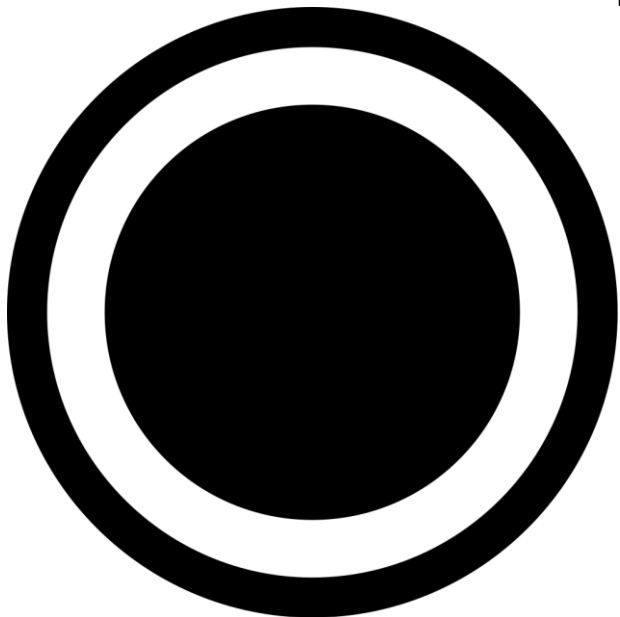




Gerald Risner
1st Lieutenant, U.S. Army
I Corps, Korea



Gerald Risner

1st Lieutenant, U.S. Army

I Corps, Korea

Gerald Risner, a Chicago area resident his entire life.

Gerry was commissioned as an Infantry second Lieutenant through the ROTC program after graduating from Loyola College in February 1955. In July 1955 he was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Headquarters for 3rd Army, for 13 weeks he trained to be an Artillery Officer. He requested an overseas assignment, he asked for Germany, but was given Korea. This trip took him through Fort Lewis, San Francisco, Hawaii, Wake Island, Tokyo and Seoul Airport in South Korea. From there he was shipped to 1st Corps Artillery Headquarters, about 50 miles north of Seoul.

Gerry explained that the Cease Fire provided for no new weapons to be introduced on the Korean peninsula, which was supposed to be monitored by “neutral” nations.

He was assigned to the 1st Field Artillery Observation Battalion, whose job it was to locate enemy Artillery. This was done by units specifically designated to use Flash, Sound and Radar. He had his turn commanding each section, and the motor pool. He would ultimately be assigned as the Liaison Officer between the US 1st Corps and the 6th Republic of Korea (ROK) artillery. He was responsible for identifying artillery firing points and impact areas. He did this by having various observation posts established, doing aerial observations and using weather balloons.

For nearly a year, in average temperatures of what seemed like 40° below zero in the mountains of Korea, he searched for hidden enemy artillery, enemy ammunition behind enemy lines and served as a Field Commander. Eventually, he was rotated back to the US and assigned to the 48th Anti-Artillery Battalion, in Fort Riley, Kansas.

When he returned home, he completed Law School and operated a successful Law Office for decades. Besides his love of family, he loved his MG vehicles, having seen his first one in St. Louis in 1948. He would eventually, own and fix dozens, would be awarded many prestigious awards by the MG Association, and still has several in his garage! And yes, he still works on and drives them. Oh, and he is also a pretty darn good piano player!

On May 9, 2024, at our American Legion post 335 meeting we had the honor of presenting 1LT Gerald Clay Risner with several awards that we were successful in getting awarded to him for his service in Korea almost 70 years ago. Assisting me were post member Sheri Jones and VFW post 5979 Commander Shawn Schroeder. The awards were the Korean Defense Service Medal, Nation Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon and the Republic of Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal

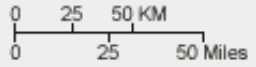
If you'd like to read more about Lt Risner, or other Veterans, check out our archival binders in our Veterans Library. Contact Lorenzo Fiorentino at lorenzoafiorentino@yahoo.com for more information.



