Chronology of the National Committee for the Korean War Memorial

1981

November 30  Articles of Incorporation filed in District of Columbia (Exhibit 1).

November 30  Plan of action drawn up by Tom Mechling (Exhibit 2).

December 11-25  Travel to Republic of Korea, exploratory visit to share concept with influential Korean individuals (e.g., Presidents of Seoul Daily News and Korean Veterans Associations).

December 30  Forwarded written proposals (Exhibit 3) to twenty members of the Executive Committee of the Centennial Anniversary of US-Korea Relations. (Suggested by President of Seoul Daily News during December visit.) No response received as of this date.

1982

February 3  Discussed second trip to Korea with Dr. Hallinan, Ken Scheibel, Tom Mechling at National Press Club.

February 9  Obtained from Senator Paul Laxalt a letter expressing support for a Korean War Memorial and offering to provide help. (Exhibit 4)

February 11 - March 3  Travel to Republic of Korea for a second presentation (at the recommendation of Dr. Hallinan and Mr. Scheibel -- co-incorporators for the NCKWM) to official and quasi-official Korean individuals and organizations (e.g., Admiral M.K. Lee, Korean Veterans Association and Mr. Moon, Tae-kap, President of Seoul Daily News).

NOTE: During this visit I became aware of a change in attitude among the Korean people I was dealing with. For example, on my first visit Admiral Lee was excited about the project and thanked me for bringing the idea to his attention. On the second trip I was given a very cool reception. Because I was beginning to wonder at the change in attitude, I decided to do more ground work on the project and concentrated on detailed planning for a "grass roots" operation. At
this point Dr. Hallinan appeared to lose interest in the project and dropped out of active participation. Also, at this time Mr. Scheibel suggested I use his good offices to obtain office space in Room 292, National Press Building, to install a committee telephone, and to share the rent. Room 292 was assigned by the NPB to Mr. Scheibel, but I paid all of the rent. At about the same time he also asked me to pay $105 for a ticket to a White House dinner where we might meet some journalists who, at some time, could be helpful to the project. I refused. Mr. Scheibel has never since asked me to any other special event.

March 26

While listening to the ground breaking ceremony for the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial, phoned General Sohn, Chang-Rae, head of Korean CIA (at suggestion of a Korean business "expert") to have lunch at National Press Club (NPC). Gave him full report on the operation and provided an information package. Never heard from him again.

April 4

Ken Scheibel informed me that I must pay a $500 deposit to reserve office space in the National Press building after completion of renovation. Telephone is installed; stationery has been printed, too late to change. It was a big mistake to agree to share office with him.

April 19

Lunch with Tip Marlow, Director of Public Affairs, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Marlow promised to help the project through the ten thousand VFW posts in the United States.

April 21

Accompanied by Dr. Hallinan attended meeting with Mylio Kraja, Executive Director of the American Legion, and his assistant G. Micheal Schlee. Surprised to discover that the American Legion had been approached by the Korean Veterans Association to establish a Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. This incident was greatly discouraging to me and to Dr. Hallinan. (For background on Dr. Hallinan, see Exhibit 5.)

NOTE: As a result of the meeting with the American Legion officials, I decided that the Korean War Memorial must be a totally American project rather than a Korean-American joint venture. It became necessary
to convert all articles and proposals to support the concept of an American project. Began writing letters soliciting distinguished Americans from all walks of life to lend their names, and reputations, to the success of the project. It was the loneliest period of my life.

May 1

General Ridgeway's endorsement came in the mail, and Colonel (U.S. Army, Ret.) Lloyd L. "Scooter" Burke endorsed the project and offered to provide assistance in the area of legislative liaison with the Congress.

May 5

Received informative guideline on Veterans organizations from Veterans Administration.

Attended meeting of D.C. Chapter of AMVETS arranged by Ira Jett, Post Commander. Made five minute speech about the NCKWM and the project. Received overwhelmingly favorable response and was greatly encouraged. Passed out some literature about the project. Began concentrating on recruiting support from prominent Americans from all walks of life. (See Exhibit 5)

May 11

Visited Bob Doubek and Jan Scruggs at the Viet Nam Veterans Fund offices to get advice based on their experience.

