The Korean War Veterans Memorial in the Nation's Capital

Ground Breaking Ceremony
June 14, 1992
Washington, DC
The Visitor Experience

Entrance to the Korean War Veterans Memorial will usually be made through the shaded pathway which opens from the Lincoln Circle, just south of the Reflecting Pool.

The first sign of the Memorial is the large granite boulder, located near the shaded path, onto which a dedicatory statement will be etched: Our Nation Honors Her Sons and Daughters Who Answered the Call to Defend a Country They Did Not Know and a People They Had Never Met - Korea, 1950-53.

Continuing down a gentle slope, through dense plantings, the visitor to the Memorial suddenly arrives at the base of a triangular, open field which slopes upward towards an American Flag at the far apex.

Two columns of battle clad ground troops are advancing up the slope. Made of light colored metal, the wind at their backs, these figures seem propelled with ever increasing intensity: towards a destiny beyond the flag which they serve. They remind us of the steadfast courage in the face of extreme danger so often required in the Korean conflict.

At the south edge of the clearing is a polished granite memorial wall etched with hundreds of faces of those who supported the troops: the Airmen, Nurses, Chaplains, Artillerymen, Sailors, Tank Drivers, Supply Personnel, and others. All seem to look out intently at the poignant scene.

As the visitor moves upward beside the columns of troops, a circle of linden trees, located just beyond the flag, comes into view. Passing the last figure, the visitor enters this quiet grove with a still pool at its center.

The walkway extends into the pool as a triangular peninsula ending beside a low granite wall which bears the inscription: In Memory of Those Who Made the Supreme Sacrifice. The pool is ringed with benches where the visitor may pause to reflect on both the bravery of these men and women and the tragic loss.

When the visitor is ready to leave the pool area, a pathway leads back down the slope, along the Memorial wall. As the visitor descends, the etched faces of the support forces mix with those of the ground troops, who are now reflected in the polished granite. These intermingled images graphically symbolize the unity of all who served.

At the base of the triangular field, the Memorial ends and the visitor may proceed a short distance to Daniel Chester French Drive and continue his or her visit to the Nation's Capital.

Ground Breaking Ceremony

Honorary Committee

CHAIRMAN:

The Hon. George Bush • The President of the United States

CO-CHAIRMEN:

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Sen. George J. Mitchell • Senate Majority Leader

Sen. Robert J. Dole • Senate Minority Leader

Rep. Richard A. Gephardt • House Majority Leader

Rep. Robert H. Michel • House Minority Leader

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The Hon. Richard Cheney • Secretary of Defense

Sen. Alan Cranston • Chairman, Veterans Affairs Committee

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The Hon. Edward Derwinski • Secretary of Veteran Affairs

The Hon. Jim Florio • Governor of New Jersey

Sen. John Glenn • Chairman, Committee on Governmental Affairs

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Rep. G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery • Chairman, House Veterans Affairs Committee

Sen. Sam Nunn • Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee

Rep. Mary Rose Oakar • Chairwoman, Subcommittee on International Development

The Hon. Stan Parris • Administrator, St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp.

Gen. Colin Powell • Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Rep. Dan Rostenkowski • Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee

Sen. Warren Rudman • Vice Chairman, Select Committee on Ethics
To All Korean War Veterans:

As ground is broken for this long awaited Memorial, we, the undersigned, Members of the 102nd Congress of the United States, are reminded of the common bond among us.

The original concept statement has guided its proponents through the difficult administrative process to date and bears repeating in these pages, lest it be lost in the annals of time. It reads:

The Korean War Veterans Memorial has two interrelated purposes which constitute primary considerations for its design and siting. The first --and fundamental-- purpose is to express the enduring gratitude of the American People for all who took part in that conflict under our flag, those who survived no less than those who gave their lives. The second --and of equal importance-- is to project, in the most positive fashion, the spirit of service, the willingness to sacrifice, and the dedication to the cause of freedom that characterized all participants.

As these patriotic virtues have been common to those who served their country at other times of national crisis-- and must not be lacking in the instance of future emergencies-- the Memorial must radiate a message that is at once inspirational in content and timeless in meaning. Both purposes dictate that the Memorial be unique in concept, designed for public use, located on a prominent prospect, and present a renewable aspect of hope, honor, and service.

The United States Congress has had an instrumental role in the authorization and establishment and development of this great Memorial. Public Law 99-572 authorized the erection of this Memorial on Federal Land in the District of Columbia. Subsequent actions authorized this site (PL 100-267), and helped significantly in funding by authorizing the U.S. Mint (PL 101-495) to issue up to one million Commemorative Silver dollars with the surcharges to go to the Korean War Veterans Fund for construction.

