



“Ambassador For Peace Medal” Presentation

Friday, September 11, 2020 5:00 P.M.

**Royal Canadian Legion Branch 624
1007 Burleigh Rd. Wilberforce, ON**

R.S.V.P. to HooJung Jones Kennedy by Aug 31, 2020

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This year, we commemorated the “70 Anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War” to remember the 26,791 Canadians of whom 1,558 were wounded and 516 who died during the Korean War. On Sept 11 2020, the “Ambassador for Peace Medal” ceremony for James Lee, a Korean War Veteran, was held at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 624, Wilberforce Ontario.

Jamie Schmale, Member of Parliament thanked all Korean War Veterans who served during the Korean War and UN Peace Keeping Mission. The heart-felt letter from Consul General Tae-In Chung was read by HooJung Jones Kennedy, Project Director of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada Unit 26, Hamilton.

Dave William, past Commander of the Royal Canadian Legion Port Colborne sang “O Canada” and the “Korean National Anthem” was sung by HooJung Jones Kennedy. Dann Oliver, Commander of the RCL Post 144 Pinellas County, Florida, delivered the “Act of Remembrance” and Major (Ret’d) Don Kennedy played the “Last Post” on the bugle. Jamie Schmale, Member of Parliament presented “Appreciation Certificates” to James Lee (92 years old) who served with the Service Battalion attached to the Princess Patricia’s Light Infantry and Chuck Viner who was attached to the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery as a gunner during the Korean War.

HooJung Jones Kennedy presented a copy of the Bill 213- S “Korean War Veterans Day” to them on behalf of Hon. Senator Yonah Martin who introduced the bill in 2013. The Ambassador for Peace medal and certificate were presented to James Lee by HooJung Jones Kennedy on behalf of the Korean Government. “Korean War Watches” for James Lee and Chuck Viner and a fish and chip dinner for the invited guests were sponsored by HooJung and Don Kennedy and HooJung’s chocolate cupcakes were served as desert after the dinner.

It was a moving ceremony even with the wearing of masks and seating with social distance due to Covid-19. The Korean Government sent over 1 million KF 94 Korean masks to the Korean War Veterans in 22 countries including Canada to honour the Korean War Veterans and help to protect them from Covid-19 pandemic. Sadly, many Korean War Veterans have been passed this year including David Davidson, Past President of Korea Veterans Association of Canada and Dan Ward a beloved Korean War Naval Veteran who served on HMCS Haida. We will remember them.

We send our special appreciations to Korean War Veterans, other Veterans and Senator Yonah Martin, Jamie Schmale, M.P., Consul General Tae In Chung, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 624 Wilberforce Post Commander John Glassy and his executives and volunteers, Royal Canadian Legion Post 144 Pinellas County Post Commander Dann Oliver and Mary Oliver, Dave William, Royal Canadian Legion Branch Port Corbone, Past Commander and Joseph Quigley, Report of the Highlander Ledger.

Submitted by HooJung Jones Kennedy



Major (Ret'd) Don Kennedy M.C. at the Ambassador for Peace Medal Ceremony



Jamie Schmale, Member of Parliament thanked the Korean War Veterans.

September 12 at 4:52 PM ·

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/MPJamieSchmale/posts/>

Honoured to participate in the presentation of the Ambassador for Peace Medal to a Highlands East Korean War Veteran at the Wilberforce Legion. Mr. James Lee, a resident of Tory Hill, served with the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry.

Also in attendance was Mr. Charles (Chuck) Viner. He was previously awarded the commendation in 1986 for his service with Royal Canadian Horse Artillery during the Korean War. In addition to serving his country in uniform, Mr. Viner represented Gooderham on municipal council for 10 years Canadian Forces were involved in the 1950–1953 Korean War and its aftermath. 26,000 Canadians participated on the side of the United Nations, and Canada sent eight destroyers.

Canadian aircraft provided transport, supply and logistics. 516 Canadians died, 312 of which were from combat. After the war, Canadian troops remained for three years as military observers.

A big thank you to all those who made the special evening possible including HooJung Jones Kennedy, the Project Director of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada Unit 26.

To all our veterans, whether you served at home or abroad, in conflict or peace, Canada thanks you for your service to your country.



James Lee, Korean War Veteran



Korean War Veterans James Lee and Chuck Viner received the copy of Bill-213 S recognizing July 27 as the Korean War Veterans Day. This bill is introduced by Hon. Yonah Martin Senator.