May 13

Prepared outline of the project for Scooter Burke, presented it to him at lunch with Ken Scheibel and Mrs. Rosse. Asked Scooter to accept the presidency of NCKWM. He declined.

May 14

Met with Joe Brown, EDAW, and his partner to discuss the memorial project and site selection criteria.

NOTE: busy interviewing fund raising firms, reviewing proposals from Security National Bank, Capital Bank, and First American Bank. Conducting background research and making inquiries around National Park Service and American Battle Monuments Commission. Continuing to write letters to prominent people seeking their endorsement for the project. Sent letters and information packages to 34 members of the House of Representatives and 6 Senators who are veterans of the Korean War.
June 4

Met David Passamanec at National Press Club. He has volunteered to help. Assigned him the task of obtaining endorsements from various veterans associations. No results to date.

June 7

Lunch with Jim Prescott, lawyer for Veterans Administration responsible for oversight of Viet Nam Veterans Memorial and, now, Korean War Memorial project. Informed him that I was seeking an executive director for NCKWM. He suggested contact with Colonel (U.S. Army, Ret.) John F.C. Kenney, Jr. Told Prescott that executive director salary would be $50,000 per year.

June 14

Interviewed Colonel Kenney and discussed the overall plan for the project. Satisfied with his credentials and willingness to work without salary during the first stage of the project and to be reimbursed later. Started at full-time.

June 16

Scooter Burke and John Kenney met at Senator Laxalt's office to ask the senator to introduce authorizing legislation in Senate. Also visited office of Senator Cannon after which Scooter Burke invited all to National Democratic Club. There, Scooter and John agreed that John would work without salary at first (no funds available) and that the matter of salary would be addressed later.

June 21

With John Kenney, visited Viet Nam Memorial officials to obtain their advice and to obtain sample materials for use in our project. Among these materials was the site selection analysis prepared for the Viet Nam Memorial.

June 24

With John Kenney, visited Leon Bernstein and Major General (U.S. Army, Ret.) Hodson, Chairman of the Board and General Counsel of Security National Bank, respectively. Full discussion of lock box operations and the need for "seed money" for the project.

June 24

House Joint Resolution (HR 523) introduced by Representative Hammerschmidt (R-Ark). (See Exhibit 7 for entry in Congressional Record.)

June 29

With John Kenney, visited Raymond Poston, a Washington attorney (wife, Gretchen, social secretary for Rosalyn Carter) about his willingness to serve as NCKWM general counsel. At first Poston thought I was a
Korean agent. Impression corrected. No further action with Poston.

June 6

With John Kenney, attended a meeting with Frantz and Company regarding obtaining Frantz' services as corporate accountant and to arrange for assistance in developing a budget for the next three year period. (Exhibit 8)

July 8

First NCKWM Board of Directors meeting. Original board (Hallinan, Scheibel, and Kim) appointed two new directors, Scooter Burke and David Passamaneck. John Kenney not considered because salaried executive director not considered eligible for office. (Exhibit 9)

July 14

With John Kenney, visited IRS office in Baltimore to discuss NCKWM application for tax-exempt status. IRS representative said it was a well-written proposal. Accounting and budgeting not my field. Dr. Hallinan, an economist and one-time budget director for RAND refused to prepare application without payment of a fee.

July 13

With Scooter Burke and John Kenney, attended a National Press Club reception for J. Carter Brown, Chairman of the Fine Arts Commission, an organization which must approve the memorial site selection and design. Made his acquaintance.

July 19

Phone conversation with Counselor Ninh, Byung-Beouk, Korean Embassy, invitation to lunch. Accepted invitation after long discussion.

July 20

Meeting with Korean Ambassador Riew Byung-Hyua, 11:00 AM, 2370 Massachusetts Avenue. Pointed out that (a) even after two trips to Korea and the presentation of written proposals NCKWM had received no response, (b) NCKWM is aware of various uncoordinated approaches to US veterans organizations, like the American Legion, (c) NCKWM considers such gestures by the Korean government officials to be self-destructive, foolish, and only "fame-oriented."

