UPF: Colombia honors its' Veterans of the Korean War

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On November 16 in Colombia, we held a commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, while maintaining the proper distance from one another and adhering to other pandemic protocols. The Universal Peace Federation of Colombia offered a lunch in commemoration of the anniversary, which drew thirty people including eleven veterans of the Korean War -- one officer and ten non-commissioned officers -- representing all veterans still living in Colombia.

From Latin America, Colombia alone contributed troops to the UN Forces, 4,314 men in all. Colombia also deployed its only frigate at that time, the Almirante. The first Colombian soldiers arrived in Korea on May 8, 1951, two months before truce talks commenced between the two sides.

Colombian troops fought under the command of Alberto Ruiz Novoa (1917–2017). The last Colombian soldiers departed Korea on October 1, 1954. Colombian veterans of the Korean War, who currently do not exceed 550 people, are around ninety years old and many are in poor health. However, they participated in the meeting with the same spirit that led them to participate in a war in a country that they did not even know of seventy years ago.

At the meeting, where veterans families and some ambassadors of peace participated and accompanied the veterans, the veterans were named Ambassadors of Peace, for their noble heroic acts when participating in the Korean War and helping in the liberation of that nation that now maintains a close brotherhood relationship with Colombia.

The meeting that took place, included some images of the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary in 2010, which the veterans remembered with joy because of the visit of the children's dance troupe, the "Little Angels," who with songs and dances made the heart happy. The veterans were comforted by their message, "We will never forget your" and said that this was also evident in the current anniversary celebration.