



Ministry of Patriots and
Veterans Affairs

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2024

Gapyeong Battle Memorial Ceremony to be Held on the 24th with Revisiting Commonwealth Veterans

- *On April 24th at 10 AM, a memorial ceremony will be held at the Commonwealth monument in Gapyeong, Gyeonggi Province. Following the ceremony, memorial services will take place at each nation's monument.*
- *6 Korean War veterans and 15 family members from 4 Commonwealth countries currently revisiting Korea, including a Canadian veteran who fought in the Battle of Gapyeong will join the ceremony.*
- *Vice Minister Hee-wan Lee stated, "We will never forget to repay the sacrifices and dedication of our heroes and make concerted efforts to ensure that the history of their service acts as a bridge connecting South Korea with the UN Sending States."*

[Korea, April 23] A memorial ceremony will be held to honor the contributions and commemorate the sacrifices of veterans who fought in the Battle of Gapyeong (Kapyong), one of the fiercest battles of the Korean War.





The Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (Minister Kang Jung-ai) announced that the ceremony, hosted by the British Embassy in Korea and attended by veterans and family members from four Commonwealth countries (the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand), will take place on April 24th, 10 AM at the Commonwealth Monument in Gapyeong County, Gyeonggi Province.

The Battle of Gapyeong occurred from April 23 to 25, 1951, where approximately 2,000 soldiers of the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade successfully fought against a Chinese force over five times their size. This victory significantly contributed to the establishment of new defensive positions by the South Korean and UN forces.

The ceremony will be attended by several dignitaries, including the Vice Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, the Deputy Commander of the United Nations Command, ambassadors from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, the governor of Gapyeong County, and the commander of the 66th Infantry Division. (Refer to Attachment 2 for details on participants)

Among the visiting veterans is William John Chrysler, a Canadian veteran who fought in the Battle of Gapyeong during the Korean War. He plans to honor the sacrifice and dedication of his comrades during the ceremony. Additionally, Viki M.

Armour, the daughter of the late Eric C. Lawther, an Australian veteran of the Gapyeong battle, will also attend. Vikki, an Australian music teacher, is known to teach the song "Arirang" during her classes to commemorate the UN veterans.

Country	Name	Age	Service	Photograph	Note
Canada	William J. CHRYSLER	94	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Tour : Aug 15, 1950-Mar 4, 1952 •Branch : Army •Rank : Private •Unit: 2nd Battalion / Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry Regiment (2 PPCLI) • Battle of Kapyong 	 <p>Chrysler (right) helps brother in arms after the Battle of Kapyong  Courtesy of Canadian Embassy in Korea</p>	
Australia	Vikki M. ARMOUR	66	Daughter of Eric C. LAWThER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Tour : Dec 26, 1950-Mar 24, 1956 •Branch : Army •Rank : Sergeant •Unit : 1st,2nd,3rd Battalion / Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) •Battle of Kapyong, Battle of Maryang San 		

The ceremony will include an opening speech, entrance of the UN color guard, a reading of a message from the British monarch, His Majesty King Charles III, commemorative speeches by the Deputy Commander of the UN Command, the Vice Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, and the commander of the 66th Infantry Division, a memorial service, a moment of silence, wreath-laying, the exit of the UN color guard, and closing remarks, and will last about one hour.

Following the Commonwealth Memorial Ceremony of the Battle of Gapyeong, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand will hold national memorial ceremonies in front of the Canadian monument and Australia-New Zealand monument at 11:30AM, each lasting 40 minutes. Additionally, on the 25th, the Australian and New Zealand Embassies will host the Anzac Day Ceremony at the War Memorial of Korea to honor the allied forces of Australia and New Zealand.

Canada Gapyeong Battle Memorial Ceremony

- **Attendees:** Canadian Ambassador to Korea, Vice Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Deputy Commander of the United Nations Command
- **Agenda:** Opening speech, memorial address by the Canadian Ambassador, commemorative speech by the Vice Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, battle tribute, wreath-laying, scholarship presentation to Gapyeong Buk Middle School, closing ceremony.

Australia-New Zealand Gapyeong Battle Memorial Ceremony

- **Attendees:** Ambassadors of Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom to Korea, Director General for Patriots and Veterans Policy of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs
- **Agenda:** Didgeridoo performance (an Australian traditional wind instrument developed by the indigenous people of Northern Australia), opening speech, entrance of the Australian Federation Guard, memorial service, remarks by Australian and New Zealand representatives, wreath-laying, poetry recital, exit of the Australian Federation Guard, scholarship presentation to Gapyeong High School, closing ceremony.

