

I'm Bob McCullough, a Veteran that served in the Army from 1968 to 1971. Served in Korea from 1969 to 1970 and Vietnam from 1970 to 1971, leaving the Army with a rank of E5, with an Honorable discharge and awarded a Bronze Star.

Since I've been ask to testify for the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA), I'm the Secretary and Treasure for the KWVA Chapter 138 in Akron. I'm also Secretary and Treasure for KWVA at the State level. I believe KWVA State is the only military organization in Ohio that allocates funds for each of their 12 Chapters within the State from the funds provided. Our National Korean War Veterans Association provides no funding to their State Chapters so the State funding we receive helps the chapter's to exist since many of our members are too old to do local fund raising.

For 2024/2025 KWVA State received \$85,000, of which \$5,000 was allocated to each of our 12 Chapters. They are reimbursed once they complete the proper form, and submitting it along with a receipt for each expense being requested to be reimbursed. We do not reimburse for any alcoholic beverages. The KWVA State allocated \$25,000 for it's use to pay for salary of \$500 annual to two of our officers, and for lunches and mileage for those who attend our quarterly meetings that are held at 35 E. Chestnut Street, Columbus. Mileage is only reimbursed to one member of the Chapter that attends our quarterly meeting, representing their Chapter. The KWVA State also provides funding to our two Veteran Homes along with the five Honor Flights that take our Veterans to Washington DC for the day. The KWVA State supports any Veteran Memorial throughout the State. Some of those supported includes a Memorial where 1,822 Ohio Korean War Veterans that were KIA during the Korean were honored. The 1,822 names were engraved on a Black Granite wall at Ohio Veterans Memorial Park located in Clinton, Ohio, which was sponsored by KWVA Chapter 138. Another memorial was a dedication of a Korean Monument at the Canfield Memorial Park where KWVA Chapter 137 dedicated a beautiful granite marker. Another was a beautiful painted mural at the Marion City Building that was sponsored and dedicated by KWVA Chapter 136. Another dedication was held at Mansfield Veteran Memorial where a dedication took place for the Korean War Defense Veterans, sponsored by KWVA Chapter 51. Our KWVA Coshocton Chapter 182 is currently working on a mural that will be painted on the side of a building in downtown Coshocton. See attached article from the Coshocton local paper about the painted mural, which the original painting is displayed in the Pentagon. The KWVA State supported each of these memorials by helping with funding each of these memorials. Our funds are also used to support our officers to attend funerals, depending on location may mean a night stay along with meals, especially the repatriation, of those during the Korean War, which we've attended about 14 over the last four years.

The majority of the funds KWVA State receives goes to the various Chapter's throughout the state to be used by the Chapter as they wish, to increase membership, to support their local community organizations, such as their first responders, police,

fire and EMS services. At the end of the year if all of the allocated funds are not used then the KWVA State makes additional donations to our Veteran Homes, Honor Flights, National Memorials, or any other 501(c) organization that's recommended by members. Since the Jewish War Veterans lost their State funding years ago, we helped support this organization by provide funding to help their organization..

I'm not sure how much longer we can keep the Korean War Veterans group going since our veterans who servered in the Korean War range in age from 88 to 97. Most of the members are Korean Defense Veterans and unfortunate many of them are in their 70's and 80's with very few young Veterans joining our group.

Hopefully with this review you can see how we meticulously use the funds the State allocates to the Korean War Veterans Association and how much we appreciate the funding that enables us to continue our support of past, and present veterans. If you have any questions, then please contact me.

Bob McCullough
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