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Subject: State of the Korean War Project  
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State of The Project:

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The Korean War Project is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to remembrance of the Korean War. We have been online since February 1995. Basically, the operations of the Project are conducted by my brother Ted and I, including all design, programming, hardware and software maintenance, and all other aspects of a large website.

With the help of our many Members and Sponsors, we were able to weather a very rocky 1999.

During 1999, Ted and I spent many months programming the automation of most areas of the Project.

In 1999, we added:

- \* Automated Remembrance section for comments by visitors concerning a specific casualty.
- \* Automated casualty databases from the National Archives.
- \* Automated casualty database from the American Battle Monuments Commission.
- \* Automated casualty POW/MIA database from the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Persons Office.
- \* Automated DOD DIOR database ( this is the database of record ).

- \* Automated over 1000 unit pages for direct input by visitors.
- \* Automated various other areas of the Project.

The automation took hundreds of hours of concentration and research. During 1999, the Project was visited by over 150,000 individual visitors. We received over 20,000 emails, letters, and other communications.

The Project was featured in two international stories by the Associated Press, and hundreds of local stories spawned by the AP wire stories.

During 1999, we were able to help bring together thousands of visitors seeking friends, family members, and information available nowhere else.

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## Operations

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The operation of the Project is very time consuming, usually involving a minimum of 120 man hours per week. Our income during 1999 was slightly more than a clerk at McDonalds. The literally hand to mouth lifestyle was undertaken due to our commitment to building a worldwide presence for veterans and families of the Korean War.

Shortly after we completed the major implementation of the automation, Ted and I were approached by a major organization here in Dallas and offered major temporary employment on a huge website.

The temporary outside employment now guarantees the existence of the Project in the short term. However, we no longer have the luxury of spending virtually every moment of our days on the Project.

Part of our decision to take outside work has been the increasing complexity of obtaining records and information from the United States government relating to the Korean War. It is a battle that can't be won without money.

When I first began studying the war in 1979, government agencies were very helpful.

However, in the last year, it has become increasingly hard to obtain even the most basic information from governmental agencies and DOD. The government has become very restrictive in producing information relating to Korea.

In one very demoralizing case, we attempted to obtain a copy of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Honor Roll, a public document. The American Battle Monuments Commission met and determined no full release would be made to the Korean War Project unless forced by federal court order. We served notice of filing of a Federal lawsuit to obtain the

database, and eventually had to enlist the help of several hundred of our loyal supporters to encourage Congressional pressure on the ABMC and to contact members of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

For those of you who called Governor Hugh Carey (a member of the Commission), we appreciate your support. Governor Carey called and remarked that we must have a few friends. In fact, his lawfirm switchboard was shut down and he spent two weeks on the phone on the database issue.

The ABMC never did produce the full database although it is now on a commercial website run by a former Army officer and employee of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Another incident occurred in mid November, 1999, when a command decision was made by the United States Army to block all access of the Korean War Project to all military email addresses and most public military websites.

With the help of Army technicians, we were able to determine that the Internet access block was placed by Army Signal Intelligence at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona. After I contacted the Secretary of Defense, the block was removed, but our contact with active duty military is down by 90% and we now have extremely limited contact with any active duty military.

The block on our access was a wake-up call. The Department of Defense has declined to explain why the block was placed.

Within a hour of officially discovering the access block, Ted and I took our new jobs. We basically took the Internet block to be a subtle hint to back off on Korean War issues.

There is a lot about Korea the government would prefer not be known.

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Future - Year 2000

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We now have slightly less than 1000 Members, including United States Representative Pete Sessions.

We just brought on the Association of the United States Army as a commercial sponsor.

For those of you who so graciously donated and became Members in 1999, you have our hats off!!! You came through, and we are online and alive. But we don't forget those who helped us get started in 1995 and all those who have helped since. You are our heart and soul.

In 2000, we need to enlist 5000 members. With membership, we have clout when a Presidential Commission like the American Battle

Monuments Commission fails to live up to the law.

For a number of years, we have been preparing to create a book of those lost in Korea. We now believe that production of a book of the 36,000+ losses should be undertaken for a tentative release date of June 25, 2000.

The book will serve as a fundraiser and also as a statement of remembrance.

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## The Casualty Book

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Over the years, we discovered massive mistakes in the casualty listings. For example, The American Battle Monuments Commission has formally declared that over 17,000 names of those officially declared eligible to be listed on the Korean War Veterans Memorial Honor Roll are impossible to find in governmental records.

Cut in stone at the Memorial is the number 54,256. Astonishingly, the government cannot name a single one of those 17,000, yet asserts that each existed at one time as human beings now forgotten to history.

Disgraceful is the best term. Odd is another term.

We believe publication of the official list in conjunction with other research will heighten interest in creating a real list of casualties from the war. Up to now, the government has shown very limited interest in dealing with true casualty figures.

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## How You Can Help - Our Remembrance Section - Over 3000 Entries To Date

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A key element in correcting errors in the databases has been our Remembrance Section.

We encourage every visitor to search our main database page and leave entries concerning all casualties you might have known. You can reach the page at

[http://www.koreanwar.org/html/korean\\_war\\_databases.html](http://www.koreanwar.org/html/korean_war_databases.html)

The information you leave may help a family member learn about a family member for the first time. And to Remember.

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## Conclusion

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We have a great deal of work to do on the Project. With your help, and your Memberships, we can continue to serve those who remember the Korean War. After 5 years online, we have a history and a future. We don't intend to go away.

Hal Barker  
Director  
Korean War Project

Honorary Life Member - 23rd Infantry Regiment, Korean War Branch  
Founder - Korean War Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C.

American  
Battle Monuments Commission

We are in stable shape and still provide many good  
services unavailable anywhere else.

After a rocky time last year, Ted and I were able to finish the  
automation of the Project and we now work fulltime for a large  
organization in Dallas.

The automation came about because of your donations and memberships.

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