



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 213E
San Francisco, CA 94102

NEWSLETTER

January–March 2019

Phone: (415) 817-1858

Email: info@kwmf.org

Web: www.kwmf.org

U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea and Republic of Korea Ambassador to the U.S. Visit Korean War Memorial

On Thursday, March 21, Republic of Korea Ambassador to the United States Cho Yoon-je, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cho_Yoon-je, and U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea Harry Harris, <https://kr.usembassy.gov/embassy-con->

[sulate/seoul/ambassador/](https://kr.usembassy.gov/embassy-con-sulate/seoul/ambassador/), a retired four-star Admiral, U.S. Navy, paid a special visit to the Korean War Memorial in San Francisco. The ambassadors were welcomed by Park Joon-yong, Consul General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco, and

by the officers and directors of the Korean War Memorial Foundation (KWMF), several of whom are Korean War veterans. They were joined by other local Korean War veterans as well.



From L: Park Joon-yong, Consul General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco; Frank Mendez, KWMF Board member and Korean War veteran; Kathleen Stephens, President & CEO of KEI and former U.S. Ambassador to the ROK; Harry Harris, U.S. Ambassador to the ROK; John Stevens, KWMF Co-Founder & 2nd Vice President and Korean War veteran; Cho Yoon-je, ROK Ambassador to the U.S.; Judge Quentin Kopp (Ret.), KWMF President & Chairman and Korean War veteran; and Donald Reid, KWMF Co-Founder & Treasurer and Korean War veteran.

Photo by Gerard Parker, KWMF. All other photos courtesy of KEI.

In This Issue:

Ambassadors Visit the Korean War Memorial (p.1)
Young Korean-Americans Meet with Korean War Veterans at the Memorial (p.4)

2019: A Busy First Quarter At the Korean War Memorial (p.8)
Gapyeong Stone Korean War Memorial (p.10)

The two senior diplomats were on a multi-city “Ambassadors’ Dialogue” tour across the country, a program hosted since 1992 by the Washington, DC-based Korean Economic Institute (KEI) to provide an opportunity for the two nations’ ambassadors to get to know each other, build

rapport, and strengthen the strategic alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea. The ambassadors were accompanied by their spouses, as well as by Kathleen Stephens, President and CEO of KEI, and former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea from 2008 to

2011. The visit allowed Ambassador Stephens to renew her acquaintance with the KWMF officers, whom she had met when she spoke at the Opening Ceremony of the Memorial on August 1, 2016.



KWMF Chairman Quentin Kopp



Ambassador Harry Harris



Ambassador Cho Yoon-je

Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.), KWMF President and Chairman, welcomed the two ambassadors, each of whom then addressed the gathering and expressed their gratitude and respect for those who served in the Korean War.

After the remarks, Ambassadors Harris and Cho placed a commemorative wreath at the Memorial wall.

The laying of the wreath concluded the formal part of the ceremony. The dignitaries from Washington then conversed informally with their local hosts, renewing old friendships and beginning new ones.





Ambassador and Mrs. Cho chatted with KWMF's John Stevens, LtCol, USMC (Ret.), a Korean War veteran of the Pusan Perimeter, Inchon Landing, Liberation of Seoul, and Chosin Reservoir Campaign.



Ambassador Harris shared a laugh with KWMF's Donald Reid, Sgt, USMC, a Korean War veteran of the Punchbowl and other major battles. Standing with them is Jan Huly, Lieutenant General, USMC (Ret.), President & CEO of the Marines' Memorial Association and Foundation in San Francisco. General Huly came to the event to see his long-time friend, Ambassador Harris. The two men served together when they were on active duty at the Pentagon, and have maintained their friendship since that time.

From San Francisco, the ambassadors' delegation flew to Colorado, the last stop on their nationwide tour before returning to Washington, DC. KWMF was honored that these dedicated diplomats took the time to visit the Korean War Memorial in San Francisco.

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.

A Tale of Two Nations—and Two Generations: Young Korean-Americans Meet with Korean War Veterans at the Memorial

Photos by Jeny Kwak and Gerard Parker



Korean-American parents and children pose for a group portrait with Consul General Park Joon-yong and several Korean War veterans. Seated, from L: Richard Friedman, Jimmy Cheong, Consul General Park, John Stevens, and Frank Mendez.

