Illinois Remembers the Forgotten War

Korea 1950 – 1953

60th Anniversary

4-11
January 13, 2011

CONTACT:
David Blanchette
(217) 558-8970

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Illinois and the Korean War, February 1951

The State of Illinois is commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Korean War by supplying information each month about the state's involvement in the conflict.

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, Illinois Korean Memorial Association, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum are sponsoring "Illinois Remembers the Forgotten War" along with media partners the Illinois Press Association and the Illinois Broadcasters Association. For more information, visit www.Illinois-History.gov or www.veterans.illinois.gov.

Illinoisans killed in action in Korea, February 1951
By county of residence

(Source: U.S. Department of Defense records)

Adams	Cpl. Robert G. Goerlich, Army, February 13. Cpl. John E. Jennings, Jr., Army, February 12.
Alexander	Pvt. Ladon A. Gardner, Army, February 12. Cpl. James Harget, Army, February 12. Sgt. Robert P. Kaufman, Army, February 12.
Boone	PFC Robert H. James, Army, February 14.
Clark	Cpl. Robert L. Robison, Army, February 12.
Clay	Cpl. Rex G. Johnson, Army, February 13.
Coles	Cpl. Lawrence D. Paxton, Army, February 12.
Cook	PFC Ellsworth Anderson, Army, February 12. Pvt. Walter E. Berg, Army, February 4. PFC David F. Blosser, Army, February 15.

PFC John F. Boll, Army, February 13.
Pvt. Edward L. Bytnar, Army, February 12.
Pvt. Santo A. Cargola, Army, February 12.
Pvt. Roland S. Carroll, Army, February 5.
PFC Anthony Castiglia, Army, February 13.
1st Lt. Pierre C. Chrissis, Army, February 6.
Pvt. Frank Corrigan, Army, February 15.
Cpl. Dewey W. Creech, Jr., Army, February 12.
Pvt. Maurice L. Curry, Army, February 12.
PFC Serafin Dicrispino, Army, February 12.
PFC Dale D. Dirks, Army, February 13.
Cpl. Clifton Edmonston, Army, February 12.
PFC Dale T. Enlow, Army, February 8.
PFC Lawrence Gapinski, Army, February 15.
PFC Percy D. Hamilton, Army, February 12.
Cpl. Adolph Joseph, Army, February 14.
Sgt. Clarence Koch, Army, February 21.
Pvt. Aloysius Kozlowski, Army, February 12.
Pvt. Ralph E. Leaf, Army, February 4.
Cpl. Richard H. Mann, Army, February 4.
Sgt. George Molenaar, Army, February 12.
PFC Lawrence Mrotek, Army, February 12.
Sgt. John G. Orzechowski, Army, February 14.
Cpl. James E. Petress, Army, February 11.
Sgt. Leonard Piorunski, Army, February 22.
Pvt. John Ragland, Jr., Army, February 14.
1st Lt. Lindberg Reynolds, Army, February 14.
PFC George S. Riccardo, Army, February 11.
Cpl. Earl J. Richard, Army, February 4.
Cpl. Dock L. Riddle, Army, February 12.
PFC Ciro J. Ruggero, Army, February 13.
PFC Eugene J. Sadek, Army, February 11.
Cpl. Harold A. Schwartz, Army, February 15.
PFC Leslie A. Shy, Army, February 14.
Pvt. Gene E. Stacy, Army, February 28.
PFC Frank S. Sterczek, Army, February 7.
PFC Peter Vilutis, Jr., Army, February 7.
1st Lt. Frank M. Walker, Army, February 4.
Cpl. Robert W. Walls, Army, February 14.
PFC William R. Woodhall, Army, February 6.

Crawford Pvt. Matthew Dickinson, Army, February 4.
Sgt. Roy H. Inboden, Army, February 10.
Pvt. Teddy W. Rich, Army, February 13.

DeWitt PFC Robert M. Johnson, Army, February 15.

