

ALABAMA VETERAN HAROLD GAMBLE:

"They say it's a small world, but, back in 1950, when I left Alabama for Korea, the world couldn't have seemed bigger to me. Up until then, the world I knew basically revolved around Pleasant Grove, Alabama. We were on our way to fight something the government was calling a 'Police Action,' but looked more like what it was, an all-out war. It was September 17 of that year and I was between battalion headquarters and an aid station. There were three guys in front of me. Suddenly a shot came from behind me and struck one of the guys in front. He dropped to the ground and I rushed to help him out. It was a nasty wound to the leg so I gave him some morphine, dressed the wound and applied a tourniquet to stop the bleeding. I then used his fatigue jacket to make a splint for the leg.

"Eventually I found someone to transport him to the battalion aid station. I never knew his name or anything about him and often wondered if he came out alright or not. Years later, I was talking to Command Sergeant Major Frank Plass when I told him that story. He responded, 'that was me!' He told me that they had placed a metal rod in his leg to save it. I have many stories about patients I treated during Korea, they taught me what courage was about and, in one case, that the world is a small one after all."