



**THE QUEENSLAND KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL  
POST CEREMONY REPORT TO PRESIDENT AHN AKWMQ LTD  
BY PROJECT MANAGER MAURIE PEARS**

**My dear President Ahn and Committee Members**

May I commence by stating how honoured I was to join the joint committees for the construction of our memorial. It was a tremendous effort by both the Korean and Australian Communities and for you personally to be able to join the various Korean associations, churches and individuals to the common cause of honouring the Australian Veterans. In particular the addition of the Gapyeong stones was a master stroke and has become a major shrine for the Royal Australian Regiment who took part in all the major land battles. Many of us remembered that a Memorial was a Gold Coast Korean Society initiative which started many years ago. I trust all your committees, past and present, understand our appreciation for a magnificent effort.

As project manager and coordinator I was assisted not only by the wholesale support of Joseph Ahn and his team but also by a small team of enthusiasts without whom we would never have commenced let alone completed the Memorial Project:

Margaret Keech MP and Peter Shooter of the Queensland Government, Designer David Yardley, Builder Ross Wolbers, the Returned and Services League, Masters of Ceremony Geon Shim and Alan Whelan, Councillor Eddy Sarroff and Ross Greenwood with his Council team, Yang Kim from the AKWMQ, Jim Blake, Richard Harrington and Ron Callendar from the AQKV, PR Alan Fortunato and Paul Hodges, the LDS Choir, the Lockyer Valley Light Horse troop, the Convention Centre, Boulderstone Rapid Transport and the Surf Line Bus Company.

These two teams, Korean and Australian, and many other associated friends and supporters, pulled together to achieve our tri service Memorial with kind hearts and busy hands.

**“Their work is done. They have completed a memory more enduring than brass”.**

**AND NOW FOR THE DAY 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2011; THE UNVEILING BY PREMIER THE HONOURABLE ANNA BLIGH MP AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S CONSUL GENERAL JIN SOO KIM.**

Both had cancelled a busy itinerary to be with the veterans in this day of remembrance as did the many Military, Veteran Leaders and Political dignitaries. The attending crowd of some 650 guests did much to lift the spirit of the Veterans and of the Teams who had completed the memorial. And of course the colourful and exciting Korean celebrations and luncheon which followed made the day complete. It was truly a day to remember. It was a glorious sunny day, in spite of a gloomy weather forecaste, for our Australian Korean War veterans and their families and for the associated Korean communities as well as that multitude of distinguished guests. (*The following Sunday, Monday and Tuesday were all stormy and wet. Somebody up there must like us.*)

During the ceremony thanks were extended to all the wonderful people, distinguished guests and veterans who attended including our Patron General Digger James and Keith Payne VC. The Premier and the Consul General, Minister Yoo and his delegation including the Gapyeong Mayor Lee Jin Yong and delegation were gracious in their acknowledgement of the veterans. They were lauded for their sacrifice and devotion to duty. We all took away with us to our homes and homeland, thanks and best wishes for the continued success of their lives and nations and the ongoing friendship between Australia and the republic of Korea.

I was personally humbled to see the faces of so many wounded and aged Korean comrades from both Nations who had made the supreme effort to be there to honour their mates, in spite of severe physical disadvantages and obvious pain. They kept the spirit alive which was born in the air, on the seas, and with the great land battles of the approach to the Yalu, Gapyeong, Maryang san, the Samichon and the Hook.

On this day we saw a dream come true. A dream for the local Korean Gold Coast communities who have done so much to honour our veterans over the last twenty years; and a dream for our Australian Korean veterans themselves that, one day, a memorial to their dedication and sacrifice would stand in the public eye for many years to come.

The Queensland Korean War Memorial, a joint effort by Korea and Australia, is a gift to the citizens and veterans of Queensland. Our major benefactors, The Republic of Korea, the Commonwealth of Australia's Federal Government and the State of Queensland, the Korean Communities and the Association of Queensland Korean Veterans provided the extensive funding for the placement and construction of this memorial wall. We thank them most sincerely.

But, it was not only their generous funding that built this memorial. It was also the passion and the devotion from 1990 onwards, of the hundreds of volunteer committees, associations, churches and individuals, both Korean and Australian, who gathered around and worked to bring this project to fruition. They were the true heroes. To me, they were all good friends, kind faces, warm hearts and busy hands. It was a model of cooperation and symbiosis between the people of two Nations. I am honoured, to have been part of the management of this worthy project.

The Memorial tells a story with a series of murals and bronzes of the sacrifices of the Korean people and their growth to prosperity and to the many Australian units that served in Korea over the years 1950 to 56.

Royal Australian Navy

HMAS Sydney, Vengeance, Anzac, Arunta, Bataan, Shoalhaven, Warramunga, Murchison, Tobruk, Condamine, Culgoa and fleet air arm squadrons.

Royal Australian Regiment 1, 2, and 3 battalions, K force

Korea, Yongju, Chongju, Pakchong, Uijongbu, Chuam-ni, Maehwa san, Kapyong, Kowang san, Samichon, Maryang san.

Royal Australian Air Force

77 squadron P51 Mustang and Meteor jets, 36 Transport Squadron C47 Dakota.

As allies we fought and died together in victory and defeat. We left our 418 dead in Korea in honoured graves cared for today in the arms of the Korean people. On this day we remembered together with the Republic of Korea and its citizens a war that indeed paid a price for freedom. However it resulted ultimately in peace and prosperity for the republic of Korea today.

The Memorial is now complete and will be handed over to Council for maintenance and exposure. In due course an Advisory Board will be convened and plans made for the future. Approaches will be made also to Council for a suitable day to be recorded as a Remembrance Day on the Gold Coast for the Korean War.

I thank you all for the privilege of being involved in the management team for this grand project. Korea is no longer a forgotten war.

**Thank you Joseph, your family, committees and communities  
and thank you Australia for “REMEMBERING KOREA.**

*With Kind regards*

*Maurie Pears*

**SEE IT ALL BELOW**

<http://www.koreanwarmemorial.com.au/#/memorial-wall/4554424819>

<http://www.koreanwarmemorial.com.au/#>



Digger James, Ron Perkins, Ian Saunders, Keith Payne VC, Premier Anna Bligh, Maurie Pears, Joseph Ahn.

**QUEENSLAND KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL CASCADE GARDENS GOLD COAST**

