



**DoD 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee  
Program Backgrounder  
For Immediate Release**

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The 2011 Defense Authorization Bill authorized the establishment of the Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, (DoD 60<sup>th</sup> AKWCC). The Committee is dedicated to thanking and honoring all the Veterans of the Korean War, their families and especially those who lost loved ones in that war. During the next three years, the Committee will honor the service and sacrifice of Korean War Veterans, commemorate the key events of the war, and educate Americans of all ages about the historical significance of the Korean War.

The commemorative committee's programs and activities will work to accomplish the following objectives.

1. To thank and honor Veterans of the Korean War, including members of the Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States.
2. To thank and honor the families of Veterans of the Korean War for their sacrifices and contributions, especially families who lost a loved one in the Korean War.
3. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Korean War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental organizations that served with, or in support of the Armed Forces.
4. To pay tribute to the sacrifices and contributions made on the home front by people of the United States during the Korean War.
5. To provide the people of the United States with a clear understanding and appreciation of the lessons and history of the Korean War.
6. To highlight advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Korean War.
7. To recognize contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Korean War.

**Why is this important?**

The Korean War was the first test of the United Nations' resolve to stand against tyranny in all its forms. Twenty-one nations banded together with the United States and South Korea in a remarkable display of solidarity to turn back naked aggression and stem the tide of communism. The Armistice signed in 1953 that remains in effect today reminds us that we must remain vigilant against the forces of tyranny and oppression.

The Korean War also saw the advent of aeronautical, medical and societal change: Helicopters were introduced to transport casualties to field hospitals; jets became the new "standard" for aircraft; leading-edge radio technology allowed better



coordination of troop movements; and Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals (MASH) units placed experienced medical personnel closer to the front, improving a wounded Soldier's chance for survival. Perhaps the most lasting impact of the Korean War was the social change that was manifested to American society. In 1948, President Harry S. Truman had signed Executive Order 9981, implementing the full integration of America's Armed Services. Thus, America went to war in Korea for the first time in her history with a military that reflected her diversity.

The selfless sacrifices of the Veterans who fought in Korea to ensure the freedom and prosperity we enjoy today must always be remembered. The Veterans who shivered in the trenches, tracked through knee-deep mud, flew combat missions over rugged mountainous terrain, and stood watch over hostile seas set aside their own comfort, safety and aspirations to answer the call to arms at a time when our nation was still exhausted from the horrors of World War II. These patriots halted the tide of communism that threatened to sweep over the Korean peninsula. Today the Republic of Korea stands as a modern, prosperous, vibrant democracy because of their courage and selfless sacrifice.

### **Join Us! Help us Thank All Korean War Veterans!**

The DoD 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee is committed to locating and recognizing Korean War Veterans. The Committee is partnering with various government departments and agencies and working with all of the Military Service components. Together, we will thank and honor Korean War Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.

Reaching across America and through communities, we welcome the opportunity to partner, collaborate and recognize all Korean War Veterans. Our schools, civic and Veteran organizations all across this Nation can be part of this effort to pay tribute to these heroes. If you or your organization would like to assist the Committee in honoring Korean War Veterans, please contact us at (703) 545-0522 or go online to <http://koreanwar.defense.gov>