

Korean War: June 27, 1950–July 27, 1953

GLOBAL CONFLICT

In June 1950, North Korea, supported by the Soviet Union, invaded South Korea, leading to the Korean War. The United Nations, led by the United States, backed South Korea, while China aided North Korea. After substantial casualties affecting over a million combatants on both sides, the conflict ended in July 1953, dividing Korea into two adversarial states. Subsequent negotiations in 1954 were fruitless, and the front line established during the war has remained the de facto border between North and South Korea.

Conflict Between:

North Korea (supported by Communist China and Russia)

South Korea (Supported by U.S.A. and allies)

U.S.A. Casualties: · 54,246 dead · 103,000 wounded
· 8,177 M.I.A.s · 7,000 P.O.W.s



Bringing “The Forgotten War” to life

Conceived by W. Paul Wolf, retired Fort Wayne business executive and Korean War Veteran, this project is a heartfelt endeavor to honor the unwavering dedication of Wolf’s fellow service members.

Spearheaded by Eric Johnson, Vice Commander, Fort Wayne Veterans National Memorial and Shrine, and Lea Powers, conceptual designer, this team with countless others has dedicated themselves to faithfully representing the authentic experiences of Korean soldiers through meticulous attention to detail and accurate portrayals as well as honor 12 Indiana soldiers who served in Korea.

The installation integrates replicas of genuine gear, equipment, and weapons, ensuring the memorial’s historical authenticity. The incorporation of actual formations, field signals, and gestures aims to offer visitors a visceral understanding of the unpredictable and dangerous conditions faced by soldiers during war, including devastating realities of injury, trauma, and the persistent mental toll of combat to soldiers and families.

Utilizing a variety of mediums, including 2-D layouts, 3-D models, aerial drone flyovers, and

extensive photography sessions, the design team has striven to bring the soldiers’ experiences to life, capturing the essence of their sacrifice and courage.

The memorial’s arrangement is a poignant depiction of a “bounding over watch” retreat formation, a powerful representation of the soldiers’ unwavering commitment to protect one another, even in the face of adversity.

After a dedicated 18-month journey, the installation stands as a testament to the collaborative efforts of Veterans, artists, designers, and community volunteers, paying homage to the spirit of a community coming together, the generosity of donors, and the importance of making sure, “no Veteran will ever be forgotten.”



Photographic models dressed in authentic Korean period gear, carrying vintage weapons posed for each of the figures. The faces that appear on each model were custom sculpted to portray an Indiana resident who served in Korea.



Korean War Memorial Dedication, November 11, 2023

THE FORGOTTEN WAR

Honoring Those Who Served

Korean War: 1950–1953

Representing all who served in the Korean War, these twelve figures stand in honor of the larger than life indomitable spirit and unwavering dedication of Forgotten War Veterans. With deep gratitude and admiration, we commemorate their selfless service, acknowledging the profound impact they made in defending freedom and fostering enduring peace.



VETERANS NATIONAL
MEMORIAL SHRINE & MUSEUM

2122 O’Day Road, Fort Wayne, IN
honoringforever.org

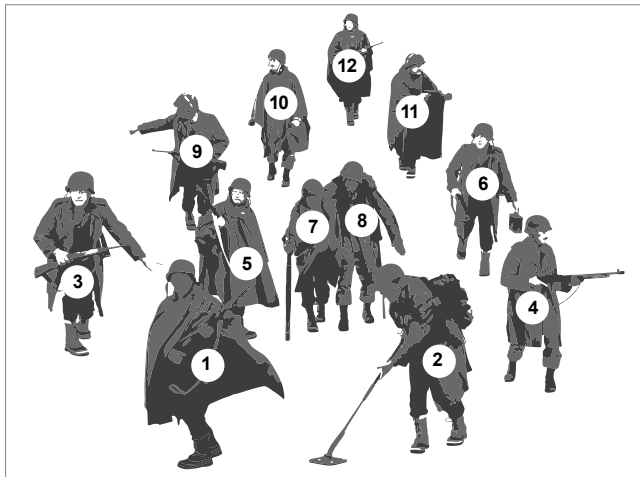
This memorial made possible through a generous gift from W. Paul Wolf

Honoring All Who Served 1950–1953

The **Fort Wayne Korean War Monument** pays tribute to the soldiers who bravely served and sacrificed for our freedom. Among its 12 figures are representations of Northeast Indiana residents who fought in the Korean War, enduring some of the bloodiest battles in U.S. history amidst harrowing conditions. Their stories are outlined here.

