The American Legion
Winter Conference
Holiday Inn Gateway Center
Flint, MI
15 February 2020

National Security and Foreign Relations Committee

The Committee was called to order at 1pm in the Jackson Room.

Roll call was taken. Members present: K. Wakefield, Chair, V. Spolarich, Vice Chair, G. Hlavka, T. DeCarlo, and C. Wotring.

Member absent: J. Kailunas

Four Guests in attendance.

Minutes of last meeting which was held in Kalamazoo were read. Motion to approve by Mr. Hlavka, second by Mr. Spolarich. Motion carried.

Report by Mr. Hlavka on POW/MIA recovery (report attached)

Report by Mr. Spolarich on Blood, Eye, Vital Organ program.

No Old Business to be considered by the Committee.

New Business: Motion made to present a resolution to the 2020 Department Convention calling for the U.S. Government to expand the search for MIA’s of veterans of ALL Wars. Motion made by Mr. Spolarich, seconded by Mr. Hlavka. Motion carried.

Good of the Legion:

Mr. Spolarich advised committee members of the new US postage stamp. $13.50 for 20, $2.00 goes to support VA programs.

Mr. Wakefield was asked by the Committee to contact US Senator Gary Peters to obtain information concerning National Security as Senator Peter’s is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 1350.

Submitted by,

Keith M. Wakefield, Chair
POW/MIA

THE DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY
ANNOUNCED THAT ARMY CPL. JEROME W. HUMMEL, 23
OF ST. LOUIS, KILLED DURING THE KOREAN WAR WAS
ACCOUNTED FOR SEPT. 23, 2019. HE WAS A MEMBER OF
HEAVY MOTOR CO. 31ST INFANTRY REGIMENT 7TH
INFANTRY DIVISION. HE WAS REPORTED MISSING IN
ACTION NOV. 30, 1950 IN THE VICINITY OF THE CHOSON
RESERVOIR NORTH KOREA. HE WAS ONE OF THE
55 BOXES RETURNED.

THE DEFENSE DEPT. POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY
ANNOUNCED THAT SGT. JUAN PHILLIPS, 35 OF
CASSVILLE, MISSOURI SERVED IN WW II WAS ACCOUNTED
FOR, DEC. 11, 2019. HE DIED IN POW CAMP. HE WAS A
MEMBER OF HEADQUARTERS CO. 31ST INFANTRY
REGIMENT WHEN JAPANESE FORCES INVADED THE
PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. HE WAS HELD AT THE
CABANATUN POW CAMP, MORE THAN 2,500
PERISHED IN THIS CAMP. ACCORDING TO PHILLIPS
AND OTHER HISTORICAL RECORDS, PHILLIPS DIED
JULY 27, 1942. HE WAS BURIED IN THE CAMP
CEMETERY IN COMMON GRAVE 325. HE WILL
BE BURIED IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.
Dec 19, 1952, Margaret Baker of Boris "Bo" Baker, a marine with 6th Company 1st Battalion 5th Marines sent a letter to Oliver J. Smith, the Commanding General of the 1st Marine Div. She wanted to know where her son had been buried. Just days before sending the letter, she received a telegram like thousands of others across America. Her son was killed in action at the Chosin Reservoir. The General wrote back that her son was killed in action at Yudam-ni 60 miles north of Hungnam. It was necessary to bury him at Yudam-ni. His grave has been officially recorded for future reference. In 1955, Col. Baker's body was finally returned to his parents and wife Nancy, 6 months before deploying to Korea. He was buried with full military honors in his hometown of Mansfield City.
In the early morning hours of Nov 6th 1950 
Cpl. Mitchell Red Cloud a 25 year old member of 
The 19th Infantry Regiment 24th Infantry Division 
Realized all hell was about to break loose, 
Concealed in a forward observation post near 
Chongnyon North Korea, the Ho Chunk Native 
American who fought at Guadalcanal Earned a 
Purple Heart at Okinawa and what looked like 
hundreds of Chinese charging towards him, in an 
Attempt to warn his fellow soldiers of the attack 
opened up with his BAZ RIFLE: He fired point blank 
at the Chinese only feet away then twice in the 
chest, he refused to go down, prone covered in blood 
bleeding into shock He wrapped his arms 
around a tree and continued to fire. They found 
his body surrounded by dozens of Chinese. 

In April 1951 General Omar Bradley presented Red 
Cloud's Medal of Honor to his mother and younger 
BROTHER.
January 13, 2020

The remains of a US soldier listed as a MIA were located.

Army Col. William McCollum of Anderson, South Carolina was 19 when he was killed during the Korean War. His remains have been accounted for. McCollum was a member of Co D, 1st Battalion, 32nd Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, 31st Regimental Combat Team. His unit was attacked by enemy forces near Chosin Reservoir north Korea on Dec. 2, 1950. McCollum was reported missing. His remains could not be recovered. He was one of the 55 boxes of remains returned. A plaque will be placed next to McCollum's name on the Courts of the Missing at the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu to indicate he has been accounted for. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.