Enclosed is a letter from Mr. Hal Barker, who is currently writing a book concerning the Korean War Veterans' Memorial. As the names and addresses of contributors to the memorial fund are protected by the Privacy Act of 1976, Mr. Barker's letter is being forwarded to you through this Commission. The letter is self-explanatory.

If you wish to respond to Mr. Barker's letter, please do so by using the self-addressed stamped envelope which he provided.

Information concerning the current status of the memorial project may be found in the enclosed brochure.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

WILLIAM E. RYAN, JR.
Colonel, AD
Director of Operations and Finance

Encls.
July 27, 1989

RE: Korean War Memorial

To Whom It May Concern:

In December, 1984, I made a $10 contribution to the American Battle Monuments Commission, and started the Korean War Veterans Memorial Fund. Much has happened since then.

Your own early donation to the Memorial Fund is a private matter, so I have asked the American Battle Monuments Commission to forward this letter to you, with the hope that you might consider contacting me.

I am attempting to contact the first 50 contributors to the Memorial Fund in preparation for a future book about the early contributors to the Fund. Each of us has different reasons for remembering the Korean War. I would like to know your reasons.

My own father was a helicopter rescue pilot with Marine Observation Squadron Six in 1951-1952. He would never talk about the ribbons on his uniform, or the Silver Star he won at Heartbreak Ridge. I had to find out for myself.

I have included a stamped envelope with the hope that I might hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Hal Barker
September 11, 1989

Mr. Hal Barker
8656 Park Lane #2008
Dallas, TX. 75231

Dear Mr. Barker:

I guess I am more than a bit surprised that I was among the first 50 contributors.

It does seem to me the first time I remember seeing anything about the Memorial, perhaps in the Army Times, I sent a contribution.

I graduated from high school on June 9, 1948 and joined the Army. This was not unusual for a 17 year old in Brooklyn, N.Y. Time to get a little maturity and see what to do with your life. I would have stayed in the Army.

Me best friend, John R. Paradise, joined six-months later after graduation. We lived around the corner from one another in Bay Ridge. We were more like brothers than friends and both of our parents treated us like sons.

Joining the service was a fairly normal thing to do, nearly all guys our age went in or were in the reserves.

Once the Korean started, not one of the 60 or 70 guys I knew did not do some service.

One friend, Timmy Dunn had bad eyesight, was rejected by every service. He got in by finding a National Guard unit in Brooklyn which was being called to active duty and who winked at his condition. He was wounded, not badly, in Korea serving with the Artillery.

If you did not serve, you would have been ashamed and probably shunned.

I last saw John Paradise in Hawaii. I was on my way back from serving on Guam just before the war started and the troop ship stopped for a day at Pearl Harbor, John was stationed at Schofield Barracks and went AWOL so we could get together.

In July or August, 1950, John went with the 5th Regimental Combat Team to Korea as a riflemen and was killed in action several months later.

The donation was for him. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

My story, not interesting. Volunteered for Korea three or four times, never allowed to go, supply Sargeants were needed for the build up.

I was sent to Camp Carson, in Colorado, to help activate the 538th Field Artillery Battalion and was injured in a barracks fire and was retired for physical disability.

St John's Church in Brooklyn which is known as the Church of Generals, it is right outside of Fort Hamilton and had as members Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson.
among others, has a flag pole in front of the church given in memory of John by his father.

We used to laugh, Harry Truman's policemen. You went, served, most came back and went to school or work, got married and got on with life.

No bands, no parades, no big war like WW II, but no one thinking they should not have done their duty or have fled to Canada.

Call if you care to, just start the conversation by saying your the book writer, I dodge calls at home.

Very truly yours,

Allen H. Beck
467 Highland St.
Holden, MA. 01520
Telephone: Home 508-829-3045
Business 508-853-7200, X2991

It hurt to write this letter.