

KOREAN WAR VETERAN

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Turn Toward Busan 2016

Korean War Veterans from 13 nations on five continents pay homage to comrades at United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan as veterans all over the world participate in ninth annual Turn Toward Busan service of honor and tribute to the United Nations Fallen of the Korean War



Vince Courtenay, Turn Toward Busan ceremony initiator and his wife, Makye, arrive at the Incheon International Airport on November 8, after a 20-hour journey from their home in Canada. The Courtenay's were special guests of the Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs and were not part of the allocated Canadian contingent of six veterans and family members. Every veteran and family member who arrived in Korea was personally greeted by staff from the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs and escorted by a professional tour guide. News media photographed or videotaped every arriving member of the large veterans delegation.

There were Korean War Veterans from 13 nations on five continents participating in the November 11, 2016 Turn Toward Busan ceremony held at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan; more than 90 veterans and family members in all.



One hour before the tenth annual core service for the universal Turn Toward Busan ceremony was held at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan, a veteran who served in Korea with the Netherlands Battalion searches for grave of fallen comrade.

(Photographic report of Turn Toward Busan service appears below this text)

Around the world veterans groups, some joined by national and local government officials, also turned toward Busan in memory and in honor and respect to our comrades who fell in service in Korea so long ago.

Some of the services were national-level events, like those held in Washington, DC, and in Ottawa, Canada. Others were large regional services, like the ones in being held Edmonton, Canada; or Lancaster, Pennsylvania in the United States, or in Gloucester, or Southend in England; or in Brisbane, Australia.

In large groups or small, or even alone in their own homes or hospital rooms, the veterans faced toward the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan, and held a minute of heartfelt silence. In doing so, they paid tribute, and they honored, all of those who fell there – including the soldiers and the civilians of the Republic of Korea, who suffered so badly. When we veterans came to Korea, so long ago, we knew nothing about Korea. We knew nothing about the Korean people. We didn't know their history, their culture. Neither did the people back home.

Today, the people in every nation of the world are familiar with the wonderful, resilient South Korean people, and the amazing development of their vibrant nation, which is one of the world's leading economic and industrial powers. Yet most of the people back home in the 21 UN Allied Nations don't realize that their own their country sent soldiers to Korea so long ago, to fight in one of the most terrible wars imaginable... a war that younger generations do not even know took place. Wise veterans know that it is the soldier's lot to be forgotten.

But we all hope that when our comrades Turned Toward Busan in their home countries, some of the younger people there came to know... That young men and women, just like them, came to Korea in pursuit of mankind's highest ideals, and that they fought there and died there, with nobility, for a people they never even knew. And that today, all over the world, their surviving comrades still pay homage to their friends who fell there.

The South Korean people see all of the brave faces of those fallen soldiers, in every calm morning that greets each of their new days.

November 10 Roll Call for 2,300 Fallen Soldiers



A Roll Call was held on November 10 for all 2,300 fallen soldiers buried in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery. Beneath a canopy next to the Wall of Remembrance in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, veteran Harold Patterson from Canada (obscured by canopy support pole) and Australian veteran and chaplain John Brownbill of Australia take part in calling out the roll call of all of the names of the 2,300 United Nations Fallen buried in the cemetery. Mr. Anderson recited aloud the names of 50 fallen Canadian soldiers and Mr. Brown read out the names of 50 soldiers from Australia who fell in Korea and are buried in the cemetery. Despite a drenching rain, 23 teams of two persons each read off all 2,300 names of the soldiers buried in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery. It was a splendid gesture organized and managed by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs and the cemetery administrative staff, and heavily covered by interested news media. Korean students and patriotic citizens watched the proceedings from beneath canvas shelters. The reading aloud of the names over a public address system lasted from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. For the majority of those interred at the cemetery, it was the first time since their burial more than 60 years ago that their name was ever spoken in Korea. A fine gesture and tribute to the Fallen who are interred there.



Twelve veterans were selected to read the names of Fallen soldiers from their own and other nations who are buried in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery. They wait respectfully beneath a canopy before being called forward in teams of two to recite 100 names of the fallen soldiers per team.

November 11, Visiting Graves of the Fallen at United Nations Memorial Cemetery



Although the previous day had been a rainy and chilly one, November 11 bloomed in late autumnal splendor. Veteran Jozeph Liebregts from Holland places floral tribute on the grave markers of fallen comrades in the early morning of November 11 before the tenth annual Turn Toward Busan ceremony began. All of the veterans had ample time to visit and worship at the individual graves, and the Wall of Remembrance, which is engraved with 41,000 names of servicemen and servicewoman from the United Nations Forces who fell in Korean War service.



