



Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife Lauren at the grave of noted Canadian missionary Dr. Paul Schoffield, the only non-Korean buried in the National Cemetery of Korea in Seoul.

A message from Sen. Yonah Martin:

Dearest Veterans,

March 1st is a significant day for Korea and for the Korean Canadian community. Canadians stood shoulder to shoulder with Koreans in support of their freedom in 1919, just as you did during the Korean War. Thank you.

Please find attached my official statement on this important day. Due to time constraints, it is only in English.

With sincere gratitude and respect,

Yonah Martin
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate



Statement

Date: March 1, 2015
For immediate release

STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE YONAH MARTIN MARKING 96TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOREA'S MARCH 1ST INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

"On March 1st, 1919, a series of peaceful demonstrations took place across Korea for national independence after nearly a decade of forced assimilation and military rule under Japanese imperialism. The day is observed in the Republic of Korea as a national day where the Korean flag is flown high to commemorate the 2 million Koreans who had participated in more than 1,500 demonstrations in 1919 despite repression from military forces.

"In doing so, the Korean people chose independence and a future that will live up to the more than 5000 years of Korean history of endurance. Today, we observe and reflect on the bravery of the Korean people who gave their lives in the hopes that Korea could be free.

"Through it all, Canadians did not stand by to watch. One such Canadian is revered as a national hero of Korea for his activism and outspoken support of the Korean peoples' movement for independence. Canadian missionary and scholar, Dr. Francis W. Schofield was well known in veterinary medicine and worked at the Severance Union Medical College and Hospital, today known as Yonsei University in Seoul.

"Dr. Schofield is widely recognized as one of the most outspoken critics of Japan's colonial rule on Korean society. In particular, the system of licensed prostitution imported to Korea. One of his students informed him of the events planned for March 1st, and he was trusted with the important task of documenting the events with his camera, which provided conclusive evidence of military repression of Korea during this period. He continued to write articles to document the repression that took place during this time, despite being singled out by the Japanese Governor General.

"Dr. Schofield won the hearts of Koreans, then and now, and earned the title of '34th Patriot' along with 33 other revolutionary leaders. He is the only Canadian (and foreigner) to be buried in the Korean National Cemetery in Seoul. Together with his scientific ability and his influence on generations of veterinary students, Dr. Schofield's international contribution makes him an important figure in Canadian history.