

Collection #
SC 3662
OM 0771

**VERDE D. O'NEILL
COLLECTION, 1947-1958**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 5 manuscript folders, 2 photograph folders, 2 color slides folders, 1 oversize manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1947-1958

PROVENANCE: Marta G. O'Neill, Maryland Heights, MO and Joan H. O'Neill, Lakeville, IN

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2022.0066

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Verde O'Neill (August 12, 1928-December 3, 2020) was born in Mason City, Iowa to Maxwell and Floy White O'Neill. The O'Neill family of six later settled in Goshen, Indiana, and Verde graduated from Purdue University with a degree in engineering. While at college, O'Neill also participated in ROTC, and upon graduation, he was appointed Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Officers Reserve Corps, where he was assigned to Company B, 330th Infantry Regiment. Effective on December 1, 1951, O'Neill was ordered to active duty and was sent to Ft. Leonard Wood in Missouri. In June of 1952, O'Neill was promoted to First Lieutenant. In December 1952, O'Neill received orders to Far East Command, Yokohama, Japan. From there, he was sent to Korea, where he served with KMAG (Korean Military Advisory Group) as an engineer advisor with the 110th Engineer Battalion. On May 3, 1953, O'Neill was awarded the Bronze Star because he "rendered timely and expert advice on both tactical and administrative matters during that construction of a vital road within the corps area." After his term of active duty, returning home in late 1953, O'Neill remained a reservist until 1957, when he received an honorable discharge.

In civilian life, O'Neill returned to Indiana and eventually settled in Lakeville, Indiana. He worked as an engineer for Reith-Riley Construction, the Cole Association, and he retired from Small Inc. He was named St. Joseph County Engineer of the Year, was an advisor for the Notre Dame School of Engineering, and was involved with Sunnyside Presbyterian Church, South Bend Rotary Club, South Bend Tennis Club, and the American Society of Professional Engineers. He was married to Joan Huffman O'Neill on November 11, 1951 and the couple had three children, Michael, Lisa, and Marta.

Sources:

"Verde D. O'Neill." <https://www.yoderculpfuneralhome.com/obituary/verde-oneill>
Accessed 24 May 2023.

Materials in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains documents relating to Verde O'Neill's time serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. There are military documents, which contain orders, training certifications, promotions, and O'Neill's bronze star citation. There is also correspondence both written and received by O'Neill. The letters written by O'Neill include a long letter written to his wife while he was beginning his orders on a ship to Japan, and a few letters sent to his mother, Floy, assuring her that he was safe and well. The remaining letters come from Lt. Kyung Wha Yun, who was O'Neill's translator while he was with KMAG, and Lt. Col. Chang Jo Kang, who was O'Neill's counterpart in the Korean Army, and Kang family members. When Lt. Col. Kang was sent to the United States for training in 1955, the O'Neill family went to Washington D.C. to visit him, and the O'Neill family also offered to sponsor Lt. Col. Kang's brother-in-law to be able to study at Indiana University. While O'Neill was in Korea, he mentioned in his letters that it was very popular to purchase cameras and photography equipment, and as a result, the collection also contains 136 color slides that show O'Neill, the Kang family, scenery around Korea, the road construction project O'Neill was working on, 8th Army and 110th Battalion headquarters and staff, and there are even a couple of images of the O'Neill family with Kang during his visit to the United States.

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Slides, 1952-1955- Korean Soldiers at Duck Soo Palace, Major Kang and family, Chang Kyung Won Botanical Garden, Seoul Street Scenes, Rural Scenes, Hwachon Reservoir, Hwachon Reservoir Dam, 8 th Army Headquarters, [Demarcation Line?], Road Construction, Bridge Crossing, Road Opening Ceremonies, St. Alden Rookwood, Jeeps, 110 th Battalion Staff, KMAG Headquarters, [Bukhan River?]	Cold Storage: Color Slides, Folder 1 of 2
Slides, 1952-1955- Korean Woman and Child, Verde O'Neill and Major Kang Family, Duk Soo Palace, Korean Children, Korean Demonstration, Church, Government Building, Rural and City Scenery, O'Neill Family Visit with Major Kang in Washington D.C.	Cold Storage: Color Slides, Folder 2 of 2