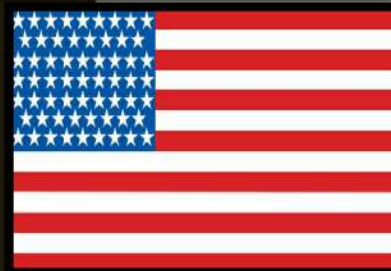


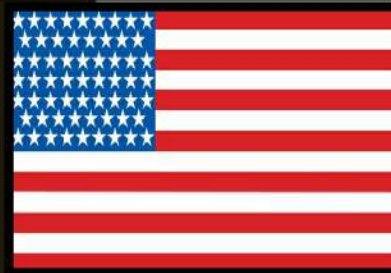
Ambassador For Peace Medal Presentation
Tuesday March 24, 2015 11:00 A.M.
American Legion 7, 1760 Turner St. Clearwater, FL

Organized By: Korean War Veterans Association Sunshine Chapter 159



Ambassador For Peace Medal Presentation
Friday March 27, 2015 11:00 A.M.
Veterans Memorial at Fountain Park, Leesburg, FL

Organized By: Korean War Veterans Association Leesburg Chapter 169

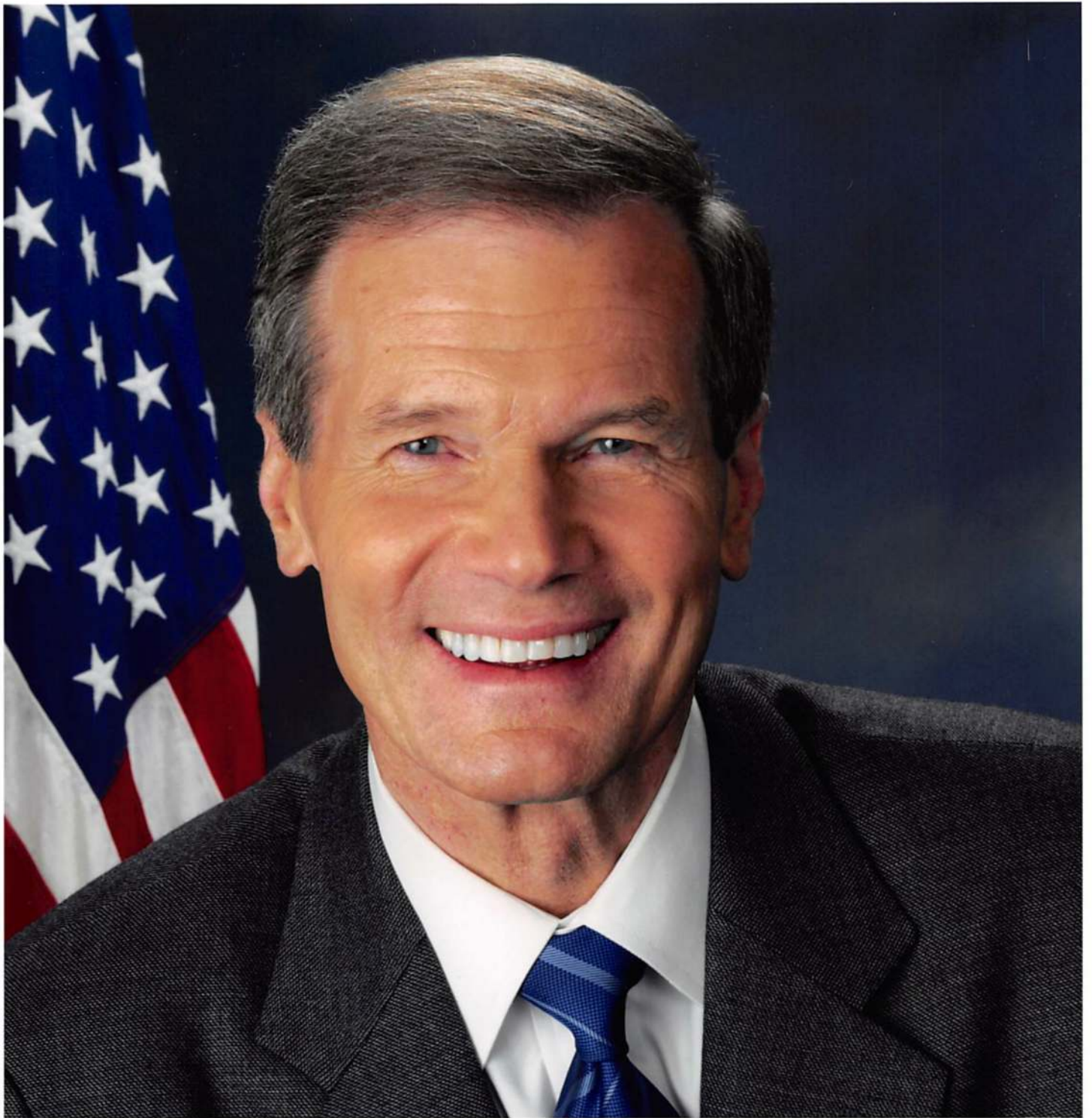


Ambassador For Peace Medal Presentation

Saturday March 28, 2015 11:00 A.M.

VFW 2420 - 200 West Central Ave Lake Wales , FL

KWVA Chapter 158/ VFW 2420 / American Legion 71



THANK YOU!

WITH BEST WISHES, Bill Nelson



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

March 24, 2015

Korean War Veterans Association
125 Moller Way
Lakeland, Florida 33813

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to be a part of this recognition of the recipients of the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal. This medal serves as an expression of appreciation from the South Korean government to United States service men and women who served in the Korean conflict.

These brave men and women answered our Nation's call by serving our country in a time of great need and peril on the world stage. They served with honor and dedication. I commend these recipients for their devotion to duty and to our country's ideals. I know each of them, along with their family and friends gathered here today are justly proud of their military service.

Their sacrifices, along with all of their fellow veterans, have helped secure democracy, liberty and freedom for people throughout the world.

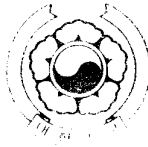
On behalf of all Floridians and myself, it is an honor to recognize and thank each of you for your military service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" and last name "Nelson" clearly distinguishable.



**Ambassador Seong-Jin Kim, Consulate General
Republic of Korea Atlanta Consulate General Office**



*Consul General
of the Republic of Korea
Atlanta, Georgia*

I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to each of the veterans whose dedication and service during the Korean War was so vital to preserving freedom and democracy in Korea.

