



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 213E
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NEWSLETTER

April–June 2018

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A Busy Season at the Korean War Memorial, San Francisco



Photo by Anna Lopez, KWMF

The past three months have seen a number of commemorations and ceremonies at the Korean War Memorial in the Presidio of San Francisco. And the size of the crowds has been increasing significantly, due in part to the high visibility of the Korean crisis on the world stage. What follows are summaries and photographic highlights of these ceremonies, starting with the most recent in June, and working back in time to April.

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June 25: Korean War Anniversary Commemoration at the Korean War Memorial

Thanks to Jody Stevens for her June 25 commemoration photos



On June 25, KWMF held a ceremony at the Memorial to commemorate the 68th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. This date is a solemn occasion of momentous import to all Koreans and Korean-Americans. This was made evident by the strong turnout on this day by Korean-Americans who fought for the Republic of Korea during the war. These veterans are devoted supporters of all of KWMF's activities.



Our loyal allies. Some of these Korean veterans showed up an hour and a half before the ceremony began.



Getting ready for a photo op at the wall

The ceremony included a performance of the Star-Spangled Banner by Noah Griffin, Founder and Creative Director of the renowned Cole Porter Society; a performance of the Republic of Korea National Anthem by Joanne Cho, President of the Global Children's Foundation; remarks by Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.), President and Chairman of KWMF; Consul General Park Joon-yong of the Republic of Korea; Eric Blind, Director of Heritage Programs at the Presidio Trust; and KWMF Vice President Man J. Kim.



Consul General Park Joon-yong



KWMF Vice President Man J. Kim

A welcome last-minute addition to the program was a performance of “Remember June 25” by Linda Park and her group of singers. This song is much beloved in South Korea, where it is traditionally sung at ceremonies throughout the country on this important date. The women’s spirited performance was a big hit with our audience.



Linda Park and friends sing “Remember June 25”



Mr. Yoo and Mr. Crump lay the wreath



Brothers in arms, commemorating that long ago, faraway war. Standing tall on the left, in the tan suit, is KWMF President and Chairman Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.).



KWMF Co-Founder John R. Stevens, LtCol, USMC (Ret.) being interviewed by San Francisco Chronicle columnist Carl Nolte



KWMF Secretary Arthur Curtis, LCDR, USCG (Ret.) enjoying the day

June 25: Korean War Veterans Appreciation Luncheon

Thanks to Jeny Kwak for her June 25 Luncheon photos

Following the morning ceremony, the Korean War veterans and their guests headed for the Golden Gate Grill in downtown San Francisco, where the restaurant's owner, KWMF Vice President Man J. Kim, was hosting his 16th annual luncheon for all Korean War veterans and their families. More than 280 guests enjoyed fine food and wine as well as live entertainment by traditional Korean performers – all free of charge, thanks to gracious host Man J. Kim.



KWMF Co-Founder and Treasurer Donald F. Reid, Sgt, USMC with Jody and John Stevens



May 28: Memorial Day at the Korean War Memorial

Thanks to Art Curtis, Jeny Kwak, and Anna Lopez for their Memorial Day photos

The following is a chronological summary in pictures of the Memorial Day commemoration.



KWMF Executive Director Gerard Parker welcomes the guests



1st Marine Division Association Chaplain William D. "Denny" Weisgerber, Gunnery Sergeant, USMC (Ret.) delivers the Benediction. He's wearing his old dress blue uniform with all his medals, including the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart



Noah Griffin, Founder and Creative Director of the Cole Porter Society, sings the U.S. National Anthem



Joanne Cho, President of the Global Children's Foundation, Sings the South Korean National Anthem



KWMF Vice President Man J. Kim speaks on behalf of KWMF



Consul General Park Joon-yong speaks on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea



Eric Blind, Ph.D., Director of Heritage Programs, speaks on behalf of the Presidio Trust



Beth Muszynski, Chief, Research & Program Review, Veterans Home Division, California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), presents Man J. Kim with a Proclamation from Governor Jerry Brown



Placing the wreath at the wall



The commemorative wreath, courtesy of KWMF Board member Wallace I. Levin, LtCol, CSMR (Ret.), Community Service Officer of VFW 91st Division/ Chinatown Post 4618



CalVet's Beth Muszynski with KWMF's Don Reid and Denny Weisgerber



Michael Lamb, Historic Landscape Architect, the Presidio Trust, key member of the team that designed the Korean War Memorial. Behind him is the Golden Gate Bridge, and just beyond that, the Marin Headlands, which happen to lie on the 38th Parallel.