We are proud to have been a part of this project and to see the first steps toward construction begin. All Korean War veterans should be proud of these accomplishments and return to visit the completed project when dedicated.
Our Nation Honors Her Sons
and Daughters Who Answered
the Call to Defend a Country
They Did Not Know and a People
They Had Never Met.
Korea, 1950-53

These words comprise the
Memorial's dedicatory statement. They will be etched into a large granite boulder located near the entrance pathway.

As the visitor moves upward beside the columns of troops, a grove of linden trees comes into view just beyond the flag. A still pool is at the center of the quiet grove.

The Memorial pathway extends into the pool as a triangular peninsula ending beside a low granite wall. The pool is ringed with benches where visitors may pause to reflect.

When the visitor leaves the pool area, a pathway leads back down the slope, along the Memorial wall. The polished granite wall is etched with faces of those who supported the troops.
The Korean War Veterans Memorial in the Nation's Capital

Ground Breaking Ceremony • June 14, 1992

Program Subject to Change

Entertainment • Marine Band
Presentation of Colors
National Anthem (audience to join)
Invocation
President Roh Tae Woo Presentation
President George Bush Introduced
Moment of Silence for Those Who Have Not Returned

Taps
President Bush Breaks Ground
Assembled Guests Cheer Loud Enough to be Heard in Korea
Flag Raising
Pledge of Allegiance (audience to join)
Flyover
God Bless America (audience to join)
In Tribute

Gen. Richard Giles Stilwell, USA (Ret.)
February 24, 1917 • December 25, 1991

Since his graduation from the top ranks of West Point in 1938, through the next 53 years of unflagging service to his nation at the highest level of responsibility and trust, General Stilwell's compelling leadership, unshakable commitment to excellence, and unremitting sense of duty suffused everything he undertook.

Appointed by President Reagan in 1987, along with eleven other Korean War veterans to serve on the Advisory Board for the Korean War Veterans Memorial in the Nation's Capital and unanimously elected the Board's chairman, he infused this project with his personal brand of zealous activism, infectious enthusiasm, unrelenting energy, and insightful vision.

His articulate championing of this Memorial—to Congress, to corporation heads, and to the legions of private citizen-soldiers—generated a powerful impact that ultimately was responsible for today's historic ground breaking.

It was both a herculean effort and a true labor of love to which General Stilwell gave his last full measure.

Col. Conrad K. Hausman, USA (Ret.)
October 11, 1933 • October 31, 1988

Twice decorated for gallantry in action, Col. Hausman served in both the Korean War and the Vietnam War. In Korea, he was a Forward Observer with the famed "RAKKASAN" Airborne Regiment. Later, the renowned "Mosquito" Squadron benefited from his unequaled talents as an Aerial Observer.

After an illustrious career spanning more than 28 years in service to his country, he continued his dedicated mission as the Associate Director of the White House Personnel Office. His active involvement with Congress and other private groups was instrumental in the eventual enactment of Public Law 99-572 authorizing the Korean War Veterans Memorial in the Nation's Capital.

Col. Hausman's untimely death was an irreplaceable loss to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board, which he had served as one of the original twelve members appointed by President Reagan.
A Statistical Sketch

Korean War:
June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953

Number of Participants:

- Actual Service in Korea during War: 1,500,000
- Stationed in Far East Command (Korea, Japan, Okinawa, Sea of Japan): 1,789,000
- On active duty during the "Conflict Period": 5,764,143

U.S. Wounded in Action (Only Hospitalized Counted): 103,284

- U.S. Prisoners of War: 7,140
  - Returned: 4,418
  - Died in Captivity: 2,701
  - Refused Repatriation: 21
- U.S. Missing in Action: 8,177
  - Still Unaccounted for: 389
- Medal of Honor Recipients: 131

United Nations Allies War Deaths

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<tr>
<th>Republic</th>
<th>Combat Deaths</th>
<th>Peak Troop Strength (July '53)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>225,784</td>
<td>590,911</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>33,629 *</td>
<td>325,270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>717</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Luxembourg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>262,570</td>
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Other United Nations Allies that furnished Medical Units:

- Denmark
- India
- Italy
- Norway
- Sweden

* As of 1954. Recent research reveals that erroneous figures have been used over the years for the number of U.S. non-combat dead in Korea. Revised statistics show 2,542 U.S. Army personnel and 244 U.S. Marines died from non-battle causes. Numbers for the Air Force and Navy are still being researched.

National Anthem

Oh, say, can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands: One Nation, under God,
indivisible, with liberty, and justice for all.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of The Pledge of Allegiance. It was written by Francis Bellamy and first published in 1892 to help promote patriotism on the 400th birthday of Columbus' discovery.

God Bless America

God Bless America
Land That I Love.
Stand Beside Her and Guide Her
Through the Night with a Light from Above.
From the Mountains to the Prairies
To the Oceans White with Foam,
God Bless America, My Home Sweet Home.
God Bless America, My Home Sweet Home.