



# KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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**Newsletter**  
July–August 2017

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## A Memorable Meeting of Past and Present



Young Korean students pose with (from L) Korean War veterans Richard Friedman, Joseph Riley, Donald Reid, and Wallace Stewart, and KWMF Vice President Man J Kim, host of the event. ROK Army veteran Jimmy Cheong had to leave before this photo was taken. *Photo by Unee Kim, BGI*

On Tuesday, August 8, 2017, a memorable meeting took place in San Francisco. Five aging Korean War veterans had the opportunity to share a meal with twenty-three young Korean exchange students in an emotional communion of past and present. The nineteen girls and

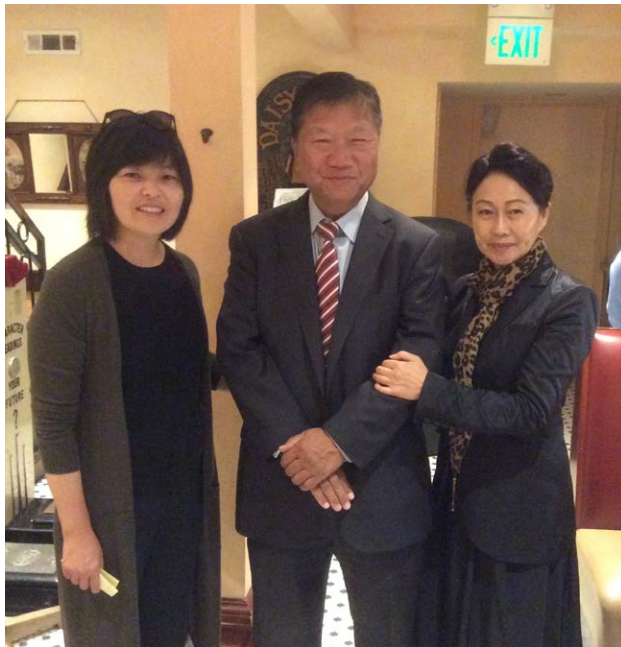
four boys from Kyungbuk College were here under the aegis of the Berkeley Global Institute (BGI), a Bay Area organization that brings Korean student groups here to experience American culture.

### **In This Issue:**

A Memorable Meeting of Past and Present, p.1  
June 25 Commemoration at the Korean War Memorial, p.6  
National Day of Korea, p.9

A Gala Evening: Man J. Kim's 14th Annual Appreciation Dinner  
for Korean War Veterans, p.10

As BGI President Unee Kim explained, “We feel that the young people in Korea aren’t as aware as they should be of the sacrifices made by young Americans on their behalf during the Korean War. We want to offer these students a very special opportunity to meet and bond with some of the Americans who fought for them more than sixty years ago, so that the students and veterans alike might better appreciate our shared history and values.”



BGI Consultant Mun Choi, KWMF Vice President Man J. Kim, and BGI President Unee Kim

This was BGI’s second student-veteran luncheon. The first took place in February, 2016, and it was so popular with all the participants that BGI decided to organize another one. The venue for both was Sears Fine Food restaurant, owned by KWMF Vice President and prominent Bay Area restaurateur Man J. Kim, who generously sponsored and hosted the luncheons.



Old and young find common ground: Wallace Stewart, KWMF Education Director, listens to a student.



After an initial period of generational and cultural awkwardness, awareness of a common humanity came to life. The veterans shared memories and memorabilia with the students. The students treated the vets like pop stars. And strangers with six decades of age and nearly six thousand miles of ocean between them soon became friends. It was remarkable.



Richard Friedman shares memorabilia with the students



Richard Friedman with his new friends



A student shares a smartphone image with veteran Joseph Riley



A highlight of the luncheon came when veterans Jimmy Cheong and Donald Reid sang an impromptu duet version of “Arirang,” the beloved Korean folk song. The students seemed very surprised and pleased that Reid knew the Korean lyrics so well. Then the students, not to be outdone, stood up and sang “Arirang” for the veterans.

Jimmy Cheong and Donald Reid sing “Arirang.” In the background: Tim Foley and Cindy Foley of the Salvation Army, friends and guests of Man J. Kim



The students listen to the veterans’ “Arirang” duet



The students sing “Arirang” for the veterans.





Wallace Stewart with some of his new friends

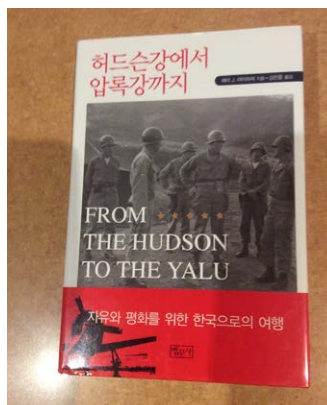


Richard Friedman and a student display photos of a devastated Seoul in 1950 and the prosperous, reborn Seoul of today

Next, host Man J. Kim presented each of the students with a Korean-language version of “From the Hudson to the Yalu,” a memoir by Colonel Harry J. Maihafer, USA (Ret.) of his experiences from West Point to Korea during the war. Mr. Kim himself had arranged for the translation of the book into Korean and the subsequent publication of that edition.