Veteran Vincent Fauvel-Champion, from France, salutes over the grave of one of his fallen comrades from the famed French Battalion, which was awarded three U.S. Distinguished Unit Citations and two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations. M. Fauvel-Champion was decorated both by France and the Republic of Korea. He was wounded and treated initially at the Norwegian Mobile Army Surgical Hospital.



Canadian Veterans Gilles Martin (left) is escorted by his brother, Raymond-Marie Martin, his companion and caregiver for the journey. They were photographed standing in front of the Monument to Canadian Fallen, a monument to all Canadians who fell in Korean War service that stands in the Canadian graves section of the UN Cemetery. The cemetery holds the graves of 378 Canadian soldiers who fell in Korea during the war. The names of another 16 soldiers who are listed as missing in action and five sailors from the Royal Canadian Navy who are listed as lost at sea are engraved on the Commonwealth Memorial to Those With No Known Graves, which is nearby. The monument was paid for by Canadian veterans and not by the Government of Canada or the United Nations Memorial Cemetery. It was sculpted and cast by Korean artist Yoo Young Mun and a matching monument also sculpted and cast by Mr. Yoo in Korea stands in its own boutique part in the Canadian capital of Ottawa, adjacent to the National Arts Center. A Canadian Turn Toward Busan ceremony is held in Ottawa every year at 9 p.m. on November 10, synchronized to the core global service being held in Korea at 11 a.m. on November 11 local Korea time.



American veterans gather at the United States of America Memorial, engraved with the words, *Honor, Freedom, Peace*. During the Korean War the cemetery was designated as the United States Army Cemetery at Tanggok and was the burial place for nearly 10,000 fallen American servicemen. All American graves were exhumed and the fallen were repatriated to U.S. soil beginning early in 1951. Thereafter all servicemen and servicewoman from the United States who lost their lives in Korea were

immediately repatriated to Japan, for burial in Hawaii (then not a state) or on the U.S. mainland. Shown beside the monument are veterans (left) Robert David Smith, from Arizona, Gerald Dominick Greely, and Harlan Albert Kundel, from Iowa. The United Nations Memorial Cemetery was founded after the South Korean government ceded the ground to the United Nations, which in turn ceded it to a UN Commission made up of the ambassadors of the 11 UN allied nations whose fallen servicemen are buried in the cemetery. The United Nations does not pay to maintain the cemetery. The Korean government pays for capital improvements and upkeep costs and the 11 nations are charged a small levy each year for care of the graves. Thirty-six American Korean War Veterans are buried in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, as requested in their wills or by their families. They served in the war and later worked in Korea as expatriates. In at least one instance the Korean wife of one of those soldiers is buried with him. For the past few years the UN Commission has been accepting applications from veteran family members who wish to have their fallen loved one buried in the cemetery. Thus far soldiers from Canada, France, Scotland and England who served in the Korean War and in recent years died in their home countries have been buried in the cemetery green area, adjacent to the Wall of Remembrance. It is noteworthy that in U.S. Quartermaster Corps Graves Registrations archives, a senior officer wrote that a decision was made to leave the remains of six unidentified American servicemen buried in the cemetery to show unification with all those who served in the UN Force. The records of the six unidentified fallen were destroyed and they were listed only as fallen United Nations soldiers. If no action has been taken to invalidate the archives entry, then the six American soldiers still are buried in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, without national identification, as was the decision made when the remains of the last of the American fallen servicemen were repatriated to national soil.

November 11, The Turn Toward Busan Ceremony at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery



Although the previous day had been a rainy and chilly one, November 11 bloomed in autumnal splendor. Minister Park Sung Choon, of South Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs is escorted by veteran Vincent Courtenay from Canada, leading the veterans procession onto the elevated symbolic nations plateau at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery,



Leading veterans to their seats for the Turn Toward Busan ceremony are (left) veteran Gilles Martin from Canada and John Charles Bowers of the United States. Veteran behind Mr. Bowers is Harold Patterson from Canada. Behind Mr. Paterson is veteran Kenneth Turner from the United States.



United States Marine Corps Veteran George Edward Davidson (left) and Vincent Fauvel-Champion, a wounded veteran who served in Korea with the French Battalion proudly carry their nations Flags. M. Fauvel-Champion was awarded South Korea's Hwarang Medal of the Order of Military Merit, the lone full-size medal hanging from his lapel beside his many miniature medals. He also wears the neck decoration of a Knight of the Legion of Honor *Chevalier Légion d'honneur*. Immediately behind M. Fauvel-Champion is veteran Gerardus Jorissen who served with the Belgian Battalion. To M. Jorissen's right is his comrade, Roger Boyen, who also served with the Belgian Battalion. Behind M. Jorissen is veteran Hasan Imre, who served in the Korean War with a unit of the Turkish Brigade.



