

Open Letter to the Memorial Ceremony at Hyosoon-Miseon Peace Park

As a supporter of the construction of the Hyosoon-Miseon Peace Park in the past, and as a current supporter for the construction of a Memorial Archive next to the Peace Park in the near future, Veterans For Peace is pleased to send our warm greetings to all the people who are gathered at the Peace Park, in observation of the 22nd anniversary of the untimely deaths of Hyosoon and Miseon on June 13. We would like to send our deepest condolences to the surviving family members and friends of Hyosoon and Miseon.

Veterans For Peace is an international, non-profit organization of military veterans and supporters who work for peace and justice in the U.S. and abroad. A majority of our veteran members are U.S. citizens. Some of us were participants in the active fighting of the Korean War or were stationed in South Korea in the post-Armistice period. Because of this connection, we would like to offer our apology for the tragic deaths of the two young Korean school girls, as well as for many other deaths of innocent Korean civilians who were either killed or wounded by the U.S. soldiers or military machines in the past. These tragedies could have been avoided if the U.S. did not pursue its military domination of Korea.

As we observe the 80th anniversary of the arbitrary division of Korea at the 38th Parallel by the Truman administration and its subsequent military occupation of South Korea in 1945, we believe that the Korean people have suffered too long due to the unjust, continuing U.S. interference in Korean people's affairs. It is past time for the Korean people to realize their real liberation, independence, and freedom. It is also time for the U.S. government to withdraw its troops from Korea and allow the Korean people to determine their own future.

We pray for eternal peace for your beloved Hyosoon and Miseon. We also want to recognize their contribution to igniting the candlelight movement in Korea that has now grown into a powerful people's movement for peace, justice, and democracy. To make sure their deaths were not in vain, we all need to work together to achieve our common goals.

Long Live Hyosoon and Miseon!
End the Endless Korean War now!
Wage Peace!

In Solidarity,

s/Susan Schnall
President
Veterans For Peace
June 1, 2025

www.veteransforpeace.org