



**For Immediate Release**

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**DUPAGE TO HOST KOREAN WAR EX-POW ASSOCIATION REUNION IN AUGUST**

Oak Brook, IL – Former Korean War prisoners of war (POWs) will meet to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its commencement at their annual reunion being held at the [Doubletree Hotel Chicago Oakbrook](#), on August 1 – 8, 2010.

More than 150 former POWs, their spouses, surviving widows and other family members assemble once each year. According to William (Bill) Norwood, founder and current 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the organization and who himself was a Korean War POW from 1951-1953, "The friendships that were formed under the adverse conditions as a prisoner of war last for a lifetime and become more meaningful as we advance in age."

This was the bloodiest war of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, according to Norwood, who goes on to say, "We feel it's important to reunite each year to remember and honor those who are no longer with us."

The Korean War began in June 1950 and ended with a truce agreement in July 1953. 36,568 Americans lost their lives in combat, 103,000 Americans were wounded and 8,177 Americans were listed as missing in action at the end of the hostilities in Korea. The exchange of prisoners of war began on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1953 and ended one month later, with 4,700 Americans returned to freedom.

*(more)*

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“We consider it our duty to make certain those still listed as missing are not forgotten and those who died at the prisoner of war camps are remembered as well,” states Norwood.

The [Korean War EX-POW Association](#) was formed in 1976 by Bill Norwood as a non-political wartime veterans organization dedicated to providing support and assistance to fellow veterans and their families regarding veterans issues. It also aims to educate the public by bringing attention to the Korean War and the plight of its American POWs.

The association consists of more than 2000 members from all branches of the armed forces and represents all United Nations forces that fought in Korea, including veterans from The United States, Great Britain, France, Ireland, Australia, Philippines, South Korea, Turkey, Belgium, Canada and South Africa.

For further information regarding the Association or its reunion activities, contact Bill Norwood at (423) 476-3628 or [wnorwood909@charter.net](mailto:wnorwood909@charter.net).

### **About DuPage County**

DuPage County is the second most populous county in Illinois after Cook County, which borders it to the north and east. Together, the two counties account for half of the state’s population. One of the nation’s wealthiest counties, DuPage is rich in many types of commerce and is second only to Cook in tourism revenue. With its well-developed highway and mass transit system, DuPage is easily accessible from both O’Hare and Midway Airports, and the City of Chicago.

### **About the DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau**

Established through the efforts of a coalition of DuPage area hotel executives and business representatives in 1987, the DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau was formally certified in 1989 by the State of Illinois as the official agency to promote the county’s multi-billion dollar tourism industry and market DuPage County as a destination for visitors, conventions and economic development.

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