

### **Our Rights Affected by the Korean War**

We as Americans need to learn how to value our freedoms. When we support other countries in their struggles for liberty and peace, we should be reminded that America also had to endure endless wars to gain their rights and freedoms. We didn't receive our liberty by just saying, "We want freedom." One country we have helped and continue to help is South Korea. The Korean War Veterans have helped me understand this.

"Freedom isn't free". How many people have to die for a country to gain freedom? One million, two hundred, thousand brave servicemen had to die in the Korean War to keep South Korea free. While these men and women were out there, bullets dashing past their heads, in the cold, freezing weather of Korea, most Americans were completely unaware that the war was taking place. When our troops came back from Korea, after three years at war, there were no welcomes; no parades.

As Americans, we need to stop taking everything we have for granted and start realizing that the freedoms and rights we have are more valuable. The rights we possess are something everyone else in the world would die for. Our military puts their lives on the line for our liberty. We don't understand that other people somewhere else in the world don't have choices. They don't get to choose their destiny like we do. Their whole life is chosen for them.

The Korean War might not been considered a war won, but South Korea's shining star of democracy, made the Koreans proud of the Americans who helped them obtain this liberty. Like the KWV said, a demilitarized zone still stands as a boundary between North and South Korea. All the bloodshed is over, even though the war hasn't really ended. The military will continue fight for their freedom and ours.

We, living in America, need to learn the values of our rights and freedoms. We need to understand that freedom isn't free; freedom comes at a price, because every day soldiers give up their lives for our rights. We need to realize that we have choices, unlike people in other countries where opinions don't matter. The Korean War concluded in the division of two countries--North Korea and South Korea. The four Korean War Veterans that came to my school helped me understand this, through their different stories and explanations of their experiences.

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