The Korean War Memorial in the Presidio was the site of an informal and quite enthusiastic gathering on Saturday, March 23. A tour group of several dozen Korean-American parents and children dropped by to meet with and pay their respects to KWMF's officers and several other Korean War veterans, to see the Memorial, and to learn about the veterans' experiences. The families came from San Francisco, the South Bay, and even Sacramento for the event. And the children ran the gamut from toddlers through high school students.

Each of the veterans in attendance spoke with the visitors, and engaged in a lively question-and-answer session, with some of the most perceptive questions coming from the younger kids. The following is a photographic record of this impromptu, casual, and most enjoyable get-together.



Korean War veteran and KWMF Treasurer Donald Reid (in red cap) chats with the families about his time in Korea during the war, his numerous trips back since that time, and his love of their homeland.



Consul General Park Joon-yong of the Republic of Korea welcomes the guests. On the right is Jeny Kwak, a longtime KWMF friend and donor.



Listening intently



An animated Jimmy Cheong, ROK Army veteran, describes the grim Korea of the early 1950s, a world that this younger generation of a prosperous Korea can scarcely imagine.



KWMF Board member Frank Mendez, a Korean War veteran, speaks to the guests about his Korean War experiences.



Korean War veteran Richard Friedman contrasts stark memories of his time in the war with fond memories of visits back to Korea in recent years. Around his neck he wears the Ambassador for Peace medal, awarded by the Republic of Korea Government to Korean War veterans.



Veteran Jimmy Cheong and KWMF Co-Founder & Vice President Man J. Kim listen to the comments of a young guest.



Another young guest strikes up a conversation with 97-year-old veteran John Stevens, KWMF Co-Founder & 2nd Vice President.



Several of the children pose with John Stevens.



The oldest and the youngest members of a memorable gathering

“Civilians seldom understand that soldiers, once impressed into war, will forever take it for the ordinary state of the world, with all else illusion. The former soldier assumes that when time weakens the dream of civilian life and its supports pull away, he will revert to the one state that will always hold his heart. He dreams of war and remembers it in quiet times when he might otherwise devote himself to different things, and he is ruined for the peace. What he has seen is as powerful as death itself, and yet he has not died, and he wonders why.”

—Mark Helprin, *A Soldier of the Great War*

2019: A Busy First Quarter At the Korean War Memorial

In addition to the March 21 U.S. and ROK Ambassadors' visit and the March 23 Korean-American children's visit covered in the previous pages, KWMF welcomed two high-level government delegations from the Republic of Korea to the Memorial during the first quarter of the year:

January 12: Seongnam City Delegation Visits the Memorial

On a cool Saturday morning in January, KWMF's officers and supporters welcomed two groups of government officials from the Republic of Korea. One group, led by Seongnam City Mayor Eun Soo Mi, included officials of her administration. The other group included several senior members of the National Assembly in Seoul. The joint visit was coordinated by Bay Area resident Sang S. Ahn, President of the Silicon Valley Korean American Federation in San Jose.



The Seongnam City Delegation with KWMF officials and friends. Standing on the far left is Silicon Valley Korean American Federation President Sang S. Ahn. Seated in the center in the light raincoat is KWMF Co-Founder John Stevens. Standing to the left of John is Seongnam City Mayor Eun Soo Mi, leader of the delegation.



KWMF's John Stevens and Don Reid chatted with two members of the Republic of Korea's National Assembly: Shin, Yong-hyeon, Ph.D. (L) and Lee, Jongkul (R).



KWMF Vice President Man J. Kim welcomed the visitors and thanked them for the commemorative wreaths they brought.

March 20: Representatives of Twenty Korean Government Ministries Visit the Memorial



The Republic of Korea delegation. In the center are KWMF Co-Founders John Stevens (seated) and Don Reid (in red cap). Next to Don are Director Kim Kyung Hee of the Ministry of Unification, KWMF President and Chairman Quentin Kopp, and Director Park Young Oh of the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism.

On a blustery Wednesday in March, twenty-three officials from twenty Republic of Korea ministries visited the Korean War Memorial. The delegation was led by Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism Director Park Young Oh and Ministry of Unification Director Kim Kyung Hee.



Quentin Kopp welcomed the guests during a sudden shower.



Director Kim Hyung Hee presented John Stevens with a United Nations pin.



Don Reid and Director Park Young Oh posed with the commemorative wreath the director presented to the Memorial.



Quentin Kopp and Kim Kyung Hee discussed the inscriptions on the commemorative tiles and plaques. During the course of the visit, the Korean directors frequently expressed their gratitude for the sacrifices made by the American veterans nearly seventy years ago, and were very complimentary about the stately beauty of the Memorial and its breathtaking setting.

