

UN 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong/Gapyeong



4 Star General James Van Fleet, Commander of the UN Forces during the Korean War



THANK YOU  
KOREAN WAR VETERANS

★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★

Dear Korean War Veterans and family members, friends and advocates,

2023 marks the "70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice" and 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Canada-Korea Diplomatic Relations". There will be many commemorative events in Canada, U.S., and Korea. It was our honour to organize the "United Nations 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong/Gapyeong" ceremony at the Korean War Monument, Frank c. Gardner & Veterans Memorial Park at the City of Lake Alfred, Florida on the on April 21, Friday 11:00 A.M. and "Veterans Appreciation Luncheon" at the American Legion Post 8 Winter Haven 12:30 P.M..

We would like send our special thanks to Korean War Veterans, their family members Korea Defence Veterans ,other Veterans and distinguished guests, We also like to send our sincere thanks to Hon.Yonah Martin, Senator, Deputy Leader of Opposition Party, Senate of Canada for her dedication and her stellar advocacy for the Korean War Veterans in Canada and the U.S., Mayor Jack Dearmin, Ryan Leavenwood manger, Emily Deal, Manager of Park and Recreation and her assistant Anaeli Quinones (for the wonderful event photos) the City of Lake Alfred for their continued support, Byron Hamilton, District Commander of VFW and past Commander of VFW 4289 Winter Haven who erected "Korean War Monument" in 2016, Stanley Carter, Past Commander of the VFW 2420 Lake Wales, John Goodman, Korean War Veteran, past Chaplain of the VFW 2420 Lake Wales, Abel Santos, Chaplain of the American Legion Post 72 Mulberry, Chef Sal and Kathy of the American Legion Post 8 Winter Haven's "Legion Grill".

Thanks to your continued help and support, we were able to honour and remember UN Korean War Veterans who fought side by side to secure peace and freedom of the Republic of Korea.

Thank you very much.



**Major (Ret'd) Don Kennedy and HooJung Jones Kennedy**  
**Co-Chairs of "United Nations 72<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Kapyong/Gapyeong"**





**“United Nations 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong (now known as Gapyeong)” Banner**



**“Thank you Korean War Veterans” Banner**



**At the Korean War Monument, Frank C. Gardner & Veterans Memorial, Lake Alfred, Florida**





“The Fallen Polk County Veterans of the Korean War”

31 names listed Including Capt. James Van Fleet, JR, son of 4 Star General James Van Fleet, UN Commander, during the Korean War. They were both from Polk County, Florida.

**Korean War (June 25- 1950 - July 27, 1953)**  
**36,914 KIA, 577 from Florida, 31 fallen names from Polk County**

1. Allan Ace
2. Willie J. Atwater
3. Bobbie J. Batte
4. William M. Black
5. William L. Bowden
6. Donald E. Brewer
7. Grover Brinson
8. Hugh T. Cardwell
9. David Clementis
10. Ernest Cunningham
11. Roy E. Duke
12. Charles E. Foster
13. Harrison M. Fraser
14. Charlie P. Gaskins
15. John R. Glass
16. Johnnie M. Hiers
17. Henry W. House Jr.
18. Harley D. Howell
19. Walter Kerce
20. George C. Manring
21. Joshua Middleton
22. Robert S. Miller
23. John W. Moore
24. Ruffus D. Page
25. Carlton Rice
26. Osa Scott Jr.
27. Leonard J. Smith Jr.
28. William K. Taylor
29. Clarence A. Tish Jr.
30. Kenneth E. Tyler
31. James A. Van Fleet Jr.





**Major (Ret'd) Don Kennedy, M.C., Co-Chair of “United Nations 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong” KWVA Chapter 159 Sunshine Chapter, Former Deputy Commander of Royal Canadian Light Infantry welcoming the guests.**



**HooJung Jones' Kennedy, Co-Chair of the “ United Nations 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle Kapyong/Gapyeong”, KWVA Chapter 159 Sunshine State and President of Korean War Veterans Advocates of Canada explaining the epic battle.**

## HooJung Jones Kennedy's Speech

Good Afternoon. Ladies and Gentlemen, Korean War Veterans and distinguished guests,

It is our honour to organize the "United Nations 72nd Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong/Gapyeong" ceremony to remember and honour our Korean War Veterans. "The Battle of Kapyong" is the United Nation's greatest Victory fought on April 23nd-25th, 1951 during the Korean War.

Chinese and North Korean Forces attacked the west central region, in the valley of the Kapyong River which was protected by the 27th British Commonwealth Infantry Brigade. The defensive position was established by the Australian 3RAR on Hill 504 and the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry 2 Battalion (2 PPLCI) on Hill 677 with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Middlesex Regiment in reserve and the US, A Company 72nd Heavy Tank Battalion in support.