KWMF Board member Frank Mendez, U.S. Merchant Marine veteran of the Korean War



KWMF Executive Director Gerard Parker and Vice President Man J. Kim

May 27: Former ROTC Officers from the Republic of Korea Visit the Memorial

In late May, we at KWMF were pleasantly surprised to learn that we were to have an unexpected visit from members of an association of former Republic of Korea ROTC military officers. They were in San Francisco for their association's annual reunion, coming together from South Korea as well as from local chapters of their ROTC association here in the United States. And on Sunday, May 27, they showed up at the Korean War Memorial for an informal tour: several busloads of them!



Some of the Korean ROTC officers pose for a group photo

They were welcomed by KWMF's officers and other friends, who showed the guests around the memorial, exchanging pleasantries, getting to know one another, and posing for photos.

Many of the guests didn't speak much English. Fortunately, KWMF Vice President Man J. Kim served as unofficial translator and tour guide. He also made his debut as a standup comic, when he tried to persuade some of the guests that the photo of the Korean baby etched on the Memorial wall was none other than. . . Man J. Kim himself! He then admitted sheepishly that a DNA test might prove him wrong.



Two of the ROTC officers with KWMF Co-Founder and Director John Stevens



Man J. Kim tries to persuade the guests that he is the baby on the wall. They don't seem convinced.

April 28: Korean War Veterans' Advocate Hannah Kim's Visit to Korean War Memorial

Thanks to Anna Lopez for her photos of Hannah Kim's visit

On Saturday, April 28, Hannah Y Kim, a woman with a mission, paid a visit to the Korean War Memorial in the Presidio of San Francisco, and presented a ceremonial wreath. This was the beginning of an ambitious three-month journey by Hannah, visiting Korean War memorials in all 50 states, to honor and remember those who served in that conflict, and to help promote a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. Given the alarming level of tensions in the region today, her mission could not be timelier.

Hannah also wants her journey to raise awareness about the Wall of Remembrance, the long-overdue addition to the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. The wall was approved by Congress in 2016, but a lack of funding has delayed its construction for more than two years. As a result, the names of the nearly 37,000 Americans who died in Korea are still waiting to be inscribed for posterity.

Hannah's San Francisco visit included a performance of the U.S. National Anthem by Noah Griffin, Founder and Creative Director of the Cole Porter Society, and a performance of the South Korean National Anthem by Joanne Cho, President of the Global Children's Foundation.

A highlight of the ceremony came when San Francisco Supervisor Jane Kim presented Hannah with a Certificate of Honor from the City and County of San Francisco.



Hannah Kim presents wreath with Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.), President & Chairman, KWMF



Noah Griffin



Joanne Cho



Hannah with S.F. Supervisor Jane Kim and Certificate of Honor

Following the ceremony, Hannah Kim was interviewed by members of the media, including ABC7 TV News San Francisco, and then posed for memento photos with a group of KWMF's members and guests.

Hannah Kim's devoted activism on behalf of Korean war veterans began in 2008, when she was a 24 year old graduate student in Washington, DC and launched "Remember 727," an organization dedicated to honoring the veterans. She lobbied Congress to enact legislation, signed into law by President Obama in 2009, that established July 27("727") as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day.

Hannah subsequently worked for Congressman and decorated Korean War veteran Charles B. Wrangel, initially as his communications director and later as his chief of staff. At present she is just reaching the Korean war memorials on the East Coast, after more than two months on the road.



San Francisco's ABC7 TV news crew interviews Hannah



A group photo with Hannah at the Memorial wall

Dramatic Exhibition of Korean War Memorial Photos Now Open at SFO

All photos courtesy of SFO Museum

In mid-2017, KWMF President and Chairman Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.) opened a dialog with senior officials at San Francisco International Airport (SFO). The result, a year later, is an elegantly understated display of striking black and white photographs of the Korean War Memorial by SFO Museum Curator of Photography Kai Caemerer.



