living Medal of Honor recipient, Michael J. Fitzmaurice, originally from Jamestown, received the medal for saving the lives of several soldiers in March 1971 during the Vietnam War.

Nationwide, the 350,000-strong Army National Guard averages just below 12 soldiers per 10,000 people. In North Dakota, however, that ratio is 52 soldiers per 10,000. <http://nationaljournal.com/nicover.htm>

REMEMBER THE 2008 REUNION!

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