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Subject: Dave Downing

Al - Special thanks for your message. What a great way to go and gain freedom from his pain...on Independence Day! I received your message about midnight, stayed awake last nite thinking of him and he was my first thought this morning.

I'll send a letter to Mrs. Downing. Before I do, please confirm that using his APO # will get it to his wife. As a widow, she should still have all privileges. You probably know that was one of Dave's many achievements. He was the first to realize that Korean widows of GI's were not receiving privileges and fought hard to make sure they were given them. He won.

His heart was even bigger than his body...and that's big! He should receive the Jt. Svc. Commendation medal posthumously for all he has done. There should also be some special memorial svc. at the base for him. Many retirees and widows would come. He spent Lord knows how many years, fighting for the rights of military retirees and their families. He was already there, actively championing retirees rights when I was on AD in Korea (1976-'79). When I returned to Korea in business (1981), he was still the Council worker bee. Without him, my tenure as Co-Chair and then Chair of the Retiree Council (14 years) would not have been as fruitful. We relied upon him to do so many good things. We seldom met (on the streets of Yongsan, at Council meetings, or just personal get togethers) without him having a good idea and pressing me to give it a go. And, his ideas were always on paper, most often ready to be signed and forwarded thru channels. As a result, we really did make major changes in retiree life in Korea.

Would you please pass a copy of this message to her. She should know my feelings. I also want to send some money to his widow. Let me know how to send it.

If you do have a service, please read my comments about him.

Thanks again for letting us know. You did good! Maggie and Jack