WILLIAM
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An honor long overdue

Some 30 years ago, the United States and 16 other nations joined together to fight Com-
munist tyranny and aggression in Korea. And because of their efforts, South Korea remains a sov-
erieign nation.

America's commitment to the preservation of democracy in Korea was early and strong. Just two days after the North Korean invasion of South Korea on June 25, 1950, the United States gained passage of a U.N. resolution urging members to actively oppose North Korea's aggression. That same day, Presi-
dent Harry Truman ordered American air and sea support for South Korea.

Only three days passed before Mr. Truman committed ground troops to the conflict, a signal that the United States would not stand idle while North Korea routed its southern neighbor.

The cost of our commitment to the protection of South Korea was high. Almost 6 million Americans served in Korea, and of these, 100,000 were wounded, 5,000 were either cap-
tured or missing in action, and 54,000 gave their lives that liberty and self-determination would be preserved for the Korean people.

American soldiers were joined in the efforts by 15 other nations, but none paid a higher human price than the United States. The collective losses of the other U.N. countries totaled 3,360.

For their brave deeds, those who served have received precious little recognition. Standing with great prominence in the nation's capital are memorials to World War I, World War II, and Vietnam veterans, but there is not yet a memorial in Wash-
ington to honor these brave veterans of the Korean War. This is the only group of veterans not to be honored in this manner.

No monument acknowledges their contribution, and even though 54,000 lost their lives, the Korean War was considered a "police action." This is not the time to quib-
ble about definitions, but it should be pointed out here that some 1 million people died as a result of the Korean War. It is time we redress this dis-
service to our men and women who fought in Korea.

I have introduced legislation in the Senate identical to that intro-
duced by Rep. Stan Parris, R-Va., to authorize the building of a memorial honoring those brave men and women of the armed forces of the United States who served in the Korean War.

We in the Congress must take that first step to appropriately honor all those who served in Korea and especially those who were killed in action, listed as missing in action, or held as prisoners of war. No sacri-
fice is greater, and none is more deserving of our recognition and our most deeply felt thanks.

William Armstrong, chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Com-
mittee, is from Colorado.