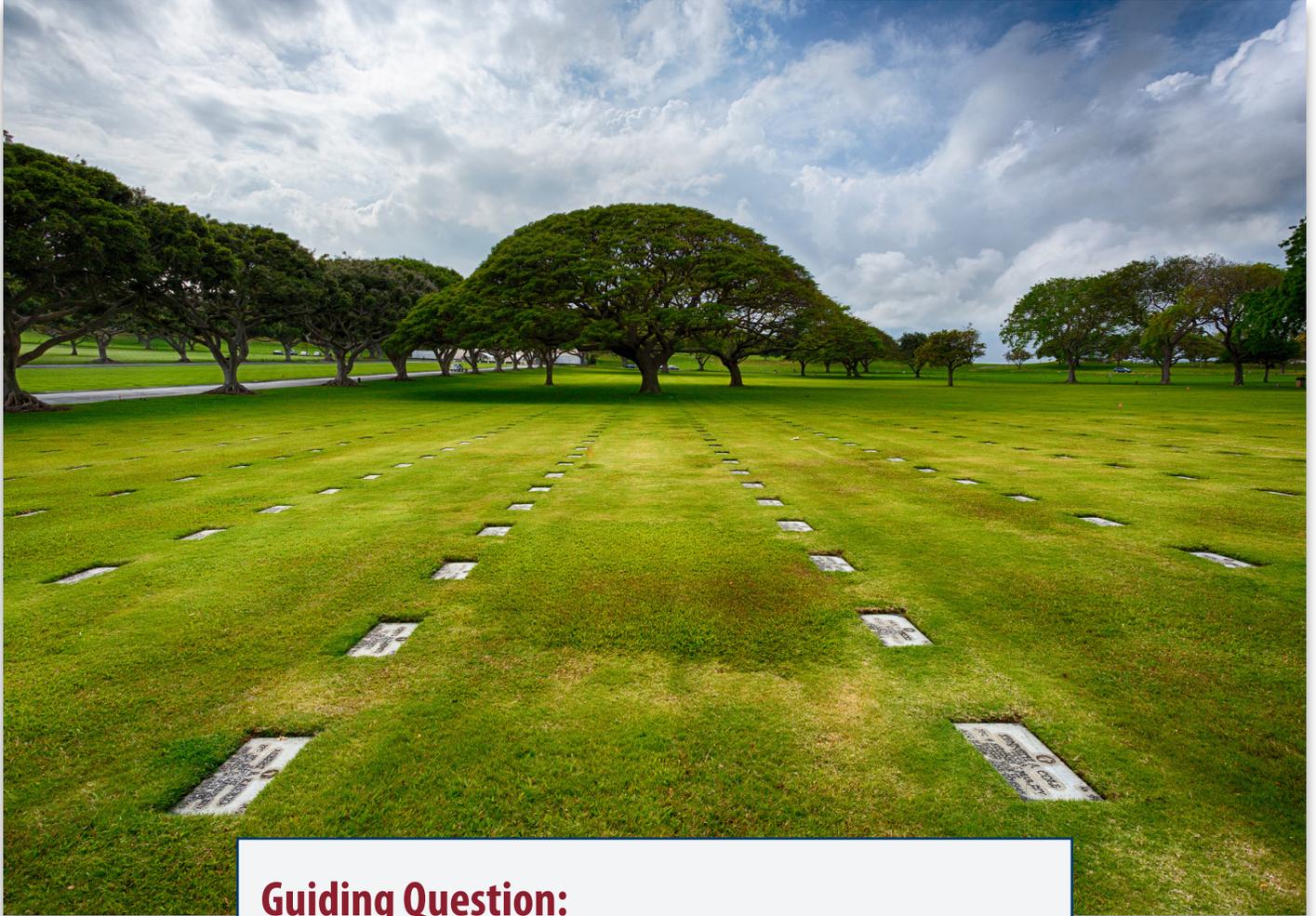


# Walk of Heroes:

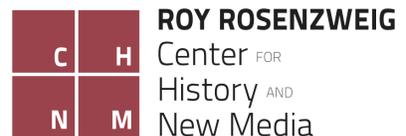
## Korean War Battles for Freedom

DEVELOPED BY AMY BOEHNING



### Guiding Question:

What are some of the ways we memorialize our veterans?



## Overview

Students begin with an introduction about the establishment of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and the historical context of the Korean War. Students will visit identified grave markers and record basic information about each service member. The walk passes through the courtyards of the missing and culminates at the top of the stairs near the display of Korean War maps. Finally, participants walk the memorial pathway to reflect on their journey, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

## Objectives

At the conclusion of this activity, students will be able to:

- Summarize the the Korean War Heroes battle stories; and
- Analyze the causes and effects of the key turning point battles of the Korean War.



