

The Korean War Veteran

Internet Journal - February 11, 2012

We have lost another comrade... Donald Flieger, former national president Korea Veterans Association of Canada



Photographs taken by Major Charles Kim

Those who knew Don Flieger will be saddened to learn that he passed away on February 2 at the Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga, Ontario. Don was 81.

Those who did not know him will be saddened, too, for our good comrades are leaving us much too frequently and in growing numbers.

Don's funeral was held today, February 11, in his home city of Kitchener, Ontario, attended by family members, some of his comrades from the Korea Veterans Association of Canada and also from the Army, Navy and Air Force Association.

Don was the 10th national president of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada, serving a two-year term in 1997 and 1998.

Present at the funeral was another former national president, David A. Davidson, the 13th national president who held office in 2003 and 2004. Dave lives in Don's hometown of Kitchener.

The intrepid Charles Kim, form national president of the Korean Veterans Association (ROK) Canada East Chapter, drove up from Toronto to pay his respects.

Don was a veteran of the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps and had served from 1949 until 1970. In Korea he had been a sergeant with 54 Transport Company.

Donald Flieger, CD, is survived by his wife, Kay, daughters Susan, Wendy, Nina and Nora and sons Rick, Denis, Jerry and Michael. He is also survived by many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

Don took one veterans revisit group to Seoul in November, 1996 and in 1998 went with the Veterans Affairs Canada Pilgrimage that was headed by VAC Minister Fred Mifflin.

In company with Bill Allan (who also has passed away), Don was seeking a Korean businessman who had promised a large donation to help fund the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall which was being built in Brampton, Ontario. They could not track him down and returned without the sum of ten thousand dollars that had been promised.

With the group was Sergeant Ernest Alva "Smokey" Smith, Victoria Cross, jovial and as commanding as ever, and also Claude Petit, national president of the National Aboriginal Veterans Association, who had just been awarded the Order of Canada.

They were a jolly crew, indeed.

Indeed, we will remember Donald Flieger.



At the funeral home in Kitchener, some of the veterans gather after saying a final farewell to Donald Flieger. From left is the redoubtable Charles Kim from Toronto, Art Campbell, Ken Gauthorn and, seated, former national president of KVA Canada David A. Davidson.