South Korea

(Republic Of Korea)

- International Boundary
- Province Boundary
- Road
- River
- ★ National Capital
- Province Capital
- City or Town



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125

127

128

129

39

38

37

36

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34

33

Yellow Sea

Sea of Japan (East Sea)

Korea Strait
Western Channel
Eastern Channel

Cheju Haehyop

Cheju

Cheju-do

Mosulp'o

Sogwip'o

Shimonoseki
Kitakyushu

Fukuoka

Kurume

Sasebo

Takeo

P'yongyang

NORTH KOREA
(DEMOCRATIC
PEOPLES REPUBLIC
OF KOREA)

Wonsan

Tongch'on

Hoeyang

Kuom-ni (Kosong)

Sokch'o

Ch'unch'on

Hongch'on

Kangnung

Tonghae

Samch'ok

Yongwol

Chech'on

Ch'ungju

Yongju

Andong

Uisong

P'ohang

Yongch'on

Kyongju

Ulsan

Miryang

Chinju

Masan

Chinhae

Pusan

Kosong

Yosu

Changhung

Kangjon

Haenam

Sunch'on

Naju

Kwangju

Namwon

Chongup

Kimje

Majon-ni

Sep'o

Ich'on

P'yonggang

Kumsong

P'aro Lake

Soyang Lake

Fuk'an

Imjin

Imjin

Namhan

Nakdong

Andong Lake

Kum

Ch'onan

Choch'won

Kongju

Taejon

Nonsan

Kanggyong

Kimch'on

Kumi

Taegu

Chonju

Chungju

Chungju

Chungju

Chungju

Chungju

Chungju

Chungju

Chungju

Chungju

Chungju

Chungju

Chungju

Namp'o

Songnim

Chaeryong

Sinch'on

Haeju

Orgjin

Kaesong

Munsan

Uijongbu

Inch'on

Anyang

Suwon

Osan

P'yongt'aek

Yesan

Ch'onan

Choch'won

Kongju

Taejon

Nonsan

Kanggyong

Kimch'on

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Taegu

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P'yongsan

Kaesong

Munsan

Uijongbu

Inch'on

Anyang

Suwon

Osan

P'yongt'aek

Yesan

Ch'onan

Choch'won

Kongju

Taejon

Nonsan

Kanggyong

Kimch'on

Kumi

Taegu

Chonju

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Chungju

Chungju

P'yonggang

Kumsong

P'aro Lake

Soyang Lake

Fuk'an

Imjin

Imjin

Namhan

Nakdong

Andong Lake

Kum

Ch'onan

Choch'won

Kongju

Taejon

Nonsan

Kanggyong

Kimch'on

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Chonju

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Hongch'on

Kangnung

Tonghae

Samch'ok

Yongwol

Chech'on

Ch'ungju

Yongju

Andong

Uisong

P'ohang

Yongch'on

Kyongju

Ulsan

Miryang

Chinju

Masan

Chinhae

Pusan

Kosong

Yosu

Changhung

Kangjon

Haenam

Sunch'on

Naju

Kwangju

Namwon

Chongup

Kimje

Chungju

Chungju

Hoeyang

Kuom-ni (Kosong)

