



South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Soldiers and Sailors Building
425 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-8242
Fax: 605-773-5380
<http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

FOR RELEASE: Tuesday, May 22, 2018

For more information, contact: Audry Ricketts at 605-773-8242 or audry.ricketts@state.sd.us (South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs)

Korean War Veterans' Advocate Hannah Kim to Visit South Dakota Korean War Memorial in Pierre on May 29

PIERRE, S.D. – On Tuesday, May 29, at 10 a.m. CDT, Hannah Y. Kim will visit South Dakota's Korean War Memorial at Capitol Lake in Pierre and present a commemorative wreath.

Pierre American Legion Post 8 will present the colors for the ceremony.

Her visit is part of a three-month journey, visiting Korean War memorials in all 50 states, to honor and remember those who served in the Korean War.

Hannah hopes her journey will raise awareness about the Wall of Remembrance, the addition to the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Wall was approved by Congress in 2016, but lack of funding has delayed its construction for two years. As a result, the names of the nearly 37,000 Americans who died during the Korean War are still waiting to be inscribed for posterity.

Hannah's activism on behalf of Korean War Veterans began in 2008, when she was a 24-year-old graduate student in Washington, D.C., and established Remember727, an organization dedicated to honoring veterans of the so-called "Forgotten War." Hannah lobbied Congress to enact legislation, signed by President Obama in 2009, that established July 27 as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day.

She subsequently worked for Congressman Charles B. Rangel, a decorated Korean War Veteran, as his communication director and later as his chief of staff. When Congressman Rangel retired in 2017, Hannah embarked on a journey around the world, visiting every country that was part of the UN effort during the Korean War. She interviewed 200 veterans to memorialize their stories, because as she told them, "If you hadn't fought in Korea, I wouldn't be here."

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, in their ongoing outreach mission, has awarded over 1,000 Republic of Korea Ambassador Peace Medals to Korean Veterans that served boots on the ground in Korea between 1950 to 1954.