Photo by Unee Kim, BGI



As the memorable event began to wrap up, the veterans and students exchanged email addresses and promised to keep these new relationships alive. The young Koreans will not forget the Korean War and the Americans who fought for their freedom. And the old veterans are now assured that they are remembered and appreciated in the far away land where they sacrificed so much so long ago.



# June 25 Commemoration at the Korean War Memorial

On the afternoon of June 25, 2017, the sixty-seventh anniversary of the start of the Korean War, a small group of veterans, donors, and friends gathered at the Korean War Memorial in the Presidio of San Francisco. The event, organized by the Korean Consulate General of San Francisco and the Korean War Memorial Foundation, featured a few moments of prayer and remembrance, followed by the placing of a ceremonial wreath in front of the Memorial wall.



Korean War veteran Denny Weisgerber, chaplain of the 1st Marine Division Association, delivered the Invocation to the audience. This was followed by brief commemorative remarks by KWMF President and Chair Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.), Korean Deputy Consul General (DCG) Jimin Kim, and KWMF 1st Vice President Man J. Kim.



Denny Weisgerber delivers the Invocation.



Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.)





Man J. Kim



DCG Jimin Kim



Judge Kopp and DCG Kim with the wreath

Judge Kopp and Deputy Consul General Kim then placed the wreath in front of the wall. This was followed by a moment of silence and then the playing of Taps by Korean War veteran and KWMF Education Director Wallace Stewart. The participants then mingled informally, renewing acquaintances and reliving old memories on this anniversary gathering.



Wallace Stewart, wearing the same Marine uniform he wore in the 1950s, unaltered, plays Taps





Above, three Korean War vets grinning like Cheshire cats: KWMF 2nd Vice President John Stevens, KWMF Treasurer Donald Reid, and Denny Weisgerber



Members of the loyal and supportive Korean-American community

## Please Help Us with the KWMF Education Program

Even though the Korean War Memorial has been completed and is now open to the public, KWMF's work is far from over. We are now committed to our secondary mission, which is to fund and develop a KWMF Education Program in cooperation with the San Francisco Unified School District and other educational organizations.

This program, already underway, is designed to inform our youth of the geopolitical



KWMF Education Director Wallace Stewart distributes an assignment to students at Lowell High School, San Francisco

causes of the Korean War, the sacrifices made by the United States, South Korea, and our United Nations allies, the war's major events and outcome, and the lessons learned. We at KWMF fervently believe that future generations of Americans need to have better knowledge and understanding of our nation's history, as well as an awareness of the true cost of war and the true price of freedom.

Please make a donation in support of the KWMF Education Program.

- Donate on the KWMF website: <http://www.kwmf.org/donate/>
- Donate by mail: make your check payable to KWMF, and mail it to: Korean War Memorial Foundation, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 313A, San Francisco, CA 94102
- Donate by phone or email: contact Anna Jovel at (415) 817-1858, [ajovel@kwmf.org](mailto:ajovel@kwmf.org)

The Korean War Memorial Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, EIN #27-2773272. Your donation is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Thank you for your support.



***Attention, Bay Area Korean War Veterans. . .***



2017  
**NATIONAL DAY OF KOREA**  
Honoring the Korean War Veterans

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CONSULATE GENERAL  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN SAN FRANCISCO  
& CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
cordially invite Korean War Veterans of Northern California  
to 2017 National Day of Korea

- Date & Time: **Friday, September 29, 2017, 11:00 am**

\* Luncheon will be served / Seats are limited

- Venue: **Grand Ballroom, Palace Hotel**

(2 New Montgomery Street · San Francisco, CA 94105)

Note: You are welcome to bring one guest

Please RSVP by Thursday, August 31, 2017

with your (and guest's) full name to Jessie Park\*

(Also indicate if you would like to receive "Ambassador for Peace Medal")

**\*Email: [sfkoreancg2@gmail.com](mailto:sfkoreancg2@gmail.com) / Phone: 415-590-4066**

**Address: 3500 Clay Street, San Francisco, CA 94118**

## A Gala Evening: Man J. Kim's 14th Annual Appreciation Dinner for Korean War Veterans

On the early evening of June 25, 2017, not long after the commemoration ceremony at the Korean War Memorial that afternoon, KWMF 1st Vice President and San Francisco restaurateur Man J. Kim hosted his 14th Annual Korean War Veterans Appreciation Dinner at his Golden Gate Grill restaurant in San Francisco. More than 150 people attended the gala event, which features great food, wine, and live entertainment by local Korean-American performers. It's always free of charge for any Korean War veteran and guest, and has become a beloved annual tradition for the local veterans' community. Here are some photographic memories of the evening:



A lively gathering. Photo by Chin Kim, SF Journal



A Korean War veteran and his bride enjoying the evening. Photo by Chin Kim, SF Journal



Korean fan dancers in traditional garb. Photo by Art Curtis, KWMF



Korean drummers. Photo by Art Curtis, KWMF





The young generation of Korean dancers. *Photo by Chin Kim, SF Journal*



Host Man J. Kim presents crisp new \$2 bills as mementos to the young performers. *Photo by Chin Kim, SF Journal*



An appreciative audience. *Photo by Chin Kim, SF Journal*

### **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](http://www.golighthouse.com) — for their generosity in underwriting the costs of printing and mailing this newsletter.



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