Veterans from the Turkish Brigade (there were five present) are followed by Greek Battalion veterans, four of whom were in the contingent of honored veterans. They are followed by veterans from many other nations, including two veterans who served in the Ethiopian Battalion (Hailie Salasie's Guards).



Only one veteran from Australia made it to South Korea for the service. He is John Brownbill (felt hat). John is an ordained minister and chaplain to 31 different ex-service organizations in Australia and holds the decoration of Knight of Grace of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem. During the Korean War he was a young lieutenant with the Royal Australian Regiment and saw action in positions along the Saimichon valley. Immediately behind him is veteran Asfaw Gizaw, who served in Korea with the Kagnew Battalion from Ethiopia. To his right is his Kagnew Battalion comrade, Dadi Abeduf.



Veteran Jozeph Liebrechts served with the Netherlands Battalion through all three years of the Korean War, one of the few veterans in the world to have completed three years of front line service in Korea. Attached to various regiments within the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division, he was awarded both the Silver Star and Bronze Star for bravery and also was awarded medals for bravery from the Netherlands. It was his first trip back to Korea in veteran status since his service during the war.



Veteran Martinus Flisijn, who served in Korea with the Netherlands Battalion is followed by American veteran Ralph Workman who is immediately behind him, and to Mr. Workman's right is fellow U.S. veteran Ernest Hoelscher. Behind Mr. Workman, holding the Canadian Flag is Canadian veteran Jordan Bowcott.



Veterans of the Colombia Battalion Hernando Villegas Hurtado, holding flag, accompanies comrade Jesus Enrique Zapata, who is on his right. The U.S. veteran proudly holding the American Flag aloft is Gerald Dominick Greely.



A huge crowd of invited guests, officiated by Minister Park Sung Choon of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs paid homage to the veterans present and to the United Nations Fallen – all 41,000 of them who had come from the 21 United Nations

allied nations. The day before the service the names of all 2,300 Fallen buried in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery were read aloud, for the first time since the Korean War. For a majority of them it was the first time since the burial service that their names were ever spoken again in Korea. The smoke behind the trees is from ROK Army howitzers, which fired a 21-gun salute to the United Nations Fallen. At precisely 11 a.m. the emergency siren system sounded all over Busan to signal the start of a minute of silence. They resumed to signal the end of the minute of silence. Note the many national TV network cameramen at work on the platforms. The entire service was broadcast live across the nation by a major Korean TV network.



Everyone stands preparatory to playing of the National Anthem of Korea, followed by a Minute of Silence and a 21-gun salute from field artillery pieces for the Korean War Fallen. Shown are members of the official party of Minister Park Sung Choon (second from left in photo). To Minister Park's right is Senator Yonah Martin, distinguished visitor representing the Senate of Canada. To her right is Veteran Vincent Courtenay, initiator of the Turn Toward Busan ceremonies and his wife, Mak-ye Courtenay. To the right of Mrs. Courtenay is Eric Walsh, Canada's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea. On the left of Minister Park is Byong Soo Suh, Mayor of Busan, which is the second largest city in Korea after Seoul, with a population of more than 3.5 million people.



Once seated the Veterans look upward and to their left at the huge video monitor that gives them an excellent view of everything that transpires on dais at the altar that is in front of them. Veterans in this photo are from the United States, Colombia and Canada. Lady at extreme right of photo is Miss Yoon Jeong Lee, a professional tour guide who was in charge of one-third of the veterans delegation. To her right is one of the caregivers employed by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs to assist the veterans. At this time they are watching Minister Park Sung Choon place a wreath of remembrance and say a prayer for the Korean War Fallen.



Veterans from America, Belgium, Greece and Turkey watch the video screen as Park Sung Choon, South Korea's Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, places a memorial wreath and says a prayer for the United Nations Fallen. Two veterans from Belgium opt to look straight ahead to the altar.



Side by side, veterans from Australia, the United States, Colombia, Holland and Greece avidly watch the ceremonial proceedings. After Minister Park Sung Choon placed a memorial wreath, dignitaries from many nations went to the altar to place floral tribute to the Fallen.



