

# **Korean War Veteran**

*Internet Journal for the World's  
Veterans of the Korean War*

**April 26, 2015**

## **HOW MPVA REVISIT CHIEF FIGURED IN WILLIAM SPEAKMAN HEARING AID STORY**

Hello Veterans and Friends of Veterans,

This is a confidential addendum to an article from the Korea Times that reported on the Starkey Hearing Technology subsidiary in Korea donating a set of advanced high tech hearing aids to Veteran William Speakman, the only surviving Korean War recipient of the Victoria Cross.

Information has come to our attention that adds a further compassionate note to the reported story.

Actually, Mr Yongjin Jeon, the international affairs director who is in charge of organizing the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs revisit programs, is the link not reported in the article.

Asking to be kept anonymous for his role Mr. Jeon noted with sadness that Bill Speakman often grimaced to hear things and was having a difficult time in some of the noisy venues where there was much background noise, and even hearing those close by who spoke softly - and some of the reporters who did not speak so softly.

On his own volition Mr. Jeon got on the phone to Starkey Korea to ask if they could assist the grand veteran.

The Starkey president and CEO brought a technical team to the Lotte World Hotel to see what they could do. They spent two hours examining Mr. Speakman and giving him tests and later presented him with the very best customized hearing aids their company produces.

Please keep this quiet within the veteran community as Mr. Jeon's compassionate and effective intervention was done on a personal level and not as a function of his Ministry - although everyone there should be very proud of him.

Below is a photo of Bill Speakman with much improved hearing, after receiving the new hearing aids - a great gift to take home with him to England! The fellow with him is Director Yongjin Jeon.