Fierce fighting forced the Australians to withdraw, which exposed the Canadians to massive enemy attack. The battle of Kapyong raged through the night. The 2nd PPCLI were surrounded by the enemy who had blocked their supply route. The supplies of ammunition and emergency rations were air-dropped by the US Air Force. The support from the 1st Battalion, Middlesex regiment enabled them to maintain their position, which was vital to the Brigade's defence. During the battle, 2PPLCI lieutenant, Mike Levy, who understood Chinese, requested "Danger Close", an artillery attack on their own position.

4 Star General James Van Fleet, the commander of the 8th Army and the UN forces awarded the "Distinguished Unit Citation" to the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, A Company, 72nd Heavy Tank Battalion and the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment for their extraordinary bravery at the Battle of Kapyong. The "Distinguished Unit Citation" was later changed to the "***United States Presidential Unit Citation***".

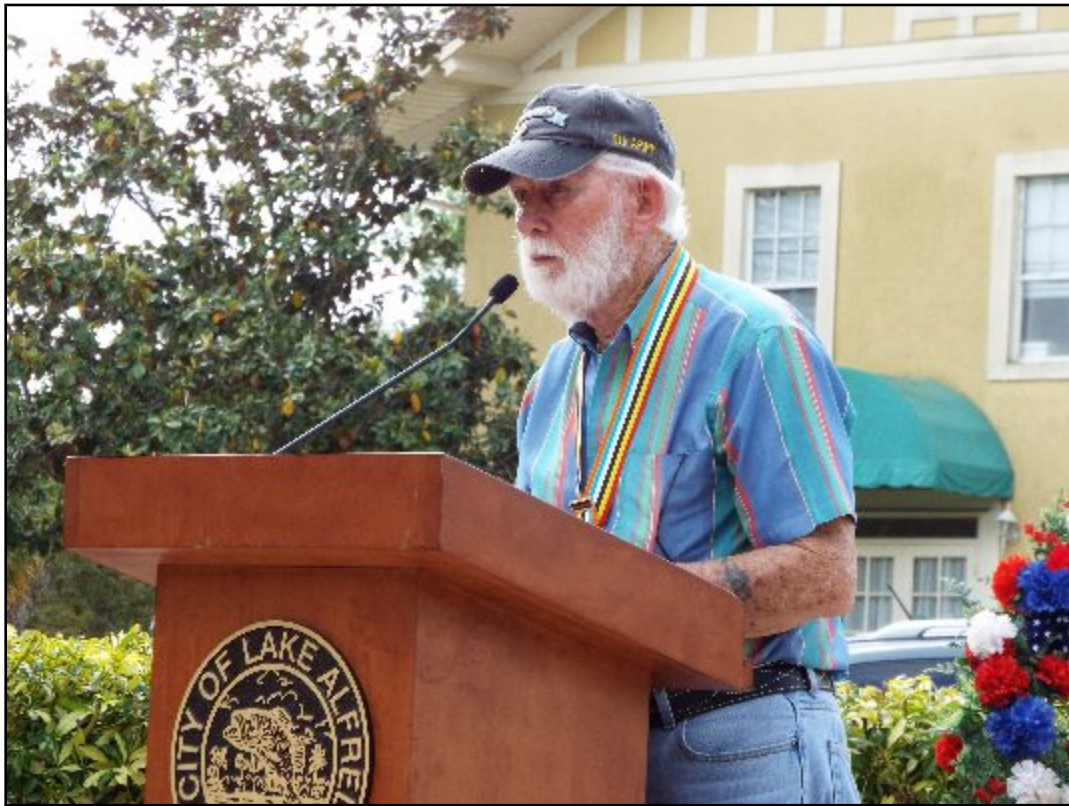
At the battle, a total of 47 were killed and 99 were wounded. (3 Killed in the U.S force, 10 killed in the Canadian force, and 32 killed in the Australian force) which were relatively light compared to the heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy (over 1,000 killed). They helped to save Seoul, the capital of the Republic of Korea and prevented millions civilian casualties. We will remember these brave fallen heroes. We also remember 31 fallen Korean War Veterans from Polk County including Son of General James Van Fleet, Capt. James Van Fleet was a pilot of B-26 and went missing in action during the Korean War, presumed dead.

As Monument Project Director (Government Grants), it was my honour to help erect two "Korean War Gapyeong Battle Victory Monuments" at the Meadowvale Cemetery, City of Brampton, Ontario, Canada on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and at the Fairview Ceremony, City of Niagara Falls, Ontario Canada on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 with the dedicated Gapyeong Battle Monument Committee of Canada.