*I wrote this lesson to provide an overview of the Korean War through stories of those servicemembers who fought for freedom. Each soldier's story highlights a turning point battle of the Korean War and provides insight on the conditions troops faced.*

— Amy Boehning

**Boehning teaches at Mililani High School in Mililani, Hawaii.**

## Standards Connections

### Connections to Common Core

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.2** Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.3** Analyze in detail a series of events described in a text; determine whether earlier events caused later ones or simply preceded them.

# Documents Used

## Secondary Sources

Carter Malkasian, *The Korean War, 1950-53*, 2001 (excerpt)

Dan McSwain, "Hero held off enemy at 'Heartbreak Ridge,'" May 26, 2016

*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/military/sdut-herbert-pililaau-hero-2016may26-story.html>

Fallen Hero Profile, Hospital Corpsman Second Class James C. Brown

National Cemetery Administration

<http://cem.va.gov/legacy/>

Fallen Hero Profile, Corporal Thomas F. K. Hema

National Cemetery Administration

<http://cem.va.gov/legacy/>

Fallen Hero Profile, First Lieutenant Walter N. Higgins

National Cemetery Administration

<http://cem.va.gov/legacy/>

Fallen Hero Profile, Sergeant Michael Hrabcsak

National Cemetery Administration

<http://cem.va.gov/legacy/>

Fallen Hero Profile, Private First Class Vito J. Junevicus

National Cemetery Administration

<http://cem.va.gov/legacy/>

Fallen Hero Profile, Staff Sergeant Bruce Mathewson, Jr.

National Cemetery Administration

<http://cem.va.gov/legacy/>

Fallen Hero Profile, Corporal Gene L. Piela

National Cemetery Administration

<http://cem.va.gov/legacy/>

Fallen Hero Profile, Corporal John D. Rucker  
National Cemetery Administration  
<http://cem.va.gov/legacy/>

Fallen Hero Profile, Private First Class Colin Shultz  
National Cemetery Administration  
<http://cem.va.gov/legacy/>

National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific  
National Cemetery Administration  
<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/nmcp.asp>

Korean War Veterans Association Tell America Program  
Korean War Veterans Association  
[http://kwva.org/tell\\_america/index.htm](http://kwva.org/tell_america/index.htm)

Pierre Moulin, *A History of Punchbowl: Arlington of the Pacific*, 2010 (excerpt)

Veteran Profile, Private First Class Yaichi Miyashiro  
National Cemetery Administration  
<http://cem.va.gov/legacy/>

## Materials

- Korean War Walk of Heroes Packet
- Korean War Walk of Heroes Teacher Guide
- Clipboards
- Pencils or pens
- Electronic device with internet capability to access online profiles

# Activity Preparation

- Make one copy of the Korean War Walk of Heroes Packet for each student.
- Make one copy of the Korean War Walk of Heroes Teacher Guide.
- Create ten groups of students before arriving at the cemetery.
- Secure clipboards and pencils or pens for each participant.
- Test all online resources before visiting cemetery.
- If possible, visit the site ahead of time to preview locations for the activity.
- Contact the cemetery staff to plan group visits. You will receive information for transportation drop off and pick up points.

**Teacher Tip:** *Fewer than ten groups should be created for classes with a small number of students.*

## Procedure

### Activity One: Introduction to Location and Korean War (10 minutes)

- Distribute materials to each participant:
  - Korean War Walk of Heroes handout
  - Clipboard
  - Pencil or pen
  - Electronic device for accessing the or profiles
- Organize students into the predetermined groups.
- Review cemetery conduct with participants. A national cemetery is a peaceful place for people to honor to those who served the country. Remind students to:
  - Be respectful: ensure that your actions do not interfere with the privacy of others.
  - Maintain composure: avoid running and horseplay during the visit.
  - Walk with care: be mindful as you walk through the sections and pay attention to where you step, being careful not to track mud or damage landscaping.
  - Maintain a low noise level: set your cell phone to vibrate and keep your noise level to a minimum to be respectful of others.
  - Avoid littering and eating: refrain from eating and chewing gum while visiting the cemetery.