The Korean War is not a forgotten war. Korea has not forgotten the soldiers who fought for a country not their own, for a people who they did not know. Korea has not forgotten the soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice so that our country could grow, thrive, and help other nations as they once helped us.

Today, each of you will receive the Ambassador for Peace medal issued by the Korean government with deep appreciation for the service you provided during the Korean War. This medal serves as a reminder that the Korean War is not a "forgotten war." What each of you fought for – democracy and freedom – is alive in the hearts and minds of the Korean people. We haven't forgotten you.

I give my best wishes for each of you. God bless America. God bless Korea.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. J. Kim'.

Ambassador Seong-jin Kim

Consul General

-ORDER OF SERVICE March 24, 2015-

MC: Major (Ret'd) Don Kennedy, KWVA Member

Invocation

Moment of Silence – for Fallen Soldiers , POW and Missing in Action

US National Anthem and Korean National Anthem

Welcome Speech:

Peter Palmer, Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 159, Sunshine President

Mayor George Cretekos, City of Clearwater

“Ambassador for Peace Medal Presentation” by

HooJung Jones Kennedy,

Advisor to the Republic of Korea President Park Geun Hye,

National Unification Advisory Council, and KWVA Member

**Ambassador For Peace Medal issued by the Government of the Republic of Korea
Recipients:**

- 1. Mr. William Slavins, Army**
- 2. Mr. David Soderland, Navy**
- 3. Mr. Wendell Strelesky, Marine Corp**
- 4. Mr. Michael Tucci, Army**
- 5. Mr. Arthur M. Cheek, Marine Corp**
- 6. Mr. Joseph Kadlub JR, Marine Corp**
- 7. Mr. Frederick Strahlendorf, Army**
- 8. Mr. Allen King, Navy**
- 9. Mr. Jack Russell JR, Army**
- 10. Mr. Charles Tsangaris, Marine Corp**
- 11. Mr. Peter Palmer, Royal Navy**



Senator Bill Nelson’s “Certificate of Appreciation” Recipients:

- Mr. Peter Palmer, KWVA Chapter 159 Sunshine President**
- Mr. Edward Ko, Chairman of the Korean War Memorial Monument**

Benediction

M.C. Closing Remarks - Luncheon reception to follow

We send our thanks to the KWVA Chapter 159 Sunshine Korean War Veterans and members, the American Legion 7 Clearwater, Royal Canadian Legion 144 members for all your support.