Left to Right: Korean War Veteran James Lee, and Korean War Veteran Chuck Viner and HooJung Jones Kennedy. HooJung Presented the Ambassador for Peace Medal to Korean War Veteran James Lee, who was attached to Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry during the Korean War, on behalf of the Republic of Korea Government.



Jamie Schmale, M.P. presented the “Appreciation Certificate” to Chuck Viner and James Lee.



Dann Oliver, Commander of the Royal Canadian Legion Post 144 Pinellas County, Florida and Mary Oliver with HooJung Jones Kennedy. HooJung presented a gift and Korea-Canada pins.

Dann and Mary Oliver helped HooJung to present over 20 Ambassador for Peace Medals to the Korean War Veterans from Canada, England and U.S. at the Royal Canadian Legion Post 144 Pinellas County, Florida which is located at the American Legion Post 7, one of the first American Legion in the U.S., in Clearwater in Florida.

For the past 76 years, the Royal Canadian Legion Post 144 Pinellas County, Florida has been a great institution to honour and remember many Veterans including Korean War Veterans.

HooJung is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Post 144 Pinellas County. The past Commander of the RCL Post 144 is Gordon Bennett is a Canadian Korean War Veteran who fought on Hill 355.



HooJung Jones Kennedy presented gift and Korea-Canada pin to John Glassy, Commander of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 624 Wilberforce. James Lee and Chuck Viner are the members of the RCL Branch 624.





Left to Right: HooJung Jones Kennedy, Project Director Korea Veterans Association of Canada Unit 26 Hamilton, Dann Oliver, Commander of RCL Post 144 Pinellas County, Major (Ret'd) Don Kennedy, Past Deputy Commanding Officer of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, Jamie Schmale, Member of Parliament, John Glassy, Commander of Post 624 Wilberforce, Lt. Col (Ret'd) Steve Brand, Past Commanding Officer of the Queen's Own Rifle.

Thank you very much for your service.



Korean War veterans honoured

By Joseph Quigley, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Highlander Ledger September 18, 2020

<https://thehighlander.ca/2020/09/18/korean-war-veterans-honoured/>

After putting his life on the line to protect South Korea during the Korean War, Tory Hill resident James Lee was honoured with an Ambassador for Peace Medal Sept. 11.

Government, Legion and Korean Veterans Association officials gathered at the Wilberforce Legion branch to honour the 92-year-old. Korean Veterans Association of Canada Unit 26 project director HooJung Jones Kennedy bestowed him with the commemorative medal, issued by the Republic of Korea to those who served there during the war.

Lee said he was surprised to be awarded.

“Lot of people probably deserve it more than I do,” Lee said. “Guess I’m lucky to be able to receive it.”

Lee was honoured alongside fellow Highlands East Korean War Veteran Chuck Viner, who previously received his medal during a Korean War revisit program in 1986. Dignitaries gave speeches and discussed the history of the Korean War and the 26,791 Canadians who served during it.

Korean Veterans Association of Canada member and retired Major Don Kennedy said the medal is made with pieces from the barricades at the demilitarized zone splitting North Korea and South Korea.

“What it signifies is James and Chuck and other veterans, they formed a barrier with their bodies across the Korean peninsula,” Kennedy said. “By doing so, they saved South Korea.”

Federal dignitaries also offered letters of appreciation, including Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MP Jamie Schmale and Senator and honorary patron of the Korean Veterans Association of Canada Heritage Unit Yonah Martin, who was unable to attend in person.

Viner said it means a lot to see more recognition for the conflict, which occurred between 1950-53 with 16 United Nations countries coming to aid South Korea to repel an invasion by North Korea, eventually ending in an armistice.

“When I first left the military way back in 1953, the Korean War, nobody knew about it. It was so close to the Second World War, that the Korean War was kind of a non-entity by comparison,” Viner said. “For a long time, it wasn’t even considered to be a war, it was a police action.”

Both veterans described the difficulties of being on the front lines. That included near-death experiences, with the sides battering each other with shells. In total, 516 Canadians died in the conflict, with 1,558 wounded and 21 missing in action.

“It was crazy sometimes,” Lee said.

“It was frightening,” Viner said. “A lot of times at night I’d be on guard duty and I’d be alone, it was scary. You didn’t know what was around.”

But the ceremony recognized that sacrifice, and the difference it made to the people of South Korea.

“I’m just happy to have been there and did my bit,” Viner said. “I’m just glad I was a part of it.”