By Ernest B. Furgurson

**Fighting to Remember Korea**

BILL WEBER was a 25-year-old rifle company commander when the Chinese counterattacked his hard-won high ground north of Wonsu one night in February of 1951. About midnight, an enemy grenade blew his arm off. About 3 a.m., another shattered his leg, which he later lost. When the fight was over, his company had lost 92 men. All its officers were killed or wounded. But the 187th Airborne RCT still held the hill.

In those essentials, the battle for Hill 342 was typical of what happened in Korea between June 25 and July 27, 1953. Men died to the ground there. The men who fought it are not media darlings. They are getting to be grandfathers now. The Vietnam memorial here is visited by thousands of Americans daily, but the Korean war, three times as bloody measured by how long it took for so many to die, is nearly forgotten.

Korea is not a fashionable war. The men who fought it are not media darlings. They are getting to be grandfathers now. The Vietnam memorial here is visited by thousands of Americans daily, but the Korean war, three times as bloody measured by how long it took for so many to die, is nearly forgotten.

But what happened to Bill Weber was not typical. Although he lost an arm and a leg, he stayed in the Army — the infantry, in fact, as instructor and staff officer — for another 29 years. After he retired as a colonel in 1980, he set himself up on a little horse farm in the rolling Maryland countryside along the Carroll-Frederick county line.

He is retired, but still in a sense on active duty. He is determined to do something to honor those who were not as lucky as he was, those 54,246 who died in that "forgotten war" in Korea. And though he is not by himself, sometimes he has to feel he is waging a lonely campaign.

Why he should have to? Why hasn't the president named that commission, and offered the memorial the kind of rhetorical lift only he can give? Why don't the big veterans' groups like the American Legion put aside their own interests and pitch in? Why don't the veterans of every unit that fought in Korea — the 1st Marine Division, the 2nd Infantry, the air wings — why don't the stars of "M.A.S.H.," who have become rich against the background of the Korean war, add some celebrity power?

This is a situation that could be turned around promptly by some public-minded advertising or public-relations agency. A firm could earn immense (and deductible) goodwill by helping get this effort rolling.

Washington.

**Baltimore Sun**

**JUN 28 1987**