



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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Newsletter

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MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

The Korean War Memorial in San Francisco Is Now Open!

On the morning of Monday, August 1, 2016, hundreds of the dwindling number of Korean War veterans and their families and descendants gathered in the Presidio of San Francisco for the Opening Ceremony of the Korean War Memorial. They were joined by government and business leaders, donors, supporters,

and friends from all over the United States, the Republic of Korea, and other nations. In all, approximately 1,000 people participated in this landmark event.

The ceremony began in the San Francisco National Cemetery, where 2,273 Americans who fought in the

so-called "Forgotten War" are buried. After remarks by the distinguished speakers, the crowd then moved to the adjacent Korean War Memorial for the ribbon-cutting and official opening of the Memorial to the public. The following is a photographic record of the highlights of this long-awaited day.



The ribbon-cutting. From L: Denny Weisgerber, Don Reid, John Stevens, Quentin Kopp, Nancy Hellman Bechtle, Ambassador Ahn Ho-Young, and Vice Minister Choi Wan Keun

Photos by Tom Graves/TwiceHeroes.com



An understated yet strikingly beautiful Memorial for the ages, dedicated to all who fought for freedom in the Korean War



The Rostrum, San Francisco National Cemetery, where the Opening Ceremony began. Approximately 1,000 guests attended the ceremony.



KWMF Board member J. Michael Myatt, Major General, USMC (Ret.); former KWMF President and Chair, U. S. Congressman Pete McCloskey, Colonel, USMCR (Ret.); and former U. S. Ambassador Kathleen Stephens



Republic of Korea Ambassador Ahn Ho-Young, KWMF Vice President Man J. Kim, KWMF Treasurer Donald F. Reid, U.S. Congressman Mike Honda, Republic of Korea Vice Minister Choi Wan Keun, and San Francisco Supervisor Scott Wiener



KWMF Secretary John R. Stevens, Republic of Korea Consul General Shin Chae-Hyun, and former KWMF President and Chair Pete McCloskey wait for the ceremony to begin.

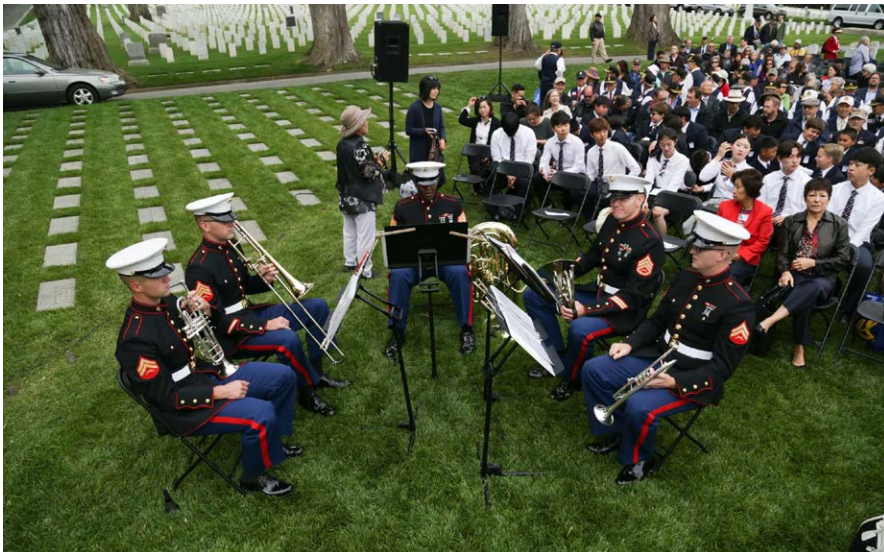


Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.), KWMF President and Chair, chatting with the Korean dignitaries.



Members of the Marine Corps League in their distinctive red caps and blazers. They and members of the Marine Corps Coordinating Council came from all over the Bay Area to volunteer as ushers and guides, and to assist fellow veterans with disabilities.

Photos by Tom Graves/
TwiceHeroes.com



Members of the 2nd Marine Division Band await the commencement of the Opening Ceremony. The musicians came all the way from Camp LeJeune, North Carolina to be part of the day's festivities.



KWMF Executive Director Gerard Parker, Captain, USMCR, and Master of Ceremonies, begins the program.



The 23rd Marines Color Guard prepares to present the Colors.



The Color Guard presents the Colors.



The 23rd Marines Color Guard and the Kyungbuk College Student Chorus



The Kyungbuk College Student Chorus sings the National Anthem of the Republic of Korea.



Denny Weisgerber, Gunnery Sergeant, USMC (Ret.), Korean War veteran, and Chaplain, 1st Marine Division Association, delivers the Invocation.



The San Francisco Boys Chorus sings the National Anthem of the United States of America.



Proudly wearing his Combat Infantryman's Badge and many medals and ribbons



Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.), Captain, USAF, and President and Chair, KWMF, addresses the guests.



Kathleen Stephens, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, 2008-2011, and Koret Fellow in Korean Studies, Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University, addresses the guests.



Pete McCloskey, Colonel, USMCR (Ret.), Korean War veteran, U.S. Congressman, 1967-1983, and former President and Chair, KWMF, addresses the guests.



U. S. Congressman Mike Honda, California District 17, Silicon Valley. The Congressman flew in from Washington with his friend Republic of Korea Ambassador Ahn-Ho-Young.



Ambassador Ahn Ho-Young addresses the guests.



Choi Wan Keun, Vice Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Republic of Korea, addresses the guests.



A view of the Rostrum from behind the audience. Just visible in the foggy distance is Alcatraz Island.



Vice Minister Choi presents Korean War veteran Frank Broz with the Republic of Korea's Ambassador for Peace Medal.



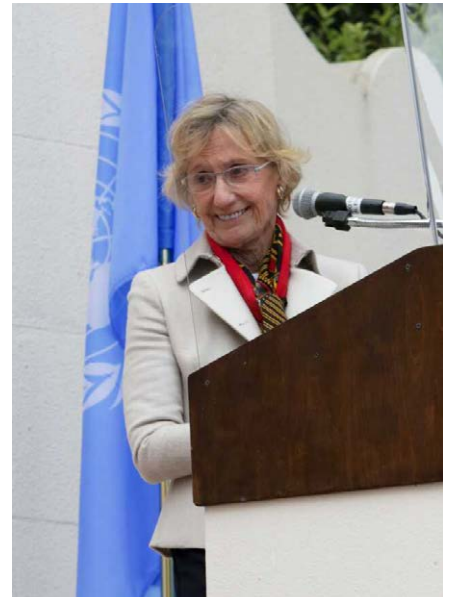
Korean War veteran Frank Broz with his Ambassador for Peace Medal



The Ambassador for Peace Medals. In all, 50 were presented to American veterans of the Korean War at the Opening Ceremony.



Purple Heart recipient



Nancy Hellman Bechtle, Former Chair of the Presidio Trust, 2008-2016, addresses the guests.



Many Korean veterans of the war were prominent at the ceremony.

Photos by Tom Graves/
TwiceHeroes.com



Man J. Kim, Corporal, Republic of Korea Army, and KWMF Vice President and benefactor, addresses the guests.



Donald F. Reid, Sergeant, USMC, Korean War veteran, and KWMF Treasurer, with Michael Boland, Acting Executive Director, the Presidio Trust



Consul General Shin Chae-Hyun, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, San Francisco



John R. Stevens, Lieutenant Colonel, USMC (Ret.), Korean War veteran, and Secretary, KWMF, addresses the guests.



Warren Wiedhahn, Colonel, USMC (Ret.), Korean War veteran, and First Vice President, Korean War Veterans Association, with John Stevens



Quentin Kopp with Scott Wiener, Supervisor, District 8, City and County of San Francisco. Supervisor Wiener presented KWMF with a Proclamation from the city stating that August 1, 2016 was "Korean War Memorial Day in San Francisco."



The speakers and other dignitaries proceed from the Rostrum in the National Cemetery down the drive to the Korean War Memorial for the ribbon-cutting. In the foreground: Nancy Hellman Bechtle and Quentin Kopp.



San Francisco Supervisor Aaron Peskin with Nancy Hellman Bechtle and U. S. Congressman Mike Honda



Just a few of the more than 32,000 tombstones in the San Francisco National Cemetery, including 2,273 marking the graves of Americans who fought in the Korean War. The cemetery is right next to the Korean War Memorial site.



A Korean War veteran contemplates the tombstones, every one of which has its story to tell.



The ribbon-cutting. From L: Denny Weisgerber, Don Reid, John Stevens, Quentin Kopp, Nancy Hellman Bechtle, Ambassador Ahn Ho-Young, and Vice Minister Choi Wan Keun



The Memorial is officially open!



Guests reading the inscriptions on the tiles and plaques in front of the Memorial



The guests get their first look at the new Memorial.

Photos by Tom Graves/
TwiceHeroes.com

KOREAN WAR CASUALTIES	
36,914	UNITED STATES MILITARY
113,248	REPUBLIC OF KOREA MILITARY
2,768	OTHER ALLIED MILITARY
316,579	NORTH KOREAN MILITARY
460,000	CHINESE MILITARY
547,000	SOUTH KOREAN CIVILIANS
1,185,000	NORTH KOREAN CIVILIANS

The left end panel of the wall: the true cost of war, the true price of freedom



Consul General Shin Chae-Hyun (on L) and Deputy Consul General Lee Sang Ryol greet two Korean veterans of the Korean War.



The guests enjoy a sumptuous buffet luncheon, generously donated by KWMF Vice President Man J. Kim.

Thank You!



We at the Korean War Memorial Foundation wish to express our deep gratitude to the hundreds of individuals and organizations that made this Opening Ceremony—and this Memorial—possible. You are all now part of the Korean War Memorial. Thanks to you, it will no longer be the Forgotten War.



The closest of allies for sixty-six years

**Thank you,
Lighthouse**

Worldwide Solutions

KWMF wishes to thank Dr. Kim Tae Yun and her staff at Lighthouse Worldwide Solutions in Fremont, CA — www.golighthouse.com — for their generosity in underwriting the costs of printing and mailing this newsletter.



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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