

Korean War Veteran

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Korea's new Ambassador Daeshik Jo holds first memorial service for Canadian Fallen

His Excellency Daeshik Jo, the Republic of Korea's Ambassador to Canada, has moved with lightning speed to show honour to all Canadians who fell in service in defence of his nation during the Korean War.

On the very day of his arrival at the Korean Embassy in Ottawa, April 23, he went with his wife, Madame Eunyong Park and three of his ministers to the Monument to Canadian Fallen of the Korean War. The ambassador and his wife placed floral tribute there in memory of the fallen and said prayers.



Shown in the photograph taken on April 23 are (left) Counsellor Young Joon Jo, Defence Attache Colonel Jang Min Choi, His Excellency Daeshik Jo, Madame Eunyoung Park, Minister In Kyu Park and Minister/Counsellor Chang Seob Han.

A duplicate of the monument stands in the Canadian Graves section of the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan, Korea. The bronze figure on the monument looks along a great northern arc bearing route to the UN Cemetery in Busan. During its installation in 2003, the monument was aligned and its bearings taken twice by geographers to ensure the lineup was correct.

Ambassador Jo subsequently presented his Letters Patent to Governor General David Johnston at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, on Monday, June 1. It is a necessary protocol before a new ambassador can officially begin his duties in Canada.

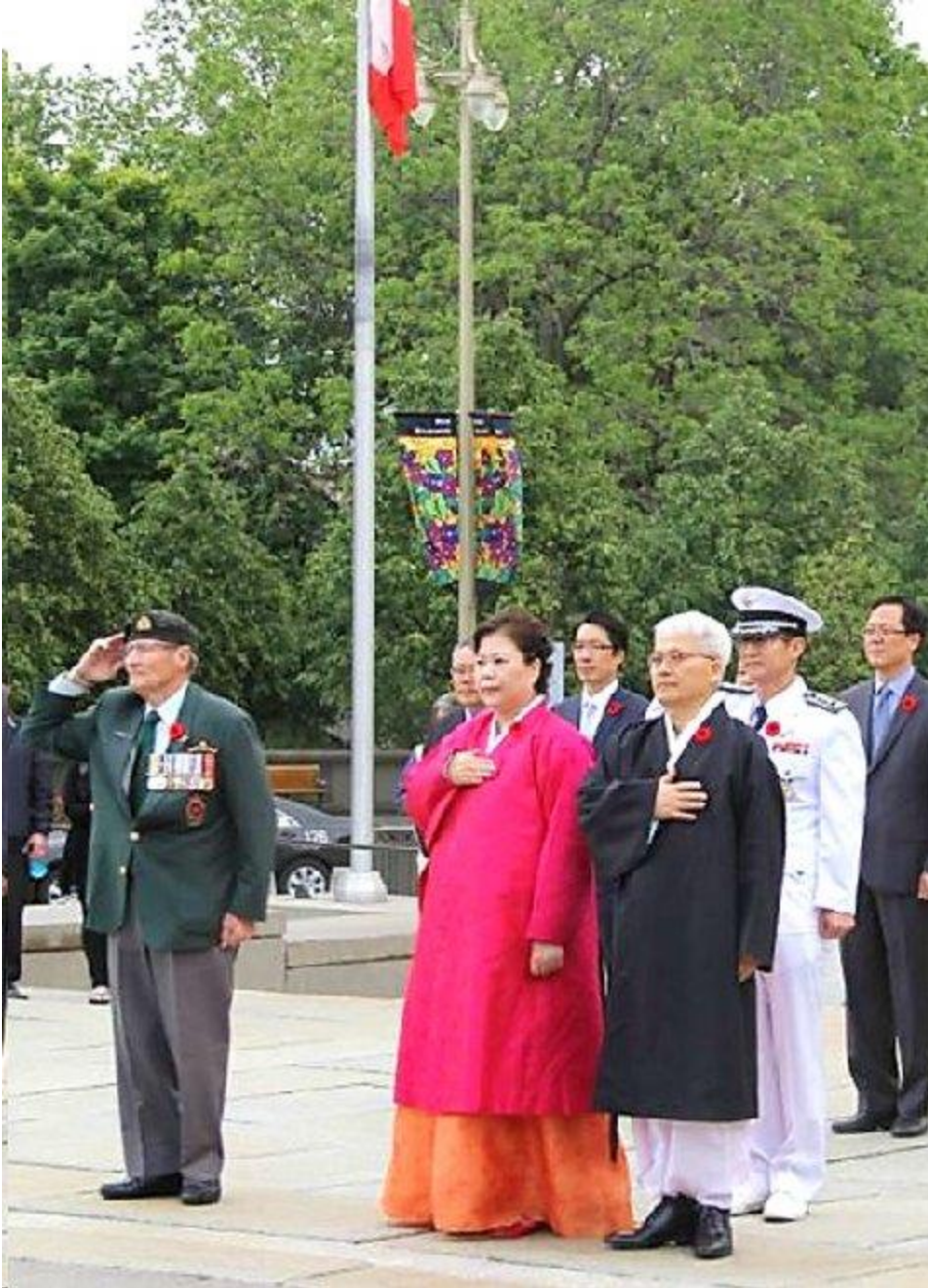
The very next morning, Ambassador Jo, his first lady, Madame Eunyoung Park, senior members of his staff and Canadian Korean War Veterans convened to hold a memorial service for the Canadians who fell during the Korean War and in the immediate post armistice period while defending Korea.

