

COMBINED KOREA-US VETERANS ASSOCIATION (PROVISIONAL)



*Forged in Battle Blood, preserved by half a century of defending
Freedom, building a Nation, and maintaining Alliance*

Tel: 202.997.9538 FAX: 318.640.8312 Email: Chairman@ckva.org

Mail: Post Office Box 925, Tioga, LA 71477-0925

www.ckva.org

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OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Korea Times

43, Chungmuro 3-ga, Chung-ku, Seoul (Postal Code 100-013).

E-mail : webmaster@koreatimes.co.kr

Facsimile : 02-736-4061

Dear Korean Friends,

Greetings, gratitude and best wishes for the US-Korea Alliance which has preserved freedom for over half a century.

I am writing to comment upon the misleading headline in *The Korea Times* Monday, July 27, 2009, 3:27 a.m. ET. We posted a *Readers' Comments*, but were unfortunately limited to severe character limits.

I am the president of the Combined KOREAN US Veterans Association (CKVA). I was the US National Commander of the Korean War Veterans Association/USA (KWVA), 2004-2008. The KWVA supported the US House and Senate Bills discussed in your article. The CKVA could only partially support the legislation.

Short headlines/leads, and discussion, may often convey false information/impressions. I ask your readers' indulgence to discuss the CKVA positions.

FIRST: The legislation, and the very act of supporting it, fosters the *error* frequently appearing in the US and Korean press, as it appears in your article: "*The two Koreas have remained **technically at war** because the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty*". The truth is that the two Koreas have remained **technically at peace** because the 1950, etc., etc.

In fact even this CKVA restatement correction, and the newspaper statement in the article, may both now err in fact because DPRK, one of the three parties (UNC, NKPA/CCF) to the "ceasefire" has recently renounced the ceasefire in strongest terms. The US and the UN have blissfully ignored this significant action by DPRK. That does not change reality, and we hope that the ROK is not as ignorant of reality as the US and UN seek to remain.

SECOND: The US legislative action only makes one change in what has been over half a century of July 27th US observances. It **IS NOT** a defense or foreign policy action and is probably in no way helpful in resolving the state of war on the peninsula.

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Each year since Clinton became US President there has been a US Presidential proclamation of remembrance of the Korean War Veterans/Armistice. The latest legislation simply adds a standing requirement that the US flags on federal installations/buildings be flown at half-mast each July 27th in memory of Americans who lost their lives in Korea, 1950-1953.

The legislation may spark admirable remembrance. Unfortunately it also suggests that the war is over. **IT IS NOT**. The legislation may be helpful to winning and/or ending the war—in terms of a peace treaty—**only if** it spurs the US populace and their politicians to remember that there **IS A WAR**. Cross purposes/conflicts are involved, obviously, and the CKVA accordingly withheld our full support.

THIRD. Finally, **and in the CKVA view most importantly**, the legislation completely ignores the service, sacrifices, deaths, and injuries, of three million Americans who have served in Korea SINCE July 27, 1953, and still serve as members of the US Forces Korea/Combined Forces Command/UN Command! Such ignorance does not support the American, including KATUSA, and ROK forces deployed in the field in defense of freedom in Korea.

Thousands of US and ROK service personnel have died or been wounded in Korea since July 27, 1953. Scores have been captured by the NK enemy. Many remain prisoners. Three million Americans—and counting—have spent hardship tours, at the least twelve months of their lives in lonely separation from their kin and country. Through the mid-1970's when the all voluntary US Army became an actuality a majority of these US servicemen serving in Korea were probably draftees. They deserve better than abject ignorance of their service.

While those of us from 1950-53 era appreciate the acknowledgement, the *Korean War Veterans Recognition Act* fails to reflect the on-going war and the unsettled issue of over 8,000 Americans still unaccounted for (the largest number of missing other than WWII). And lamentably it does not honor the continuing service of Americans AND Koreans in the on-going war.

Consequently the legislation does little if anything to serve the combined interests of the US-Korean Alliance, and hopefully of the world community, in ending war on the Korean Peninsula.

Respectfully and in full support of the US-Korea Alliance,

Louis T Dechert
Chairman, US-Korea Allies Council, UKAC
Chairman, Combined Korean-US Veterans Association, CKVA
Founder and Co-Chairman, US Federation of Korea Veterans Organizations, USFKVO
National President and Chairman of the Board, KWVA/USA, 2004-2008

**THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH KOREA SIGNED THE
ROK/U.S. MUTUAL SECURITY AGREEMENT, 1954**

US Senate Passes Korean War Act

The U.S. Senate over the weekend passed the Korean War Veterans Recognition Act, which calls for the commemoration of the Korean War Armistice Day on July 27 by the flying of flags at half mast.

Earlier, 421 members of the House of Representatives approved the act, proposed by Charles B. Rangel (D-NY) and about 60 other lawmakers. Twelve legislators abstained.

The two Koreas have remained technically at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty. The war is often forgotten in the public consciousness and hence is often referred to as the "forgotten war."



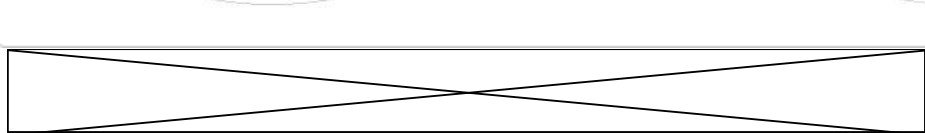
Rep. Charles B. Rangel

In his speech on U.S. Memorial Day, which fell on May 25, Rangel said, "The courageous service and sacrifice of our Korean War veterans must never be forgotten and deserves to be honored."

According to Rangel, of the 6.8 million Americans who served during the Korean War, only 2 million are still alive today.

"The truest heroes of the Korean War are the thousands who served without question and never returned home to their loved ones," he said.

gallantjung@koreatimes.co.kr



Reader's Comments

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LTDechert (74.170.209.163) 07-27-2009 03:22

The headline and article are greatly misleading. I am Chairman of the Combined Korea-US Veterans' Association. We did not actively support this legislation. You may examine our positions and discussion at www.ckva.org/ since Korea Times limits space in Readers' Comments. We will post an open Letter to the Editor,

Korea Times, on our site. Louis T Dechert

ProudKorean2 (71.163.131.121) 07-27-2009 02:35

USKKKAF, like most shallow and materialistic AmeriKKKans, you only know how to judge people and countries by their GDP or GNP. Speaking of which the AmeriKKKan GDP is predicted to contract by at least 5% by the end of 2009. Great, isn't it?

USAF (174.22.136.243) 07-27-2009 01:25

At least the US remembers it fought a war w/ NK and China over skrea...today skrea would surrender in a second to NK...in fact, according to krea teachers' union activists, the fault of the war was the US. skrea, a pathetic pro-commie, 49-51st per capita GNP country.

ProudKorean2 (71.163.131.121) 07-26-2009 22:22

And this is a progress in the NK policy by the new AmeriKKKan administration?

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