- Ask a student to read the History of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific handout in the Teacher Guide.
- Provide an introduction to the Korean War by reading the Historical Context of the Korean War in the Teacher Guide.
- Check for understanding by asking the following questions:
  - *What historical events lead to the conflict in Korea starting in 1950?*
  - *Who was involved in the Korean War? Why was the United States involved, and in what capacity?*

### Activity Two: Expectations and Skills (10 minutes)

- Direct students to look at the Korean War Walk of Heroes handout. Point out the various sections of the cemetery in relation to the printed map. Begin by identifying the statue of Columbia, overlooking the cemetery from the top of the Honolulu Memorial. Point out the locations the activity visits: sections Q, R, and G, Columbarium 3, Courts of the Missing (part of the Honolulu Memorial), and the Memorial Walk.
- Walk the group to section U and point out the section marker that identifies the area. Find a plot marker identifying the burial of an unknown soldier from the Korean War. Show students the location of identification number in the top right corner of the marker.
- Read (or ask a student to read) the Korean War Unknown Burials handout from the Teacher Guide that describes the history behind these burials at the cemetery.
- Direct the students to locate Herbert K. Pililaau's grave marker (section P, site 127) to show evidence of location skills. Use guiding questions if the group moves in the wrong direction.
- Read (or ask a student to read) the Fallen Hero Profile of Herbert K. Pililaau. Direct students' attention to the completed information bubble on the Korean War Walk of Heroes handout. Check for understanding by asking the following questions:
  - *In which branch of military did Pililaau serve? What was his rank?*
  - *On what date, and during which battle, was Pililaau killed?*

**Teacher Tip:** *Using the cemetery map, walk to section P. When you arrive, locate the site number on the top right portion of a headstone. Note that the site numbers increase in numerical order. Follow the rows until you reach the row that contains site 127 and then proceed down the row to that marker.*

### Activity Three: Student Discussion (15 minutes)

- Assign each of the groups to begin at a different location (1-10 on the Korean Walk of Heroes handout). Tell students that they will rotate in numerical order, advancing to location 1 after completing location 10.
- Direct students to:
  - Find the assigned grave marker at each location. Instruct them to record information found on the grave marker and read to the profile of that individual, using their electronic devices to access the profile for each veteran. Point out that the Korean War Wall of Heroes handout contains URLs for each veteran.
  - Complete the information bubble on the handout for the identified soldier.
  - Rotate through the cemetery, repeating the same process for the ten numbered locations. Once complete, students should meet under the statue of Columbia at the top of the stairs. Restrooms are available at this location.
- Send student groups to locate their start points. Monitor students in the cemetery as needed.
- Assemble the groups under the Columbia statue at the top of the stairs at the designated time.
- Walk students to the Korean War section of the Courts of the Missing (Court Eight). Read the handout from the Teacher Guide on the Courts of the Missing and the Fallen Hero Profile for Norman L. Bannister, Jr. after locating his name on the wall.
- Instruct students to enter Bannister’s information in the final bubble on the Korean Walk of Heroes handout.

**Teacher Tip:** Give students a clear end time for the activity.

## Assessment

### Reflection (15 minutes)

- Direct the students to Memorial Walk. Explain that the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific features a memorial walk along the crater’s rim that is lined with a variety of memorials honoring America’s veterans, which have been donated by organizations.
- Direct students to locate the plaque on the memorial walk with the poem titled “Unknown” by R.C. Holtzer and read it.

*"We pray they are at peace today within this 'hallowed ground.' For today without these nameless men world peace could not be found.*

*Clouds across the skies will shed their tears in many a foreign place. True they're known only but to God but we veterans know their face.*

*Forgive our lack of memory for names and the disregard we've shown, but forever and a day we'll see your face 'the face of our unknown.'"*

- Ask individual students to answer the reflection questions:
  - *Describe the American war experience for soldiers at different points in the war.*
  - *How did the contribution of individual soldiers help change the tide of the Korean War?*
  - *How do the events of the Korean War and the heroes buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific represent the idea that freedom is not free?*

## Methods for Extension

- Students with more interest in the role of the Korean War soldiers may select another service member buried at the cemetery to research.
- Students can read *A Foxhole View: Personal Accounts of Hawaii's Korean War Veterans* by Louis Baldovi to learn about the experience of Hawaiian soldiers.
- Students can listen to personal stories from Korean War Veterans through the Tell America Classroom Program.
- Students can read *Hills of Sacrifice: The 5<sup>th</sup> RCT in Korea* by Michael Slater to gain an understanding of soldiers' experiences during turning-point battles. To gain more perspective on the early months of the war, students can read *The 5<sup>th</sup> RCT in Korea: The Pusan Perimeter Battles, 1950* by Albert J. McAdoo and James E. Marshall.
- Students can explore local military museums such as the Tropic Lightning Museum and the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii to learn about Hawaii's role in the war.
- Students can research the cause and effect of one of the turning point battles of the Korean War to determine its impacts.