Vice Minister Hee-wan Lee emphasized that South Korea's freedom and prosperity were only possible thanks to the courage and fighting spirit of the 1.99 million UN veterans, including over two thousand Commonwealth heroes who defended Gapyeong during the Korean War. He affirmed that the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs will never forget to repay the sacrifices and dedication of the heroes and make concerted efforts to ensure that the history of their service acts as a bridge connecting South Korea with the UN Sending States.

Attachment 1: Event Overview

Attachment 2: Key Participants

Attachment 3: Revisit Schedule

Attachment 4: Korean War Statistics (United Nations)

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****1. Commonwealth Battle of Gapyeong Memorial Ceremony**

- **Organized by:** British Embassy in Korea
- **Date/Location:** April 24th, Wednesday, 10:00-11:00 AM / Commonwealth Monument (Gapyeong)

Event Details (10:00-10:55 AM)

- ✓ 10:00-10:03 (3 min): Entrance of veterans
- ✓ 10:03-10:05 (2 min): Opening speech by British defense attaché
- ✓ 10:05-10:07 (2 min): Entrance of the UN color guard
- ✓ 10:07-10:09 (2 min): Reading of a message from His Majesty King Charles III by the British Ambassador
- ✓ 10:09-10:24 (15 min): Commemorative speeches by the Deputy Commander of the UN Command, Vice Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, and the Commander of the 66th Infantry Division
- ✓ 10:24-10:29 (5 min): Overview of the Korean War and the Battle of Gapyeong by UK defence attaché
- ✓ 10:29-10:39 (10 min): Memorial service by UN chaplain
- ✓ 10:39-10:42 (3 min): Playing of the last post, moment of silence, reveille by a UN bugler
- ✓ 10:42-10:50 (8 min): Wreath-laying
- ✓ 10:50-10:52 (2 min): Exit of the UN color guard
- ✓ 10:52-10:55 (3 min): Closing remarks by British defense attaché

2. Canadian Gapyeong Battle Memorial Ceremony

- **Organized by:** Canadian Embassy in Korea
- **Date/Location:** April 24th, Wednesday, 11:30-12:00 PM / Canada Monument (Gapyeong)

3. Australia-New Zealand Gapyeong Battle Memorial Ceremony

- **Organized by:** Australian and New Zealand Embassies in Korea
- **Date/Location:** April 24th, Wednesday, 11:30-12:00 PM / Australia-New Zealand Monument (Gapyeong)




4. ANZAC Day Ceremony

- **Organized by:** Australian and New Zealand Embassies in Korea
- **Date/Location:** April 25th, Thursday, 06:30-07:30 AM / War Memorial of Korea

ATTACHMENT 2

KEY PARTICIPANTS

Photograph	Affiliation (Title)	Name	Career / Education
	British Embassy in Korea (Ambassador)	Colin J. Crooks	- British Ambassador to ROK (Apr 2022-) - British Ambassador to North Korea (2018) - Minister-Counsellor at the British Embassy in China (2015) - Deputy Head of Mission at the EU Delegation to Indonesia, Brunei and ASEAN (2011) - Chargé D'Affaires to North Korea (2008) - Master of Modern Languages, Cambridge University
	Canadian Embassy in Korea (Ambassador)	Tamara Mawhinney	- Canadian Ambassador to ROK (May 2023-) - Chargée D'Affaires to South Korea (Aug 2022-Apr 2023) - Deputy Permanent Representative at the Mission of Canada to the UN (2018) - Advisor to the Secretary-General of the Francophonie (2013-2015) - Bachelor of History and Literature / Law, University of Toronto - Certificate of Political Studies in European politics and law at Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po) - Diploma in French and EU Public Administration, Management and Law from the École Nationale d'Administration
	Australian Embassy in Korea (Ambassador)	Jeff Robinson	- Australian Ambassador to ROK (Mar 2023-) - Deputy Secretary at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs - Assistant Secretary at the AUKUS non-proliferation branch (AUKUS: Security consultative body between Australia, the UK, and the USA) - Consul-General in Honolulu
	New Zealand Embassy in Korea (Ambassador)	Dawn Elizabeth Bennet	- New Zealand Ambassador to ROK (Feb 2023-) - Manager at the Australia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand (2019-2023) - Economic Counsellor at the Embassy in Beijing (2012-2017) - Trade Policy Officer in Brussels (2003-2006) - Second Secretary at the Embassy in Paris (2000-2003) - Master of Laws with honors, Edinburgh University
	Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (Vice Minister)	Lee Hee-wan	- Vice Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (Dec 2023-) - 'Heroes Family' mentor at the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (2023) - Member of the 'Policy Advisory Committee' of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (2022) - Manpower and Personnel Department (N1) at the Navy Headquarters (2018) - Graduate of the Korean Naval Academy (Class 54)