Sokch'o

Ch'unch'on

Hongch'on

Kangnung

Tonghae

Samch'ok

Yongwol

Chech'on

Ch'ungju

Yongju

Andong

Uisong

P'ohang

Yongch'on

Kyongju

Ulsan

Miryang

Chinju

Masan

Chinhae

Pusan

Kosong

Yosu

Changhung

Kangjon

Haenam

Sunch'on

Naju

Kwangju

Namwon

Chungju

Sokch'o

Ch'unch'on

Hongch'on

Kangnung

Tonghae

Samch'ok

Yongwol

Chech'on

Ch'ungju

Yongju

Andong

Uisong

P'ohang

Yongch'on

Kyongju

Ulsan

Miryang

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Pusan

Kosong

Yosu

Changhung

Kangjon

Haenam

Sunch'on

Naju

Kwangju

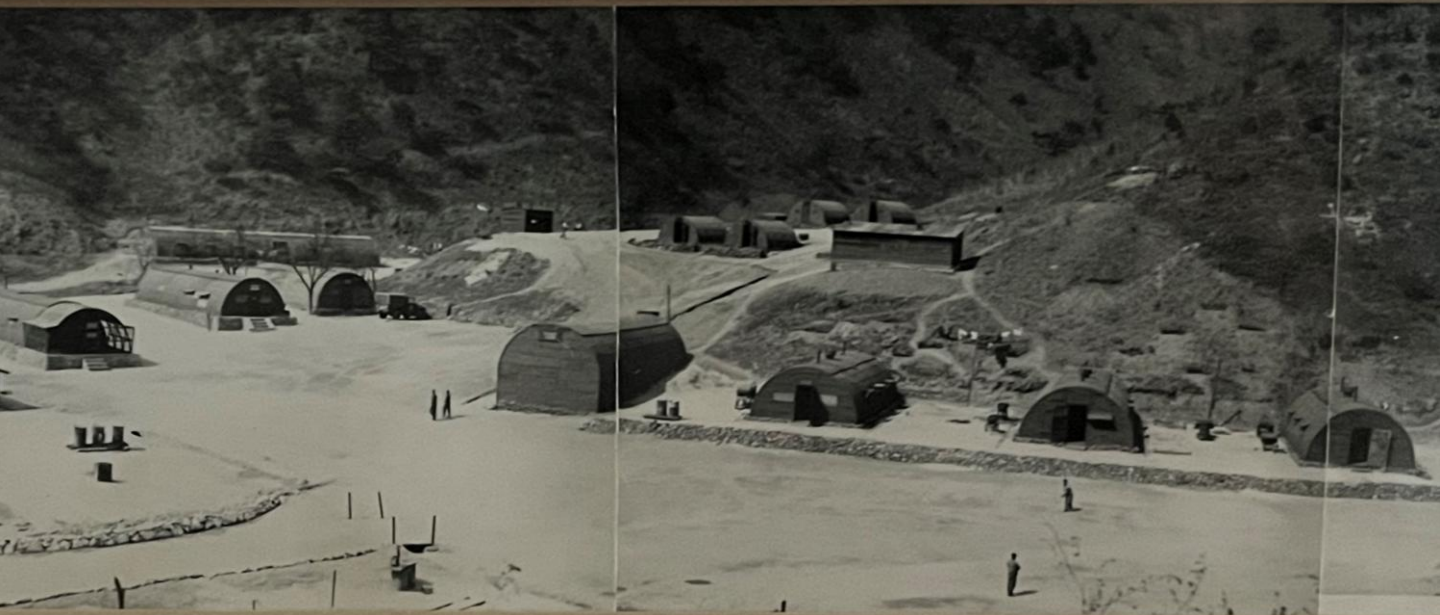
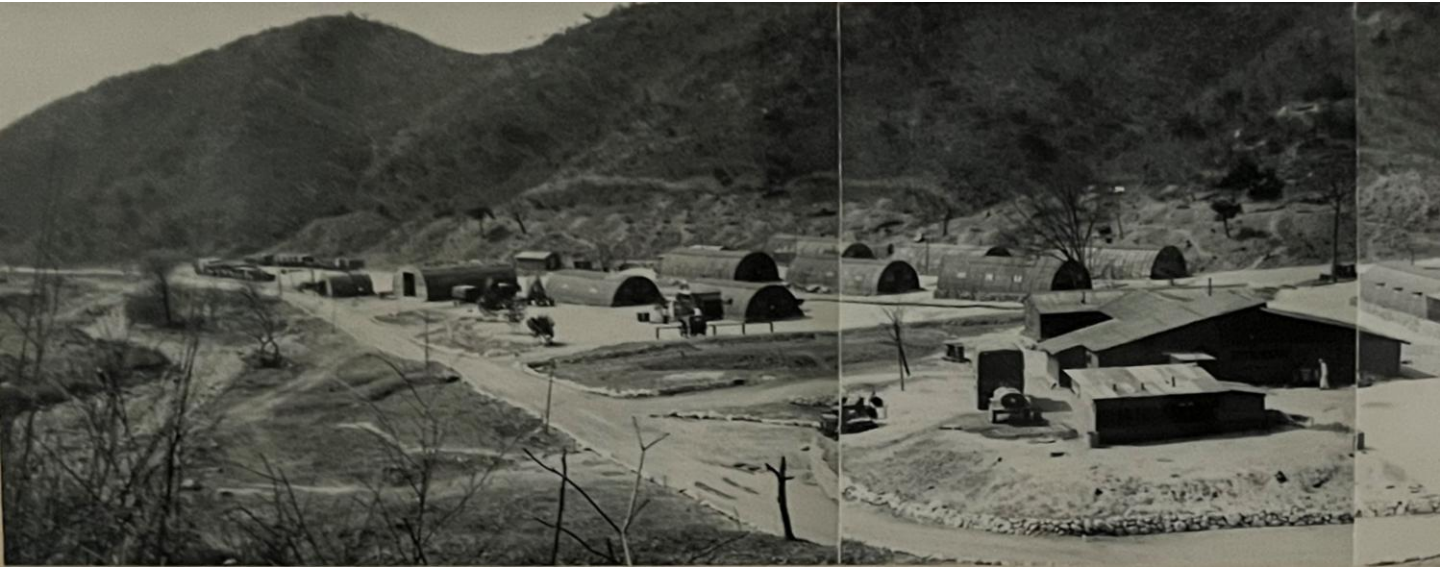
Namwon

