

Veteran Clyde Bougie, Founding President of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada passed away on March 23, 2015 at age 88

David A. Davidson, past national president and now membership chairman of the Heritage Unit of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada, has confirmed that Clyde Reo Bougie, founding president of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada, died on March 23rd, from complications of pneumonia.

The death of Mr. Bougie was first reported to the Korean War Veteran earlier in the day by past national president and president of the Ontario Region of the Heritage Unit, Terry Wickens, who was trying to obtain details.

Mr. Bougie was a longtime resident of Barrie, Ontario.



Veteran Clyde Bougie represented all Canadian Veterans at a wreath laying ceremony at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan, Korea, in April 2010. The ceremony was part of a revisit by Commonwealth veterans sponsored by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. It commemorated the 60th year since the beginning of the Korean War on June 25, 1950.

Clyde Reo Bougie joined the Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury Regiment (Militia) artillery, at age 16 and then enlisted in the Canadian Army active force in February, 1945.

After training he was assigned to the 6th Division, serving under Brigadier John Rockingham. Plans to send the Division to fight in the Pacific were shelved when Japan was defeated in July, 1945.

After the Division was disbanded, Clyde Bougie joined The Royal Canadian Regiment and in 1949 qualified as a paratrooper.

He sailed for Korea with the 1st Battalion of The Royal Canadian Regiment in March, 1952, and served with the unit when it took over the Hill 355 sector.

Mr. Bougie later transferred to 37 Field Hospital of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. He stayed with the Medical Corps for the next 22 years, retiring from the Canadian Army in 1974, just a few days short of 30 full years of service.



Clyde Bougie (right) with a Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps comrade in Korea.

He was elected as the president of the Korean War Veterans Reunion Committee in 1974, which, under his guidance, evolved to become the Korea Veterans Association of Canada, of which he served as national president until 1979.



President of KVA Canada Clyde Bougie signing the VIP register at the National Cemetery of Korea, during one of the early veteran revisits, in 1978 – one year after the formation of KVA Canada.

Mr. Bougie remained very active with KVA Canada throughout the next 36 years, following his term as national president.

He was a special member of the Veteran's Revisit Delegation to Korea in April, 2010, and he threw his hat in the ring to serve as national president of the Heritage Unit, the successor to KVA Canada, in 2013.

Details of Mr. Bougie's family life, services to be held and other matters are not available at this time.

Mr. Bougie was the second former national president of KVA Canada to pass away this month, following by days the death of Past President Gordon Strathy, who was still serving as National Secretary of the Heritage Unit.



Mr. Bougie arriving at the Incheon International Airport with veterans from all of the Commonwealth nations to participate in the April, 2010 revisit to Korea sponsored by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.