The Korean War, often dubbed *'The Forgotten War,'* significantly affected American lives and military personnel. The conflict left a profound mark on the nation's history, with a staggering 54,246 American casualties and over 103,000 soldiers wounded. Of the 7,000 individuals confined in prisoner-of-war camps, only 3,450 returned alive, a distressing 51% fatality rate within the camps. Additionally, 389 prisoners of war remain unaccounted for, furthering the tragic legacy of this overlooked chapter in history.

The exhibit is dedicated to the contributions of all Korean Veterans serving between 1950 and 1953.



To honor Northeast Indiana Veterans, each soldier's face has been crafted individually to represent a Korean War Veteran (pictured in this brochure).



Landscaping plan and exhibit preparation for the Korean soldier platoon installation.

1 Gene Rohrer



Gene served as a sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he worked as a Telephone Wireman for Marine Ground Control Intercept Squadron 1. He also operated the radar at the Kunsan Air Force base. He also spent a month on the island of Cheju, focusing on radar scopes.

Gene enlisted in the Marines in 1950, underwent boot camp training at Paris Island, South Carolina, and attended telephone school at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California. Upon returning to the U.S.A., he was stationed at Quantico, Virginia, and ultimately discharged as a Staff Sergeant in 1953. After his service, Gene dedicated seven years as the Whitley County Veterans Service Officer and currently lives in Columbia City, Indiana.

2 Walter "Bud" Mendenhall



Bud, with the approval of his parents, enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the tender age of seventeen. He underwent basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center and specialized as a gunner mate before embarking from San Diego to Korea.

During his service from 1952 to 1954, Bud held the position of Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Gunner's Mate, serving aboard the USS Carmick (DMS 33), a destroyer minesweeper ship. Operating in the vicinity of Wonsan, a significant port city and naval base situated in North Korea, his duties were crucial and perilous. Bud reflects, "It was a dangerous assignment, and we prayed a lot."

Following the conclusion of the war, Bud was reassigned to the Philippines for shore duty until his honorable discharge in 1956, culminating a significant chapter in his military journey.

3 Kenneth Kurtz

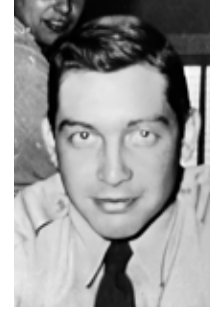


Ken was drafted in March 1951 and received his infantry basic training at Camp Funston, Fort Riley military reservation, Kansas. He was then assigned to Company G of the 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, where his role involved serving as an ammo bearer for a 30 caliber machine gun during his time in Korea. Subsequently, he assumed

the position of 2nd Battalion & Medic Company personnel section leader. In May 1952, he earned a promotion to the rank of Sergeant.

Following his assignment to the finance department at Camp Atterbury, Ken was honorably discharged in December 1952. He later retired from ITT Aerospace after dedicating 44 years of service to the company.

4 Carl Fowler



Drafted into the U.S. Army in March 1951, Carl underwent basic and advanced training at Fort Bliss, Texas, then was deployed to Japan aboard the USS Mann troop ship. In Yokohama, he became a member of the 327th Operations Detachment Unit, where their relentless duty around the clock involved pinpointing the positions of enemy aircraft in the region for defense

by anti-aircraft weapons, including 90mm, 40mm, and Quad 50's.

Carl held the position of Radio Sergeant and assumed the responsibility of leading the group of plotters. His commitment and contributions to the unit's mission were instrumental during his two years of service, culminating in his honorable release from duty in March 1953, marking the end of a remarkable chapter in his military career.

5 Fred Ireland



Fred Ireland was drafted into the United States Army on November 19, 1951. Initially trained as a paratrooper, he was later requested to transfer to the Army division, unknowingly leading to his deployment to North Korea, just above the 38th parallel. During his service, he operated as one of the radio operators for the 7th Division's 31st Infantry Regiment, stationed at

Pork Chop Hill and Old Baldy, although he rarely spoke about his experiences there.

Fred served as a Corporal and was honorably discharged in August 1953. His exceptional service was recognized with 2 Bronze Stars and Korean Service medals, but he held his Combat Infantry Badge in the highest regard.