Chongup

Kimje

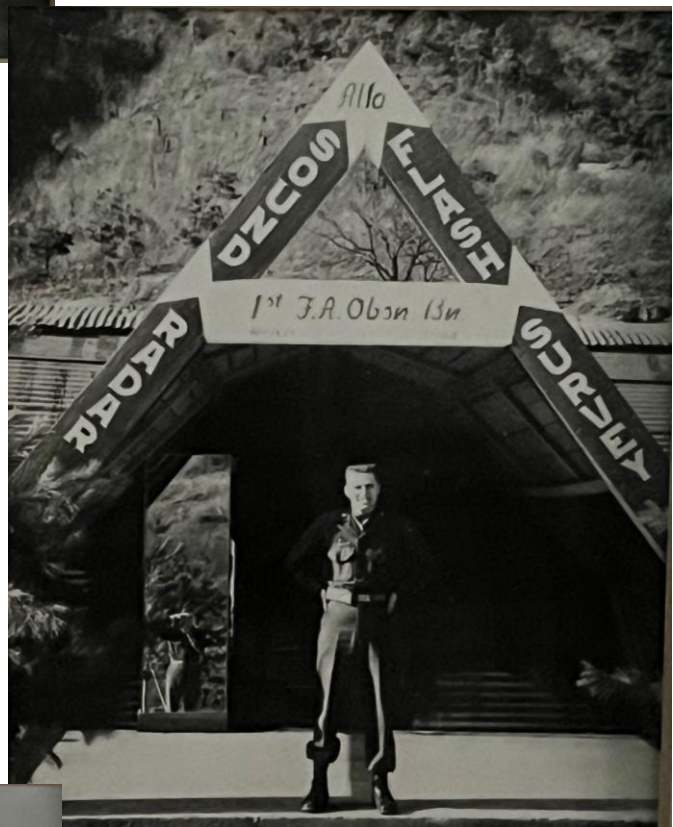
Chungju

A Battery, 1st Field Artillery Observation Battalion
Camp St. Barbara 1956





Inspecting the Guard



Officers Quarters

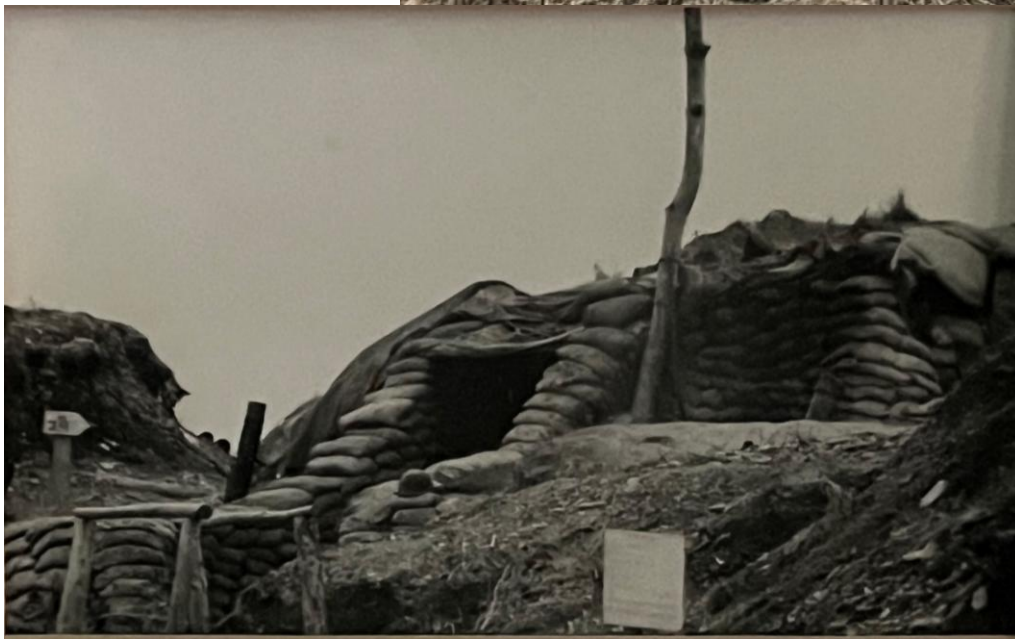
A Battery HQ





38th Parallel Marker

DMZ Warning



Bunker Along the DMZ



1st FA Observation
BN HQ 1956

Battery Commander
& Officers



Korean Soldiers
(ROK) at Po-chon

Bunkers on the DMZ



BN POL Dump,
straight up that
valley, about 6 miles
away are Chinese
Troops



Korean building behind
Jackson compound





SMP Post Xchange

Battery dayroom



School adjacent to SMP

Korean Bridge after rainy season



Countryside as seen from the road outside of Po-chon



Korean Landscape





Po-Chon





Locals in the Po-Chon area



THE
PRESIDENT
OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



To all who shall see these presents, greeting:

Know Ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity
and abilities of *I do*
appoint **Gerald Clay Risner** *in the*

him a Reserve Commissioned Officer
grade of Second Lieutenant
in the

Army of the United States

to date as such from the second day of February nineteen
hundred and fifty-five. This Officer will therefore carefully and diligently
discharge the duties of the office to which appointed by doing and performing all
manner of things thereunto belonging.

And I do strictly charge and require those Officers and other personnel of lesser
rank to render such obedience as is due an officer of this grade and position. And
this Officer is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time as
may be given by me, or the future President of the United States of America, or other
Superior Officers acting in accordance with the laws of the United States of America.

This commission is to continue in force during the pleasure of the President of
the United States of America, for the time being, under the provisions of those Public
Laws relating to Officers of the Armed Forces of the United States of America
and the component thereof in which this appointment is made.

Done at the City of Washington, this second day of February
in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifty-five and of the
Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and seventy-ninth

