Korean War Project Newsletter - November 4, 1999

By Hal Barker, Founder, Korean War Project

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1. Good News.

We have just completed a massive upgrade of our
services at the Korean War Project. Visitors to the
site can now go to over 1700 individual unit pages
and automatically enter information.

You can list a reunion or search for old friends.
You can leave comments about your own experiences or
the experiences of others. Family members can leave
messages seeking veterans who knew loved ones.

Children can seek answers to a fathers' silence.

Historians, researchers, newspersons, or anyone else can
leave instant messages seeking information about battles,
casualties, or units. Or virtually anything else.

This work took hundreds of research and programming hours
to bring online. We are constantly working to improve our
virtual information storehouse.

2. Bad News.

We are now supported solely by Voluntary Memberships.
Memberships have been slipping with each passing day.

In a word, we are financially broke. We can't survive much
longer without stability.

Our staff consists of my brother Ted and myself. We have no
volunteers nor do we receive any outside help. As of this
date, we receive no help from the United States government,
nor do we receive any corporate or foundation help at this
time.

The Project is two men trying to singlehandedly honor a
generation of American and United Nations soldiers, sailors,
marines, and airmen.

And we have now apparently failed.

Running a non-profit turns one into a beggar.

As many of you know, the Department of Defense has a
$14,000,000 organization devoted to commemoration of the
Korean War. This unit has a small information website at
http://korea50.army.mil

We have been informed by the Department of Defense that the
Korean War Project does not qualify for any government funding,
although thousands of government employees use the Korean War
Project for information gathering and contacts.

We regularly receive urgent requests for information from the
Army War College, National Archives, Library of Congress,
Congressionalstaff, Veterans Administration, and many active
duty personelengaged in official governmental business.

We even have received requests for background information to be
presented in briefings to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the
President of the United States, among others.

We are regularly consulted by CNN, The New York Times, the
Associated Press, and dozens of other media outlets in search
of information. Several filmmakers and producers have obtained
their contacts asas direct result of visiting the Korean War
Project.

We have never refused to take the time to help others. Providing
information to others is part of our operating charter.

3. Membership Statistics - 1999

Month   Memberships

June   161
July   181
August   111
September   85
October   69

Total   607

Goal   1500

4. Call for Membership Volunteers

If we had 100 individuals who would pledge to personally find

and sign up 3 new members per month for a period of one year, we could save the Korean War Project. A Membership is $15 per year, tax deductible.

This translates to $45 per month per volunteer.

If you would like to become a Membership Volunteer, please send us an email immediately. One Hundred concerned supporters can make a difference.

5. Looking For An Angel

The KIA/MIA/POW Book

For over 5 years, we have been working on the Korean War casualty lists. The official government lists are incredibly poor in quality and data in many areas is worthless. To date, no formal and accurate published listing of casualties is available anywhere.

We have consulted a printing broker to obtain pricing on a hardback edition of the casualty database we now have online.

Bottom Line - We need an Angel to finance an initial printing of the book.

Price: $12,000
Potential Income if sold direct: $80,000
Potential Income if sold wholesale: $35,000 - $40,000

If an Angel were to undertake to underwrite this book, the value of the donation would be 100% deductible up to 50% of personal income.

A simple book can help us grow and remain online.

6. Why The Project Needs Money

Many of those new to the Internet can't understand why we need money.

The Korean War Project is a non-profit corporation. In fact, non-profits are businesses and have to be run like a business.

There are Internet connection costs, rent, utilities, telephones, paper, hardware and software. But the most costly expense is time.

It takes time, man-hours, to design, program, and install the software applications we create. The billing rate for programming alone is $45 to $100 per hour. To get around this cost, Ted and I learned to do all programming necessary to run the Project. We build the computers and operate the complex software necessary to make the Project interactive.

We answer over 1,500 emails per month. We manage and research over 250,000 casualty records relating to Korea.

Honestly, the programming work I have done on the Project is the toughest work I have done in my entire life. Not physical, but mental. I had to learn database programming and scripting so that the Project could grow. Before the Korean War Project, I had no previous computer programming experience.

Together, Ted and I spend at least 120 man hours per week on the Project, for often what works out to be less than minimum wage.

Yet we just can't stop and take regular jobs. Our dedication to Remembering the Korean War is too overwhelming. Perhaps this is not logical, but where was the logic when Task Force Smith met the North Koreans on a day in early July, 1950?

7. Our Goals At The Korean War Project

Our main goal is to survive and Remember Korean War veterans and their families.

We would like to continue to be the Rally Point for a generation of servicemen who gave their hearts and souls in the defense of the Republic of Korea.

We would like to get up every morning and know that our work has value and meaning.

8. Veterans Day 1999

As those associated with the Korean War know by now, most Veterans Day celebrations, including those in Washington, D.C., seem to forget the Korean War. Certainly the media seem to forget Korea.

Call your local media and tell them about the services we have at the Korean War Project. Include our Internet address and ask that the Korean War Project be specifically mentioned as a rally point for Korean War Veterans.

Please tell them how the Korean War Project has helped you and why it is important to remember.

Hal Barker
Founder
Director

Hal Barker, Dallas, Texas
B.A. History
Korean War Project
http://www.koreanwar.org

Founder - Korean War Veterans Memorial, Washington.D.C.

Telephone Numbers:

Voice: 214-320-0342
FAX: 214-327-1768

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