

Korean War, according to South Korean officials and escapees from the North.

Tens of thousands of South Korean POWs were held captive in the North under the program, penned in remote areas and kept incommunicado in one of the most scarring legacies of the three-year war. South Korean officials say that about 500 of those POWs—now in their 80s and 90s—might still be alive, still waiting to return home. In part because they're so old, South Korea says it's a government priority, though a difficult one, to get them out.

Almost nothing was known about the lives of these prisoners until 20 years ago, when a few elderly soldiers escaped, sneaking from the northern tip of North Korea into China and making their way back to South Korea. A few dozen more followed, and they described years of forced labor in coal mines. They said they were encouraged to marry North Korean wives, a means of assimilation. But under the North's family-run police state, they were designated as members of the "hostile" social class—denied education and Workers' Party membership, and sent to gulags for even minor slip-ups, such as talking favorably about the quality of South Korean rice.

When the war ended with a July 27, 1953, armistice agreement that divided the peninsula along the 38th parallel, about 80,000 South Korean soldiers were unaccounted for. A few, like Lee Jae-won, were presumed dead. Most were thought to be POWs. The two Koreas, as part of the armistice, agreed to swap those prisoners, but the North returned only 8,300.

The others became part of an intractable Cold War standoff, and the few POWs who have escaped say both Koreas are to blame. The South pressed the North about the POWs for several years after the war, but the issue faded from public consciousness—until the first successful escape of a POW, in 1994. The North, meanwhile, has said that anybody living in the country is there voluntarily.

South Korea took up the POW issue with greater force six years ago, as it became clear that a lengthy charm offensive—known as the Sunshine Policy—wasn't leading the North to change its economic or humanitarian policies. During a 2000 summit with Kim Jong Il, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung didn't even bring up the issue. But by 2007, the South was talking about the POWs in defense talks. And by 2008, under conservative President Lee Myung-bak, South Korea offered aid to win the prisoners' release.

But with relations between the two governments badly frayed, the countries haven't discussed the issue since military-to-military talks in February 2011.

"Time is chasing us," said Lee Sang-chul, a one-star general at the South Korean Ministry of National Defense who is in charge of the POW issue.

But without North Korea's cooperation, Lee said, the South has little recourse to retrieve its soldiers. Lee said that, realistically, the POWs have only one way to return home: They have to escape.

HOPES THAT WITHERED

So far, about 80 have.

They gather for annual dinners in the South, and some meet for regular card games. They've been given overdue medals and overdue apologies. They've testified about the POWs they know who are still in the North. They've shaken hands with the president. They've received major compensation payments—about \$10,000 per month, over five years.

The returnees have encountered all varieties of surprise, both bitter and grand, as a half-dozen of them described in recent inter-

views. One escapee, Lee Won-sam, was married just before the war and reunited with his wife 55 years later. But many left families in the North only to find alienation in the South. The POWs, like others in the North, were told for decades that the South was impoverished and decrepit—and their arrival in the South revealed the extent of that deception while also dropping them into incomprehensible prosperity. A handful lost money in frauds, South Korean officials say.

"I thought South Korea had lots of beggars under the bridge and everybody lived in shacks," said Lee Gyu-il, 80, who escaped in 2008.

Many escapees say that after the war, they were initially hopeful that the South would secure their return. That hope withered in 1956, when the North assembled the prisoners and told them about Cabinet Order 143, which turned them into North Korean citizens—albeit those of the lowest rank. They were told to be thankful that they had been welcomed into a virtuous society.

"Sadly, there was no real change in our daily lives," Yoo Young-bok, who escaped in 2000, wrote in his memoir, which has been translated into English. "We went right on toiling" in the mines.

'HE LIVED A FALSE LIFE'

Those who have escaped acknowledge their luck. It wasn't easy for them to flee. Some had to travel for days through the North and then dart across a river forming the border with China—at an age when some had trouble running. Brokers helped guide them but also charged them more than the going rate for defectors, knowing that the escapees would receive large payments after settling in the South.

They know a few who are still stranded in the North. Most of the former prisoners have died from mining accidents, disease, execution, famine and old age.

In Lee Jae-won's case, it was liver cancer. It was 1994, and he was 63. After being captured by the Chinese and handed to the North, he had worked for four decades in a mine at the northernmost point of the peninsula, near the Russian border. He'd married a woman with one eye—a fellow member of the hostile class—and had four children, all of whom were ridiculed by teachers and classmates for their family background.

But only as Lee's health deteriorated in his final months did he tell his children, for the first time, the details of his earlier life. He gave one son, Lee Ju-won, the names of family members in the South, as well as an address: the home in which he was raised.

"So after I buried him, I decided to go there," Lee Ju-won said.

