

CKVA CONDITIONALLY SUPPORTS H.R. 2632

The *Combined KOREA-US Veterans Association, CKVA*, conditionally supports the passage of US Legislation H.R. 2632 and urges ratification in time for observances July 27, 2009. Correspondence pertaining to the legislation follows this introduction.

July 27, 2009—and any other July 27—convey NO SIGNIFICANCE beyond the fact that the parties to the *Korean War 1950-53 [UN COMMAND versus NORTH KOREAN/CHINESE COMMUNIST FORCES]* enacted a flawed and largely violated ceasefire effective that date. Most assuredly **IT DID NOT END “THE KOREAN WAR.”** The Ceasefire Accord did conclude with a short paragraph provision to reconvene in Geneva and agree to a Peace Treaty. This was not done.

Shortly before and following July 27, 1953, POW compounds and the hospitals of the *UN Command* were opened and prisoners repatriated in accordance with the desires of the individual prisoners. Hundreds of sick and wounded were freed.

The leaders of the *North Korean/Chinese Communist Forces* were not as meticulous in obeying the ceasefire and even yet (56 years later) over 8,000 Americans are unaccounted for and thousands of South Korean citizens seized 1950-53 remain unaccounted for. Still even now, the North Koreans (the *PDRK, Peoples Democratic Republic of Korea*) seizes kidnaps South Korean (*ROK, Republic of Korea*) citizens and statesmen.

Over three million US servicemen and women have served in Korea in the battles on Freedom’s Frontier since 1953 and do so today. Some have been killed, wounded, and seized (captured) by the *PDRK*. The US Defense Department authorized the payment of combat pay and award of the Combat Infantryman’s Badge (CIB) to specify US forces in Korea through the mid 1990’s. Hundreds of Americans have been Killed in Action (KIA) and or died of non-battle actions during the years after 1953—and continue to do so today.

So, the July 27, 1953 political ceasefire has accomplished little beyond provision of “cover” for Western politicians, promoting a false sense of “everything is ok” among the US populace, eased the election of two successive anti-US *ROK* governments, and allowed the *DPRK* to develop nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction (while the US was, and is, restraining the *ROK* from doing the same).

Representative Rangel’s—a Korean War Veteran—statistics are incorrect wherein he refers to *6.8 million American men and women who served during the Korean War period*. Only 1.3 million Americans served in Korea, 1950-53, about 5 million worldwide in the *Korean War period*. As noted above, over three million have served in Korea since July 27, 1953.

Mr. Rangel’s statement includes the phrase *Korean War period* which is, sadly, *DC rhetoric* for 1950-1953. This perpetuates the fiction that the Korean War is ended and places today’s US *Forces Korea* (28,000), and all other forces currently serving in Korea, at

additional risk. **Such misleading vagaries** help, and encourage, another *USS Pueblo* affair, another cross border invasion into the heart of SEOUL to assassinate the *ROK* President, another shooting down of an unarmed civilian airliner, another assassination of groups of *ROK* government officials visiting in foreign capitols on diplomatic business. Any one of those events today might issue in mushroom clouds above the Korean Peninsula.

Perhaps all lovers of freedom need to pause and remember the words of an American patriot, Patrick Henry in 1775: *Gentlemen may cry peace, peace but there is no peace.*^{ei}

Let July 27, of any year remind us all of the great unfinished work of freedom in Korea and throughout the world.

Louis T Dechert

Louis T Dechert
Chairman, CKVA
July 8, 2009

From: The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
Sent By: anthony.chavez@mail.house.gov
Bill: H.R. 2632
Date: 7/7/2009

**HELP PASS H.R. 2632 - KOREAN WAR VETERANS
RECOGNITION ACT - BY JULY 27**

July 8, 2009

Dear Colleagues:

Please join me and representatives John Conyers Jr., Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Sam Johnson, Diane Watson, Peter King, in cosponsoring H.R.2632, the Korean War Veterans Recognition Act, a bill to honor the endearing contributions of the 6.8 million American men and women who served during the Korean War period to preserve the freedom we enjoy in our nation today.

The bill would add National Korean War Armistice Day, July 27, to the list of days on which the American flag should be specially displayed at half-staff on federal buildings in remembrance and recognition of Korean War veterans and their families. The Korean War lasted only three years, yet the U.S. suffered 54,246 casualties and 8,176+ POW/MIAs still remain. By supporting this bill, we can pay proper tribute to these heroes who served in a war that was sandwiched between World War II and the Vietnam War and often overlooked in the public consciousness.

In the wake of the recent instability and escalating tensions in the Korean region, this bill presents a timely opportunity to acknowledge our nation's contribution to securing freedom and democracy to other parts of the world and reaffirms the need to bring closure to a war that has yet to officially end.

Hundreds of Korean War Veterans from across the nation will gather in Washington D.C. on July 27 to commemorate the Armistice Day at the National Korean War Memorial and Arlington Cemetery. Passage of this bill before their arrival will bring great significance to their reunion this year before the 60th anniversary year of the Korean War in 2010. Only two million US Korean War Veterans are surviving today and nearly 1,000 die each day. Before it becomes too late, their courageous service and sacrifice deserve to be respectfully honored.

