

The Korean War Veteran

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A visit to Veterans at London's Parkwood Hospital

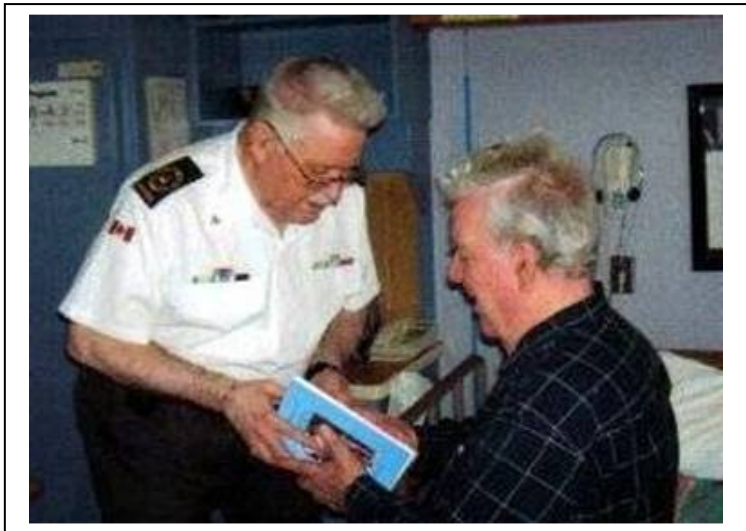
Earlier in the month the Korea Veterans of Canada Ontario Region president and the president of KVA Canada Unit 7 of London and other veterans, visited Korean War Veterans at the Parkwood Hospital in London to deliver copies of the book, *Love and Duty, a Canadian Remembers the Korean War*.

The book was appreciated, as it is a gift from Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, which published it in Korea for the book's author, so that it could be distributed to veterans in long-term care hospitals.

The book's first two pages are a dedication from the MPVA thanking the veterans for their service in the war and pledging that they will never be forgotten.

The distribution effort is headed by Terry Wickens, past national president of KVA Canada. KVA members in various locations are assisting voluntarily. The author stays involved in a coordinating and supporting capacity.

The intent is to honour the veterans, ensure a heartfelt visit from their comrades.



For those who are able to read, it is also meant to provide a form of therapy.

But the scythe swings constantly over the ranks of the veterans who served in Korea. This is moreso in the hospitals where these veterans are spending their last days.

Jack Reinholdt and Mr. George Burchill

KVA Ontario Region president Jack Reinholdt met with and warmly discussed

the book with veteran George Burchill just days ago,

Mr. Burchill's funeral will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, May 31.

Sadly, Mr. Burchill died in Parkwood Hospital on May 24, the traditional Queen Victoria Day holiday.

This veteran had served in Korea with the Canadian Provost Corps. He was predeceased by his wife, Jean, who passed away in 2010. He was 79 years old.

So never think that there is much time to visit our comrades in the hospitals and that "some day" when you have time, you might do it. They do not "fade away," as the song goes. They go much too fast and then are gone.

Jack met with another patient, Captain Robert H. Mahar, MID, who was not well that day, but he spoke with him and assured him that others cared that he was there.



Captain Mahar served in Korea with the 1st Battalion of The Royal Canadian Regiment and was awarded a Mentioned in Dispatches for bravery and outstanding performance.

Jack explains to Captain Mahar that the book is a gift from the Korean Government.

It is noteworthy that Captain Mahar's longtime friend, Captain George Maurice Fox, MM, CD, also of The Royal Canadian

Regiment, died at Parkwood Hospital eight weeks ago.

Captain Fox had served in Italy in World War Two as well as in the Korean War. He was 92.

Captain Mahar's son, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Robert Mahar, Jr. had taken his



father across the hall in a wheelchair to visit Captain Fox not long before his passing. His son reported that the two old soldiers had a very good chat,

Captain Mahar's son, Robert Jr., also is a Royal Canadian Regiment veteran and at one point in his career served as Canadian Forces Liaison Officer at the Pentagon in Washington.

Another veteran who served in Korea with The Royal Canadian Regiment, Roy Fitzpatrick, receives a book from the Korean Government.

There are some very special heroes in our nation's long-term care hospitals.

Many, many of them deserve individual honours for their service, their gallantry, their sacrifice.

All Korean War veterans are viewed as heroes by the Korean people.

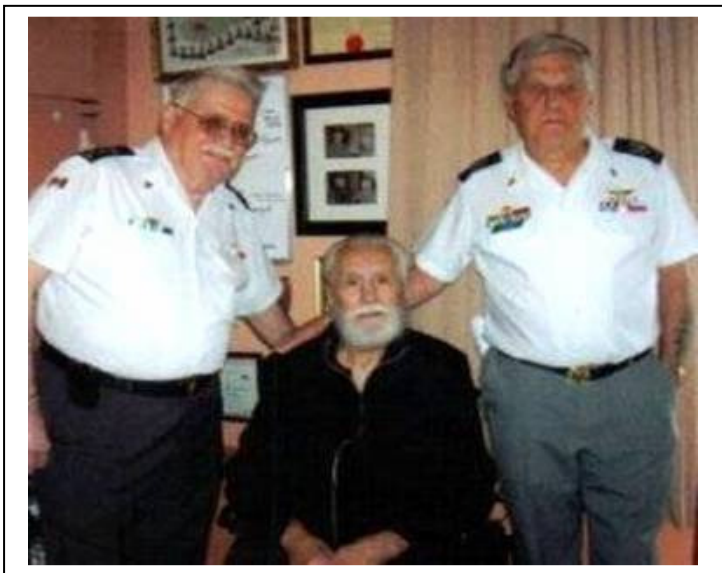
The message in the front of the book tells them that, "We cannot think of the Korean War without being moved at how all of you and many from other nations came here to defend our fledgling Republic when it was in grave danger..."

"The People and the Government of Korea hold you dear to their hearts,"

Do you know a veteran in a long-term care facility?

Terry Wickens, who is the executive in charge of distribution of the book is asking others for their help.

It is very difficult to get names of veterans from hospitals because of privacy laws. It also happens that one or two veterans may be in small long-term care facilities that are "off the beaten track."



Terry asks anyone who knows of a veteran in a long-term care facility to send the veteran's name and any known particulars of service. He will follow through and in some way ensure that a book is delivered to the veteran.

Jack Reinholdt and Joe Bennett, president of KVA Unit 7, London, with long-term care patient D.V. Thomas.

The book, *Love and Duty, A Canadian Remembers the Korean War*, was written by Canadian veteran Vince Courtenay. He is a member of Korea's 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Council.

Canada's Korean War Veterans collectively do not have a motto, except that "They served."

Many served not just for the war years but for the rest of their lives. The motto of The Royal Canadian Regiment is apropos for all of them.

It is *Pro Patria*.

It means "For Country."