Effingham	Sgt. Leo G. Gill, Army, February 12.
Fayette	PFC Glenn Sachteleben, Army, February 12.
Fulton	SFC Allen A. Baughman, Army, February 12. Pvt. Ellis E. Myers, Army, February 13.
Gallatin	Cpl. Durward E. Wentz, Army, February 6.
Iroquois	Pvt. Clarence Hawthorne, Army, February 8. Cpl. Dean A. Steele, Army, February 12.
Jackson	Cpl. Billy D. Lipe, Army, February 12.
Jo Daviess	PFC Jon E. Sauer, Army, February 14.
Kane	Pvt. Fred D. Rosenthal, Army, February 2. Pvt. John M. Williams, Army, February 12.
Kendall	PFC Osman Voga, Jr., Army, February 12.
Knox	Maj. Harold W. Shoemaker, Army, February 14. PFC William L. Wells, Army, February 22.
Lake	Pvt. Ray W. Hildeman, Army, February 13. PFC Robert W. Osborne, Army, February 1. Cpl. Donald L. Robertson, Army, February 22.
LaSalle	Pvt. Harry F. Myers, Army, February 13.
Macon	PFC Milton R. Lawhorn, Marines, February 24. Sgt. John E. McMahon, Jr., Army, February 12. PFC Leo D. Oglesby, Army, February 12. PFC Howell Taylor, Jr., Army, February 14.
Macoupin	MSG John A. Belavic, Army, February 1.
Madison	SFC Joel C. Newberry, Army, February 5.
Marion	PFC Joe D. Piasse, Army, February 12.
Marshall	PFC Bert F. Cinkovich, Army, February 13.
McDonough	Cpl. LaFayette McCormick, Army, February 12. Pvt. Carl T. Nelson, Army, February 12.

McHenry	PFC Gerald W. Justen, Army, February 12. Sgt. John H. Kilroy, Army, February 12. PFC Eugene H. Kling, Army, February 13.
McLean	Cpl. Orville R. Brown, Army, February 6. PFC Roger L. Morgan, Army, February 12. Cpl. Vinel Rist, Jr., Army, February 12. PFC Thomas P. Stapleton, Army, February 11.
Menard	Pvt. Eldon O. Budke, Army, February 4.
Morgan	PFC James W. Patterson, Army, February 12.
Peoria	Cpl. Turner F. Blackwell, Army, February 12. PFC Norman R. Davis, Army, February 13. Cpl. Michael C. Grubisich, Marines, February 20. Cpl. James C. Jenkel, Army, February 12. SFC Robert M. Lauer, Army, February 12. Pvt. Bobby G. Myer, Army, February 13.
Perry	PFC Franklin J. Knight, Army, February 13.
Piatt	PFC Richard Milligan, Army, February 12.
Pike	SFC Ralph W. Baker, Army, February 12.
Randolph	PFC Delmar L. Petrowske, Army, February 11.
Richland	PFC Louis J. Zwilling, Army, February 13.
Rock Island	Cpl. Donald D. Dowell, Army, February 12. Sgt. Laverne Duquenne, Marines, February 3.
St. Clair	Pvt. Benny Berry, Army, February 12. Pvt. Green Finley, Jr., Army, February 12. Cpl. Edward L. Oliver, Army, February 20.
Saline	PFC Edward L. Borders, Army, February 13. Sgt. Neal P. Cantrell, Army, February 12. PFC Joe Jones, Jr., Army, February 15. PFC Marion K. Schoffner, Army, February 12.
Sangamon	Sgt. Robert C. Davis, Army, February 15. Pvt. Charles S. Robinson, Army, February 12. Sgt. James L. Wood, Army, February 12.

Tazewell	Cpl. Dean W. Cremeens, Army, February 13. Pvt. Nils V. Hootman, Army, February 12. PFC Robert L. Olt, Army, February 6.
Vermilion	Cpl. Paul E. Duez, Army, February 12. Cpl. William E. Hopkins, Army, February 14. PFC Francis J. Hurst, Army, February 12. PFC Ralph E. Tull, Army, February 12.
Warren	SFC Harold E. Allen, Army, February 12.
Wayne	Cpl. Gerald V. Block, Army, February 11.
White	PFC Virgil E. Ward, Army, February 12.
Whiteside	PFC Arnold L. Mon, Army, February 14.
Will	Sgt. Clement A. Ambrose, Army, February 14. Pvt. Francis J. Bolden, Army, February 11. PFC Robert F. Lawler, Army, February 14. Cpl. Louis T. Stefanak, Army, February 14.
Williamson	PFC Alford Jeffrey, Army, February 13.
Winnebago	PFC Ellery D. Allen, Army, February 13. PFC Mario R. Ghinazzi, Army, February 12. Maj. Fred D. Pickering, Army, February 13.

Key events during the Korean War
February 1951

February 1951 began with United Nations forces driving Communist armies back toward the north in the fourth reversal of direction since the start of the war in June 1950. The U.N.'s air superiority helped, as persistent bombings by the U.N. Air Forces made resupply for the Chinese, now deep inside Korea, increasingly difficult. Even so, the Communists gathered their forces for another offensive.

