



Ministry of Patriots and
Veterans Affairs

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 18, 2024

64th Anniversary of the April 19 Revolution Commemorated at National Cemetery

- *The ceremony is scheduled for April 19th, 10 AM, at the April 19th National Cemetery in Seoul, with approximately 1,500 attendees including activists, family members, government officials, and the youth.*
- *Minister Kang Jung-ai expressed the commitment to remember and advance the values of the April 19 Revolution, aspiring to brighten the future with greater hope and prosperity.*

[Korea, April 18] The Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (Minister Kang Jung-ai) has announced that the "64th Anniversary of the April 19 Revolution" will be celebrated on April 19th at the April 19th National Cemetery in Gangbuk-gu, Seoul. This year's theme, "April, A Flight Towards Freedom" aims to honor the democratic ideals fueled by the revolution and to inspire future generations.

The commemoration ceremony will feature a sequence of events including a pledge of allegiance, floral tributes and incense offerings, opening performances, progress reports, memorial speeches, and the singing of the "April 19 Song," for approximately 45 minutes.

* The theme "April, Soaring Towards Freedom" was chosen to convey the message that the freedoms enjoyed today were made possible by the courageous efforts of those involved in the April 19 Revolution, encouraging a continued journey towards a hopeful and prosperous future.

Representing the future generations, students from Daekwang High School, Dongsung High School, and Central High School, will lead the national anthem. Floral tributes and incense offerings will be performed by chairpersons of related veterans' associations and students from universities that participated in the revolution, including Korea University, Dongguk University, and Seoul National University.

The opening performance will revisit the historical context and progression of the April 19 Revolution through video presentations and a live classical concerto, alongside a video recitation of the poem "April" by poet Oh Se-young, which commemorates the noble sacrifices made by the students and citizens involved*.

* The poem "April", written by poet Oh Se-young, reflects on the noble sacrifices and dedication of the students and citizens who participated in the April 19 Revolution, intending to honor their memory and inspire continued commitment to the values they fought for.

The first act of the memorial performance will feature a video titled "April's Pledge," detailing the sacrifices of late activists Kim Tae-nyeon and Seo Hyeon-moo. Actors Jin Sun-kyu and Park Eun-hye will read letters embodying the resolve to move forward from historical pains towards a hopeful future, followed by soprano Park Hye-sun singing "One Flower Blooms," symbolizing the ongoing advancement of the revolution's values.

In the second act, the memorial video "Towards Freedom" will be shown, highlighting the contemporary relevance of the April 19 Revolution records, registered as UNESCO Memory of the World. This will be coupled with a performance by baritone Kim Joo-taek and the Seoul Regional University Choir, presenting "My Own Way," a song reflecting the spirit of freedom and justice.

The ceremony will conclude with all attendees jointly singing the "April 19 Song," reinforcing the collective memory and commitment to the values of the April 19 Revolution.

Minister Kang Jung-ai stated, "The freedom and democracy we enjoy today were made possible by the sublime sacrifices and dedication of the students and citizens who participated in the April 19 Revolution 64 years ago. The government will endeavor to ensure that our citizens, especially future generations, remember the values of the April 19 Revolution and continue to develop them to illuminate a future filled with greater hope and prosperity."

Attachment 1: Event Overview

Attachment 2: Event Slogan

Attachment 3: Event History

For further information, please contact the International Spokesperson Mr. Seongwon Lee (reasonwon@korea.kr / +82-44-202-5021) of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.

ATTACHMENT 1**EVENT OVERVIEW**☐ **Purpose**

○ To honor the noble spirit of sacrifice of the 4.19 Revolution national merit recipients who contributed to Korean democracy, and to promote and develop the spirit of freedom, democracy, and justice of the 4.19 Revolution, so that it can be a catalyst for national unity.

☐ **Theme: "APRIL, A FLIGHT TOWARDS FREEDOM"**

(Meaning of the Theme) To remember that the current democracy was able to blossom through the noble sacrifices and dedication of the students and citizens who participated in the 4.19 Revolution, and to convey a message of inheriting and developing the values of the 4.19 Revolution preserved by the national merit recipients, and moving towards a future full of hope and prosperity.

☐ **Event Overview**

- Date/Time : Date: April 19, 2024 (Friday) 10:00 AM ~ 10:45 AM
- Location : April 19th National Cemetery (Suyu-dong, Gangbuk-gu, Seoul)
- Attendance: 1,500 people including April 19 Revolution national merit recipients and their families, key government officials, students, etc.
- Event Schedule

Agenda	Time
◆ Event (10:00~10:45)	(45 mins)
◦ Opening Ceremony	
◦ Pledge of Allegiance	
◦ Wreath Laying and Incense Burning	
◦ Opening Performance	
◦ Progress Report	
◦ Commemorative Performance (Part 1)	
◦ Commemorative Speech	
◦ Commemorative Performance (Part 2)	
◦ Song of 4.19 Revolution	
◦ Closing Ceremony	

ATTACHMENT 2

EVENT THEME



* 64th Anniversary of the April 19 Revolution

"APRIL, A FLIGHT TOWARDS FREEDOM"

ATTACHMENT 3

EVENT HISTORY

☐ Establishment of the Anniversary and Commemoration Ceremony Timeline

- The first commemoration ceremony was held in 1961 (organized by the Student Preparation Committee for the 1st Anniversary of April 19 Revolution).
- Commemoration ceremonies were organized by the Seoul Metropolitan Government until 1973.
- On March 30, 1973, the "Regulations on Various Commemorative Days" established April 19 as the anniversary of the April 19 Revolution.
 - (Rationale for establishment) To honor the spirit of the April 19 Revolution and to realize the construction of a democratic nation through the inheritance and development of the ideology of April 19, fostering a just social atmosphere.
- Starting from the 14th anniversary in 1974, the commemoration ceremony has been organized by the National Veterans Affairs Headquarters.