Canadian Veterans from the National Capital Unit of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada participated, led by Lieutenant Commander (Retired) Bill Black, president of the unit, with Sergeant at Arms J.P. St. Aubin as parade marshal.

Other Korean War Veterans included Douglas Barber, LCol (Ret'd) Claude Charland, Maj. (Ret'd) Walter Conrad, George Guertin, Maurice Lavoie and Jerry Poirier.

On June 2, his first full day as a functioning ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Daeshik Jo and Madame Eunyoung Park, offer prayers and commemoration to Canada's Korean War Fallen at the National War Memorial in Ottawa. Here they place a wreath on the steps leading to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. With them is Colonel Jan Min Choi, South Korea's Defence Attache.





Ambassador Jo and Madame Park salute. With them (left) is LCmdr (Ret'd) Bill Black, president of the National Capital Unit of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada, who was defacto manager of the ceremony and Colonel Choi.

Standing behind Colonel Choi to his left and right are the sons of Ambassador Jo and Madame Park, Mr. Jo Hyun Kyoo and Mr. Jo Sang Kyoo. They both flew to Ottawa to witness their father's presentation of his Letters Patent to Governor

General David Johnston at Rideau Hall, and the Governor General's official welcome of Ambassador Jo to Canada.



Standing before the Korean War inscription on the left wing of the National War Memorial are (left) ROK Defence Attache Colonel Jan Min Choi, Major (Retired) Walter Conrad, Mr. Jo Sang Kyoo, son of Ambassador Jo and Madame Park, and to their left their other son, Mr. Jo Hyun Kyoo. To his left is LCmdr (Ret'd) Bill Black and to his left is LCol (Ret'd) Claude Charland. To the right of the Canadian Flag in the background is J.P. St. Aubin, parade marshal.

Having thus demonstrated considerable respect for Canada's Korean War Veterans, and especially for those who fell during the Korean War, Ambassador Jo will host veterans at the South Korean Embassy's Korea Day celebrations in Ottawa, on the weekend of June 20-21, with a reception for them on Sunday, June 21.

The event is held each year, commemorating the outbreak of the Korean War on June 25, 1950, and this year marks the 65th anniversary of the invasion of South Korea by North Korea and the near immediate response of the United Nations to send forces to South Korea to repel the invading armies.

Veterans attending will be feted by the Ambassador at a reception at the Chateau Laurier hotel, following the commemoration services.