6 Howard E. Perkey



Enlisting in the United States Army in April of 1954, Howard's journey led him to Korea in November of the same year, where he was assigned to Charlie Company of the 3rd Combat Engineering Battalion. Initially stationed in Pusan, Korea, he later relocated to an area north of Seoul, positioned between the DMZ and the Imjin River, contributing significantly

to the battalion's operations. Howard's dedication and hard work earned him the rank of Sergeant during his honorable service. After concluding his duties in Korea in March 1956, he received an honorable discharge in April 1957, marking the end of a commendable military chapter in his life.

7 Gary Sink



Gary Sink, Zanesville, Indiana, served from 1952 to 1954. He was an integral part of the 17th Infantry Division, carrying a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) Machine Gun that was loaded with 20 rounds and 12 additional 20 round magazines of ammunition. Additionally, he bore the weight of five grenades and his essential backpack, tools for combat in the field.

During a harrowing battle, Gary sustained serious injuries that left him initially presumed dead on the battlefield. His unwavering dedication to his fellow soldiers exemplified the true spirit of heroism. In recognition of his selfless sacrifice and remarkable courage, he was awarded the prestigious Purple Heart, a testament to his unwavering commitment and sacrifice for his country.

8 William Walters



Bill L. Walters, serving as a Private First Class (PFC) in the US Army, enlisted on May 21, 1953, and was assigned to the 506th Quartermaster Company, PS 8 Army 4th Platoon. Trained at Fort Knox, KY, he successfully completed the light vehicle driver course. Subsequently, he embarked for Korea aboard the Navy Ship USNS James O'Hara T-AP

179 from San Francisco, passing through the 180th Meridian International Date Line on November 3, 1953, en route to Korea.

In Korea, Bill was designated to the 506th motor pool, and spent significant time stationed at Taego, Pusan, and Yongchon, particularly in the vicinity of the 38th parallel. Bill returned to the United States in 1955.

9 Victor J. Ley



Victor, originally from Avilla, Indiana, served as an Army Reservist in the United States Army Signal Corps from 1951 to 1953. His exceptional service during this time earned him the Korean Service Medal with 3 Bronze Stars, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation. Notably, Victor successfully completed

Pole Lineman training in July-August 1951, showcasing his dedication to acquiring specialized skills. Following his commendable service, he was honorably discharged as a Private First Class in December 1953.

10 Frank C. Crosby



Frank served actively in the military from June 11, 1953, to April 29, 1955. During this period, Frank was part of A Company within the 33rd Medium Tank Battalion, CCB, 3rd Armored Division, where he achieved the rank of Private First Class on February 11, 1954. Additionally, he served in the 25th Replacement Center Company of the 25th Infantry Division, specializing as a

Light Weapons Infantryman. Frank underwent additional training at the Chemical School under the Far East Command. Following his active duty, he continued to serve in the United States Army Reserve until June 15, 1961. Frank's exemplary service was recognized with a Sharpshooter Badge with the M1 rifle, as well as the National Defense Service Medal, UN Service Medal, and Korean Service Medal.

11 Charles Earl Henry



Charles served as a dedicated Private First Class (PFC) in the United States Marine Corps, exhibiting exceptional courage during the intense combat operations against North Korean forces in the autumn of 1950. Notably, he played a vital role in the strategic takeover of Inchon, Korea, in September 1950, showcasing his unwavering commitment to

the mission. Additionally, his significant contributions to the capture and security of Seoul, Korea, and his participation in the impactful Wonson-Hungnam-Chosin campaign in Northern Korea demonstrated his exceptional valor. Consequently, he was honorably discharged in July 1951, concluding a remarkable chapter in his military journey.

12 Charles Momper



In May 1951, Charlie was employed as a welder at Dana Corporation in Fort Wayne when he was drafted into the United States Army at the age of 21. After basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas, he was trained as an infantryman. Serving for 16 months in Korea, he was assigned to the 79th Engineering Group.

During the retreat of North Korean forces over the 38th parallel, Charlie and his fellow soldiers played a crucial role in supplying parts and conducting vehicle repairs to ensure the continual movement of troops, often enduring harsh weather conditions. Following his return to the United States, he was honorably discharged in February 1953. Charlie went on to establish Momper Insulation, Fort Wayne in 1955.