**WHERE I STAND**

By Mike O'Callaghan

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died in North Korea during or after the 1950-1953 war. I include after the war because the North Korean mistreatment of prisoners resulted in hundreds of deaths in camps. The sailors of the USS Pueblo, captured 15 years after the cease fire was signed, can attest to the brutality administered by Kim II Sung's government.

Bilbray, who is a member of the House Armed Services Committee and lists himself in the Congressional Staff Directory as a lieutenant colonel in the Nevada National Guard Reserve, was one of six members of Congress on this detail. It must have been a moving experience for all of them.

There are still more than 8,000 Americans missing and 389 prisoners of war still unaccounted for by North Korea. The return of five bodies 37 years after the official cease fire agreement isn't much to get excited about or to view as a humanitarian act by Kim II Sung and his son. More likely it's one more brutal, but failing communist regime that is lining up for a handout.

Bilbray is quoted as saying, "Basically, the North Koreans are saying the ball's in our court. They made the first gesture and now it is up to us to make the second." Sounds much like lingo coming from Iran after the Moslem terrorists released two American hostages. We gave you something, now you give us something or we will keep and/or kill the other hostages was the message they sent us.

The North Korean tenacity, cold winters, sweaty summers and brutality have impressed me for almost 40 years. This most recent empty gesture of ceremoniously sending back the remains of five American soldiers on Memorial Day leaves me as cold as that country's winter nights.

You have to believe that former heavyweight champion MIKE TYSON could regain his title if he can be as tough with them as Las Vegas ANDRE AGASSI is on tennis rackets. In anger he broke two rackets on the first day of the French Open. ... LT. Col. DON BYERS, when observing the return of five dead U.S. servicemen from North Korea, asked, "I want to know where the rest are. Why five? Why not 500?" That's a fair question. ... ROD HIGGINS, executive director of the Nevada Mining Assn., keeps a close eye on what is happening at his alma mater, the University of Idaho at Moscow.

... JIM SANTINI, a former Nevada congressman, according to the Congressional Record is successful as a lobbyist in Washington. His biggest accounts are the National Tour Assn. and the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District. ... GOP Congressman HENRY J. HYDE of Illinois stepped to the microphone during a Memorial Day concert on Public Television and sang with passion and beauty. The only other public official I have heard equal his is our own Supreme Court-Justice JOHN MOWBRAY.

... Las Vegas JIM ROGERS, a member of the 99th Infantry Division Ass’n., forwarded a most interesting copy of the association's newspaper. It really takes apart military author S.L.A. MARSHALL and points to his claimed personal combat record as being fabricated. It implies his initials should be SHAM instead of SLAM.

... Nevada Regent Dr. LONNIE HAMMARGREN has to be the most energetic person in town. His Young Astronaut program, willingness to travel any place in the world where a good doctor is needed to help the injured and his community activities make him a special person.

... UNLV's MARTIN DUPALO has all of the marks of a good leader. This summer the university upperclassman is putting together a summer youth program for local kids. ... The selection of KAREN GALATZ to serve on the Colorado River Commission is good for state government. She has the ability and outstanding policy-making credentials needed on that commission.