July 22

Scooter Burke called after a meeting with the Korean ambassador to inform that the ambassador desired to enter into a joint venture with NCKWM, also to inform that the
ambassador wants to invite Senator Pryor and Congressman Hammerschmidt and our committee members to dinner. Never took place.

July 27

Senate Joint Resolution (SR 220) introduced by Senator David H. Pryor (D-Ark). (See Exhibit 10 for entry in Congressional Record.)

Following introduction of resolution NCKWM members invited to join Senator Pryor and Representative Hammerschmidt for publicity photograph session. In attendance: Dr. Hallinan, Chayon Kim, Scooter Burke, John Kenney, from NCKWM; Ann Price, press secretary for Senator Pryor.

July 29

Lunch at NPC with Peter Nigogission, film and TV producer. Discussed the possibility of a TV special to raise funds for NCKWM. Learned much about production techniques.

July 31

Spoke at Fifth Conference of the United Association of Koreans in the United States. Informed group on Korean War Memorial project and spoke on the general idea of adjustments a Korean-American must make in this country.

August 4

Meeting with Raymond Freeman, Executive Director, American Society of Landscape Architects, and former Director, National Park Service. Discussed site selection criteria and techniques of conducting a design competition.

August 4

With Jim Savage, Veterans Administration attended monthly meeting of the Officers Service Club seeking to recruit volunteers for the committee. Introduced to Myron McKee, McKee claims to have served on Reagan transition team, and is now working as manager of Officers Service Club with salary of $35,000 per year. Veteran Viet Nam War.

August 5

Lunch with General Talbott, Executive Director, Military Order of World Wars (MOH). Invited him to become president of NCKWM. He declined, but offered to help in any way he could.

August 9

Mailed 7000 letters with Senate and House Joint Resolutions as enclosures to names from MOHW, CMH Society, and other veterans organizations mailing lists.
David Passamanek attending AMVETS convention.

August 11
Obtained bulk mail permit from Post Office.

August 11
IRS granted tax exemption under Section 501(c)(3). (Exhibit 11)

August 12
Obtained Soliciting Charity license from District of Columbia government.

August 13
Lunch, Myron McKee. Requested resume. He said he is patriotic American, conservative Republican, member of a good family, and also that he had flown in combat.

August 16
Meeting with Mr. Foster Ferrel, Senior Vice President, First American Bank, to set up lock box operation. Selected First American because of their experience with Viet Nam Memorial Fund lock box operation (Post Office Box #7798). Myron McKee and Dr. Mustapha accompanied Kim on bank visit.

August 18
Max Desfos, US News and World Report suggested change to NCKWM logo, provided names of members of US news reporters who served in Korea during war.

Without approval of the Board of Directors decided to appoint McKee president of NCKWM.

NOTE: There has been no one around the office; no one has made even a telephone inquiry about the project for a long time.

Reported to Scooter Burke that McKee said he is manager Officers Service Club -- willing to work for $1.00 per year because job pays $38,000.

McKee departed for Wisconsin. Will return to Washington on September 1.

September 1
McKee returned to Washington, loaned me a Thomas Cook Travelers Cheque ($100, Canadian) without purchaser's signature. (Exhibit 12)

September 3
Michael Panayotopoulos arrived from Ormonds Beach, Florida. Panayotopoulos stated that he had to leave Florida because he is a key witness in drug smuggling operation run by ex-sister-in-law's boy friend; said he was involved in purchase of house, in cash, under
his name which he then resold to same people. Panayotoupolos is an illegal alien also believed to have been involved in an assassination in Germany. McKee arranged for Panayotoupolos to stay at Officers Service Club.

NOTE: Panayotoupolos was a guest in Kim's apartment in New York City in 1973. Stayed for one month.

September 6

John Kenney visited NCKWM office with notice of public hearing before National Capital Memorial Advisory Committee, offered to make presentation for NCKWM. Kenney prepared the presentation draft, Kim typed in final form. (Exhibit 13)

Mailed letters to 116 former Korean War correspondents soliciting endorsement for the project.