Order of Service March 27, 2015

Welcome: 11:00 a.m., Art Iversen, President.

Post Colors: Chapter Color Guard, Joel Briggs, Director

Invocation: Chapter Chaplain, Ted Jansen

Pledge of Allegiance: Joel Briggs, Color Guard Director

National Anthems:

S.K. HooJung Jones Kennedy, Unificationon Advisory Council, Toronto

Chapter and advisor to the Republic of Korea President Park

Geun Hye.

U.S. Ali Dickson Music Director, Lake Square Presbyterian Church

Welcome to Leesburg: Elise A. Dennison, Mayor of Leesburg

Introduction: Tom J. Thiel, Chapter 169 Past President and Secretary

Presentation of Medals: HooJung Jones Kennedy

- 1. Donald Leitstein- Army**
- 2. Harold Kenneth Little -Air Force**
- 3. Murray Dixon McMahon - Air Force**
- 4. Paul Benjamin Miller - Army**
- 5. Albert Phillip Monahan - Marines**
- 6. Lyman Gilbert Miller - Army**
- 7. Bryant Wood JR- Army**
- 8. C.W. Sewell - Navy**
- 9. Morris Murray Cohen- Army**
- 10. Henry Garret River JR- Army**
- 11. William Raymond Kane - Army**
- 12. Gene Tunney Elliott- Marine Corps**
- 13. Leonard Anton Seidelman -Army**
- 14. George Douglas Wikane -Navy**
- 15. Edward K. Moran -Army**
- 16. Anthony Peters -Army**



Presentation of Senator Bill Nelson Letter of Appreciation

- Mr. Tom Thiel**

Presentation of Wreaths: Bill Shumaker and Bill Simunek; Major (Ret'd) Don Kennedy and HooJung Jones Kennedy

Benediction: Ted Jansen, Chaplain

Retire Colors: Chapter 169 Color Guard, Joel Briggs, Director

Luncheon Reception to follow

In event of rain: Armory , 400 West Meadow Street, Leesburg, FL 34748

We send our thanks to the KWVA Chapter 169 Leesburg Korean War Veterans and members and Leesburg Armoury for all your support.

Order of Service March 28, 2015

MC: Major (Ret'd) Don Kennedy

Invocation: Chapter Chaplain, John Goodman

Moment of Silence – for Fallen Soldiers and Missing in Action

US National Anthem - Vanessa Goddard and Korean National Anthem -HooJung Jones Kennedy

Welcome by – Gary Gose, VFW 2420, Lake Wales Post Commander
Speech -

- **Mayor Eugene Fultz - City of Lake Wales**
- **Florida House Representative Mike La Rosa - Matthew McBride**
- **Commissioner Bert Goddard - Town of Dundee**

Senator Bill Nelson's Letter of Appreciation

- **Mr. Edmond Clemenzi**
- **Mr. James Abel**
- **Mr. Walter Benton**

"Ambassador for Peace Medal Presentation"

**HooJung Jones Kennedy, National Unification Advisory Council -Toronto Chapter,
Advisor to the Republic of Korea President Park Geun Hye**

"American Heroes" The legacy of the Korean War Veterans

Recipients:

1. **Mr. John Goodman - Army**
2. **Mr. Edmond Clemenzi - Airforce**
3. **Mr. James Abel - Army**
5. **Mr. William Griffith -Navy**
6. **Mr. Dudley Guy -Army**
7. **Mr. Steve Pavlik -Navy**
8. **Mr. Richard Rowland – Army**
9. **Mr. John Jewell-Army**
10. **Mr. Gerard Bouvier - Army**
11. **Mr. James Futch -Navy**
12. **Mr. David Harte - Army**
13. **Mr. Earl Breese –Army**
14. **Mr. Richard Cummings - Navy**



Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 158 Information

Benediction -Chapter Chaplain John Goodman

M.C. Closing Remarks

Luncheon Reception to follow

Thank you very much for all the Korean War Veterans and their family members, Government officials, VFW 2420 Lake Wales and American Legion 71 Lake Wales for their valuable partnership for honouring the Korean War Veterans.

