

IN MEMORIAM
December 13, 1929 – July 4, 1998

DAVID DOWNING, JR.
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS
U.S. ARMY (RETIRED)

David Downing, Jr. a native of Seattle, Washington, was born on December 13, 1929. He entered active duty the first time on June 13, 1951 for a three-year tour with the U.S. Marine Corps during which time he witnessed the signing of the 1953 armistice between North and South Korea. Later, he enlisted again in the U.S. Army as a supply sergeant, and served in Southeast Asia where he witnessed the cease-fire being signed in Vietnam. While still in the Army, David married the former Sun Im Yi on September 28, 1965. He eventually rose to the rank of Sergeant First Class and retired from the Army on November 30, 1977 with almost 24 years of active duty.

In retirement, David became somewhat of a legend among other retirees for his voluntary work as the Veterans' Administration Representative in Korea. His selfless service, tireless dedication and numerous contacts in the Korean government, the Social Security Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other federal agencies, secured tens of thousands of dollars in benefits for the surviving spouses of more than fifteen hundred servicemen and women. In recognition of this service, David Downing was awarded the Commander's Award for Public Service by the 34th Support Group Commander.

Among his military awards, David Downing earned the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal with one star, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal (6th Award), the USMC Good Conduct Medal, and six Overseas Service Ribbons.

David Downing is survived by his wife, Sun Im, many friends, and a thousand appreciative widows and widowers who are indebted to him for their survivor benefits.