September 20

Prepared letter to General Kim, Jong Hwan, president of the Korean Veterans Association asking for help for the project. Before mailing, discussed letter with Dr. Hallinan and Mr. J.P. Bowers, esq., of the Veterans Administration. Made plans for third trip to Korea; Dr. Hallinan wanted to accompany, but did not have funds. Kim did not have funds to buy him a ticket. Bowers traveled to Korea at same time, but on other business. (Exhibit 14)

September 22


September 27

Met with Mr. John Teeter and Mr. Eugene Lopez, vice presidents, Pfizer Corporation, for fund-raising purposes. They promised support.

Met with Sandy Jones, vice president, Grumman Corporation; he will review project and present request to Board of Directors.

September 28

Met with John Heatherington, Corporate Secretary, WestVACO, New York. Obtained promise of support.

Discussion with Bruce Everlie Association concerning direct mail campaign. Agreed to
October 4
With John Kenney, met with John Parsons, Director, National Park Service, and Joe Ronsisvalle, National Capital Region, to discuss availability of Tidal Basin site.

Congress in recess until November 29.

October 8
Departed on third trip to Korea at urging of Dr. Hallinan and Panayiotopoulos. Dr. Hallinan wanted to accompany, but Kim did not have funds to buy him a ticket. (Exhibit 15)

October 11
Met with General Kim, Chong Hwan, President of Korean Veterans Association. Presented briefing on the full operation and provided update on project status, asked for "seed money." Cool reception, no endorsement. Was disappointed, expected to see me earlier in month. Asked if European allies had been contacted. Answered, "Yes." All military attaches and ambassadors of 21 countries asked for their endorsement.

October 12
Meeting with Mr. Fullerton, Eighth US Army Public Affairs Office, obtained publicity materials and photos from archives.

October 14
Visited Yuido United Security Exhibition Hall guided by Congressman Ji, Kap-Chong. Discussed NCKWM project.

October 15
Guided by Huh Nahm, Korean-American businessman, visited silk necktie manufacturing plant to make plans to manufacture neckties with NCKWM logo.

October 16
Ordered plaques for President Reagan, Senator Pryor, and Congressman Hammerschmidt.

Dinner with Korean millionaire, asked for "seed money" donation. He appeared interested, asked for more information about the project. No commitment.

October 18
Visited soldiers in Punch Bowl along 26th Parallel and Hyang-Ro-Bong to gain experience of battlefield of thirty-two years ago.

October 19
Met with General Kim, Chum Kwon, author of a history of the Korean War and Dean of Kyung Hui University Graduate School. Discussed

have another meeting with lawyers [present?]
problems of dealing with Korean individuals and organizations. He said he would like to help after passage of legislation.

October 20

Visited Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) production department to learn about TV production as it might apply to NCKWM TV special.

October 22

Promised myself never to return to Korea.

November 1

At suggestion of Myron McKee met with Jesse Brown, Director of Government Relations for PEPCO, and Milton Coupoulos, a director from Heritage Foundation. Both expressed appreciation for the NCKWM effort and enthusiasm for the committee's task; the passage of the legislation.

According to Myron McKee, Brown contacted Congressman Hawkins, Chairman of House Committee on Administration, to help with the legislation. Upon meeting Brown I learn he does not know Hawkins. Brown hinted that without operating money he cannot perform any lobbying activities. Thanked him for his interest in the project.

In afternoon Coupoulos visited office, said he is excited about project believes fund-raising of $100,000 to be a "cup of tea." Suggested contacting Sun-Myung Moon organization. I rejected idea stating it would cause erroneous impression that NCKWM an organ of Korean government and project is a Korean enterprise.

NOTE: The truth of the matter is that NCKWM is self-sponsored American organization. While it seeks support from every quarter, NCKWM has no affiliations with governments, agencies, or veterans organizations. NCKWM Congressional sponsorship crosses party lines; it is independent and desires to remain so. NCKWM would certainly welcome financial, artistic, or any other kind of support from the Korean government or any other allied nation, but not at the cost of independence or integrity.