Without the Korean War Veterans who fought for peace and freedom of Korea saving millions lives including, my parents during the Korean War, I would not have been born and living in a beautiful county such as Canada and enjoying the warm weather and the great hospitality in Florida. Thank you very much for all your support to honour Korean War Veterans who are our heroes.

Co-Chair, "United Nations 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong/Gapyeong"





**John Goodman, Korean War Veteran who served with the US Army, former Chaplain of the VFW 2420, Lake Wales providing prayers for fallen Korean**



**Jack Dearmin, Mayor of the City of Lake Alfred delivering his heart-felt Thank you message to Korean War Veterans.**





**Byron Hamilton, District Commander of VFW, former commander of the VFW 4289 Winter Haven thanking Korean War Veterans.**



**Korean War Veterans and family members at the ceremony**





**HooJung Jones Kennedy presenting the “Korean War Commemorative Medallion” to John Goodman, Korean War Veteran, for his volunteer service for over 30 years.**



**Left to Right: HooJung Jones Kennedy and John Goodman, Korean War Veteran**





**Major (Ret'd) Don Kennedy playing “Taps” to honour fallen UN forces.**



**Wreaths at the “United Nations 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong” ceremony**





**Mayor Jack Dearmin and Major (Ret'd) Don Kennedy laying a wreath.**



**3 Korean War Veterans and a Korean War defence veteran with HooJung and Don Kennedy**





**Left to Right: Major (Ret'd) Don Kennedy, Mayor Jack Dearmin, HooJung Jones Kennedy**



**Korean War Veteran who served with the US Army, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry during the Korean War.**





**Lucy Santos and Abel Santos, served with the US Air force and Chaplin of the American Legion Post 72 Mulberry laying a wreath.**



**Abel Santos, Chaplin of the American Legion Post 72 Mulberry praying for the fallen Veterans and serving members.**





**Lucy Santos and Abel Santos, Chaplin of the American Legion Post 72 Mulberry**





**Korean War Veterans, family members and guests.**



**Veterans attending the ceremony.**





**Korean War Veterans, Family members and guests with Mayor Jack Dearmin, and Ryan Leavenwood, Manager of City of Alfred.**



**Korean War Veterans and guests.**





**Ryan Leavenwood, Manger of the City of Alfred with his daughter.**



**Emily Deal, Manger of the Park and Recreation, the City of Lake Alfred. and her assistant Anaeli Quinones,**





**American Legion Post 8 Winter Haven is one of the most beautiful legions in Florida overlooking a lake and it is located 13 min. from the world famous “Lego Land”.**







**American Legion Post 8 Winter Haven's "Tiki Patio" is overlooking the beautiful lake .**







**Korean War Veterans and guests are enjoying the “Veterans Appreciation Luncheon” and HooJung’s home baked fruit cake and cupcakes.**







**Korean War Veterans and guests are enjoying the delicious “Chicken Tenders and Fries” prepared by Chefs Sal and Kathy from the “Legion Grill”.**







**“Fruit Cake” and “Fruit Cup Cakes” are baked by HooJung Jones Kennedy in appreciation for the Korean War Veterans.**







**The Beautiful Patio is built by generous donors and their names are listed on the plaques.**



**Left to Right: John Goodman, Korean War Veteran, HooJung Jones Kennedy, Maureen Park, Byron Hamilton at the Tiki Patio.**





**Robert (“Bob”) Matheson, Central Area Commander of the American Legion Department of Florida, his wife Bernie Matheson, Judith Richards, Department**



**Bob Matheson (is also the Commander of the American Legion Post 238 Safety Haven welcomes our RCL Post 144 Pinellas County members), HooJung Jones Kennedy and Judith Richards**





**“Veterans Appreciation Luncheon” for Korean War Veterans and family members, invited guests at the American Legion Post 8 Winter Haven was sponsored by HooJung Jones Kennedy, Major (Ret’d) Don Kennedy, Co-Chairs of the “United Nations 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong/Gapyeong”.**







American Legion Post 8 Winter Haven has a large hall and they can host over 250 people.







**Left to Right: Michael O'Callaghan, Commander of the American Legion Post 8 Winter Haven, Eunice Butts, Commander of the American Legion Department of Florida and HooJung Jones Kennedy. It was my honour to receive the "Eunice Butts Commander's Coin" a few months ago.**



**Sal and Kathy Davalius, great chefs of the "Legion Grill"**





*Thank you Korean War heroes*



**THEY GAVE THEIR TOMORROWS  
FOR OUR TODAYS**