

# **Korean War Veteran**

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

**June 23, 2015**

## **Korea Day held in Ottawa to commemorate 65th anniversary of the June 25, 1950 start of the Korean War, which ended in the signing of an armistice agreement on July 27, 1953**

On Sunday, June 21, the Republic of Korea's Ambassador in Canada, His Excellency Jo Daeshik, hosted Korean War Veterans at the annual Korea Day ceremonies and reception in Canada's capital city of Ottawa.

The ceremony is held on the weekend closest to June 25, which is the anniversary of the first day of the Korean War. This year marks the 65th anniversary of the June 25, 1950 invasion of South Korea by Soviet backed forces from North Korea, in a war that ultimately saw China enter on North Korea's side to battle with the 21 allied nations comprising the United Nations Forces.

Representing the Canadian Government, and speaking on behalf of the Prime Minister of Canada and the Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada was Honourable Yonah Martin, deputy government leader of the Senate of Canada.

Many Korean War Veterans attended the ceremony, though their numbers are thinned somewhat from former years.

The planning and management for the ceremony was largely handled by LCmdr Bill Black, president of the National Capital Unit of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada and some of his officers.

Col Choi Jang Min did planning and liaison work for the Korean Embassy.

In former years there was always a brisk march with the Korean Ambassador taking the salute from the veterans. It was so this year, without the brisk march.



Crowd gathers at Monument to Canadian Fallen as veterans take positions and Senator Yonah Martin, Ambassador Jo Daeshik and Korean Defence Attache Choi Jang Min stand ready to place wreaths of remembrance.



Senator Martin accepts her wreath from veteran prior to placing it at base of Monument to Canadian Fallen and saying short, silent prayer for those who fell in Korea, the country where she was born. The Monument's bronze base lists the

names of all 516 Canadians who lost their lives on Korean War service. To the Senator's left is LCmdr. (Ret'd) Bill Black, chief planner for the ceremony. He is the long serving president of the National Capital Unit of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada.



Record photograph following first ceremony at Monument to Canadian Fallen

Following a stirring service at the Monument to Korean War Fallen, the veterans and other delegates then moved to the Canadian War Memorial for the follow-on service.

Many wreaths were placed by Canadian and foreign government officials before the Ambassador reviewed and greeted the veterans.



Senator Yonah Martin and His Excellency Jo Daeshik, the Republic of Korea's Ambassador to Canada place wreaths of tribute and remembrance at the National War Memorial.



Many wreaths were placed, denoting high respect and commemoration for our comrades who fell in Korea.



Saluting at Canada's National War Memorial. From left: Defence Attache Col. Choi Jang Min, His Excellency Jo Daeshik, South Korea's Ambassador to Canada, Senator Yonah Martin, deputy government leader of the Canadian Senate, Lieutenant General Marquis Haines, commander of the Canadian Army, and his accompanying chief warrant officer.

Following the service all delegates proceeded to the five-star Chateau Laurier Hotel, adjacent to Parliament Hill, where they enjoyed a fine luncheon reception hosted by Ambassador Jo.

Senator Martin addressed everyone present with a fine speech, which is reproduced below:



The lavish reception room at the Chateau Laurier Hotel, which is next to the Parliaments Buildings, was the site of the luncheon banquet hosted by South Korea's Ambassador Joe Daeshik. MORE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE AVAILABLE ON THIS LINK <http://1drv.ms/1IundNX>

## **SENATOR YONAH MARTIN'S ADDRESS TO VETERANS AT THE CHATEAU LAURIER HOTEL, KOREA DAY, JUNE 21, 2015**

Ambassador Jo Daeshik, Your Excellencies, Senator Dan Lang, Senator Grant Mitchell, LGen Marquis Haines, Colonel Choi, ladies and gentlemen; and above all, our guests of honour and the focus of our gathering today, dear Veterans of the Korean War.

Je suis honoré de vous transmettre les salutations sincères au nom de notre premier ministre et le gouvernement du Canada, et au nom de l'hon. Erin O'Toole, ministre des Anciens Combattants Canada à Ottawa.

(I am honoured to bring sincere greetings on behalf of our Prime Minister and the Government of Canada, and on behalf of the Hon. Erin O'Toole, Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada in Ottawa.)

Today we gather to commemorate the beginning of the 65th Anniversary of the Korean War Years that took place between June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953.

During the Korean War, more than 26,000 Canadian men and women defended the people of the Republic of Korea from Communist aggression, and helped build Canada's outstanding reputation abroad.

Some 7,000 Canadians continued to serve in Korea between the signing of the Armistice in 1953 and the end of 1955, with some Canadian troops remaining until 1957.

Since that time, and in fact since the 1800's, Canada and Korea's genuine friendship and trade relations have deepened and grown to historic proportions (embodied in the Canada Korea FTA which benefits every region and many sectors and equally beneficial to Canadians and Koreans).

Notre gouvernement a également désigné 2013 comme l'Année des vétérans de la guerre de Corée. (Our Government also designated 2013 as the Year of the Korean War Veteran.)

It was a year of remembrance recognizing the tremendous contributions of those Canadians who bravely fought to uphold freedom during the Korean War, and of those who remained to uphold peace in the years that followed.

And this commitment continues today with events such as this one.

You may be interested to know that Veterans Affairs Canada allocates annual spending for the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea, the only one of its kind in the world where Canadians are buried along with the fallen from other Allied nations. Allocated funding is used for the care and maintenance within the cemetery including a memorial to Commonwealth soldiers whose burial places are unknown.

Twenty-one Canadians are identified on this monument. Of note, part of this year's funding will be used to update and replace a plaque in front of the Monument to the Canadian Fallen memorial, which was unveiled in 2001 by the Canadian Korean War Commemoration Committee (under the dedicated coordination of Vince Courtenay, publisher of the online journal Korean War Veteran).

Conversely, Canadian Veterans are very appreciative of the generosity of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs Korea Revisit Programs. 42 Veterans and their families traveled to Korea this past April. As the Program enters its 40th Year of supporting Korean War Veterans and their families to return to Korea, please know the Government of Canada applauds the Korean Government and will continue to support this initiative through the Canadian Embassy in Korea.

As Canada nears our 150th birthday in 2017, the Government of Canada invites Canadians to learn more about the major events that have shaped our country's history, which includes our participation in the Korean War. As we soon begin the 65th anniversary of the Korean War Years, may this important milestone in Canada's history allow all of us to experience our rich history and heritage in a special way.

Let today be the beginning of more commemorative ceremonies, projects and special events during the 65th Anniversary of the Korean War years.

As I have said many times before, and like many of you in this room, we would not be here today had it not been for Canadians and others who willingly served and sacrificed their lives in the Korean War. May you continue to be proud of the Republic of Korea's economic rise and the success of the national Korean Canadian community. We are eternally grateful and know that we are part of your legacy.

Anciens combattants, nous nous souviendrons toujours. Nous nous souviendrons.  
(Veterans, we will always remember. Lest we forget.)

Gumsahumneeda.

Merci mille fois.

Thank you.