



America commemorated National Korean War Armistice Day on July 27--the annual day when our nation honors our service members who served during the war. This year marks the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the signing of an armistice that halted hostilities between North and South Korea. On July 27, 1953, the United States of America, which was also representing the United Nations, sat at a table with representatives from South Korea, North Korea--and China, which supported North Korea.

The representatives signed an armistice to immediately end the three-year-old war on the Korean peninsula. A heavily fortified demilitarized zone was built along the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. The armistice also called for the nations to work on a

permanent peace treaty to formally end the war.

Seventy-one years later, a peace treaty has yet to materialize.

North and South Korea technically remain at war. Tensions today remain high between the two Koreas—and between North Korea and the United States. America and its allies remain on alert and are constantly monitoring North Korea’s words and actions.

Often referred to as the “Forgotten War, those who served in the Korean served at a time when Americans were still weary of the global scale of World War II, which ended just five years before the start of the Korean War. On June 25, 1950, communist-China-backed North Korea invaded democracy-minded South Korea. It soon involved into the United States supporting South Korea, and China supporting North Korea.



More than six million Americans served during the Korean War era, of which 1.7 million who served “in-theater.” 33,700 American service members were killed in action—including 200 from New Mexico. 103,000 were wounded.

More than 7,000 Americans are still listed as missing in action and unaccounted for—including 44 New Mexicans.



The New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services urges all New Mexican Americans to take a moment to honor our Korean War-era veterans for their service and sacrifice. It is a mistake to refer to the Korean War as the “forgotten war.” Doing so disrespects those who served our country then -- especially those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and never came home.

Our Korean War veterans should be remembered and honored as defenders of democracy, who dutifully responded to serve when our nation came calling for their service. Thank you, Korean War veterans, for your service and sacrifice for our country.