

APPLICATION FOR KVA REVISIT KOREA 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 Member, # _____ Expiration Date _____

NOTE: If you have not yet received your membership # from KWVA insert "applied for."

Companion Name/Relationship _____ Date of Birth _____

List all your Addresses, (if more than one residence per year) and dates you reside in each one, no P.O Boxes.

Main/
Summer. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates _____

Winter. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates _____

Phone # _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Veteran's Passport# _____ Expiration Date _____

Companion's Passport# _____ Expiration Date _____

NOTE: If you do not have a passport with 6 months validity prior to travel dates, and have applied for a new one, please insert "applied for" in the space provided and contact MHT when you receive it.

Veteran's Korean Service Information

Branch of Service _____, Service Number _____

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

Veteran's Certification

I am a member in good standing (or have applied) with the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA).

Veteran's/ family member signature _____ **Date** _____

(Complete and mail this form along with a \$400.00 deposit per person (check, money order or Visa/MasterCard only) to Military Historical Tours. Payment in full is required for applications submitted prior to sixty days of tour departure.)

Credit Card Authorization

I authorize **Military Historical Tours** to charge my Visa / Master Card,

The amount of \$ 400 Credit Card # _____

Expiration date: _____ please include the 3-Digit code on back of card _____

Your name as it appears on the Credit Card _____

Korea Revisit related material please send to:

KWVA Revisit Korea Program
c/o **MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS (MHT)**
13198 CENTERPOINTE WAY STE #202
WOODBIDGE, VA 22193-5285

Phone: 703-590-1295
Fax: 703-590-1292
e-mail: mhtours@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 re-

sults of their sacrifices and devotion.

KVA's Eligibility Requirements

UN Korean War Veterans who served in or supported ground, naval, or air operations in the Korean Theater between June 25, 1950 and October 25, 1954 or a family member of a veteran killed in action in the

Korean War are eligible to participate in the "Korea Revisit Program." A veteran is allowed to bring a family member or friend as a "travel companion."

Expanded Eligibility

1. Due to the 60th Anniversaries (2010-13) there will be more quota's available.

In addition, those that have gone on a previous Revisit tour, can apply to return again. (Call Military Historical Tours for details)

2. Widows and family members of deceased veterans, or of those veterans physically unable to travel, are also eligible to go on a Revisit tour.

Benefits and Itinerary

Free hotel accommodations and meals for 5 nights and 6 days.

Accommodation is based on (2) persons per room.

Tour of Seoul and its vicinity

Banquet hosted by the Chairman of the KVA with presentation of the "Ambassador for Peace" medal and its certificate

Day 1: Arrival and hotel check-in

Day 2: Wreath laying Korean National Cemetery, Visit the KW Memorial.

Day 3: Visit Panmunjom, Banquet.

Day 4: Tour of Korean Folk Village.

Day 5: Visit the Incheon Landing Memorial, Museum, & Freedom Park.

Day 6: Departure

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 or 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 life due to any accident of whatever nature during the revisits. Trip cancellation insurance is available and highly recommended.

4. Hospitalization and evacuation insurance is required for and provided to all veterans and spouse/companion by MHT. Cost is contained in the administrative service charge.

5. Transportation costs to and from Korea will be borne by each person who participates in the program.

6. Applications will be received/accepted on a "First-come, first-served" basis.

7. Use of frequent flyer miles or other "free" transportation, is allowed but an administrative service fee of \$400.00 per person is still required.

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.

A Perspective on the Korean War

The citizens of the United States owe the veterans of the Korean War a debt of gratitude for a job well done by ending the North Korean aggression. Today, South Korea is in the first rank of nations due to the sacrifices made by the veterans of this war.

By Robert J. Barnes

The roots of the Korean War go back to the end of World War II.

Japan had been exploiting Korea as a colony for forty years. It ended with the Japanese surrender in August, 1945. It was decided the Americans approaching from the south would disarm the Japanese soldiers in southern Korea, while the Russians coming down from Manchuria would disarm the Japanese troops in northern Korea.

Where did the north end and the south begin? Obviously, a line had to be drawn. One of the military officers pointed to a map indicating the 38th parallel, which divides the Korean peninsula almost in half. That would be the line.

On June 25, 1950, North Korea crossed the 38th parallel in an invasion of the south starting the Korean War. President Harry Truman did not call it a war, but a police action, as it was part of a United Nations effort to repel aggression across a national boundary. But, make no mistake about it, it was a war. It lasted three years - over 54,000 Americans died in it (not all of them in the actual fighting)—and over 103,000 suffered wounds serious enough to earn the Purple Heart medal.

It was a brutal, bruising, physical war, fought largely on the ground, over some of the most inhospitable terrain imaginable, in temperatures that ranged from 100° in summer to -50° in winter. In addition to our Army and Marine ground forces, U.S. Air Force and Naval sea and air were instrumental in pounding the Chinese and North Korean troops. An estimated 1,500,000+ casualties were inflicted on these enemy forces during the conflict.

In lives sacrificed, wounds received, and Americans made prisoner by the enemy, Korea was as deadly for the United States as World War I. During the last two years of the conflict as in the

First World War, the armies fought from opposing trench lines. Hand to hand combat was common.

The Korean War and the Vietnam War had some similarities. Both were unpopular and largely misunderstood at home. In the aftermath, thousands of combat veterans and an equal number of civilians were left wondering if it had been worth it.

The veterans of these two wars were of different generations, encompassing a different set of beliefs. There was a fundamental difference between the two conflicts. Almost to the man, veterans of Korea, however personal were their beliefs about the war, felt it was their duty to go.

There was no end to the Korean War. An Armistice ended the fighting on July 27, 1953; it is still in effect to this day. The men and women served their time. If they were lucky, they rotated home. For them, there were no parades, no welcome home. They did their duty, left the service, went back to their jobs, and tried to lead a normal life.

The citizens of the United States owe the veterans of the Korean War a debt of gratitude for a job well done by ending the North Korean aggression. Today, South Korea is in the first rank of nations due to the sacrifices made by the veterans of this war.

Carved in stone on the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington. D.C. are these words:

OUR NATION HONORS ITS SONS AND DAUGHTERS WHO ANSWERED THE CALL TO DEFEND A COUNTRY THEY NEVER KNEW AND A PEOPLE THEY NEVER MET.

*Robert J. Barnes
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EDITOR'S NOTE: This op-ed piece appeared originally in The Graybeards in 1996. The concept is as true today as it was then.