

# *The Korean War Veteran*

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## **Senator Yonah Martin's Korean War Veterans Day Bill passes final reading in Canadian Senate, goes to House of Commons for approval and Royal Assent**

Congratulations are in order for Senator Yonah Martin on the historic occurrence of her Bill 213, An Act Respecting a National Day of Remembrance to honour Canadian Veterans of the Korean War, passing its third and final reading in the Senate of Canada.



The Bill, which will officially designate July 27 as Korean War Veterans Day in perpetuity after it becomes a statute that has received Royal Assent, has been examined in committees in the Senate, with testimony and evidence provided by veterans and members of various publics.

Senator Martin is the champion for Canada's Korean War veterans. She took up their cause upon being appointed to the Senate four years ago.

She has expressed thanks and recognition to the co-sponsor of the Bill in the Senate, Senator Joseph Day, long a spokesman for veterans and veterans affairs in

general.

Senator Day, who represents New Brunswick, is a graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada. He did a stint as a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force and has supported many veterans programs and interests since being appointed to the



Senate of Canada.

He participated as an interested government member in the 2003 Veterans Affairs Pilgrimage to Korea that marked the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War.

So now, with the 60th anniversary of the end of the war at hand, he has joined with Senator Martin in this most worthy cause.

He was appointed to the Senate by the Liberal Government and was instrumental in getting backing for the Bill by the full Liberal Caucus.

Senator Martin explains that the Bill now moves to the House of Commons where her colleague, Member of Parliament Blaine Calkins will sponsor the House version of the Bill.

It is noteworthy that Calkins, who represents Wetaskawin, Saskatchewan, accompanied Senator Martin to Korea in November, 2012 to participate in the November 11 Turn Toward Busan service at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, where Calkins' great uncle, Corporal James Alvin Calkins is buried.



His great uncle was one of the first Canadians killed in action, on February 23, 1951, while serving with the 2nd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

While in Korea they met with officials from the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Canada's Ambassador and others on veterans commemoration planning.

Once the Bill is approved in the House of Commons it will go to the Governor General of Canada to receive Royal Assent.

Thereafter, July 27 will be officially designated Korean War Veterans Day in perpetuity, as a Canadian law.

Not only has Senator Martin conceived of and spearheaded this wonderful work in Canada, she has been embroiled in it with government representatives and veterans advocates in other nations and has discussed her vision and plans with staff members at the United Nations.

Senator Martin is encouraging all nations that contributed armed forces and humanitarian aid and medical personnel to Korea during the Korean War to similarly designate July 27 Korean War Veterans Day in their own countries.

This is already in effect in the United States, by statute and veterans organizations in Australia have been trying for many years to get such a law enacted.

**We would encourage every Canadian veteran of the Korean War, and his friends and family members, to send letters and e-Mail messages to their Members of Parliament, encouraging them to vote in favour of the Bill that**

**Member of Parliament Blaine Calkins is now submitting to the House of Commons.**





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## News Release

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For immediate release  
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### **SENATOR MARTIN CELEBRATES THE PASSAGE OF BILL S-213 “KOREAN WAR VETERANS DAY ACT” AT THIRD READING IN THE SENATE OF CANADA**

OTTAWA, ON – The Honourable Yonah Martin, along with Co-Sponsor, The Honourable Joseph A. Day, moved Bill S-213, intituled “An Act respecting a national day of remembrance to honour Canadian veterans of the Korean War (Korean War Veterans Day Act)” at Third Reading in the Senate of Canada. Bill S-213 was passed in the Senate on March 6, 2013 with unanimous support. The Bill will now move to the House of Commons, where Member of Parliament Blaine Calkins whose great-uncle Alvin J. Calkins is buried in the UN Cemetery in Busan, Korea, will carry the Bill through the House.

The passage of Bill S-213 in the Senate of Canada marks an important step in the completion of a Bill that will designate the twenty-seventh day of July in each and every year as “Korean War Veterans Day” to remember and honour the courage and sacrifice of Canadians who served in the Korean War (1950-1953) and those who performed peacekeeping duties following the armistice of July 27, 1953. This Bill will also honour the 516 who were killed during the war, and the thousands of veterans who suffer from the physical and mental affects of the war to this day.

“Canadian veterans of the Korean War deserve a day in their honour. Every Canadian enjoys the freedoms today which were paid for in blood and tears. I owe them my life,” said Senator Martin.

2013 has been declared by the Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs as the Year of the Korean War Veteran to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice (<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/korean-war>). It is fitting that Bill S-213 has been passed in the Senate and now moves to the House of Commons for approval during this special year, with the hope that the Bill will receive final approval and Royal Assent before the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

To follow the progress of Bill S-213, visit:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/LegisInfo/BillDetails.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&billId=5823390>

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