By the President:

John S. ...
Major General
The Adjutant General.

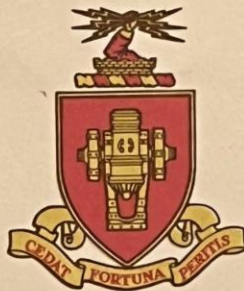


Robert J. Stevens
Secretary of the Army

Artillery and Guided Missile

The

School



Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Diploma

The Faculty Board
of
The Artillery and Guided Missile School
having attested that

2d Lt Gerald C. Risner

has successfully completed the prescribed course of instruction,
he is herewith declared a graduate of the

Field Artillery Officer Basic Course

In witness thereof, this Diploma is presented.

Fort Sill, Oklahoma,
30 September 1955

Edward J. Williams

MAJOR GENERAL, U. S. A.
COMMANDANT

James E. Norvell

COLONEL, ARTILLERY
SECRETARY

G. E. Risner

BRIGADIER GENERAL, U. S. A.
ASSISTANT COMMANDANT



THE ARTILLERY AND GUIDED MISSILE SCHOOL
Office of the Secretary
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

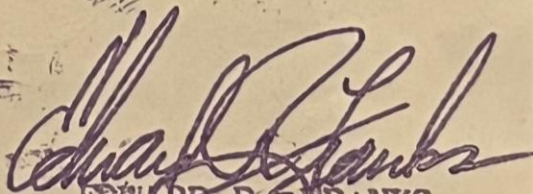
In accordance with par. 2 b, SR 605-85-10, the following grades and academic standing are furnished:

NAME: 2d Lt Gerald C. Risner

COURSE: F A O B C, Class No. 1-56
(8 July 1955 - 1 October 1955)

<u>Subcourse:</u>	<u>Point Value</u> <u>(Completed)</u>	<u>Points</u> <u>You Have</u> <u>EARNED</u>
<u>GUNNERY</u>	<u>(395) 1</u>	<u>35610</u>
<u>TACTICS & COMB.ARMS</u>	<u>(310) 1</u>	<u>26800</u>
<u>COMMUNICATION</u>	<u>(85) 1</u>	<u>7770</u>
<u>MATERIEL</u>	<u>(105) 1</u>	<u>9420</u>
<u>MOTORS</u>	<u>(75) 1</u>	<u>7310</u>
<u>OBSERVATION</u>	<u>(30) 1</u>	<u>2850</u>
<u>COURSE TOTAL:</u>	<u>(1000) 7</u>	<u>89.760</u>

Class Standing: 16 168


EDWARD R. FRANKS
Lt Colonel, Artillery
Assistant Secretary

THE
PRESIDENT
OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



To all who shall see these presents, greeting:
Know Ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity
and abilities of **Gerald Clay Risner**, I do
appoint him a Reserve Commissioned Officer in the
grade of First Lieutenant
in the
Army of the United States

to date as such from the first day of July, nineteen
hundred and fifty-seven. This Officer will therefore carefully and diligently
discharge the duties of the office to which appointed by doing and performing all
manner of things thereunto belonging.

