

APPLICATION FOR KVA SEOUL REVISIT TOUR

KVA (Seoul) Revisit Purpose: "To express the gratitude of the Korean Government towards Korean War Veterans who took part in the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to October 15, 1954."

Veteran's Personal History (Please type or print)

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____ Date of Birth _____

KWVA Members# _____ Expiration Date _____

Companion Name/Relationship _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Veteran's Passport# _____ Expiration Date _____

Companion's Passport# _____ Expiration Date _____

NOTE: If you do not have a current valid passport or have just applied to KVA, write "applied for" on # line

Veteran's Military Bibliography

Branch of Service _____ Service Number _____

Period of Service in Korean War (month/year) from _____ thru _____

Unit Assignment _____ Location of Unit _____

Rank Achieved in Korea _____ Highest Rank Achieved while in Service _____

Personal Military Decorations for Valor _____

Veterans's Certification

I hereby certify that I have never previously accepted a KVA (Seoul) Revisit tour and that I am a member in good standing (or have applied) with the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA).

Veteran's Signature _____ Date _____

Complete and mail this form along with a \$300 deposit per person (check, money order or Visa/Mastercard only) to Military Historical Tours. Payment in full is required for all applications submitted sixty days or less prior to departure.

Credit Card Authorization

I, _____ hereby authorize Military Historical Tours to make charges to my _____ credit card, Account#: _____ Expiration date: _____

in consideration for airline tickets and any other travel or transportation services or products as requested by me or authorized users of this credit card.. Signature: _____

Mail To...

KWVA Revisit Korea Program
c/o **MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS**
4600 Duke Street, Suite 420
Alexandria, VA 22304-2517

Phone: 703-212-0695
Fax: 703-212-8567
E-mail: mht@miltours.com
www.miltours.com

Background

The Korea Revisit program was begun by the Korean Veterans Association (KVA/Seoul) in 1975, the 25th anniversary year of the outbreak of the Korean War, to express their gratitude to veterans of the War and to show them the bountiful results of their sacrifices and devotion.

KVA's Eligibility Requirements

You are eligible if you are:

1. A veteran of the Korean War and /or a war correspondent of any of the 21 nations which came to assistance of the Republic of Korea between 25 June 1950 and 15 October 1954.

2. An immediate family member of one who was killed in action in the Korean War.

Note: You are permitted to take a spouse or one immediate descendent with you to Korea. The family member must be lodged in the same hotel room with you in Korea.

Privileges Accorded Veterans by the KVA, Seoul

1. Hotel accommodations (two persons per room), meals, tours, and transportation, while in Korea for six days and five nights.

2. Tours of Seoul and vicinity. The visits are to Panmunjom, North Korean Invasion Tunnels, Korea War Memorial Monument, National Cemetery, National Museum, Korean Folk Village, Korean War Museum,

plus other cultural/industrial facilities and activities in the Seoul area. Other tours of battle sites and/or Inch eon may be made through the local tour guide.

3. A special reception and dinner hosted by the President of the Korean Veterans Association (KVA) during which the Korea War Medal and Certificate of Ambassador for Peace will be awarded to each veteran who has not received it before.

Sundry Notes

1. The KVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.
2. Participants are required to have a valid passport: a visa is not required for visits of 15 days for fewer in Korea.
3. KVA/Seoul is not responsible for any loss of, or damage to, personal or other items, medical expenses, injuries, or loss of like due to any accident of whatever nature during the revisits. Trip cancellation insurance is available and highly recommended.
4. Transportation costs to and from Korea will be borne by each person who participates in the program.
5. Applications will be received/accepted on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

Note: *If you have previously accepted an official KVA/Seoul Revisit tour from any sponsoring association or group, you are NOT eligible to participate again. The reason is that so many veterans have not gone before so they get the "first right of return."*

Because former Revisit Program participants have their name in the KVA/Seoul's computer database, please do not try to beat the system. If your name is rejected because of prior participation, all of us will be embarrassed and an eligible Korea War veteran might miss the opportunity to participate.

6. If you want to use your frequent flier miles or other "free" transportation, you will be charged an administrative service fee of \$300 per person.

Caution: Not traveling with KWVA group air contract can result in much higher post-tour costs to China and other Pacific location.

Note: Should you desire to have a single room or take additional family or friends with you, this can be arranged for an additional cost. Any such requests must be made in writing.

Revisit Korea - 2006

I am pleased to announce that we received the 2006 "Revisit Korea" quotas from the ROK government early this year. This will afford all Korean War veterans and their families more opportunity to prepare for the journey and get passports and visas in order. (Remember, visas are required for those going on to China.)

The 2006 quotas have been increased, for which we have our President Lou Dechert to thank. He traveled to Korea last year and lobbied for these increases. His logic was simple: although we don't like to admit it, we are all getting older. Each year more and more veterans are becoming unable to make that long trip and receive the appreciation of the Korean people. His visit was successful. Therefore, the new quota dates are:

KOREA	CHINA OPTION
May 14 - 20	May 20 - 25
June 21 - 27	June 27 - July 2
Sept 10 - 16	Sept 16 - 21

In the last several years, more and more of the veterans have elected to do a post tour of China. Beijing is less than two hours flight time from Inchon. Since you are already in Asia, you might as well also enjoy the mysteries of China from

the "Forbidden City" on Tian An Men Square to the "Great Wall." My wife and son have done this with me, and loved every minute of it!