It took him 15 years to defect. Two days after Lee Ju-won was given his South Korean citizenship, he traveled to his family's home town, Boeun. His relatives still owned the original property, though the home had been demolished and rebuilt.

During that visit, Lee Ju-won learned that his family had celebrated his father's birthday every year and always set aside a rice ball for him at the New Year's feast. He also discovered his father's letter from Paju, written weeks before the armistice, which a relative had saved.

Lee Ju-won learned that his father, before the war, had been rebellious and talkative—characteristics he stifled in the North, though he passed them on to his son.

"It turns out my dad was a lot like me, though he didn't show it," Lee Ju-won said. "He was admired in North Korea, because he worked hard and didn't do anything wrong. But he lived a false life. He knew one slip of the tongue could harm our whole family. So he never talked about South Korea."

Yoonjung Seo contributed to this report.

HONORING UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS COLONEL ADRIAN W. BURKE

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Marine Corps' Colonel Adrian W. Burke, who retired today after many years of decorated service.

Col. Burke is a native of Deer Park, Texas. He earned his commission in the United States Marine Corps as a Distinguished Naval Graduate from Texas A&M University where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree majoring in Marketing in 1984.

Col. Burke has served as a Logistics Officer and a North Africa, Middle East and Central Asia Regional Specialist. He has commanded at the platoon, company, battalion and regimental levels, leading troops into combat during nine campaigns. Furthermore, he commanded a reinforced logistics company that supported Regimental Combat Team One during Operation Desert Shield and Task Force Papa Bear during the invasion of Kuwait in Operation Desert Storm. He commanded a reinforced logistics battalion during the initial invasion of Iraq in support of the 1st Marine Division. Col. Burke returned with his battalion for a second OIF deployment to support Regimental Combat Team 7 during the expansion of combat operations into the western Al Aribar province of Iraq.

Col. Burke holds three Master's degrees. In 1992, he earned a Master of Business Administration degree with an emphasis in International Business from National University, San Diego, CA, where he was a Leadership Scholarship recipient. In 1999, he earned a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, Newport, RI; he was recognized with three research and writing commendations. In 2006, he earned a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy with a concentration in Supply Chain Management from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, DC; he was recognized as a Distinguished Academic Graduate and received a research and writing award for logistics excellence.

Col. Burke is a CTL, Certified in Transportation and Logistics by the American Society of Transportation and Logistics. He is a certified graduate of the Georgia Tech Professional Program in Supply Chain and Logistics. He is a graduate of the Marine Corps' School of Advanced Warfighting, a masters-level program that refines decision-making skills in complex environments. Col. Burke is also an Honor Graduate of the Marine Corps' Amphibious Warfare School.

The United States Marine Corps' Colonel Adrian W. Burke assumed command of the San Joaquin region Defense Logistics Agency Defense Distribution Center in July, 2010. His previous assignment was acting as the Director of Logistics for U.S. Forces Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom.

Col. Burke's personal decorations include: the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Star Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals, two Navy Achievement

Medals, and three Combat Action Ribbons. His unit decorations include: the Presidential Unit Citation, four Joint Meritorious Unit Awards and two Naval Unit Citations.

Col. Burke is married to his wife of almost sixteen years, the former Miss Traci Ann Patterson of San Diego, Calif. They have four children; Jimmy, Susie, Kadie, and Ellie.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Colonel Adrian W. Burke for his honorable service to our great Country.

TRIBUTE TO WOONG KYUNG KIM

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grandmaster Woong Kyung Kim of Aurora, Colorado. A Korean by birth, Mr. Kim, known affectionately as Bobby, became a household name in the world of martial arts as a teacher and a film star in the 1970s. Grandmaster Kim also occupied a peculiar but indispensable role in auxiliary to our armed forces from 1964 to 1979.

Born in Seoul, South Korea in 1942, Grandmaster Kim began his service to the U.S. military while in college as a Taekwondo instructor for the Army's Second Infantry Division, stationed at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Mr. Kim taught the American troops in Korea while finishing his studies and shortly after he graduated in 1969, he came to the United States and began teaching the ways of Taekwondo to cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Mr. Kim ended his tenure with the Air Force Academy in 1979 but continues to share his knowledge of the Korean martial arts with pupils in Colorado to this day.

Shortly after becoming an American citizen, Bobby Kim began an illustrious film career in 1975 and has been credited in 19 movies. Mr. Kim became a presence in the action and martial arts genre in both America and Korea over his career. Grandmaster Kim shared the screen with many great action stars during his career and even starred as the titular character in the 1989 Korean martial arts film "Ernie and Master Kim".

Grandmaster Bobby Kim served as a role model and a community leader throughout his life. His unique service to our country is a testament to the American dream and we should all be proud to call him our countryman. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Grandmaster Bobby Kim for a lifetime of achievement with our military and on the big screen.