**Republic of Korea President Park Geun Hye
pays a tribute to the fallen Korean War Veterans.**



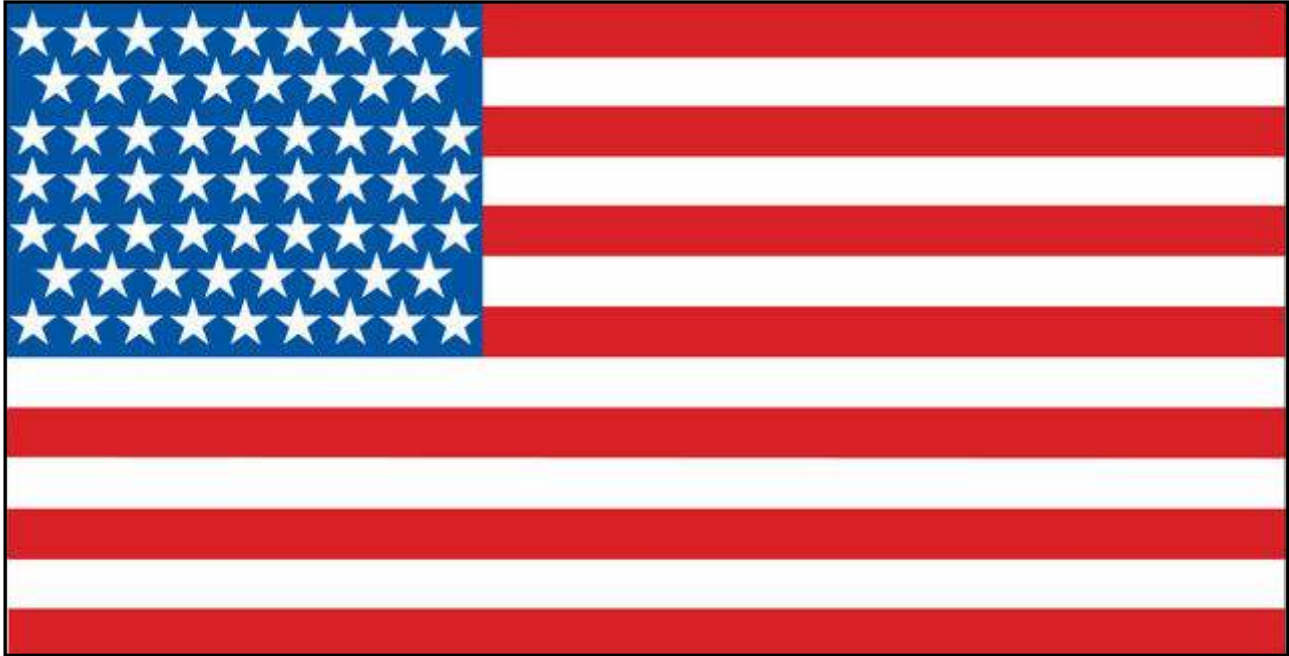
HooJung and Major (Ret'd) Don Kennedy



“The Korean War Veterans are our heroes and my mother and grandparents were saved by the US Merchant Naval ship, Meredith Victory on Dec 24, Christmas Eve 1950 at the Hungnam evacuation along with 14,000 refugees and 5 babies born on the ship. It is often called the “Ship of Miracles”. Without your help, my mother would not been saved and I would not have been born. Thank you very much and all of you are the Ambassadors for Peace and God bless you all!” -HooJung Jones Kennedy-

Korean War (1950-1953)

UN Peace Keeping (1953-1955)



- **Over 1.7 Million US Armed Forces Served**
- **Killed in Action -36,574**
- **Wounded -103,284**
- **MIA - 8,099**
- **POW -7,140**

June 25, 1950 the Korean War began

July 27, 1953 the Armistice was signed

We Will Remember Them

Ambassador for Peace Medal Presentation KWVA Chapter 159 Sunshine on March 24, 2015

American Legion 7 Clearwater, Home of Royal Canadian Legion Post 144











Ambassador for Peace Medal Presentation KWVA Chapter 169 Leesburg on March 27, 2015

