

Six Korean War veterans honored by “Little Angels” during world peace performance commemorating 60th anniversary of the Korean War

by Jonnie Melillo Clasen

Three Rangers were among six Korean War veterans presented with medals by the Little Angels following their spectacular performance at the Columbus River Center.

The performance was part of a 16-nation tour commemorating the June 25, 1950, anniversary of the Korean War.

LTC Ooyong Jung, Korean Army liaison officer for the Maneuver Center of Excellence, said the June 27, 2010, performance depicts South Korea’s 5,000-year history. The Little Angels tour is one of many ways South Korea continues to say “thank you” to veterans who answered the call “to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met.”

“Korea will never forget those UN soldiers’ sacrifices and will be forever grateful to those countries that came to our aid, especially when our national life was at stake.”



CAPTION (I-R) – The six Korean War veterans who received medals from the Little Angels in Columbus are former secretary of the Army Howard H. “Bo” Callaway, LTG Robert L. “Sam” Wetzel, COL. Ralph Puckett, CSM Charles “Chuck” F. Waters, MSG Joe Roy and MSG Vincent Melillo. The founder and director of the Little Angels, Bo Hi Pak, stands in front.

also presented with a medal by the “Little Angels.” Ferriter addressed the audience, thanking the Little Angels, who ranged from 9 to 15 years old, and the people of South Korea for the performance honoring America’s Korean War veterans.

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The Columbus event had special significance for Bo Hi Pak, founder and director of the Little Angels. A retired Korean Army lieutenant colonel, Pak studied officer leadership at Ft. Benning in 1950.

Pak said the six men receiving medals are representative of US soldiers who “came to the aid of South Korea.” They include former Secretary of the Army, Howard H. “Bo” Callaway; LTG Robert L. “Sam” Wetzel,; COL. Ralph Puckett; CSM Charles “Chuck” F. Waters, MSG Joe Roy, and MSG Vincent Melillo. Puckett, Waters and Melillo, a Merrill’s Marauder, are Rangers.

MG Michael Ferriter, Ft. Benning commanding general and a Ranger, was

CAPTION (Left clockwise) - The Little Angels perform the dazzling Fan Dance at the Columbus River Center. LTC Ooyong Jung, Korean Army Liaison officer for the Maneuver Center of Excellence, stands beside his wife, Kyungmi Jang, and daughter, Christina, both in traditional Korean dress. A composite of Korean War images was part of a “Korean War 60th Anniversary” booklet given to members of the audience.

