

Korean War Memorial at the Iowa State Capitol, 2017

Korean War 1950-1953

Early on the quiet Sunday morning of June 25, 1950, - June 24th in Washington - the North Korean People's Army attacked South Korea. They crossed the 38th parallel with 135,000 soldiers and 22 Russian built tanks. This action touched off one of the most tragic events of our time — what has been referred to as “Korea - The Forgotten War.”

The Valor of the Ground Forces

The Korean War was one of the bloodiest in history. In 37 months of fighting, both sides used the most advanced machines of modern war, except atomic weapons. Jet aircraft were used in combat for the first time and the helicopter was used extensively. All of Korea, excepting the area inside the Pusan Perimeter, was laid waste.

The Mighty Navy Command of the Sea

More than one million civilians were killed and millions more were wounded and left homeless. United Nations forces suffered more than 1,460,000 casualties. More than 2,000,000 Chinese and North Koreans were killed wounded or missing. The United States casualties included 54,246 killed, 103,284 wounded and 8,177 missing.

Superior Was Our Air Power

This monument is in honor of those 85,314 Iowans who served and their families. It is dedicated to those 508 Iowans who made the supreme sacrifice. May this war never be forgotten.