Elements of the U.S. 2nd and 24th Infantry Divisions inflicted heavy casualties on Chinese forces on February 1 near a series of railroad tunnels in South Korea in what became known as the Battle of the Twin Tunnels. Faced with this and other setbacks, the Chinese decided to launch another major offensive to regain the initiative. The attack began February 11, and soon Chinese forces were once again making headway against U.N. armies. But they ran headlong into some determined resistance near a village in central Korea named Chipyong-ni in what would become a pivotal battle of the Korean War.

The evening of February 13 about 18,000 Chinese soldiers surrounded the U.N. defenders, including the 2nd Infantry Division's 23rd Infantry Regiment and a French battalion, in Chipyong-ni. The Chinese, supported by mortars and artillery, persistently assaulted the village but were beaten back with heavy losses. The outnumbered defenders were reinforced by airdropped supplies and assisted by strikes from U.N. aircraft as the battle continued to rage for two days. Finally, on February 15, tanks from the 1st Cavalry Division broke through the siege and Chipyong-ni remained in United Nations' hands. The battle marked the end of the Chinese drive into South Korea.

The victory at Chipyong-ni used a strategy that would be used again repeatedly in the Korean War and more than a decade later in Vietnam. United Nations forces established well-equipped firebases in remote locations but maintained constant communication between the bases and the main body of the army. These bases were resupplied and reinforced by air, and the superior U.N. air forces bombed and strafed the attackers, allowing the fire bases to hold out against the numerically superior enemy. These tactics turned the war from one of constant movement along the entire length of Korea into a bloody war of attrition fought across the rugged mountains of central Korea.

United Nations forces rallied after Chipyong-ni and attacked north starting on February 21 in Operation Killer. By the end of February, U.N. troops evicted all enemy forces south of the Han River. U.N. forces were now within striking range of recapturing the South Korean capital of Seoul.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Navy and ships from other United Nations countries began their blockade of the North Korean port of Wonsan on February 16. This kept vital supplies from reaching North Korean and Chinese forces by sea. The 861-day blockade would become the longest effective siege of a port in U.S. Navy history.

Illinois Korean War Memorial

The Illinois Korean War Memorial is located in Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery, the same cemetery that contains the Lincoln Tomb. Oak Ridge is the nation's second most visited burial ground behind only Arlington National Cemetery.

Dedicated on June 16, 1996, the memorial consists of a 12-foot-tall bronze bell mounted on a granite base. At the circumference of the base are four niches, each with a larger-than-life figure representing a branch of the armed services. Inscribed on the base are the 1,754 names of Illinoisans killed in Korea.

The Illinois Korean War Memorial is administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and may be visited daily free of charge.

Korean War Veterans Oral History Project
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum's Oral History Program offers "Veterans Remember," a collection of interviews with Illinois residents about their wartime experiences, at the Library's website, www.alplm.org/oral_history/home.html. The audio interviews concern the experiences of Illinois veterans who fought in several conflicts, including the Korean War, as well as the experiences of those on the home

front. Visitors to the website can listen to or watch the interviews in their entirety. Several of the interviews have transcripts, and most have still images as well.

Website visitors will need a computer capable of playing MP3 audio files or MPG compressed video files in order to listen to the interviews. The transcripts and still images are also accessible. Volunteers conducted and edited many of the interviews and developed the transcripts that accompany them.

Korean War National Museum

The Korean War National Museum (KWNM) celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War with a new Board of Directors, new professional staff, and a renewed focus on getting a world-class museum built now, in the lifetime of the Korean War veterans. Recent news media reports outlined a proposal of the KWNM to obtain 7,000 square feet of prime space on Navy Pier in Chicago for a state-of-the-art, world-class museum where visitors could come to honor and learn about the service and sacrifices of the Americans, South Koreans and their UN Allies in the "forgotten victory." Those plans are continuing to be developed, and the KWNM hopes to be able to share some exciting news soon. Meanwhile, the Denis J. Healy Freedom Center, located at 9 South Old State Capitol Plaza in Springfield, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. The KWNM welcomes donations of photographs, documents, diaries, and artifacts of those who served in the Korean War. To learn more about the KWNM, or to volunteer or donate, please visit www.kwnm.org or look for the Museum Facebook.

Korean War Booklet

The Illinois Korean Memorial Association, an all-volunteer organization, has published a booklet, *A Brief History of the Korean War*, copies of which have been provided free of charge to public libraries, high schools and junior high schools in Illinois. Individuals may obtain a copy by sending a $10 check or money order to: Illinois Korean Memorial Association, P.O. Box 8554, Springfield, IL 62791.

Tax deductible donations are welcome. One hundred percent of all donations go to the book project and to the upkeep of the Illinois Korean War Memorial.

# # #