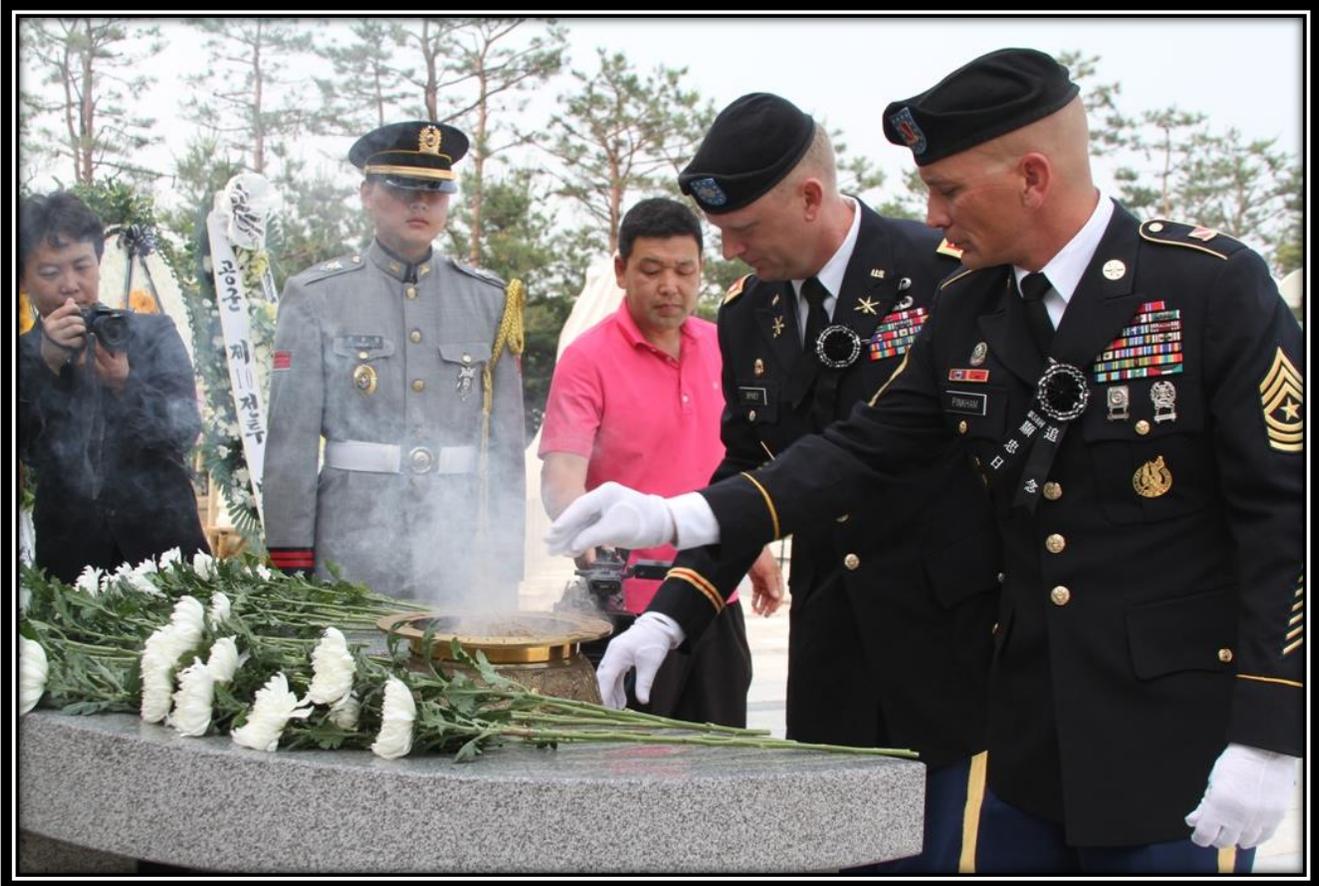


6-52 ADA PARTICIPATES IN ROK MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Article and photos by Spc. Issac Castleberry, 6-52 ADA Public Affairs



Above, the 6th Battalion, 52d Air Defense Artillery (6-52 ADA) Regiment Commander and Operations Sergeant Major, Lt. Col. Norman Spivey and Sgt. Maj. Scott Pinkham respectively, place a flower and burn incense as part of the commemoration of fallen warfighters during the Republic of Korea's Memorial Day Ceremony in Suwon, Republic of Korea (ROK), on 6 June 2013.

SUWON AIR BASE – The 6th Battalion, 52d Air Defense Artillery (6-52 ADA) Regiment Commander and Operations Sergeant Major, Lt. Col. Norman Spivey and Sgt. Maj. Scott Pinkham, honored fallen U.S. and Republic of Korea warfighters during the Republic of Korea (ROK) Memorial Day festivities on 6 June 2013.

More than 3,150 veterans, soldiers, government officials, students and guests came out to pay their respects to those that gave their life in defense of freedom.

In keeping with Korean funeral and memorial traditions since the late 19th century, participants approached the altar, bowed their heads, and placed a white chrysanthemum (flower) on an altar. The participating members also burned incense in a pot placed in the middle of the altar.

“Koreans believe using incense removes unclean spirits and refreshes the body and soul, linking the latter to heaven” said 1st Lt. Seong Won Kim, 6-52 ADA’s civil-military operation officer. “It is also believed that the fumes of the incense alert the spirits of the dead.”

Suwon City Mayor, Yum Tae Yong, who implemented a plan to ensure the efforts of the warfighters would not go unnoticed, delivered the Memorial address.

“Suwon city will open a sport facility for veterans who fought for the country against enemies,” said Yum.

Yum also weighed in with his opinion of how veterans should be treated. Korean and United Nation Soldiers, police and anyone who died for the nation should be respected for what they did for this nation, said Yum.

Governor of Gyonggi Province, Kim Mun Soo, spoke on the luxuries that South Korea enjoys because of decisions made during and after the war and suggested similar decisions should be made by their neighbor to the North.

South Korea’s sacrifices enabled us to build our economy and enjoy our freedom, said Kim. North Koreans should be open to following the way South Korean took instead of isolating themselves from the rest of the world.

“I really appreciate the Korean Government and other citizens have not forgotten what the United State did for this country,” said Kim. I’m happy to know they will continue to have ceremonies to honor U.S. Soldiers who sacrificed their life.”



Lt. Col. Norman Spivey and Sgt. Maj. Scott Pinkham salute the more than 3,150 guests that showed up for the Republic of Korea Memorial Day Ceremony on 6 June 2013 in Suwon.