

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2914

To recognize and honor the soldiers of the United States and the Republic of Korea who served, were wounded, or were killed from 1953 until the present in the defense of the Republic of Korea, to require the placement of a commemorative plaque at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 19, 2006

Mr. DEWINE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To recognize and honor the soldiers of the United States and the Republic of Korea who served, were wounded, or were killed from 1953 until the present in the defense of the Republic of Korea, to require the placement of a commemorative plaque at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “DMZ War Veterans
5 Recognition Act of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) the Korean War, which began in 1950 and
4 ended when the Korean War Armistice was signed
5 in 1953, is commonly known as the “Forgotten
6 War”;

7 (2) a later war in Korea, known only to some
8 veterans and their families as the “Unknown War”
9 or the “DMZ War”, occurred long after the Korean
10 War Armistice was signed in 1953;

11 (3) according to military documents, the leader-
12 ship of North Korea issued a declaration of war
13 against the United States in a speech in 1966, which
14 read that “U.S. imperialists should be dealt blows
15 and their forces dispersed to the maximum in Asia.
16 . . .”;

17 (4) the 124th Special Forces unit of North
18 Korea—

19 (A) was trained—

20 (i) to destroy the camps and civilians
21 of the United States;

22 (ii) to disrupt travel and communica-
23 tion between the Armed Forces; and

24 (iii) to sabotage and assassinate the
25 government officials of South Korea and
26 the United States; and

1 (B) repeatedly confronted the soldiers of
2 the United States and the Republic of Korea
3 when crossing through the Demilitarized Zone;

4 (5) since the Armistice was signed, over 40,000
5 Armistice violations have occurred, many of which
6 involved troops of the United States who were sta-
7 tioned in and around Korea;

8 (6) some of those violations, like the capture of
9 the USS Pueblo, caught the attention of the media,
10 although most have not;

11 (7) since the end of the Korean War, many sol-
12 diers of the United States have died or been wound-
13 ed in Korea as a result of hostile fire;

14 (8) some veterans of the Republic of Korea suf-
15 fer from exposure to Agent Orange, which was used
16 during a period that began in 1968 and ended in
17 1969 in and around the DMZ;

18 (9) because the hazardous properties of Agent
19 Orange last for at least 100 years, soldiers of the
20 United States who later served in the Demilitarized
21 Zone had been exposed to the chemical long after
22 the Armed Forces stopped using it;

23 (10) the military personnel of the United States
24 who served in the Korean War during the period

1 that began in 1966 and ended in 1969 received the
2 Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; and

3 (11) a few of the soldiers who fought and died
4 in the Korean War have been—

5 (A) nominated posthumously for the Con-
6 gressional Medal of Honor; and

7 (B) awarded—

8 (i) the Silver Star or Bronze Star for
9 valor in combat; and

10 (ii) the Purple Heart for being wound-
11 ed in combat.

12 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

13 (a) PLAQUE.—The term “plaque” means the plaque
14 directed to be placed at the Korean War Veterans Memo-
15 rial in Washington, D.C. under section 4(a).

16 (b) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the
17 Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of
18 the National Park Service.

19 **SEC. 4. PLACEMENT OF COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE.**

20 Not later than November 11, 2009, the Secretary
21 shall place on or near the grounds of the Korean War Vet-
22 erans Memorial in Washington, D.C., a plaque to com-
23 memorate the sacrifices of those who served, were wound-
24 ed, or were killed from 1953 until the present in the de-
25 fense of the Republic of Korea, that contains the following

1 inscription (in which the bracketed space shall include the
 2 date on which the plaque is placed): “Dedicated to the
 3 soldiers of the United States and the Republic of Korea
 4 who served, were wounded, or were killed from 1953 until
 5 the present in the defense of the Republic of Korea. The
 6 efforts of those soldiers have enabled the Republic of
 7 Korea to develop into a successful and modern country.
 8 Since 1953, the Armed Forces of the United States experi-
 9 enced more than 40,000 ‘Armistice violation incidents.’
 10 Those incidents have caused the deaths of over 100 sol-
 11 diers of the Armed Forces of the United States and the
 12 wounding of hundreds more from hostile fire in the Ko-
 13 rean Peninsula and its surrounding waters. Unknown to
 14 most citizens, the soldiers of the United States and the
 15 Republic of Korea fought and won the ‘DMZ War’ be-
 16 tween November 1966 and December 1969. That war
 17 caused the majority of the Armistice casualties. We re-
 18 member the service, sacrifice, and valor of all of those sol-
 19 diers on this 40th anniversary of the start of the DMZ
 20 War. Their fellow soldiers and their families will never for-
 21 get them. Let this Plaque aid their countries to remember
 22 them as well. Placed this day,
 23 [_____].”