## Adaptations

- Adults can lead small groups of younger participants through the cemetery, focusing on one or two servicemembers. Each small group can return to the whole group and share the story with the other participants.
- Older participants can complete the activity independently.

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### VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM

# Korean War Walk of Heroes Teacher Guide

## History of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

Adapted from National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

National Cemetery Administration | <https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/nmcp.asp>

The “Punchbowl” was formed some 75,000 to 100,000 years ago during the Honolulu period of secondary volcanic activity. A crater resulted from the ejection of hot lava through cracks in the old coral reefs which, at the time, extended to the foot of the Koolau Mountain Range.

Although there are various translations of the Punchbowl’s Hawaiian name, “Puowaina,” the most common is “Hill of Sacrifice.” This translation closely relates to the history of the crater. Its first known use was as an altar where Hawaiians offered human sacrifices to their pagan gods and also killed those who violated one of their many taboos. Later, during the reign of Kamehameha the Great, a battery of two cannons was mounted at the rim of the crater to salute distinguished arrivals and signify important occasions. Early in the 1880s, leasehold land on the slopes of the Punchbowl opened for settlement and in the 1930s, the crater was used as a rifle range for the Hawaii National Guard. Toward the end of World War II, tunnels were dug through the rim of the crater for the placement of shore batteries to guard Honolulu Harbor and the south edge of Pearl Harbor.

During the late 1890s, a committee recommended that the Punchbowl become the site for a new cemetery to accommodate the growing population of Honolulu. The idea was rejected for fear of polluting the water supply and the emotional aversion to creating a city of the dead above a city of the living.

Fifty years later, Congress authorized a small appropriation to establish a national cemetery in Honolulu with two provisions: that the location be acceptable to the War Department, and that the site would be donated rather than purchased. In 1943, the governor of Hawaii offered the Punchbowl for this purpose. The \$50,000 appropriation proved insufficient, however, and the project was deferred until after World War II. By 1947, Congress and veteran organizations placed a great deal of pressure on the military to find a permanent burial site in Hawaii for the remains of thousands of World War II servicemen on the island of Guam awaiting permanent burial. Subsequently, the Army again began planning the Punchbowl cemetery. In February 1948 Congress approved funding and construction began.

Prior to the opening of the cemetery for the recently deceased, the remains of soldiers from locations around the Pacific Theater—including Wake Island and Japanese POW camps—were transported to Hawaii for final interment. The first interment was made on January 4, 1949. The cemetery opened to the public on July 19, 1949.

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### VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM

# Korean War Walk of Heroes Teacher Guide

## Historical Context of the Korean War

Carter Malkasian, *The Korean War, 1950-53*, 2001 (excerpt)

“From 1950 to 1953, the most powerful countries in the world engaged in a major conventional war on the Korean peninsula. Arguably, the world has never been so close to a third World War, not even during the Cuban Missile Crisis. At times, both combatants thought the war was a preamble to a much larger and more destructive global conflict. It was the only occasion in the Cold War when the military forces of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), the Soviet Union, and the USA (plus its Western allies) met in combat. On the ground, Chinese armies engaged in huge battles with the American-led United Nations Command (UNC). In the air, hundreds of Soviet, Chinese, and American jet aircraft fought for air supremacy over North Korea. Thus, the Korean War was not merely a war fought between proxies of the major powers, like the later conflicts in Vietnam or Afghanistan, but a much more significant conflagration. The war changed how the East and the West dealt with one another and was part of a revolution in the conduct of war.

“The Korean War was a conflict over two prizes: first, political control of Korea; and second, power in east Asia and the world as a whole. Historically, Communists and right-wing Nationalists vied for political control of South Korea in June 1950. However, Korea was also an object of Cold War superpower competition. After 1945 the USA was the dominant power in the Pacific. The other superpower, the Soviet Union, led by the paranoid Josef Stalin, was cautiously seeking to expand its global power by promoting Communism in regions important to its security. Korea was one of those areas. The Soviet Union and the PRC believed that a Communist Korea provided insurance against American aggression; hence the Soviet Union’s backing of the North Korean invasion and China’s later intervention in the war. The USA reacted to the North Korean invasion as a threat to its influence in east Asia. More broadly, American leaders believed that if the invasion were not confronted, the Soviets would be encouraged to engage in military expansionism elsewhere in the world.