Leesburg Armoury

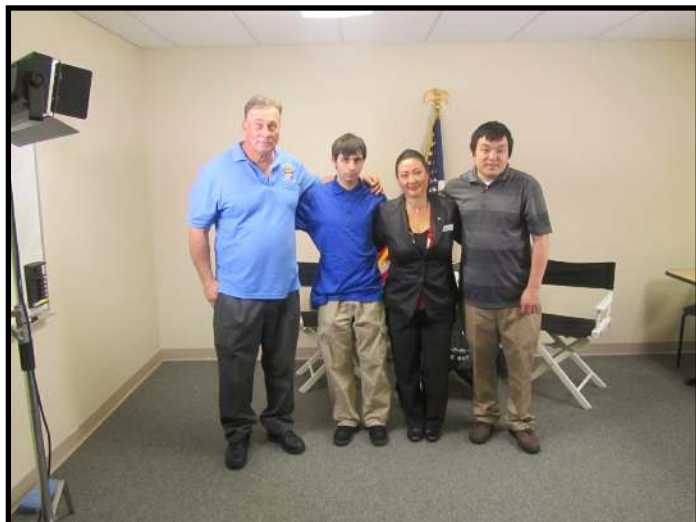












Ambassador for Peace Medal Presentation KWVA Chapter 158, March 28, 2015

Veterans of Foreign War Post 2420 Lake Wales













News Articles

Korean War veterans to receive medallion for service in 'Forgotten War'

By [Jerry Fallstrom](#)

Orlando Sentinel

MARCH 27, 2015, 11:53 AM



LEESBURG — George Wikane figures he witnessed 10,000 launchings and landings aboard an aircraft carrier as a Navy aviation boatswain mate during the Korean War.

"They went back and forth all day long," the 80-year-old Leesburg resident recalled of the constant flow of fighter planes and bombers off the USS Wasp.

Today, Wikane and 15 other Korean War veterans were honored for their service by receiving Ambassador for Peace medallions. The ceremony took place at the Veterans Memorial at Fountain Park next to City Hall.

Receiving the medal will have deep meaning for Wikane, a New York City native who has lived in Lake County for 22 years.

"It's something I can be proud of," he said.

The medallions are awarded by the South Korean government in appreciation of the sacrifices by military members who served in the Korean War, which lasted from 1950 to 1953. They will be presented by Hoo Jung Jones Kennedy, a member of the South Korean National Unification Advisory Council.

It's not the first such ceremony hosted by Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 169. In 2013, 16 veterans received the medallion from Eddie Ko, who aided Americans as a 14-year-old spy following the death of his parents at the hands of North Korean soldiers.

Tom Thiel, a past president of the association, called it a "pat on the back" for a job well done.

Another veteran who will receive a medallion, retired postal worker Leonard Seidelman, 87, of Leesburg, remembered that "it was nothing but destruction when I was over there."

"It means they appreciated what we've done," said Seidelman, an Army company supply sergeant who was stationed in Seoul.

Wikane, whose job was to operate an elevator that carried planes below the flight deck for maintenance, said he didn't receive much fanfare after the war for his service.

"We didn't realize it at the time but they call it the 'forgotten war,'" he said.

That's changed in recent years, he said, as people have gone out of their way to express gratitude for what the Korean veterans did.

"I get a lot of thank yous," said Wikane, who worked for a utility company in New York City for 35 years.

He'll get one more today.

News Articles



Recently, we here at Veterans Post had the honor of witnessing the “Ambassador of Peace” Medal Presentation at the America Legion Post 7 in Clearwater. This Medal Presentation was given by HooJung Jones-Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy has worked tirelessly over the past few years to make sure all Korean War Veterans receive this medal of recognition. As Mrs. Kennedy said, “Without these men, me, my family and South Korea would not exist.”

HooJung is the Advisor to the Republic of Korea President Park Geun Hye, and National Unification Advisory Council, and KWVA Member. She lives in Canada and travels all over the US and Canada presenting these very special Medals. A few years ago, while attending a veteran event, she met a Korean Veteran, and after thanking him for serving in her Country, asked if he had received the Ambassador of Peace Medal. Upon hearing that very few Korean Veterans ever received the Medal she made it her mission to make sure that any Korean Veteran still living would be presented with the Medal.

Prior to just a few years ago, the Veteran who wanted to receive this medal had to travel to South Korea to receive it. HooJung and her husband, Major (Ret’d) Don Kennedy have presented many medals to the Veterans here in the United States and Canada.