Attached is a fact sheet enumerating more reasons to support this legislation. Please contact Anthony Chavez at x.54365 or anthony.chavez@mail.house.gov to cosponsor or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Chairman, Ways and Means Committee

H.R.2632 Korean War Veterans Recognition Act

The bill will add National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27, to the list of days on which the flag should especially be displayed. Our goal is to pass H.R. 2632 by July 27, 2009.

1. **PAY PROPER TRIBUTE:** At a time when more than 1000 Korean War veterans are dying each day, and only 2 million surviving, we hope to express our long overdue gratitude to the “Forgotten Heroes” who have paid dearly to preserve the freedoms we enjoy. Korean War Veterans Association was just granted their federal charter one year ago (June 30, 2008)
2. **AMERICA’S COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, AND PEACE:** South Korea, in stark contrast to North Korea, is the 13th largest economy in the world and US’s 8th largest trade partner
3. **DEADLY WAR:** In just three years US has suffered 54,246 casualties and there are still 8,176+ POW/MIAs (Vietnam War left 58,226 dead and 2000 missing over the course of sixteen years)
4. **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ARMISTICE:** The current volatile and hostile environment on the Korean Peninsula and North Korea’s threat to renounce the Armistice reaffirms the need to bring closure to the last remaining war of the Cold War era that has yet to end
5. **STRENGTHEN US-KOREA ALLIANCE:** 28,000 US soldiers are still stationed near the DMZ, where President Clinton had once labeled as “one of the most dangerous places in the world” – US and South Korean must work together to prevent nuclear proliferation in the region
6. **PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATIONS:** From 1995-2003 Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush encouraged the display of the flag on National Korean War Armistice Day, July 27
7. **CBO ESTIMATE:** Bears no significant cost and would not affect direct spending or revenues and would not affect the budgets of State, local, or tribal governments.

ⁱ Give Me Liberty Or Give Me Death
Patrick Henry, March 23, 1775

No man thinks more highly than I do of the patriotism, as well as abilities, of the very worthy gentlemen who have just addressed the House. **But different men often see the same subject in different lights; and, therefore, I hope it will not be thought disrespectful to those gentlemen if, entertaining as I do opinions of a character very opposite to theirs, I shall speak forth my sentiments freely and without reserve.** This is no time for ceremony. The questing before the House is one of awful moment to this country. For my own part, I consider it as nothing less than a question of freedom or slavery; and in proportion to the magnitude of the subject ought to be the freedom of the debate. It is only in this way that we can hope to arrive at truth, and fulfill the great responsibility which we hold to God and our country. Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself as guilty of treason towards my country, and of an act of disloyalty toward the Majesty of Heaven, which I revere above all earthly kings.

Mr. President, it is natural to man to indulge in the illusions of hope. We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth, and listen to the song of that siren till she transforms us into beasts. Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty? Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and, having ears, hear not, the things which so nearly concern their temporal salvation? For my part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst, and to provide for it.

I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past. And judging by the past, I wish to know what there has been in the conduct of the British ministry for the last ten years to justify those hopes with which gentlemen have been pleased to solace themselves and the House. Is it that insidious smile with which our petition has been lately received? Trust it not, sir; it will prove a snare to your feet. **Suffer not yourselves to be betrayed with a kiss.** Ask yourselves how this gracious reception of our petition comports with those warlike preparations which cover our waters and darken our land. Are fleets and armies necessary to a work of love and reconciliation? Have we shown ourselves so unwilling to be reconciled that force must be called in to win back our love? Let us not deceive ourselves, sir. These are the implements of war and subjugation; the last arguments to which kings resort. I ask gentlemen, sir, what means this martial array, if its purpose be not to force us to submission? Can gentlemen assign any other possible motive for it? Has Great Britain any enemy, in this quarter of the world, to call for all this accumulation of navies and armies? No, sir, she has none. They are meant for us: they can be meant for no other. They are sent over to bind and rivet upon us those chains which the British ministry have been so long forging. And what have we to oppose to them? **Shall we try argument? Sir, we have been trying that for the last ten years. Have we anything new to offer upon the subject? Nothing.** We have held the subject up in every light of which it is capable; but it has been all in vain. **Shall we resort to entreaty and humble supplication?** What terms shall we find which have not been already exhausted? Let us not, I beseech you, sir, deceive ourselves. Sir, we have done everything that could be done to avert the storm which is now coming on. We have petitioned; we have remonstrated; we have supplicated; we have prostrated ourselves before the throne, and have implored its interposition to arrest the tyrannical hands of the ministry and Parliament. Our petitions have been slighted; our remonstrances have produced additional violence and insult; our supplications have been disregarded; and we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne! In vain, after these things, may we indulge the fond hope of peace and reconciliation. There is no longer any room for hope. **If we wish to be free-- if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending--if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained--we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of hosts is all that is left us!**

They tell us, sir, that we are weak; unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the next week, or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a British guard shall be stationed in every house? Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance by lying supinely on our backs and hugging the delusive phantom of hope, until our enemies shall have bound us hand and foot? Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. The millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations, and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable--and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come.

It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace-- but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!