“The course of the Korean war can be divided into two periods, one of maneuver and one of attrition. The first six months of the war was a period of maneuver. First, North Korea invaded most of South Korea in a blitzkrieg assault on 25 June 1950. Next, US General Douglas MacArthur conducted a brilliant amphibious attack at Inchon and drove the North Koreans out of South Korea. Then, threatened by the UNC advance into North Korea, the PRC intervened and pressed the UNC back into South Korea. Instead of unifying Korea or ending the war, each of these decisive victories lead to an escalation of the war. To prevent the conflict from spiraling into a third World War, the USA abandoned its goal of attaining a total victory and decided to fight a limited war in December 1950.

“The remainder of the war, from 1951 to 1953, was marked by indecisive attrition. The UNC’s object was to hold the Communists on the battlefield while seeking a resolution of the conflict based not on unifying Korea, but on preserving the integrity of Korea. The communists agreed to negotiations following the defeat of their Fifth Phase Offensive in June 1951. Negotiations proceeded slowly because neither side wanted to compromise on issues like the location of the cease-fire line and the fate of the prisoners of war. Military operations continued in the form of limited attacks, air-to-air battles, and strategic bombing campaigns. An armistice was finally concluded on 27 July 1953 after the Chinese and North Korean economies could not longer support war, the USA was threatening to escalate the conflict, and Stalin had died. Ironically, the Korean War is well known as the USA’s ‘Forgotten War.’”

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### VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM

# Korean War Walk of Heroes Teacher Guide

## Korean War Unknown Burials

Adapted from Pierre Moulin, *A History of Punchbowl: Arlington of the Pacific*, 2010

Korean War burials began on February 2, 1956, when 19 unknown soldiers were interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Eventually, all the unknown service members from the Korean War were interred there. Between February and May 1956, 866 unknowns were laid to rest. Later they were joined by 1,242 service members Killed In Action (KIA). Most of the unknown burials were placed in section U of the cemetery.

## Courts of the Missing

Adapted from Pierre Moulin, *A History of Punchbowl: Arlington of the Pacific*, 2010

The Honolulu Memorial is built on both sides of the staircase at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Here the Courts of the Missing honor Americans who are recorded as missing, lost, or buried at sea. Their names are inscribed on marble wall panels installed in ten semi-enclosed courts. The courts are open to the sun and wind; a fragrant plumeria tree grows in the center of each court.

There were originally eight Courts of the Missing listing names of over 18,000 servicemembers lost in World War II and over 8,200 Americans missing in the Korean War (as the list existed when the memorial opened in 1966). Later, courts A and B were added to commemorate the over 2,400 Americans missing from the war in Vietnam.

The names of the missing are engraved in alphabetical order on each wall panel. Korean War names are listed on courts four, six, and eight.

# Korean War Walk of Heroes Key

<b>1. Columbarium 3-J, Row 500, Site 542</b>	<b>2. Section Q, Site 1353</b>
<p><b>Name:</b> Yaichi Miyashiro  <b>Rank:</b> Private First Class <b>Branch:</b> U.S. Army  <b>Dates:</b> September 20, 1927 – March 11, 1995  <b>Battle/Location:</b> N/A</p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Thomas F. K. Hema  <b>Rank:</b> Corporal <b>Branch:</b> U.S. Army  <b>Dates:</b> March 11, 1921 – September 4, 1950  <b>Battle/Location:</b> George Hill / Chingong-ni</p>
<b>3. Section Q, Site 1382</b>	<b>4. Section Q, Site 1509</b>
<p><b>Name:</b> Walter N. Higgins  <b>Rank:</b> First Lieutenant <b>Branch:</b> U.S. Army  <b>Dates:</b> August 24, 1927 – January 21, 1951  <b>Battle/Location:</b> N/A / training Korean soldiers</p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Gene L. Piela  <b>Rank:</b> Corporal <b>Branch:</b> U.S. Army  <b>Dates:</b> November 20, 1929 – July 17, 1952  <b>Battle/Location:</b>  Punch Bowl on the Minnesota line / eastern Korea</p>
<b>5. Section R, Site 354</b>	<b>6. Section R, Site 236</b>
<p><b>Name:</b> James C. Brown  <b>Rank:</b> Hospital Corpsman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class <b>Branch:</b> U.S. Navy  <b>Dates:</b> May 25, 1930 – January 12, 1951  <b>Battle/Location:</b> Chosin Reservoir / Hagaru-ri</p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Bruce Mathewson  <b>Rank:</b> Staff Sergeant <b>Branch:</b> U.S. Marine Corps  <b>Dates:</b> November 14, 1920 – November 29, 1950  <b>Battle/Location:</b> Chosin Reservoir / Koto-ri</p>
<b>7. Section R, Site 141</b>	<b>8. Section G, Site 310</b>
<p><b>Name:</b> Michael Hrabcsak  <b>Rank:</b> Sergeant <b>Branch:</b> U.S. Marine Corps  <b>Dates:</b> October 11, 1911 – December 2, 1950  <b>Battle/Location:</b> Chosin Reservoir / Hagaru-ri</p>	<p><b>Name:</b> John D. Rucker  <b>Rank:</b> Sergeant <b>Branch:</b> U.S. Marine Corps  <b>Dates:</b> August 16, 1915 – December 6, 1950  <b>Battle/Location:</b> Chosin Reservoir / Hagaru-ri</p>
<b>9. Section G, Site 352</b>	<b>10. Section G, Site 392</b>
<p><b>Name:</b> Vito J. Junevicus  <b>Rank:</b> Private First Class <b>Branch:</b> U.S. Marine Corps  <b>Dates:</b> March 8, 1926 – November 28, 1950  <b>Battle/Location:</b> Chosin Reservoir / Yudam-Ni</p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Colin F. Shultz  <b>Rank:</b> Private First Class <b>Branch:</b> U.S. Marine Corps  <b>Dates:</b> February 10, 1931–December 11, 1950  <b>Battle/Location:</b> Chosin Reservoir / Su-dong</p>
<b>Courts of the Missing, Court 4</b>	
<p><b>Name:</b> Norman L. Bannister, Jr.  <b>Rank:</b> Master Sergeant <b>Branch:</b> U.S. Army  <b>Dates:</b> December 10, 1925 – November 28, 1950  <b>Battle/Location:</b> where the Chongchon River empties into the Korea Bay</p>	

## VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM

# Korean War Walk of Heroes Packet

**9. Section G, Site 352**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Battle/Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit Soldier Profile**

**8. Section G, Site 310**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Battle/Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit Soldier Profile**

**10. Section G, Site 392**

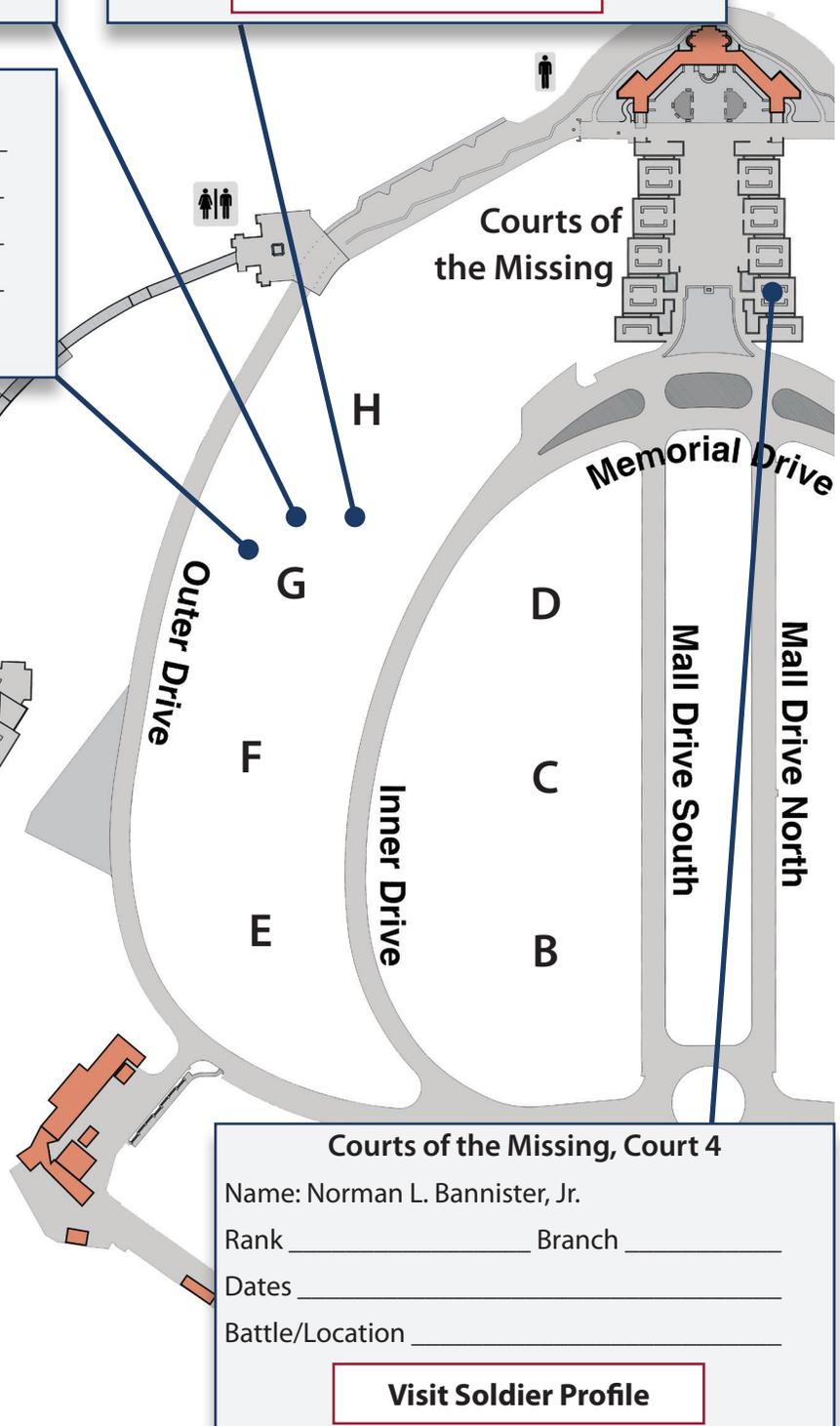
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Battle/Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit Soldier Profile**