Coupoulos said White House desires to help NCKWM. Letter was written requesting White House endorsement on September 9, 1982. No reply as of this date. (Exhibit on Correspondent File)
November 4

Contacted the NCKWM Board of Directors (Dr. Hallinan, Ken Scheibel, Scooter Burke, and David Passamaneck) to obtain approval to accept a line of credit offered by First American Bank. Approval by phone. Invited Dr. Hallinan to dinner, brought him up to date on project status.

November 5

With David Passamaneck, signed note at bank for $30,000 revolving line of credit until March 7, 1983. Loan is unsecured. Paid all NCKWM debts July 1 - October 31. (Exhibit 16)

November 8

Scheduled interview with Susan Bennett, Philadelphia Daily News, asked John Kenney to be NCKWM spokesman. Bennett did not show up.

Asked John Kenney to be president of NCKWM. He declined, but said he would continue to help. Scheduled lunch, November 9, to discuss status of legislation with Scooter Burke.

November 9

Met with Scooter Burke and John Kenney to discuss status of legislation especially in view of "lame duck" session starting November 29.

Discussion interrupted by arrival of McKee, then Passamaneck, claiming to have been summoned to a board meeting. McKee, claiming to be president, chaired impromptu meeting, offered to resign as president, reeled off a list of complaints about Kim. John Kenney, seated in middle of all this, was nominated and elected to the board of directors. Board directed that Panayotopoulos' "employment" be terminated and that board schedule a meeting in December. Scooter Burke volunteered use of the Sperry Corporation conference room in Crystal City. Meeting date: December 8.

November 12

McKee distributed 20,000 blue cards (Exhibit 17) asking for opinions on design of Korean War Memorial. This action not authorized by the NCKWM board of directors.

NOTE: Return address on card is Officers Service Club, 1644 21st Street, New York.

November 15

Met with Bob Doubek concerning the final stage of his project and to obtain advice. Doubek advises that using OSC address rather than NCKWM (NPB) address could lead to charges of charity fraud.
While at Viet Nam Veterans Memorial offices answered many phone calls about Korean memorial.


New York Times reporter from Florida wanted interview over the phone.

Washington Post called to inquire about NCKWM. Panayotopoulos informed Post NCKWM spokesman not present.

NOTE: Late that afternoon Panayotopoulos warned that McKee is trying to get Kim off the committee, Kim isolated by board of directors. Why? What grounds? What contribution have they made?

December 8

Board of directors met at Sperry Corporation conference room. Present at meeting: Dr. Hallinan, Scooter Burke, Myron McKee, David Passamanecck, Chayon Kim, John Kenney. Kim presented correspondence file, ledger, and check book for review.

After loud discussion, which included consideration of McKee's November 8 tender of resignation and no creditable review of NCKWM administration, McKee introduced a motion to remove Chayon Kim from the position of Secretary/Treasurer and from the board of directors. Dr. Hallinan seconded the motion.

There was almost no discussion; there was, however, a brief recess and then a secret ballot. McKee counted the slips of paper and stated that the vote was two for removal, two against removal, and one vote to abstain.

McKee then attempted to cast a proxy vote for Ken Scheibel, but could not provide proof of proxy. McKee then voted to remove. No one present challenged the vote or asked to see the slips on which votes were written.

Immediately following the vote Scooter Burke presented a written letter of resignation from the board of directors -- dated Dec 7, and identified himself as the vote to abstain. John Kenney offered his
resignation; both resignations were accepted by the newly organized board. Burke, Kim, and Kenney departed.

Assuming that McKee's announcement of the vote was accurate, the vote to remove Kim can be reconstructed as follows:

For removal -- McKee, Hallinan, Passamanec
Against removal -- Kim, Kenney
Abstain -- Burke

Minutes of the December 8 meeting have not been distributed to participants.

NOTE: Passamanec continues to claim that he voted against removal, and has stated that he is willing to sign an affidavit to that claim. If this is true, then McKee knowingly miscounted the ballots, and the vote should be reversed.

December 9

Kim retrieved desk, chair, and other personal belongings from NCKWM office.

McKee ordered phone disconnected, all calls transferred to Officers Service Club number.

January 5

All corporate files transferred to David Passamanec (Exhibit 18)