	United Nations Command (Deputy Commander)	LGen Derek A. Macaulay	- Deputy Commander of the United Nations Command (Dec 2023-) - Canadian 3rd Division Support Group Commander, 5th Canadian Division Commander, Acting Chief of the Canadian Army Staff - Master of Strategic Studies, U.S. Army War College - Master of Defense Studies, Royal Military College of Canada - Bachelor's degree, University of Manitoba
	ROKA 66th Infantry Division (Commander)	BG Shin Eun-bong	- Commander of the 66th Infantry Division - Chief of Staff of the Army Mobilization Command - Personnel Director (G1) of 2nd Operations Command - Commander of the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Division - Graduate of the Korean Military Academy (Class 48)
	Gapyeong County (Governor)	Seo Tae-won	- Governor of Gapyeong County (Jul 2022-) - Director of the Construction and City Bureau, Gapyeong County Office (Jan 2021) - Director of the Future Development Bureau, Gapyeong County Office (Jan 2020-Jan 2021) - Graduated from Kangwon National University, Department of Architectural Engineering

ATTACHMENT 3**REVISIT SCHEDULE**

Date	Time	Agenda	Location
Apr 21 (Sun)	-	Arrival	Incheon International Airport (ICN)
Apr 22 (Mon)	10:30-12:00	Panmunjom Tour	Panmunjom
	15:00-16:00	Battle of Imjin River Ceremony	Seolmari Battle Monument
	18:00-18:30	Orientation	Sofitel Ambassador Seoul 3F Bastille Room
Apr 23 (Tue)	09:00-11:10	Transit to Busan	
	14:00-14:30	Wreath Laying	UN Memorial Cemetery Busan
	14:30-15:30	Separate Tributes per Country	
	16:43-19:26	Transit to Seoul	
Apr 24 (Wed)	10:00-11:00	Battle of Kapyong Ceremony	Commonwealth Battle Monument
	11:30-12:30	Commemoration – Canada	Canada Battle Monument
	11:30-12:30	Commemoration – Australia/NewZealand	Australia/NewZealand Battle Monument
	17:30-18:30	Insadong Tour (optional)	
Apr 25 (Thu)	06:30-07:30	Anzac Day Ceremony	War Memorial of Korea
	07:30-08:10	Wreath Laying for the Fallen	
	09:00-11:00	Embassy Reception	British Embassy in Korea
	18:00-20:00	Thank-you Dinner	Rendez-vous Hall, Grand Mercure 2F, Dragon City
Apr 26 (Fri)	-	Departure	Incheon International Airport (ICN)

ATTACHMENT 4

KOREAN WAR STATISTICS (UNITED NATIONS)

TYPE	COUNTRY		PARTICIPATION		CASUALTIES				
			PAX	SERVICE(S)	TOTAL	KIA	WIA	MIA	POW
Combat Support (16)	US		1,789,000	Army/Navy/ Air Force	136,884	36,574	92,134	3,737	4,439
	UK		81,084	Army/Navy	4,937	1,106	2,674	179	978
	Canada		26,791	Army/Navy/ Air Force	1,761	516	1,212	1	32
	Türkiye		21,212	Army	2,299	900	1,155	-	244
	Australia		17,164	Army/Navy/ Air Force	1,586	340	1,216	-	30
	The Philippines		10,255	Army	740	194	543	-	3
	Thailand		7,420	Army/Navy/ Air Force	468	112	299	16	41
	The Netherlands		6,326	Army/Navy	1,280	136	1,139	5	-
	Colombia		5,322	Army/Navy	773	125	645	-	3
	Greece		5,100	Army/Navy	689	213	448	-	28
	New Zealand		3,794	Army/Navy	125	45	79	1	-
	Ethiopia		3,518	Army	658	122	536	-	-
	Belgium		3,498	Army	447	106	336	4	1
	France		3,421	Army/Navy	1,296	269	1,008	7	12
	The Republic of South Africa		826	Air Force	45	37	-	-	8
	Luxembourg		100	Army	15	2	13	-	-
Medical Support (6)	India		627	Field Hospital	26	3	23		
	Norway		623	Mobile Army Surgical Hospital	3	3			
	Denmark		630	Hospital Ship					
	Sweden		1,124	Red Cross Hospital					
	Italia		128	Red Cross Hospital					
	Germany		117 (Doctors)	Red Cross Hospital					
Total	22 Countries		1,988,080		154,032	40,803	103,460	3,950	5,819

* Source: 『UN Sending States in a Glance(2023)』 Institute for Military History, MND
(Germany was confirmed through MND's International Policy Division)