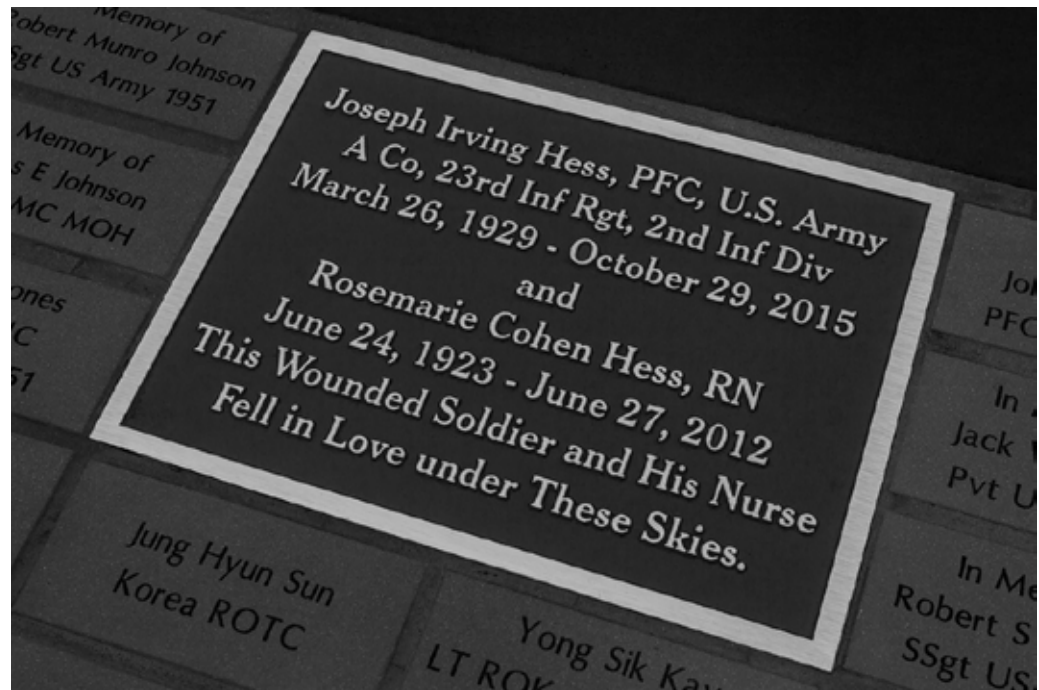
The SFO Museum's "San Francisco Korean War Memorial" exhibition is now open to the public in Terminal 3, Departures—Level 2 at SFO, and will remain open until September 13.





You may also view an online version of the exhibition at the following link: <https://www.flysfo.com/museum/exhibitions/san-francisco-korean-war-memorial>

This special tribute to our Korean War Memorial is free of charge, and will be open until September 13, 2018. We believe that it's worth a special trip to SFO to experience this beautiful exhibition. We encourage you to make the trip, and also to mention the exhibition to any friends and family members who will be traveling through SFO.



A closer view of one of the more poignant images on display

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 Consul General Announces New Program to Honor Korean War Veterans

The Honorable Park Joon-yong, Consul General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco, has launched a new Facebook page to honor Korean War veterans. If you're a Korean War veteran or a family member, you may upload copies of your wartime photos, letters, stories, video interviews, or other memorabilia onto the new page today. See the Consul General's letter below for full details. Be part of this special new project. Upload your memories for posterity today.



*The Consul General
of the Republic of Korea
in San Francisco*

June 18, 2018

Dear Honorable Korean War veterans,

The Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco is proud to offer a digital platform on a dedicated Facebook page—www.facebook.com/sfkcgshonorskwv, entitled “Honoring the Korean War Veterans – Korean Consulate General San Francisco.”

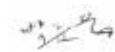
You have the opportunity to share your Korean War stories by sending copies of videos, photos, letters to/from home, and other relevant mementos to the Korean Consulate General in San Francisco. Our staff will then post your materials and manage the Facebook page.

To participate, please

- ♦ Send your materials to:
Ms. Jessie Park via email to sfkoreancg2@mofa.go.kr or via mail to:
Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, 3500 Clay Street, San Francisco, CA 94118.
- ♦ Provide brief details about the materials such as date, time, place, etc.
- ♦ Visit our Facebook page and leave your comments.

It is my sincere wish that, by using this new Facebook page, many Korean War veterans within our region can benefit from reaching out and sharing the valuable stories of wartime experiences with a wider global audience

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Park Joon-yong'.

Park, Joon-yong

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