

Village of Orland Park Veterans Commission Seeks Korean War Memorabilia

Loaned Artifacts Needed for Korean War 60th Anniversary Display

ORLAND PARK, IL – The Village of Orland Park Veterans Commission is asking area veterans to share their Korean War memorabilia for its planned 60th anniversary display. Artifacts are needed now until approximately mid-December.

“Our Veterans Commission is planning displays to join the national commemoration of the upcoming 60th anniversary of the Korean War,” said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin.

“This is an important part of our nation’s history,” the mayor said. “Being able to show the young people of the community actual memorabilia from that era will help them learn more about the Korean War and its importance in the history of our country,” he noted.

The Department of Defense began its commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Korean War on June 24, 2010 marking the beginning of a three year observance of key events of the Korean War that will culminate with the 60th anniversary of the signing of the armistice on July 27, 2013.

More than 37,000 troops died during the three year war with 6,877 becoming prisoners of war and more than 8,000 remaining unaccounted for.

“We know that we have a number of Korean War veterans in the area,” said Veterans Commission Chair Tom Dubelbeis. “We’re hoping that they’re willing to loan their memorabilia for our displays that will help the community salute and remember those who served during that time,” he said.

The Korean War began on June 25, 1950 when Communist North Korean forces surprised the South Korean Army. The United States responded by advancing a resolution through the United Nations Security Council calling for military assistance to South Korea. Once the resolution was approved, President Harry S. Truman quickly dispatched U.S. land, air and sea forces to Korea. The Korean War lasted three years and in 1953, the United States and North Korea signed a cease-fire that ended the conflict.

“The Korean War is oftentimes called ‘the forgotten war’,” said Veterans Commission Recording Secretary Gail Blummer. “We want these veterans to know that they are not forgotten and we look forward to displaying the artifacts that they have. We’ll take very good of any memorabilia that comes in and will return it in mid-December,” she added.

Further information about Orland Park’s display to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Korean War is available by calling Blummer at 708/403-6203.