HooJung’s mother is a survivor of the Hungnam evacuation in 1950. She and her family were rescued by the US Merchant Naval Ship Meredith Victory on December 24, Christmas Eve! The Ship was designed to care less than 12 people, but managed to rescue 14,000 refugees! It has earned the nickname “Ship of Miracles.”

The Medals themselves are very special. When the DMZ fence (38th Parallel) is damage or is in need of replacement, the damage parts are removed and melted down and are made into the “Ambassador of Peace” Medals. Each Medal is made from a piece of the DMZ Fence. “These medals are made from the damaged fence where my cousin was killed patrolling the DMZ as a R.O.K. Army soldier many years after the armistice was signed.” HooJung said.

41 Korean Veterans from Central Florida were honored the last weekend in March for their service during the Korean War. They and the Post’s Honoring them are listed below.

Thank you to HooJung Jones Kennedy for all her efforts and for make sure that these Korean Veterans are not forgotten.

Aletha Turner, Editor

Veterans Post News

www.veteranspostnews.com

727-600-7458

War veterans honored by Korean officials - Daily Commercial: News

War veterans honored by Korean officials

Millard K. Ives millardives@dailycommercial.com | Posted: Saturday, March 28, 2015 6:00 A.M.

LEESBURG — It's been called "The Forgotten War."

Fighting during the three-year Korean War officially came to a close on July 27, 1953, with an armistice agreement. But speakers during an event Friday at the Leesburg National Guard Armory to honor area veterans of the war were quick to point out they have received little recognition in America.

Veteran Leonard Seidelman, 87, of Leesburg, a retired postal worker, said he was glad to see that vanity license plates carrying the inscription "The Korean Conflict" have never become big sellers.

"It was a war, not a conflict," said Seidelman, an Army company supply sergeant who was stationed in Seoul during the war.

On Friday, Seidelman and 15 fellow veterans of the Leesburg-based Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 169 received thanks — straight from the South Korean government.

HooJung Jones Kennedy, a member of the South Korean National Unification Advisory Council, called them up in front of a poster of Seoul, Korea and hung a medallion around their necks. She also gave them a fan, book and other gifts associated with the country in recognition of their service in the war.

"You are our heroes," said Kennedy, who told the men her own vivid story of how her maternal grandmother escaped the war.

It was the first such ceremony held by the 92-member chapter — the largest such chapter in Florida according to its president, Art Iversen. It also was one of three such ceremonies Kennedy said she is participating in across the state.



Korean War Peace Medal Recipient Leonard Seidelman

HooJung Jones Kennedy, a member of the South Korean National Unification Advisory Council, places a medallion around the neck of Leonard Seidelman during a ceremony Friday at the Leesburg National Guard Armory to honor area veterans of the Korean War.

The ceremony was filled with about 60 veterans and family members, many dressed in their uniforms with service medals. The recipients were mostly comprised of men with gray hair and walking canes, and at least two of them were too ill to make the ceremony.

Speakers said it was important to honor the men since they are getting on through their twilight years.

“It’s great to be recognized,” said 80-year-old Leesburg resident George Wikane, who noted that as a Navy aviation boatswain mate, he witnessed thousands of takeoffs and landings from aboard aircraft carrier USS Wasp.

According to data from the Department of Defense, the United States suffered 33,686 battle deaths, along with 2,830 non-battle deaths during the war.

“These are deserving veterans,” said retired Maj. Don Kennedy, the husband of HooJung and one of the ceremony’s speakers.

The ceremony included recognition from the Leesburg Mayor Elise Dennison and a letter honoring the men from Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla) as well as Korean meatballs and other dishes.

But the gold medallions anchored by colorful ribbons were the special prizes — melted from damaged fences along the 38th parallel demilitarized zone, which speakers said still sees fighting today.

“It’s not just an ordinary medal,” Don said.

Standing next to the poster of Seoul, Iversen told the crowd how amazed he was of how the South Korean city looks today as opposed to when he was there.

“It looks almost like New York City now,” said Iversen, who also was one of the 16 recipients.

Life Polk & Florida Section B MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015 WWW.THELEDGER.COM



ERNST PETERS | LEDGER PHOTO

HOOJUNG JONES KENNEDY, adviser to the Republic of Korea President Park Geun Hye, presents a Korean Peace Medal to **James Abel**, left, during a program honoring local Korean veterans who served during the Korean War at VFW Post 2420 in Lake Wales on Saturday. Fourteen Korean War veterans received the Korean Peace Medal for their service in Korea.

