

America's Forgotten Victory!

# KOREA VETERANS

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## The Graybeards



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## Update on the Planes of Fame Museum

Here's an update on your Nov–Dec 2019 *Graybeards* article, “Planes of Fame Museum opening new Korean War Memorial—maybe,” p. 52, in which you listed an article to help my family have the Sabrejet on display painted in my father's and pilot's paint scheme. This will be at the new Korean Memorial at the Planes of Fame museum opening this year.

Our families raised the necessary funds and progress has begun! It will be exciting to see that paint scheme up later this year.

In other news, my family helped sponsor a ‘virtual’ car at ‘virtual Dover Downs International Speedway’ on May 2 and our driver won. This paint scheme replicated my father's Sabrejet paint scheme in 1954. Again, the neat thing was the paint scheme as it closely replicated his F-86 Sabrejet.

Our local Delaware State News published an article about the vir-



NASCAR Infinity Series #33 car with special paint scheme

## An adventure-filled tour

I was at Fort Lee, Virginia waiting for shipment to the South Pacific for participation in Operation Greenhouse for the atomic energy commission. I was on maneuvers with the 82nd Airborne Division assigned to the 108 Bakery Company when some officer asked for volunteers to go to Eniwetok Atoll Island somewhere in the Marshall Islands. I was only seventeen years old at the time.

The day we learned about the beginning of the Korean War I was five days away from my 18th birthday. But, having six brothers who served in WW2, one of whom spent time in South Korea, I was familiar with the name and location. I and everyone else was awaiting approval of a secret clearance. J Edgar Hoover approved our clearance in August of 1950. We left Fort Lee on a train in mid-September headed to Camp Stoneman,

California to wait for the troopship for our voyage to the Pacific.

After Operation Greenhouse ended we were sent to Fort Jackson, South Carolina for training (again) for shipment to Korea. Upon arrival in South Korea I was with a buddy, Paul Hemphil, a friend since basic training. We were assigned to the 27th Regiment of the 25th Division. We were separated after arriving to the third battalion. I went to I Company; he was assigned to M Company.

After a brief stay on line we went into reserve before Christmas. I became the company baker and we shipped out to Koje-Do Island near Pusan to segregate die-hard communists from some who weren't. The die-hards were holding Kangaroo Court at midnight, executing the “defendants,” cutting them up, and dumping their bodies by flushing them

into the ocean. That resulted in the incident at Compound 62 which was investigated by the U.S. government and covered by the Army Times in February 1952.

It was included in the May 9, 2020 edition. The title was “Virtual race brings real emotion: Dover Korean War veteran goes to victory lane at Monster Mile.” You can access the article at <http://yocumusa.com/sweetrose/images/2020alfredo/images/delawarestatenews/dsn.htm>.

I also made a webpage for the driver of the car, Anthony Alfredo. My website for him is at: <http://yocumusa.com/sweetrose/images/2020alfredo/33alfredo.htm>

## Thanks for the advice

After retrieving my *Graybeards* from the mail box, I immediately turned to see what the editor had to say. After being confined to my widow's hut for over a month, only escaping for a few brief moments for a quick run to the local grocery, I needed some advice to survive. Sure enough, I received a dose of good humor to get me through this day. Thanks!

Last September I had the opportunity to go on the re-visit program again (September 2019). While I was there, Col David A. Gigliotti, the Chief of the Joint U.S. Military Affairs Group-Korea, honored me with a Certificate of Appreciation for my service as a Korean Advisor during the Korean War. In 1953, after the truce was signed, I received a Letter of Appreciation from General Sun Yup Paik, the Chief of Staff of the Republic of Korea Army.

In September of 1948, at the age of 14, I joined the Ohio National Guard. In the fall of 1951 (my senior year of high school) I reenlisted, knowing that in January the Ohio National Guard was to be federalized. That January (1952), I was the senior non-com, a SFC (the First Sgt was already at Camp Polk) and marched the company from the armory to the train depot on our way to Camp Polk, LA.

I believe that I am one of the youngest Korean War veterans, as I was just 19 when I arrived back home.

Well, that is enough about me. Thanks again for making my day.

*John G. Medaugh, [jmedaugh@watchtv.net](mailto:jmedaugh@watchtv.net)*

We were sent back to the front to relieve some foreign battalion near Heartbreak Ridge. Then we were sent to the Punch Bowl in late September, where my replacement relieved me. By this time I had been promoted three times from PFC to CPL, SGT E5, and Mess SGT FC E6.

I had a lot of pictures at one time, but after discharge in 1961 the mobile home we were living in was destroyed in a fire. I received all my papers and ribbons about six years ago.

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