

DOD Hosts 60th Anniversary Commemoration

The Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee Marks the 60th Anniversary Commemoration of the Signing of the Korean War Armistice July 27, 2013

Thousands of Korean War veterans from across the United States and the general public will gather on the Mall in Washington, D.C. at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on Saturday, July 27, starting at 8 a.m., to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended fighting on the Korean Peninsula in 1953.

The Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, along with the host for this event, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, will conduct a special ceremony that will pay tribute to Korean War veterans and recognize UN allies. Hagel and other senior U.S. and Korean government officials will deliver formal remarks.

The commemoration event will be the culmination of almost three years of committee activities that honored the service and sacrifice of Korean War veterans at hundreds of events across the nation and internationally, commemorated key events of the war, and educated Americans of all ages.

A variety of videos will be shown about various aspects of the Korean War, including Women in the Military, UN Allies in the War, Korean War Medal of Honor recipients, newsreels from the war, and other videos. In addition, many of the oral histories of Korean War veterans that have been recorded by the committee over the past three years will be shown at the event, along with special tributes to the veterans.

There will also be video messages from U.S. Forces Korea to veterans, multiple wreath laying ceremonies, and Korean cultural presentations. Colonel David J. Clark, the Director of the Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, says the event on July 27 will resonate around the globe.

“The signing of the Armistice 60 years ago ended a brutal war that saw over 33,000 U.S. military service members give their lives to defend freedom on the Korean Peninsula,” said Colonel Clark. “Their ultimate sacrifice and the sacrifices of all Korean War veterans will never be forgotten. They helped to lay the foundation for the Republic of Korea to become the 15th largest economy in the world and a staunch U.S. ally.

“The 60th Anniversary Commemoration Event of the Signing of the Armistice will remind the world once again that freedom is not free and of our unwavering commitment to the Republic of Korea.”

Other special events for Korean War veterans have been planned for the week of July 22. On Wednesday evening July 24, Under Secretary of the Army Dr. Joseph W. Westphal and the U.S. Army Military District of Washington will host a special

Twilight Tattoo at 7:00 p.m. at Whipple Field at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Arlington, Virginia. The Twilight Tattoo is an hour long military pageant featuring Soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) and the U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own.”

Experience a glimpse into American history through performances by The U.S. Army Blues, vocalists from The U.S. Army Band downrange, The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, and The U.S. Army Drill Team.

For more information and to register, contact the U.S. Army Military District of Washington at (202) 685-2888 or visit www.twilight.mdw.army.mil. You must RSVP by 1 JUL as there is limited seating available and will be first-come, first-served basis to attend. Twilight Tattoo is free of charge and no tickets are necessary. Pre-ceremony music begins at 6:45 p.m., with the program starting at 7 p.m.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, has authorized a special Evening Parade exclusively for Korean War veterans of all services and their families on July 25, 2013. The Evening Parade is a one hour and fifteen minute performance of music and precision marching.

The parade features “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band, “The Commandant’s Own,” The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the Marine Corps Color Guard, and the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. Guests are admitted beginning at 7:00 p.m. and should arrive no later than 7:45 p.m. There is no charge for admission.

Guests entering the barracks pass through magnetic detection devices. No weapons of any kind, including knives, are allowed inside the barracks. No food or beverages are permitted with the exception of water and baby food/bottles. To RSVP for the event, go to www.koreanwar60.com/july27Marine, email koreanwar60@triumph-enterprises.com, or return RSVP card by July 8.

On Friday, July 26 at 1:00 p.m., as part of the 60th Anniversary Ceremony marking the end of the Korean War events, the SSgt Reckless Monument will be dedicated and there will be an unveiling of the exhibit on SSgt Reckless inside the Museum of the Marine Corps, Semper Fidelis Park. “The President’s Own” Marine Band Brass Quintet will play and presentation of the Marine Colors by the Marine Corps Color Guard will open the event. RSVP: Robin Hutton (805) 380-4017 or SgtReckless@yahoo.com

“The Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean Commemoration Committee has planned a number of activities and events for Korean War veterans to attend throughout the week of July 22,” said Colonel Clark. “We want them to know that they are not only an important part of U.S. history but also of world history and the fight against communist aggression.”

For updated information about activities and events in conjunction with the 60th Anniversary of the Signing of the Armistice, visit the Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Commemoration of the Korean War website at www.koreanwar60.com.