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Korean War Veterans – You will Always Be Our Heroes

PIERRE, S.D. - Over 450 South Dakota Korean Veterans received a special honor Tuesday. It's gratitude that some say is long overdue.

At a ceremony Tuesday afternoon in the State Capitol and in numerous communities throughout South Dakota, veterans were recognized for their service during the Korean War and were presented the Korean Ambassador Peace Medal.

"Jan. 12, 2016, will be remembered for our great heroes from what has been called the Forgotten War," said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "It was an honor to be able to place the medal on one of these heroes, but also to know that so many gave so much during that war."

"I thank the South Korean Government and our Governor for the great day and recognition of such a wonderful group of veterans," said Zimmerman.

"This celebration exemplified the partnership we share with the Republic of Korea, and the brotherhood those who have served will always possess," said Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard. "It was a true honor to share this day with true heroes from the Korean War and true patriots from our great state and the Republic of Korea."

Zimmerman encourages Korean War Veterans that served in Korea's land, air and sea from June 25, 1950, through Oct. 25, 1954, to contact their local county or tribal veterans service officer.

Although over 450 veterans were recognized and honored, there are many more veterans that qualify for the medal. "We will continue to seek out those Korean War heroes for recognition, assistance, and at the very least a 'thank you' for their service," said Zimmerman.