RECOGNIZING CONNOR SHUPE

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Connor Shupe, a member of Boy Scout Troop 99 in Houston, Missouri, who received his Eagle Scout Award on July 7, 2013. It is the highest award in scouting and the importance of this achievement cannot be overstated.

In order for Connor to become an Eagle Scout, he earned twenty-two different merit badges in a wide variety of subjects as well as serving in various leadership positions in his troop. For his Eagle project, Connor set up a food drive and cleaned and painted the Texas County Food Pantry. He organized multiple volunteers in different shifts and roles to get this major accomplishment completed. Connor recently graduated from Plato High School and plans on attending Brigham Young University Idaho after he serves a mission for his church.

Not every Boy Scout achieves the rank of Eagle Scout. The merit that comes with it deserves to be recognized and celebrated, especially in the hopes of inspiring other young men to become hard-working, American citizens and volunteers in their communities.

IN HONOR OF RAJNATH SINGH, PRESIDENT OF INDIA'S BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Rajnath Singh to Washington, D.C. Mr. Singh is the current president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the main opposition party in India.

At age 24, Rajnath Singh was appointed District President of the Jana Sangh. In 1977, he was elected a Member of the Legislative Assembly from the Mirzapur constituency. In 1984, he became state president of the youth wing.

In 1986, he was appointed national general secretary of the youth wing. In 1988, he rose to the position of National President in the BJP youth and was also elected into the Uttar Pradesh legislative council.

In 1991, Mr. Singh became Education Minister in the first BJP government in the state of Uttar Pradesh. In April 1994, he was elected into the Rajya Sabha and he became involved with the Advisory committee on Industry, Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Agriculture, Business Advisory Committee, House Committee and the Committee on Human Resource Development. Mr. Singh was twice elected as National President of BJP and his political accomplishments also include his service as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, his home state.

Mr. Singh oversaw BJP victories in the states of Uttarakhand and Punjab, as well as municipal elections in Delhi, Chandigarh and across Maharashtra. In 2007, assembly elections in Gujarat added a new dimension to the string of successful electoral victories by the BJP.

In 2008, the BJP formed its first ever Government in south India when it rose to power in Karnataka. In 2008, BJP also registered victories in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The most successful phase in the BJP's history was when it managed to win 5 Assembly elections in a row in Uttaranchal, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

I am honored to welcome Mr. Singh to our nation's Capital. I thank him for his service to India and for his work in strengthening U.S.-India relations. I also commend the BJP party

for naming Chief Minister Narendra Modi as BJP's campaign committee chief.

As former Chairman and current Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I have and will continue to fully support Chief Minister Modi in his work to lift millions out of poverty by making development a mass movement. Making development a mass movement cuts across the barriers of caste, community, region, religion, race, gender, and status, and guarantees that the benefits of development reach all of us.

This extraordinary idea put forward by Chief Minister Modi has the potential to make the world a better place to live and, consequently, it is time for the U.S. to reverse its course and dialogue now with Chief Minister Modi, who may very well be India's next Prime Minister.

Once more, I welcome the President of the BJP party to Washington, D.C., and I thank Mr. Sanjay Puri, founder and CEO of the Alliance for U.S.-India Business (AUSIB), for bringing us together.

A HIGH POINT FURNITURE COMPANY WINS NATIONAL HONORS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, there is a company in the Sixth District of North Carolina that recently received a distinguished national award for its commitment to American workers and producing fine hand-crafted furniture in the United States. Edward Ferrell/Lewis Mittman (EF/LM) is the recipient of the "2013 Best: Made in America Award." I would like to congratulate all involved in this company's patriotic efforts.

Edward Ferrell/Lewis Mittman is a home furnishings and accessories company located in High Point, North Carolina. Steve Mittman moved EF/LM to North Carolina in 1992 from New York City where it was founded by his father in 1953. Today, EF/LM continues to operate in its modern High Point factory designed to nurture and support the great craftspeople of North Carolina.

EF/LM employs approximately 85 people in a variety of roles. The company is a "sell to the trade only" company that manufactures products in all categories of upholstered furniture and case goods. These products are showcased by about 15 managers and sales persons who run individual showrooms as their own businesses. The dedicated individuals at EF/LM work to incorporate surrounding local communities into the development of designs, and often volunteer their time and expertise for local non-profit causes. In addition to providing jobs in the Sixth District, EF/LM makes an effort to utilize local suppliers and other businesses for materials and tasks to further help American consumers and businesses.

Recently, EF/LM handcrafted a "bipartisan" sofa and hosted an event in which the sofa was staged in the Rayburn House Office Building Foyer. Respective sides of red and blue fabric were sewn together with white fabric to symbolize an invitation for Republicans and Democrats to sit, talk and listen about the importance of creating and sustaining jobs on American soil.