- Directions:**
1. Locate the grave marker or memorial for sites 1-10.
  2. Determine the name, rank, branch of service, date of birth, and date of death for each service member.
  3. Access the provided link to read the personal story of the service member using the profiles.
  4. Record the gathered information in the correct bubble.
  5. Meet at the the Columbia statue at the top of the stairs at the designated time.

**Courts of the Missing, Court 4**

Name: Norman L. Bannister, Jr.

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Battle/Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit Soldier Profile**

**7. Section R, Site 141**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Battle/Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit Soldier Profile**

**6. Section R, Site 236**

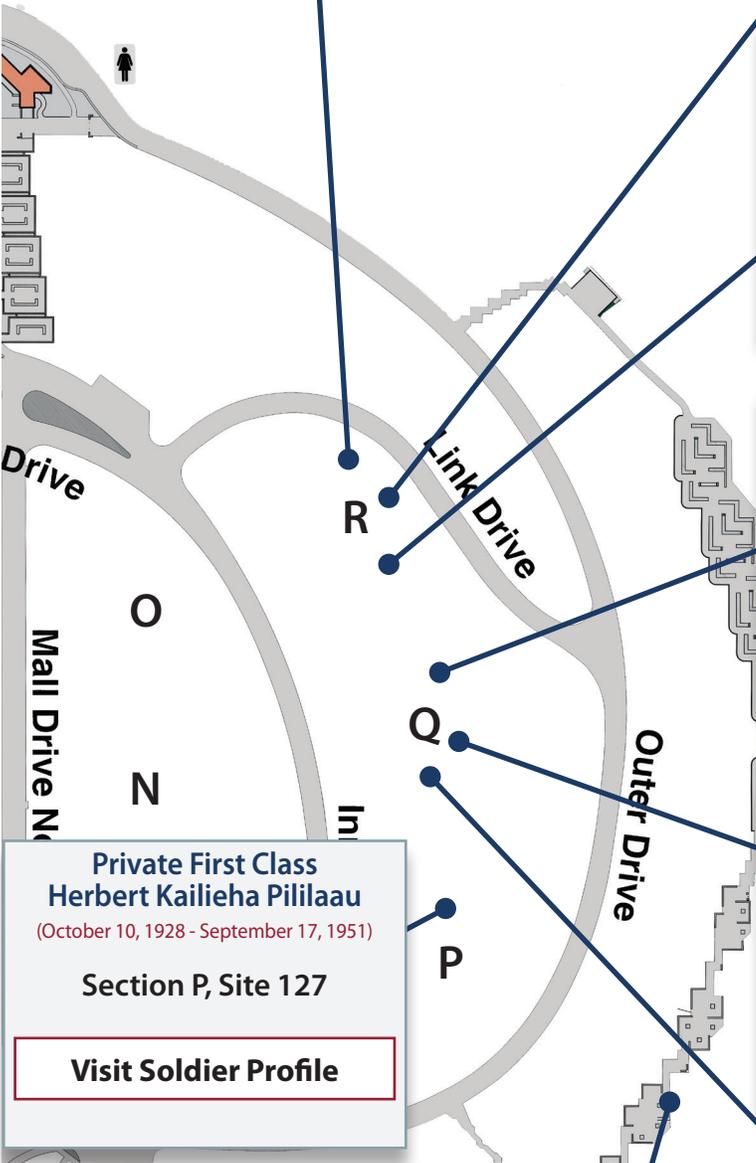
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Battle/Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit Soldier Profile**