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Superior Officers acting in accordance with the laws of the United States of America.

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the United States of America, for the time being, under the provisions of those Public
Laws relating to Officers of the Armed Forces of the United States of America
and the component thereof, in which this appointment is made.

Done at the City of Washington, this eleventh day of October,
in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifty-seven and of the
Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-second.

By the President:

Arthur W. Jones
Major General
The Adjutant General



Walter M. Gruener
Secretary of the Army

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES



THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
GERALD C RISNER 04 041 123
1ST LIEUTENANT USAR ARTY
HONORABLY SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE

Army of the United States

DD FORM 217A 1 JAN 50

PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY

FROM

2 July 1955

TO

1 July 1957

SIGNATURE OF INDIVIDUAL

Gerald C. Risner

SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING OFFICER (Typed name and grade)

Anthony E. Liberta
ANTHONY E LIBERTA 1st Lt Arty

If found, drop in mail box. Postmaster: Postage guaranteed.
Return to: The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

☆ GPO : 1949-O-852108

Honorable Discharge



from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

This is to certify that

GERALD C RISNER 04 041 123 First Lieutenant Artillery

was Honorably Discharged from the

Army of the United States

on the 13th *day of* February 1963 *This certificate is awarded*

as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service

Eugene S. Tarr
EUGENE S. TARR
Colonel AGC

DD FORM 256A, 1 MAY 50



American Legion post 335

MEMORANDUM

December 6, 2023

TO: Mr. Jason P. Moeller
Awards and Decorations Branch
U.S. Army Human Resources Command

From: Lorenzo A. Fiorentino
Commander, American Legion post 335

RE: Request for Awarding of Retroactive Awards: 1LT Risner, Gerald Clay

Dear Mr. Moeller,

1LT Risner, a U.S. Army Veteran served in Korea from November 1955 thru April 1956.

We are requesting that he be awarded the Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and Overseas Service Ribbon retroactively. Also, please determine if the Veteran is eligible for the Nation Defense Service Medal.

Attached please find the privacy release form, DD 214, and DD 398 as supporting documentation for this request.

If I can be of further assistance, please email me at lorenzoafiorentino@yahoo.com.

Thank you in Advance for your assistance,

Lorenzo A. Fiorentino, MA-HSA
Major, Military Police, U.S. Army (ret.)
Past Commander, American Legion 9th District Council
Commander, American Legion Post 335
Acting Commander, American Legion Portage Park Post 183
President, Chicagoland Combined Veterans Museum
Adjutant, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5979
Founder, American Legion Riders 335
lorenzoafiorentino@yahoo.com
708-606-0742



SALUTE TO SOLDIERS (CONT.)

A Veteran You Should Meet

Gerald Risner, is 91 years young, has been a Chicago area resident his entire life, and currently lives in Park Ridge.

Gerry was commissioned as an Infantry second Lieutenant through the ROTC program



after graduating from Loyola College in February 1955. In July 1955 he was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Headquarters for 3rd Army, for 13 weeks he trained to be an Artillery Officer. He requested an overseas assignment, he asked for Germany, but was given Korea. This trip took him through Fort Lewis, San Francisco, Hawaii, Wake Island, Tokyo and Seoul Airport in South Korea. From there he was shipped to 1st Corps Artillery Headquarters, about 50 miles north of Seoul.

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Franklin Park American Legion 874 Family

2024 Annual Stand Down

Serving Homeless Veterans and Anyone in Need
All Are Welcome

Sunday, January 28, 2024
11am - 3pm

Franklin Park Post 874
8757 W. Pacific Avenue
Franklin Park, IL 60131

A hot meal will be served. Toilettes, clothing, blankets will be distributed. VA benefit counseling, housing assistance, festivals, and other services will be available.



To volunteer, or donate gently used or new clothing and blankets,
please call 847-582-6400