

Students: Adam McElmeel and Devin Leivas

Period: 1

Veteran: Richard Levias

Branch of Service: U.S. army

Years in Service: 3 years

Year Interviewed: This year

Richard Levias

Richard Leivas served in the U.S. Army for three years during the Korean war. America joined the war on the side of South Korea. The battle started on June 25, 1950, this battle was the first military action of the Cold War. It was North Korea who invaded South Korea in order for them to get South Korea's rice field, because they were starving and they needed food for them. Leivas is a man who helped South Korea protect their rice fields from North Korea.

Leivas first went to Airborne which was a place for him to be able to go into battles from a plane, and go on to a battlefield. There was something in it that was interesting for him. The Airborne training was only for a month, with people jumping out of planes to reach war zones, there is even snow jumps, which are for jumping into a snowy war zones. These very high jumps scared a lot of people which they dropped out from it, but not Leivas who stayed and bared it. Leivas wanted to be able to go to Korea, but he wasn't able to while he was in Airborne because they weren't going there, so he left Airborne and joined Ground Pound. The reason for joining Ground Pound was because they were heading for Korea.

Leivas did have a close friend who was with him during the conflict, who he was worried for, because Leivas didn't want to see his friend hurt. When Leivas first got to the conflict, he was nervous at first entering the conflict. There was also people who got really injured during the conflict which were taken back to the outpost to have medical attention. These soldiers who got

hurt were due to some surprise attacks from the enemy. Conflict is a scary place to be at and Leivas was able to survive it and come back home.

The civilian life was horrible, they had to live in small huts, with a fireplace, and also they were starving to death. Leivas couldn't see the battle because of how dark it was, and the only thing he could see was the gunshots, or if Leivas was in a hand to hand combat, and that was the only things he could see. During a squad patrol, he was selected to be a messenger, meaning that if anything happened to the squad he would run back and inform his command. It was a hard struggle to pass the hill that separated the Chinese soldiers and his own. After what seemed to be an hour, the captain of his squad ordered one of the men to toss a grenade over the hill. The man was inexperienced and threw the grenade short, causing the man to be impaled by the shrapnel. Once the gun fire slowed, they decided to get the man medical attention and head back to the outpost. This was one of the only times Richard ever saw actual combat and he was scared half to death to return back. Once he made it out of combat he continued to supply the infantry and tank divisions with ammunitions and supplies until the war ended. It was a hard time for him in the U.S. Army, facing not only combat in harsh conditions, but having to face prejudice on his own side of the war as well, showing that he had to earn their respect by going out in conflict to show him how well he is.

He'll never forget the experiences that took place during the war and is still to this day thinking about the commander that wouldn't accept his promotion. His courage to standing up to these odds is beyond believable and he continues these ethics in his life today. As of now Richard lives in Riverside California as a tax Associate. A business that he cherishes as one of his most valuable accomplishments of his life. He's since retired from that business, but he

continues to offer free tax services to those close to him. Leivas would also improve his house better than his neighbors so that way he was able to earn their respect and try to be like him when he's building a house. Leivas didn't believe in the to make America great again because he already thought that America was great, he believed that people can improve America to make America better than it was before and allow it to keep getting better over time to make America a better place to be at.