Tampa Bay Times
WINNER OF 10 PULITZER PRIZES

North Pinellas Hometown

Times staff

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MEDAL CEREMONY HONORS KOREAN WAR VETERANS: The Ambassador Medal for Peace, issued by South Korea, was awarded to 11 Korean War veterans in a ceremony at American Legion Post 7 in Clearwater on March 24.

HooJung Jones Kennedy, adviser to South Korea President Park Geun Hye, National Unification Advisory Council, was instrumental in arranging for the medals to be awarded. She and her husband, retired Canadian Army Maj. Donald Kennedy, conducted the ceremony. Kennedy's mother was among thousands of refugees rescued from North Korea by U.S. Merchant Marine ships.

Peter H. Palmer, president of the Largo-based Sunshine State Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association of the United States, coordinated with them to help organize the ceremony.

Speakers included Clearwater Mayor George Cretekos and Eddie Ko, chairman of the Korean Veterans Memorial in Tampa and a member of the Lt. Baldomero Lopez (MOH) Chapter of Tampa. At the age of 15 during the Korean War, Ko helped American troops as a guide and interpreter. At 16, he was taken prisoner by the North Koreans, but escaped and rejoined American forces.

Medal recipients were William Slavins, Army; David Soderland, Navy; Wendel Strelesky, Marine Corps; Michael Tucci, Army; Arthur Cheek, Marine Corps; Joseph Kadlub Jr., Marine Corps.; Frederick Strahlendorf,

Army; Allen King, Navy; Jack Russell Jr., Army; Charles Tsangaris, Marine Corps; and Peter H. Palmer, Royal Navy.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH RECOGNIZED BY SAFETY HARBOR KIWANIS: The Safety Harbor Kiwanis honored three students in March.

Johntavia Shaw, a fifth-grader at McMullen Booth Elementary School, was selected by teacher Tera Schumaker for making great strides in improving and maintaining excellent behavior. She is always conscientious about her grades and puts in extra work in areas that need improvement. She is gifted in sports. In June, 2014 she set a world record in discus for her age group. In the Junior Olympics, she ranked first in the country in her age group for discus, second for javelin and third for shot put.

Gabriella Matos, a fifth-grader at Safety Harbor Elementary, was chosen by teacher Kris Sarvis for being a model student. Known as Gabi, she is focused and eager to learn every day. She is the school's student council president and serves as a safety patrol.

Ashton Meeks, also a fifth-grader from Safety Harbor Elementary, was picked by teacher Jody Maltheas. Ashton shows tolerance and hard work to navigate challenges. He is admired for his efforts and improvements.

VICTORY FOR YOUTH SOCCER TEAM: The Tampa Bay United Soccer Maniacs won the inaugural 2015 Champions Cup U12 girls division tournament with a 1-0 victory in the championship game held the third weekend in March in Palm Harbor. The team played four games over the weekend and recorded shutouts in three of them.

CALLING DUNEDIN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI: The Dunedin High School Class of 1965 will be holding its 50th reunion May 1-3. Graduates will be meeting at the Livingroom in Dunedin on May 1 at 4 p.m. for happy hour; May 2 will be a dinner at the Dunedin Country Club; and the event will finish up with breakfast at 10 a.m. at Casa Tina. For information, call Bev at (727) 393-5724.

We WANT your news! Send news of everyday life in our county, whether it's snapshots from family reunions, a local achievement, celebrations or simply good news you want to trumpet. Submit your news and photos by email at local@tampabay.com (put Hometown Pinellas in subject line), by fax at (727) 893-8675, or mail to Tampa Bay Times, Hometown Pinellas, 490 First Ave. S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

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