

Office of Mayor Charlie Hales City of Portland

REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE: November 1, 2013

TO: City Council

FROM: Mayor Charlie Hales

SUBJECT: Accept Report from Portland Ulsan Sister City Association on the recent trip to Ulsan

I am pleased to submit for your consideration and acceptance a report from the Portland Ulsan Sister City Association on a recent trip to Ulsan, South Korea.

Sixty-three years ago, on June 25, 1950, North Korean forces invaded South Korea. Two days later, the United Nations Security Council published Resolution 83, recommending that its member states provide military assistance to the Republic of Korea. That same day, June 27, President Truman ordered US air and sea forces to help the South Korean regime. For the next three years, United States soldiers, joined by UN forces from Turkey, the United Kingdom, Italy, and others, fought on behalf of the South Koreans. The losses were staggering – 178,426 dead and 32,925 missing, with over 298 dead from Oregon alone. The Korean War was one of the bloodiest yet most overlooked in modern history.

Among those fighting from the United States were six men: from the Marines, Drury Woods, Alpert Pule, and Bruce Pence; from the US Army, Arthur Hull and Bruce Wickward; and from the Navy, Hollis Hess.

Another young man left Oregon but never returned, lost in combat: Lee Eldon Erickson.

On July 27, 1953, having held the North Korean army to the 38th parallel, the United Nations Command signed the Korean War Armistice Agreement to end the fighting. South Korea was nearly destroyed, a nation seeking to rebuild itself. Sixty years later, South Korea is one of the strongest economies in the world, a democratic nation with prosperity and a young and eager population. The nation is transformed from what those six veterans remembered from their days of war.

Ulsan's transformation has particularly been amazing. Under the leadership of Mayor Maeng-Woo Bak, Ulsan is a green city with the strongest economy in the country. Mayor Bak asked Katherine Morrow, the president of the Portland Ulsan Sister City Association, and Judy Parker, Director of International Relations in the Mayor's Office, to identify six Korean War veterans to thank them for their service to Korea. Those six veterans – along with two partners, Shirley Hess and Dr. Jackie Walden; Ms. Morrow and her husband Koichi Kim; and Ms. Parker – flew to Ulsan for a week.

The purpose of this presentation on November 14, 2013, at 3:00 is for the veterans to tell the City Council about this trip – not only what they saw and whom they met, but also their impressions of Korea then and now, after sixty years of development. Ms. Morrow and Ms. Parker will also tell the City Council about the strong relationship between Portland and Ulsan developed before and on this trip. They will present a slide-show with pictures of the weeklong trip, entirely financed for the veterans and Ms. Morrow and Ms. Parker by the City of Ulsan.

This is particularly resonant as we celebrate Veterans Day on November 11.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hales Mayor of Portland

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Agenda No. REPORT NO.

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TIME CERTAIN X Start time: <u>3:00 PM</u>

Total amount of time needed: <u>1 hour</u> (for presentation, testimony and discussion)

CONSENT

REGULAR Total amount of time needed: ______ (for presentation, testimony and discussion)

FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
		YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz	1. Fritz		
2. Fish	2. Fish		1 3
3. Saltzman	3. Saltzman	X	0,0
4. Novick	4. Novick	5	Par
Hales	Hales	201	