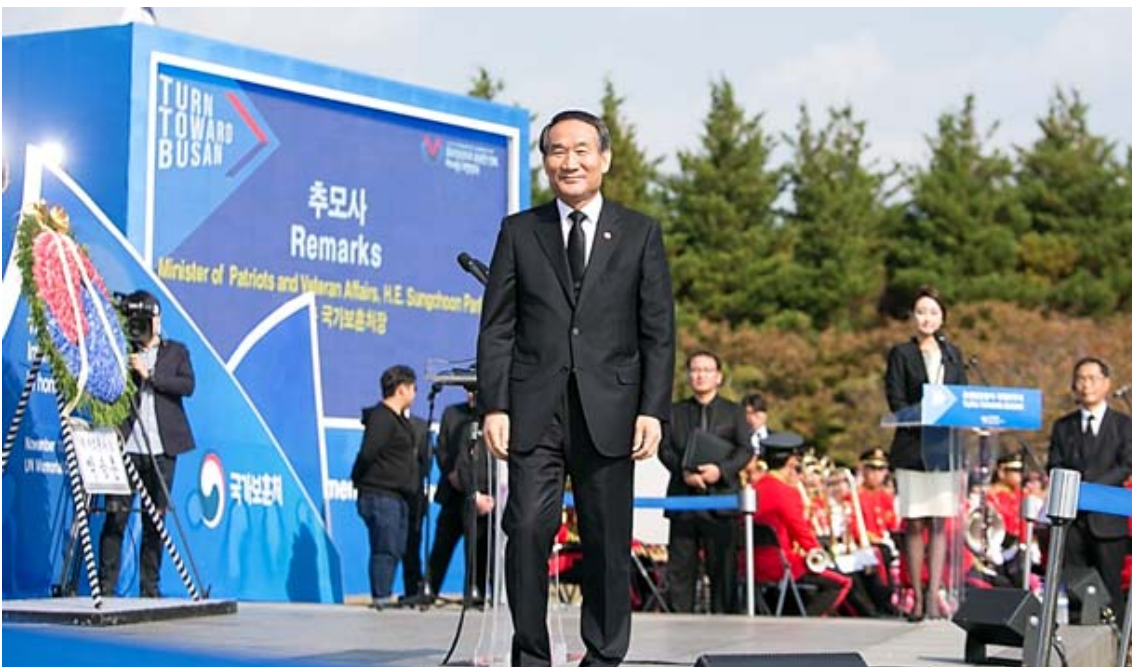
French Battalion of the United Nations Organization veteran Vincent Fauvell-Champion is much at ease seated between United States veterans. His unit was always a battalion within one of the U.S. Regiments in the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division. Like all UN troops (except those from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom), the French Battalion wore American combat uniforms and was armed with American weapons.



Minister Park Sung Choon bows in silent prayer after placing a large memorial wreath in memory of the United Nations Fallen. His escort is to his left.



Veterans are taken aback last in the ceremony when Minister Park Sung Choon approaches them and bows deeply in respect before delivering a eulogy to the United Nations Fallen and extolling the veterans from all 21 UN Allied Nations who defended and freed the Republic of Korea, and still are its strong allies today.



Before speaking near the conclusion of the ceremony Minister Park Sung Choon personally recognizes the veterans present, then bows respectfully in appreciation to all of them.



Minister Park Sung Choon makes heartfelt speech, commemorating and extoling all of those from the United Nations allied nations who fell in Korean War Service. He praised the veteran survivors of the war, both those presents and the tens of thousands of others in all 21 nations that contributed military aid or medical units to the Republic of Korea. He includes appreciation and respect for all of the veterans who served in defence of the Republic of Korea in the years following the armistice, attested how the sacrifices of all who served had enabled Korea to become a leading economic and industrial power and a pro-

vider of financial and material aid to many less fortunate nations. He pledged that the South Korean people would continue to honor year after year all of those who served, and all of those who fell in the Korean War. Before being appointed Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs five years ago, Minister Park was a lieutenant general in the Republic of Korea Army. He is a graduate of the Korean Military Academy. He has traveled to many of the 21 UN allied nations to enlist participation and support for the Turn Toward Busan universal service, and to enhance relations with the various veterans groups and national and local governments.



After songs of tribute by talented Korean singers and by a children's choir, hundreds of balloons are released into the skies above the flagged symbolic area of the United Nations Memorial Cemetery and the video monitors light up with the sign, "Thank You Veterans!" It is noteworthy that United Nations fallen are buried on the plateau behind the altar on which the service took place, and also to the rear of the invited guests seated in the foreground. The veterans and their family members visited

the graves before the ceremony took place. The Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs provided veterans and family members with subsidized air fares and feted them in five-star hotels in both Busan and Seoul for the five nights and six days that they spent in Korea. Solemn as appropriate, the service ended on a joyous note of salute to the servicemen and servicewoman who fell, and to those who survived.

The entire delegation of veterans and family members were later hosted to a spectacular "Thank You" luncheon by Minister Park Sung Choon and other officials at the five-star Paradise Beach Hotel and Casino resort on Busan's Haeundae Beach golden mile, then boarded high speed bullet trains for Seoul. In the nation's capital they spent two more nights as official guests of the Korean Government at the traditional Grand Ambassador Seoul Hotel, on the lower northern slopes of *Namsan*, the protective South Mountain, which was hard fought over following the Incheon landings in the autumn of 1950.