**5. Section R, Site 354**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Battle/Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit Soldier Profile**

**4. Section Q, Site 1509**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Battle/Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit Soldier Profile**

**3. Section Q, Site 1382**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Battle/Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit Soldier Profile**

**1. Columbarium 3-J, Row 500, Site 542**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Battle/Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit Soldier Profile**

**2. Section Q, Site 1353**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

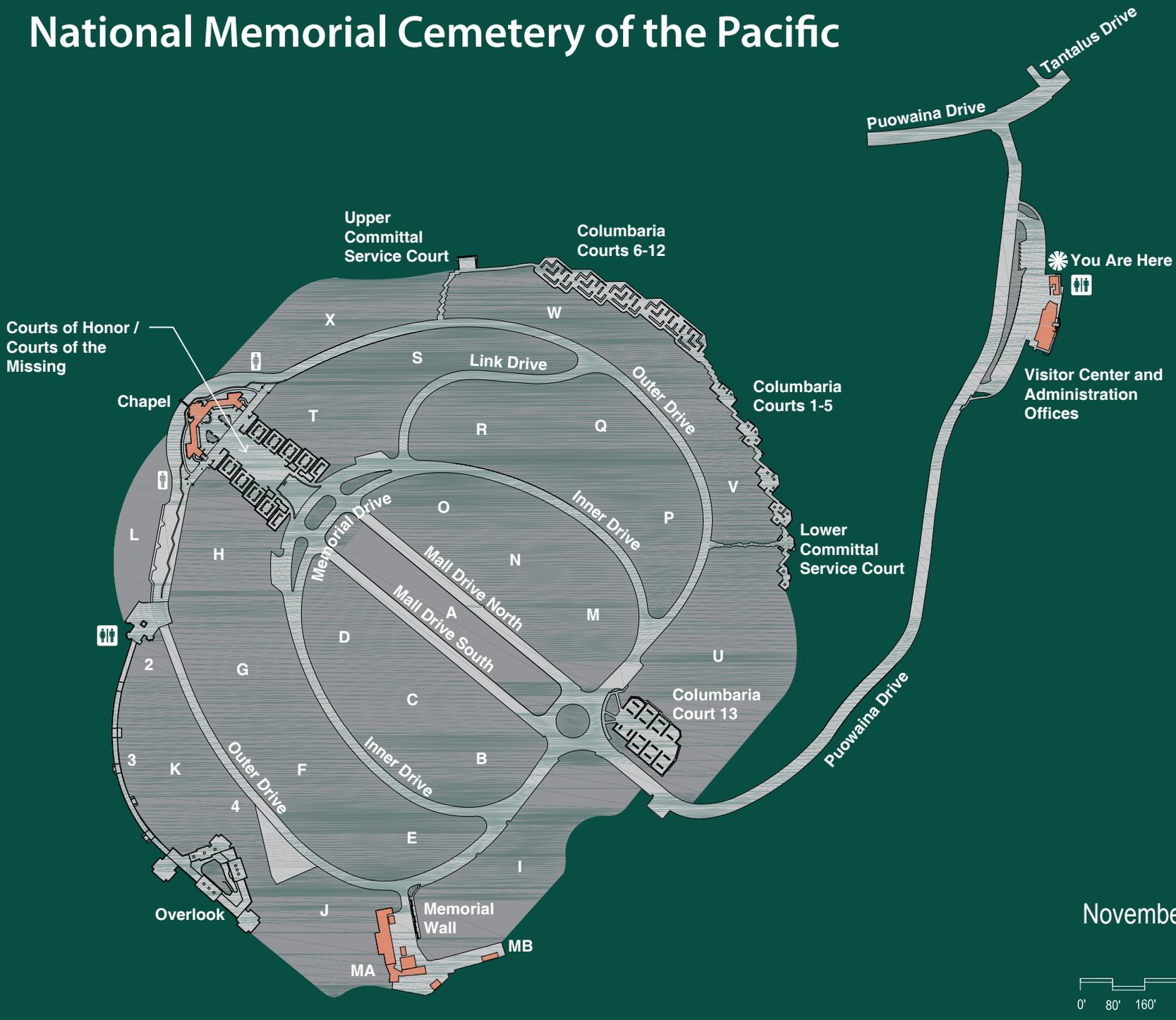
Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Battle/Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit Soldier Profile**

# National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific



November 2017

