



U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys

Dec. 1, 2021

The Army's Home in Korea

# CONNECTIONS

## In this issue:

- Welcome to the re-imagined Connections newsletter (p. 2)
- Cultural experience shapes pottery and friendship (p. 2)
- Around the Garrison (p. 3)
- Humphreys families make friends through the love of kimchi (p. 4)
- Music transcends cultural differences (p. 5)

Maj. David Ko, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys chaplaincy resource manager (left), and Col. Karen Meeker, Eighth Army command chaplain (right), look at the 3-by-3 tiles designed by Humphreys Central and Humphreys West Elementary School students and artist Kang Ik-joong during the Kiddy Car exhibit unveiling ceremony at Humphreys Central Elementary School Nov. 16, 2021. (Photo by Sgt. Courtney Davis)



## The Kiddy Car project returns home

By Sgt. Courtney Davis, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Public Affairs Office

CAMP HUMPHREYS, Republic of Korea – Two years after Kang Ik-joong collaborated with the youth of Camp Humphreys elementary schools, he donated their Operation Kiddy Car art piece to Humphreys Central Elementary School in an unveiling ceremony Nov. 16.

Tales of Lt. Col. Dean Hess, fighter pilot, Staff Sgt. Mike Strang, chaplain's assistant, and Col. Russell L. Blaisdell, chaplain, and how their actions in battle saved 1,000 Korean orphans during the Korean War, will be remembered for years to come thanks to the Operation Kiddy Car exhibition.

"About two years ago we had a Soldier that decided he wanted to get this up and running," said Tiffany Bryant, principal of Humphreys Central Elementary School. "It was a partnership that we put together as a school. We also partnered with Humphreys West. The history was provided of the Kiddy Car project to the students so they better

understood what they were getting ready to be a part of."

Humphreys school administrators educated their students about the importance of Operation Kiddy Car and the symbolism behind creating the piece.

"The stories of their sacrificial love and care for the orphans through Operation Kiddy Car inspires us to serve others selflessly and encourages us to stand strong as we face uncertainty of the future in our lives," prayed Maj. David Ko, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys chaplaincy resource manager.

A total of one thousand 3-by-3 tiles make up the piece, each tile representing one of the children who was evacuated in 1950. The designs on the individual tiles are of children's future careers.

(continued on p. 5)





## From the editor:

Welcome to the newly re-imagined U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Connections newsletter. Every other week we'll bring you the latest articles and photos telling the garrison's story. We'll also include upcoming events hosted by the many great organizations here in the Camp Humphreys community.

If you have information or an event you would like to highlight, please see below for the email to send your submission. We look forward to your feedback and input.

Margaret Manning, spouse of 2nd Lt. Keene Manning, from 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, creates a pot with the assistance of potter Kim Sang-lok during a cultural ceramics tour Nov. 15, 2021, in Yeosu, South Korea. (Photo by Monica K. Guthrie)

# Cultural experience shapes pottery and friendship

By Monica K. Guthrie, Special to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Public Affairs

CAMP HUMPHREYS, Republic of Korea – When Lindsey Brown stepped off the tour bus in the late afternoon of Nov. 15, she and a group of other women gathered on the sidewalk to make plans. Voices blended together as they reciprocated how they were each glad to have met the others and ensured they would connect through exchanged phone numbers and social media accounts.

Brown and the others were part of a group of 40 military service members, civilians, and family members invited by the Korea-America Friendship Society to participate in a Yeosu ceramic tour. The tour was free and included transportation via bus, lunch, and pottery making.

"I'm into anything that helps me get to know Korea better," said Brown, whose husband is Tech. Sgt. London Brown with the 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron. "I liked the fact that it was easy. You show up and they provide everything ... You just can't beat that."

Lisa Ku, a volunteer and translator with KAFS, said the event was organized to provide a chance for members of each

culture to interact with one another.

"We want to have American military families know some Korean culture," said Ku.

The day's program included a trip to Silleuksa Temple in Yeosu, the only Buddhist temple in Korea positioned

near a river. The group was divided into two and provided with a tour guide

*(continued on p. 6)*

Kelly Lesperance takes a photo of Theresa Carns at Silleuksa Temple Nov. 15, 2021, during a cultural tour in Yeosu South Korea. (Photo by Monica K. Guthrie)



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Garrison Commander

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**Submit stories, nominations, or photos to USAG Humphreys Connections to: [kelly.m.pickett2.civ@army.mil](mailto:kelly.m.pickett2.civ@army.mil)**

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# Around the Garrison



U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Soldiers and their Families experience Korean archery at Hwaseong Fortress Nov. 13, 2021, in Suwon, South Korea. The city tour was coordinated through the chaplain's office and aimed to foster ready and resilient teams and strengthen the ROK-U.S. alliance through a friendship opportunity with the Good Neighbor Program of Suwon. (Courtesy [photo](#))



Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys play a team-building soccer game to kick off the Thanksgiving weekend at Four Chaplains Memorial Chapel Nov. 24, 2021. ([Photo](#) by Sgt. Courtney Davis)



Seongjoo Kim (standing) and Seongsoo Kim (kneeling), both students at Camp Humphreys Middle School, take turns operating the firefighter ventilation fan during the Learning Impaired Moderate to Severe program's trip to Fire Station 4 on Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Nov. 1, 2021. The class visited the fire station as part of their community-based intervention program to understand the role of the fire department and how they help the community. ([Photo](#) by Sgt. Courtney Davis)

Emmett Manibusan, a student at Humphreys Middle School, tries on a firemen's hat as part of the hands-on experience during the Learning Impaired Moderate to Severe program's trip to Fire Station 4 on Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Nov. 1, 2021. The class visited the fire station as part of their community-based intervention program to understand the role of the fire department and how they help the community. ([Photo](#) by Sgt. Courtney Davis)





# Humphreys families make friends through the love of kimchi

By Sgt. Courtney Davis, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Public Affairs Office

CAMP HUMPHREYS, Republic of Korea (Nov. 16, 2021) – Behind the stadium of Pyeongtaek University, past the soccer field, two communities united as one to make kimchi.

The Korean-American Children's Culture Exchange Association hosted their third Kimchi Making Festival Nov. 13, inviting the U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys community to join Pyeongtaek residents to make kimchi for those in need. The event was also an opportunity to strengthen the bond between the two communities.

"The kimchi we make today is not just kimchi, but sharing love

for our neighbors, isolated children, and the handicap people in Pyeongtaek," said Jang Seon-jung, mayor of Pyeongtaek.

Humphreys volunteers geared up with their hair nets, pink rubber gloves, and blue aprons. They paired up with their Korean companions, ready to partake in making a traditional cultural cuisine.

"My wife loves kimchi. It's easy to make, and it tastes

really good. I know it is a staple in this culture here," said Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin C. Lemon, the U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys senior enlisted leader. "I am here for the fellowship, to continue the relationship we have, and to have a good time. We are always here to show support for the ROK-U.S. alliance."

Three rows of tents with elongated tables lined the university's courtyard. All participants worked quickly to get the fermented cabbage into the sauces and packaged into the containers. Korean volunteers used non-verbal cues to help teach their American friends how to make the delicacy. Both parties laughed and seemed to enjoy being out and connecting over the process.

"This is our second year here. We came out last year and had a lot of fun," said Danielle Roth, a Humphreys community

member. "We love the people, the food, and being able to make kimchi. My favorite part is making friends and exposing my kids to different things."

The line of workers filled container after container with kimchi. As they packaged it, the volunteers also got the opportunity to indulge in the dish they created.

"My family and I truly enjoyed the opportunity to experience firsthand some of the local Korean culture," said Sgt. Maj. Alex Petty, Eighth Army command paralegal. "Learning about 'winter' kimchi, making it, and getting to eat what we made was

icing on the cake."

After a day of making kimchi, there was a period of music, drum and dance performances, and giveaways. There was also a stack of containers ready to give away to Pyeongtaek community organizations and the Humphreys volunteers.

"As we finished eating some of our kimchi, we got to see thirty minutes of traditional Korean dancing and music,"



Janelli Lemon, Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Lemon (center), the U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys senior enlisted leader, and Col. Seth Graves, the garrison commander, make kimchi during Pyeongtaek's third Kimchi Making Festival hosted by the Korean-American Children's Culture Exchange Association Nov. 13, 2021. (Photo by Sgt. Courtney Davis)

continued Petty. "Overall, our family left with a greater understanding and appreciation of the ROK culture and feel like more people should get involved with their local community. They'll more than likely leave happy and full."

The Humphreys garrison commander closed out the festival with a special thank you on behalf of the American community.

"A special thanks to Pyeongtaek University for hosting us all today. Events like today are very important. They help us better understand one another's cultures, they enhance our friendship, and most importantly they strengthen the ROK-U.S. alliance," said Col. Seth C. Graves. "It is even more meaningful and special when we can come here together and help those in need."



Distinguished guests, including the U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys command team, enjoy a musical performance during the sixth ROK-U.S. Peace Music Concert hosted by PIEF at Pyeongtaek North Art Center Nov. 5, 2021. (Photo by Sgt. Courtney Davis)

# Music transcends cultural differences

By Sgt. Courtney Davis, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Public Affairs Office

CAMP HUMPHREYS, Republic of Korea – The U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys command team attended the sixth ROK-U.S. Peace Music Concert at the Pyeongtaek North Art Center Nov. 5.

Pyeongtaek International Exchange Foundation hosted the concert to continue strengthening the Republic of Korea and U.S. alliance by providing a warm environment to enjoy Korean musical culture.

“Attending these concerts are important to my wife and I because it demonstrates our commitment to the U.S.-ROK alliance,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin C. Lemon, the U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys senior enlisted advisor. “I’ve learned over the years that people tend to bond over a couple of things — great food and great music. This concert provides the latter.”