Gapyeong Stone Korean War Memorial Dedicated in Canada



From L: Gapyeong Stone Committee member Michael Chang, Member of Parliament Ken Hardie, Senator Yonah Martin, Township of Langley Mayor Jack Froese, Gapyeong County Mayor Sungki Kim, and other dignitaries

On January 22 of this year, at a ceremony in British Columbia, the Township of Langley unveiled a symbol of sacrifice, honor, and gratitude for the significant contributions Canada made to the Korean War during the Battle of Kapyong (now Gapyeong): the Gapyeong Stone Korean War Memorial.

The distinguished audience included veterans, volunteers, representatives of the 2nd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Korean and Canadian dignitaries, and members of the local Korean community. They were welcomed by Township of Langley Mayor Jack Froese and other government officials for the ceremony at the Derek Doubleday Arboretum in Langley.



Mayor Froese addresses the guests. In the background: a detachment of Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the flags of those nations that supported the UN effort during the war.

Mayor Froese welcomed the guests, spoke of the stone's significance, and thanked the veterans for their service. The stone was presented to the Township by Gapyeong County, South Korea, as a gesture of appreciation for Canada's involvement in the Korean War, in tribute to the Canadian soldiers who served and sacrificed in the pivotal Battle of Kapyong.

Donation of the memorial was facilitated by the Gapyeong Stone Committee, made up of members of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada, the Korean War Veterans Association, the Korean Veterans Association, and the Vietnam War Veterans Association.

"This is a very special day for our community and our country," Mayor Froese commented. "The bravery and tenacity shown by Canadian soldiers in the momentous Battle of Kapyong affected the course of history, and the important role Canada played in the Korean War forged a unique bond between our two countries. We are honored that Gapyeong County has commemorated Canada's contribution with this poignant memorial, and grateful to the Gapyeong Stone



Member of Parliament Ken Hardie speaks to the guests

Committee for its efforts to bring the Stone to the Township of Langley."

The pivotal Battle of Kapyong started on April 23, 1951, and lasted for two days, about 60 kilometers north-east of Seoul. The United Nations' force had been strongly outnumbered by the communist Chinese Army, but about 650 troops from the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, held off an entire Chinese division, preventing the capture of the South Korean capital of Seoul and marking a turning point in the war. The Gapyeong Stone comes from the region where that key battle was fought.

The Township of Langley has a growing Korean-Canadian population of about 3,000. The Stone will be used by the community for ceremonies and memorials, thus helping to ensure that the so-called "Forgotten War" is remembered by future generations of Canadians.

KWMF wishes to thank the Township of Langley, BC, Canada for providing the information and images for this story.



Remembering that long-ago, faraway war: Korean War veterans, both Korean and Canadian



The Gapyeong Stone at sunset



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Officers

President

Judge Quentin L. Kopp, Captain, USAFR

Vice President

Man J. Kim, Corporal, ROKA

2nd Vice President

John R. Stevens, Lieutenant Colonel, USMC (Ret.)

Secretary

Mitchell J. Leiber

Treasurer

Donald F. Reid, Sergeant, USMC

Board of Directors

Kong Jung Shik, Lieutenant General, ROKMC (Ret.)

Thomas F. Brown III, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)

J. Michael Myatt, Major General, USMC (Ret.)

Frank Mendez, US Merchant Marine (Ret.)

Joe Boscacci, Colonel, USA (Ret.)

D. Peter Gleichenhaus, Colonel, USA (Ret.)

Wallace I. Levin, Lieutenant Colonel, CSMR (Ret.)

Directors Emeritus

Pete McCloskey, Colonel, USMCR (Ret.),
U.S. Congressman, 1967-1983

Arthur W. Curtis, Lieutenant Commander, USCG (Ret.)

Russell W. Gorman, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.) (Deceased)

Eddie LeBaron, Major, USMC (Deceased)

Executive Director and Newsletter Editor

Gerard Parker, Captain, USMC

Education Director

Wallace T. Stewart, Corporal, USMC

Advisor

John Y. Lee, Attorney at Law, 1st Lieutenant, ROKA

Legal Counsel

John Wiley, Attorney at Law

Accountant

Steve S.Y. Im, CPA

Office Manager

Christopher Lee Moore

Copyright © 2019, Korean War Memorial Foundation, a 501(c)(3)
non-profit, Federal Tax ID #27-2773272.

Phone: (415) 817-1858 Email: info@kwmf.org

Web: www.kwmf.org



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 213E
San Francisco, CA 94102