



My father, General Paik, Sun-yup, always said, “During the chaos of the Korean War, many Soldiers died without a tomb. How can I lay in peace at National Cemetery? My burial site is undeserved.” All he wanted was to be buried with his Soldiers... Dirt from eight battlefields was placed on top of his coffin. Hopefully, he may rest in peace amongst the earth of the hardest fought battles and sacrifices of his comrades.

~ Ms. Namhi Park's tribute and other videos are in KDVA's Digital Library: kdva.vet/digital-library/

General and Ambassador Paik, Sun-yup passed away on July 10, 2020 at the age of 99. KDVA invited 11 distinguished leaders of the ROK-U.S. Alliance to share stories, pay tribute, and say farewell to this great man. I have been very fortunate to have been a part of many significant events, but hosting this tribute webinar is one of my most cherished honors. I will greatly miss Gen. Paik, and KDVA continues to send our warmest condolences to his family. ~ Gen. (Ret.) Walter Sharp, KDVA President and Chairman and former Commander of UNC/CFC/USFK



Gen. Paik dedicated all his efforts to enhance the ROK Army's combat capability by organizing modern tank battalions, enhancing artillery forces, and establishing the first combat group ... I have a special tie with Gen. Paik in that I served in four positions that have overlapped with his footsteps in the military. This is a great honor for me, and I will honor his spirit and legacy by continuing to strengthen the ROK-U.S. Alliance. ~ General (Retired) Jung, Seung Jo, President of KUSAF and former Chairman, ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff

Gen. Paik broadened South Korea's alliances by serving as Ambassador for 16 different countries during a very difficult time for Korea in the post-war years. His work in the diplomatic, military, and economic fronts have ensured that the people of South Korea can achieve their potential. Gen. Paik's life needs to be remembered, studied, and celebrated. ~ Ambassador Kathleen Stephens, former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea

Why do we call Gen. Paik a “Living Legend”? During the 1,100+ days of war, he was always on the battlefield, the only exception was when he met with U.S. President Eisenhower. Gen. Paik's vision and belief was that the only way for South Korea to be stable after the war was through an alliance with the United States. Gen. Paik has defended our freedom and promoted peace and prosperity all his life. ~ Ambassador Ahn, Ho Young, former ROK Ambassador to the United States

Gen. Paik symbolized the best of the Republic of Korea, the ROK-U.S. Alliance, and the fight for our shared values of freedom and democracy. The young people in the ROK and U.S. should look to Gen. Paik and his work as an example of service, devotion to country, commitment for the Alliance, and friendship. ~ Mr. Marc Knapper, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

With all his accomplishments, what was remarkable about Gen. Paik was his humility. When I came to visit, he always came out to greet me. This was a great sign and symbol of his respect for others. They say a measure of a great man is his humility. Whenever you were in the presence of Gen. Paik, we knew we were in the presence of a truly great man. ~ General (Retired) Curtis Scaparrotti, former Commander, UNC/CFC/USFK

When I met Gen. Paik for the first time as a Lt. Col. in 1996, he left a lasting impression with me. When I became a four-star general and met Gen. Paik again, he looked at me and said, “Ah, Brooks, I remember you.” ... I appreciated how Gen. Paik held you accountable by letting you know how important your work was for the Alliance. He has passed down this obligation to us, and this obligation needs to be passed down to each succeeding generation. ~ General (Retired) Vincent Brooks, former Commander, UNC/CFC/USFK

My best memory of Gen. Paik was shortly after I took command of Eighth Army. Gen. Paik conducted a mini-staff ride at one of the sites that was the headquarters of the Eighth Army during the war. Gen. Paik said that it was in this room that he spoke with U.S. President-elect Eisenhower and convinced him to support his plan to double the size of the ROK Army. With Gen. Paik's leadership and ROK-U.S. government support, the ROK Army did double in size -- an incredible feat. ~ Lieutenant General (Retired) David Valcourt, former Commander, U.S. Eighth Army

The greatest legacy of Gen. Paik is that he has brought all of us together at this moment. Because of him, the ROK-U.S. Alliance has come together to talk about things, reminisce about old challenges, and leading us to answers for future challenges. We need to remember his wisdom and courage and keep that spirit alive in tribute to Gen. Paik. ~ Lieutenant General (Retired) Chun, Inbum, former Commander, ROK Special Warfare Command

While I was Commander, we named Gen. Paik an honorary Commander of the Eighth Army. We called him the Senior Commander. One of my last memories of Gen. Paik was during my change of command. They told him that he did not need to stand from his wheelchair during the national anthems. But when the music started, Gen. Paik got out of his wheelchair and stood tall for both national anthems. ~ Lieutenant General (Retired) Bernard Champoux, former Commander, U.S. Eighth Army

Gen. Paik is the greatest general in modern Korea. He saved our country and modernized the ROK military. He was the greatest contributor for the ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty. I think Gen. Paik will say two things to ROK and U.S. military leaders in heaven, “Alliance Forever” and “We Go Together.” ~ Major General (Retired) Lee, Seo Young, former ROK Defense Attaché to the United States

I will always remember the looks of awe and smiles on the faces of young Soldiers as Gen. Paik presented awards to them. I also remember visiting Gen. Paik with my son and my late wife. We talked about that visit often, and it impacted my son positively. Gen. Paik mentored us on the significance of the United States' special relationship with the people of Korea. ~ Sergeant Major (Retired) Robert Winzenried, former Command Sergeant Major, UNC/CFC/USFK

JULY NEWS HEADLINES

July 1: GEN Abrams spoke at KUSAF and KDVA's 6th ROK-U.S. Alliance Forum. He said that theater-level training events are essential to readiness and the Alliance has made significant progress to fully meet conditions for wartime OPCON transition, but much work remains.

July 7: North Korea reiterated it has no intention to hold talks with the United States, just hours before the top U.S. nuclear envoy was set to arrive in Seoul.

July 8: U.S. Dep. Sec. State Stephen Biegun and ROK's First Vice For. Min. Cho Sei-young reaffirmed the “ironclad” commitment to the defense of South Korea. Biegun expressed full support for Seoul's push to resume inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation.

July 16: U.S. Sec. State Pompeo said Pres. Trump would hold another summit with Kim Jong-un only if “real progress” is expected.

July 20: Kim Jong-un presided over a Central Military Commission meeting to bolster North Korea's “war deterrent.”

July 21: Def. Min. Jeong Kyeong-doo and Sec. Def. Mark Esper discussed wartime OPCON transfer, combined exercise, and defense cost-sharing negotiations.

July 22: Sec. Esper said that he has not issued orders to withdraw U.S. forces from South Korea.

July 27: In U.S. Pres. Trump's proclamation marking National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, he highlighted that the U.S. Armed Forces continues to proudly serve side-by-side with the ROK military.