There was definitely no shortage of fun. The performers lit up the stage with K-Pop, classical music, a taekwondo demonstration, and an operatic duo who blew the roof off the auditorium.

“I hope that Pyeongtaek citizens and U.S. military officials who are participating in the event will also put aside all their worries and have fun,” said Shim Soon-bong, the chief executive officer of the Pyeong An Newspaper.

The crowd stood up with their hands proudly over their hearts while they listened to Lee Sun-yeong and Jang

Cheol-joon sing the U.S. and Korean National Anthems.

“Looking through the audience and seeing USFK-affiliated members and those of our host nation enjoying themselves reinforced to me the special bond we all have with one another,” said Col. Seth C. Graves, the U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys commander.

People in the audience bobbed their heads and clapped to the beat of the instruments. Byeol Sarang performed three popular Korean dance songs. Her on-stage hype team led the audience to sing and clap along with her call and response parts of songs.

Sarang bowed and waved to show her gratitude to the audience’s applause. The performer was not the only one appreciative of the patrons’ support.

“I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the USFK service members, their families, and Pyeongtaek citizens who are here today,” said Yea Chang-sub, chairman of PIEF.

As the command team departed for the night, they expressed excitement for future opportunities to enhance their bond with the Pyeongtaek community.

“Anytime I can attend an event that can show the garrison’s support and thanks to the City of Pyeongtaek, I’ll be there,” said Graves. “Camp Humphreys is extremely fortunate to have a strong relationship with the City of Pyeongtaek.”

## KIDDY, continued from page 1

American students designed 960 of the pieces and Kang donated 40 from some of his other artwork.

“Hundreds of individually designed pieces of art were contributed to this particular exhibit, which embodies the relationship of compassion and commitment between the United States and South Korea over 70 years,” added Bryant.

The background of the exhibit is a shadow uniting the individual tiles. It is a depiction of the transport airplane used to pull the families and orphans from Seoul during the operation, according to Bryant.

“It’s extra special that the artwork commemorating the 70th anniversary of Operation Kiddy Car found its permanent home in Humphreys Central Elementary School,” said Col. Seth C. Graves, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys commander. “Artist Ik-Joong Kang and hundreds of Humphreys elementary students created a masterpiece that serves as a continued reminder of the evacuation of nearly 1,000 Korean children in 1950 and reinforces the ironclad alliance between Korea and the United States.”

## POTTERY, continued from page 2

and an interpreter. During the tour, participants learned about the history of the temple and its significance in Korean culture before being released to walk the grounds on their own.

"I like how Korea is very intentional about wanting to make sure Americans enjoy their experience here," said Brown. "In America we don't really do things like this for foreigners. I just really appreciate it and admire the culture that Korea has for foreigners."

The group then traveled to their pottery-making location where they enjoyed a Korean bento-box lunch before browsing a warehouse of pottery available for purchase. The pottery included items ranging from miniature pots with lids to two-foot vases and planters.

The pottery-making class occurred simultaneously with a ceramics-painting opportunity. Participants chose a table and decided between a heart-shaped bowl and a rectangular tray to paint. Using the provided supplies, each person was free to come up with their own design. Meanwhile, potter Kim Sang-lok invited participants, one-by-one, to his potter's wheel where he assisted them in making their own small pot. The pots will be put in a kiln and then delivered to Camp Humphreys when they are complete.

As participants began their activity, the room transitioned from soft voices to conversation and laughter. While few in the group knew each other, strangers quickly evolved to new friends. Brown said she met one Korean citizen on the trip and has plans to get together with them. Additionally, she met a spouse who is new to Korea and hopes to spend time with her as well.

"That's another thing I like about these trips," said Brown. "Usually you meet someone. I think it's really neat that we get to know other people."

As the busses returned to Camp Humphreys, the organizers stood to express their thanks to those who participated in the exchange experience. They emphasized future events and invited all to join them again.

"I hope more people will know about (future events so) they can come and enjoy them," said Ku. "Everyone is so friendly, I am happy to meet them."

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## HAPPENINGS AT HUMPHREYS

- [Humphreys Tree Lighting Celebration](#) at the Downtown Plaza, Fri., Dec. 3 at 5:30 p.m.
- [Humphreys Who-liday Celebration](#) at Duke Memorial Library, Sat., Dec. 11 at 10:30 a.m.
- [Brunch with Santa](#) at the Morning Calm Center, Sun., Dec. 12 at 10 a.m.
- [BOSS Reverse Panel](#) at Four Chaplains Memorial Chapel, Tues., Dec. 14 at 2 p.m.
- [Operation Happy Holiday](#) at garrison chapels, drop off toys by Tues., Dec. 14, ruck march Wed., Dec. 22.
- Christmas Cantata at Four Chaplains Memorial Chapel, Sat., Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.

Click the provided links for more details and information.