

United States Senate

June 25, 2010

60th Anniversary Commemoration of the Korean War
Veterans Memorial Park
Tucson, AZ 85736

60th Anniversary Commemoration of the Korean War
Wesley Bolin Plaza
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Friends:

Sixty years ago, one of the bloodiest hostilities of the twentieth century began when North Korean communists crossed the 38th Parallel, invading South Korea. Today, at memorials across Arizona and across America, we mark this anniversary with admiration for the thousands of Americans who were called to faithfully serve, but also with respectful silence for those who perished in the Forgotten War.

It was in large part because of you that our nation was secured from an expanding, aggressive communist menace and that our good friends in South Korea remained free from an onslaught of oppression. Six decades later, our alliance, built on shared democratic values and mutual respect, remains unwavering. South Korea has become more prosperous, peaceful, and innovative and it stands in marked contrast to North Korea – a country with people of the same ethnicity, culture, and experience, but a completely tyrannical government – which is one of the poorest, most destitute, and most hopeless places in the world. You helped to save South Korea from that fate, and to build a future of freedom.

As you gather here today, remember that our troops are currently fighting, much as you did sixty years ago in Korea, in faraway places that most Americans will never see. They suffer as you once suffered, they are brave as you were once brave. And years from now, on some future anniversary that many of us won't see, they will bow their heads to mourn the sacrifices made to secure that future. They, like you, are family and friends to some, and heroes to all. God bless them and God bless you.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator