

Korean War Veteran

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

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This edition of the Korean War Veteran is being distributed to the presidents of all 215 Chapters of the Korean War Veterans Association (USA)

Editor's Comment: Please note that Representative Kim Hoon Jung, mentioned in the article below, whose legislation has designated July 27 in Korea as "UN Veterans Day," along with Canada's Senator Yonah Martin, whose private members bill became a statute that designates July 27 as Korean War Veterans Day in Canada, both will participate in the Korean War Veterans Association (USA) national convention and commemoration services in Washington, DC, in July.

The commemorative events include services at Arlington National Cemetery, marking the 62nd anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice agreement, and services at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, marking the 20th anniversary of its unveiling, Consecration and dedication in 1995.

Both of Senator Martin and Representative Kim will depart from Washington in time to participate in the July 27 Armistice Day ceremonies held in Canada at the Korea War Veterans National Wall of Remembrance, in the Greater Toronto suburb of Brampton.

Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs will host an MPVA-sponsored banquet for veterans on the evening of July 25.

The convention and commemorative events are open to veterans from all nations. Information and a registration form is provided in a link at the end of the article.

United Nations Memorial Cemetery stands aloof in Busan Peace Zone as symbol of selfless courage, sacrifice for world freedom



Perhaps it is because its size makes it so difficult to photograph that this memorial is not popularly known – even by many Korean War Veterans – but the United Nations Memorial Monument in Busan, if studied on site and in detail, is a wonderful monument to the servicemen of all the United Nations Allies who served in the Korean War.

Another deterrent to remembering it is its relative inaccessibility to those on foot. The monument is surrounded by a roundabout of busy avenues that converge at that point in the southern district of Nam-gu, in Busan. While tour buses, including those carrying veterans often circle a portion of the monument, up close the occupants can only get a glimpse of a few of its features. Its largeness requires a look from further back – and further back, the impressive features fade.

But there is a bronze statue representing servicemen and the national flags from every one of the UN allied nations whose armed forces served in Korea.



The Monument marks the nearby gates of the venerable United Nations Memorial Cemetery, and it was fitting to site it there. It now heads what is known as the United Nations Way. While honorable, a subtle commercial element is involved; development of the commemorative area outside of the UN Cemetery surely has been partially driven by practical desire to maximize tourist traffic to Nam-gu, the southern district of Seoul's second largest city.

That element does not detract from the significance of what has occurred there. Free enterprise is part of the freedom for which we and our comrades fought, so

long as its managers do no harm to the populace and good taste and decency keeps commercialization in check.

In 2009, National Assemblyman Kim Hoon Jung was successful in getting the United Nations to designate Nam-gu as a “Special Peace and Culture Zone,” the only area with such a designation in the world.

The following year Kim Hoon Jung’s private member’s bill was passed by the National Assembly, designating July 27 as *UN Veterans Day*. The bill subsequently became enacted and is South Korean law.

Kim also founded the American Veterans of Korea Foundation in the United States, which provides support for veterans and their descendants, including scholarships for attending colleges or trade schools.

He was also the driving force behind – *and most times leading from the front* – in the development of the United Nations Memorial Peace Hall in Nam-gu. It had its illustrious public opening on November 11, 2014, during the November 11 *Turn Toward Busan* ceremonies that were held nationally in Korea, and in other nations around the world.



Artist's rendering of the Peace Memorial Hall, located near the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in the Nam-gu peace zone district of Busan.

Naturally enough there is a political element to Representative Kim's strong push of the Nam Gu peace district initiatives. He is the elected representative from that area and represents it in the National Assembly.

But elevation of one's district and people by its freely elected representatives is something that all UN Veterans fought for in the Korean War, and is a natural element in the fabric of democratic government.

And in this case, the patriotic fervor aroused and the international significance attained is very commendable.



National Assemblyman Kim Hoon Jung (*photo right, blue suit*) with President Barack Obama and official party during July 27, 2013 National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day services in the United States. Kim was the official representative of South Korea's President Park Geun-hye. President Park was officiating at a colossal ceremony in Seoul, attended by government representatives and veterans from all 25 of the UN allies, including the 21 nations that provided armed forces and the four that provided hospitals and medical support units. Representative Kim will again be in Washington this July, as will Canada's Senator Yonah Martin. Senator Martin passed a bill in the Canadian Parliament that became law and designates July 27 as *Korean War Veterans Armistice Day* in perpetuity. Thus each of them is responsible for their government's designating July 27 as a special day for veterans.