China is very exciting—and affordable—since you have already paid to fly across the Pacific and your Revisit Korea tour has been subsidized by the ROK government. The ladies will especially like the shopping in both Korea and China!

AS IN THE PAST, these quotas will go very fast. And, we are required by KWVA to allot them on a strict "first come first served" basis. The bottom line: "He who hesitates may be lost!"

Please call my office, Military Historical Tours, at 703-212-0695 in Alexandria, VA on any questions. You can also apply on the phone, with a credit card, to place your name on the registration list. The eligibility for these subsidized quotes is contained on the application form located elsewhere in The Graybeards magazine.

Sincere and fraternal regards,

Warren

Warren Wiedhahn

Korea - 1950

Revisit Korea Coordinator

Another Good Report

We re-visited South Korea in June-July 2004. Veterans of all branches of the services were represented.

Our visit was most enjoyable, and the South Korean veterans treated us

superbly. We offer them special thanks to the South Korean Veterans Association.

*Stan M. Wisniewski, 1159 Deveron Ct,
San Dimas, CA 91773*



Revisit Korea group assembles at the Incheon Airport, July 2004

A Trip of a Lifetime

By Richard Johnston

In the last week of May 2005, I and my nineteen-year-old adopted Korean grandson, Casey Wilson, accompanied by forty veterans and their spouses or relatives, flew to Korea on the Military Historical Tours program. We landed at Incheon Airport and proceeded to Seoul. This was a real eye opener, as there was not much standing when I left in 1954.

The old bridge across the Han River still stands alongside one of the many bridges now over the river. Seoul is now a beautiful city with all its buildings, wide busy streets, and subways. It is truly remarkable what has been accomplished over the years.

Our group consisted of many great people, including a retired Marine Corps general, two Medal of Honor recipients, "Hershey" Miyamura and Joseph Rodriguez, several retired colonels, and those representing the various branches of the military. It also included the staff of the Military Tours and a five-party film crew to film and interview our tour for preparation of a documentary to be presented on the Discovery Channel. We also had three lovely Korean young ladies as our guides on our buses. Throughout the trip they informed us of many interesting facts about Korea as we traveled.

We spent a day visiting the various monuments and museums, followed by a banquet in the evening, at which time the veterans were presented with the Ambassador of Peace Medal by the Korean [ROK} veterans. Our presenter took off his lapel medal and placed it on Casey.

The next day we went to Panmunjon, where we saw the table used for the cease-fire negotiations. We were presented with a plaque with a piece of the original barbed wire on it from the DMZ. I thought the place was eerie, as you know you are being watched.

That afternoon we boarded the express {bullet} train for a three-hour trip to Pusan, or Busan, as it is called now. It used to take all day to cover the 300 miles on the Kimchee Express, and almost three days by truck on the MSR. While on the train, I was hoping to see my old station, the Osan Repeater Station, but I did not see it

The next day we took a tour of the ROK Naval Academy and the UN Cemetery, which was one of the very few places I recognized. Most of these tours only cover the Seoul area, but this group was sent here to represent the U.S. at a dedication of a monument to the almost 100,000 Koreans who were evacuated along with our troops in December of 1950 from North Korea. Among our group was Dr. Hyun Bong Hak, one of those responsible for that evacuation, and a captain of a victory ship who helped in that evacuation.

We were all presented with a glass replica which lights up. This took place in Koje, about two hours west of Busan. En route, the bus passed by Masan, where Casey was born, which made him happy. By then, being the charmer that he is, he had



(L-R) Casey Wilson and Richard L. Johnston

more or less become our group's mascot. He did have a problem, however. He kept falling in love about every five minutes with a different young lady, as there were many from which to choose.

Then it was back to Seoul, and home the next day. It was a very intense itinerary, with very little free-time. We were up at six a.m., and finally got to dinner at seven or eight p.m. But, for a group of older people, we all held up well.

Things I did not see: mud huts with hatched roofs, oxen, a-frames, women toting loads on their heads, "slicky" boys, panhandlers, thousands of GIs, or graffiti. I did see many happy Korean people who let us know how appreciative they were for our effort to save them from the communists from the north. I am sure we all felt proud to be Americans, and to have shared in the saving of this country and its people.

On his return, Casey could tell his sixteen-year-old adopted Korean sister and adopted Korean cousin of the country where they were born. I think this trip meant more to me by bringing him along and watching his reactions to all that we saw. Upon my return, I hosted two sets of Korean university students, followed by a Japanese student during their stays while attending our local university. To those who have not made the tour, I have one thing to say: GO!

Richard L. Johnston, 2234 N.E. Hancock St., Portland, OR 97212, poekey30@aol.com

NOTE: Johnston was a Pfc. with KOMZ Long Lines Signal Group, Sig. Svc. Co. 2, 1953-1954, and is a member of the Oregon Trail Chapter.