Senator Yonah Martin, deputy government leader in the Canadian Senate, was born in Korea and immigrated to Canada at the age of seven, arriving unable to speak English. She later spent 20 years teaching English in Vancouver area high schools. In the Senate of Canada she quickly advanced through positions to become the government deputy leader. She is considered by all of Canada's Korean War Veterans as their champion, and rightfully so. She not only established through the Canadian Parliament, July 27 as *National Korean War Veterans Day*, but has been instrumental in planning and holding many commemorative events in Ottawa and in other locations. She meets often with Canada's Minister of Veterans Affairs and with Park Sungchoon, Korea's Minister

of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. Her assistance to Canada's veterans has been priceless, and indeed has gained them much recognition in their nation for their Korean War service. She represents Canada on many fronts, and worked hard at home and in Korea to see the recent Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement passed in both nations. She is shown above placing a memorial wreath on behalf of the Government of Canada at the Korean War Veterans Ambassador of Peace Memorial in the Greater Vancouver suburb of Burnaby, British Columbia.

The Nam-gu peace zone in Busan now encompasses the Peace Hall, the United Nations Memorial Monument, United Nations Way and, by proximity and inclusion - but not by any administrative or political connection - the venerable United Nations Memorial Cemetery.

Thus designated, we can now view that southern district of Busan as one that uniquely reflects the blending of the cultures of people from 25 different nations that supported South Korea during – and following – the war.

Of all of the many cultures and their variations, there are common elements and that should become evident as the district fulfills its mission. Some of them are selflessness, courage, and nobility of purpose in upholding human freedom and dignity as the great blessing available to all people.

Indeed, those who went forth to help a small, much agrarian, very poor nation beginning 65 years ago, expressed human courage and selfless risk and sacrifice makes the nobility of free men shine!

These attributes, we trust, can be identified and appreciated and absorbed by younger generations in Korea, and by those from all other nations who may visit the Nam-gu Special Peace and Culture Zone.

In silent testimony to that nobility are the 2,300 graves of Korean War Fallen from 16 nations that are located in the venerable earth of the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, and the 40,896 names of the Fallen that are engraved there on the Wall of Remembrance. They give testimony to it and to the decency and goodness of those who fought, and of all who served.

It is the only United Nations cemetery in the world. It symbolizes the time that the free nations of the world joined in united cause and went to war against an aggressor nation that was intent on conquering and putting a neighbor state under its regime, by brutal force of arms.

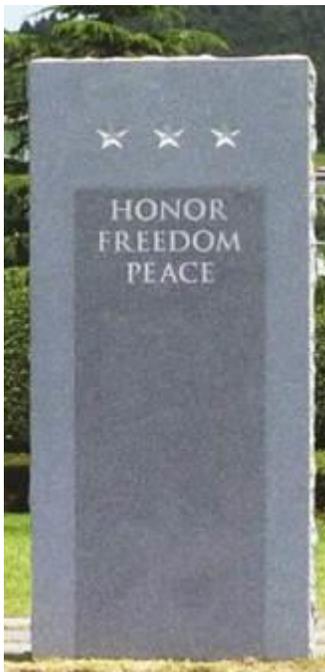
It is not the centerpiece of the Nam-gu district, nor an adjunct to any of its elements.

It is aloof and a solemn, hallowed place where Fallen comrades rest eternally.

It should stay so, in perpetuity.

Monuments in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery solemnly reflect sorrow and gratitude to the Brave Fallen of many nations

(Not all of the nations whose dead are buried there have elected to erect memorials; the graves of their fallen sons attest to their great sacrifice.)



United States



United Kingdom



Canada



Australia



New Zealand



France



Norway



Thailand



Philippines



Greece



Unknown Soldiers Walkway



Turkey



United Nations Wall of Remembrance

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(After this the prices for the rooms will sky rocket)

- **KWVA Board & Membership Meetings**
- **65th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration**
- **20th Anniversary of the Korean War Veterans Memorial**
- **KWVA 30th Anniversary (founded 1985)**
- **Chosin Few Memorial Dedication**
- **Participation from Delegations of Allied Countries**

**DoubleTree by Hilton, Washington DC-Crystal City
300 Army Navy Dr., Arlington, VA 22202 - 703-416-4100**

[Click HERE For Convention Registration Form and Hotel Registration Details](#)