

# BRIDGING GENERATIONS:

## With Heroes of the Forgotten War

### 2025

This event is organized to celebrate and honor Korean War veterans. The program fosters meaningful intergenerational connections with young American and Korean students. Korean and American students will collaborate on mini performances featuring Korean and American songs.

Please join us to deliver our deep appreciation for the 'forgotten war' heroes. We also appreciate our friends, parents, teachers at Andover Public Schools who supported this program.

Program brought to you by  
Educational Divide Reform (EDR)  
Korea War Veterans Association (KWVA)  
Andover Public Schools (APS)  
The Academy at Harvard Square (TAHS)



EDR **and** over  
Educational Divide Reform

PUBLIC SCHOOLS







## EVENT BACKGROUND

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# The

Andover Public School and Educational Divide Reform (EDR) invited 30 Korean students for two weeks in January. While in the United States, students were fully immersed in the American society and engaged with American students and teachers. The EDR Intercultural Leadership Program allowed both American and Korean students to experience each other's cultures, share educational values, and build long-lasting friendships.

During their stay, the public annual event "Bridging Generations With Heroes of the Forgotten War", is held in West Middle School, Andover, MA. Hosted by EDR in collaboration with Korean War Veteran's Association (KWVA) and Andover Public Schools, "Bridging Generations" is an event that reminds the young generations of the Korean war veterans' sacrifice for freedom and democracy.



# OPENING SPEECH

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By Dr. Jay Jinseop Jang

President, Educational Divide Reform

## **History is Not a Book, but of Humans**

I would like to start off by saying “Thank you” to Korea War veterans of America and Chapter 299 of the Korean War Veterans Association, Andover Public Schools, and Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Boston, whose collaboration made this event possible. I am also grateful to Master Shin and his Tae Kwon Do Team, Lawrence/Andover YMCA, and all host families.

My staff and I organized this event in order to bridge generations in three ways: by **learning history, appreciating sacrifice, and finding humanity.**

First of all, we want our children to learn history. The Korean War is called Forgotten War. But it must not be forgotten.

To me personally, the Korean War’s history is not a book, but a human. I remember the Korean War with a scar on my father’s leg. When I was a child like you, I tried to know from my father how he fought in the bloody battle. If my father did not survive



the war, I would have never existed.

My father passed away a long time ago, but I am really happy to meet his combat friends, American soldiers. You fought along with my father, thus you are my father's friends. I respect you as I respected my father.

Now I want to tell my lovely Korean students: History is not a paper book, not a video. History is of humans who are now living and lived in the past. At this moment, please close your paper book, and instead talk to real history, the Korean War heroes sitting near you.

Likewise, I want to tell respectable veterans: History is not a paper book, not a video. History is of humans who are now living and will live in the future. At this moment, please close your photobooks, and instead talk to real history, the young generations from South Korea, sitting near you. You will be happy to see the happy and well-nourished kids of the country where you saw starving orphans crying for their parents and food.

Korean children, you are a lucky generation. We are now living in a world where you can live peacefully with other nations. Everyone in every nation can become your friends, not enemies.

Even North Korea, we now understand that the regime and the dictators are bad, but humans living in North Korea are the same humans as you. Many North Koreans, after escaping the country for freedom, live around you.

Korea now has become a global economic power. Koreans are often considered beautiful and nice, perhaps thanks to Chun Jiyeon at the Korean TV drama of "You from the Star," or Psy's horse-riding dancing of "Gangnam Style."

It is good to feel proud and happy at present. However, please do not forget who contributed to your prosperity of today.

Nearly seventy five years ago, your or your friends' grandfathers and grandmothers struggled to survive like this picture. Some tragically had no luck and died, falling in the cold winter sea. They survived the horrible lives, thanks to American grandfathers' sacrifice.

Just in the battle of Chosin Reservoir, almost 6,000 soldiers of the First Marine Division died from the cold and injury, calling for their mothers, in a foreign country which they had never known.

Many Korean survived thanks to American grandfathers' humanity. After the battle of Chosin Reservoir, American officers and soldiers were willing to throw away their heavy weapons

in the sea to take as many refugees as possible in the ship of Victoria at the port of Hamheung, North Korea. The number of passengers in the ship was a Guinness-book world record high so even going to the toilet was not possible.

South Korea's success was built on the sacrifice of American grandparents as well as your Korean grandparents. We, Koreans are decent people, who must thank the American grandparents for their sacrifice.

Luckily, you are meeting these historic American grandfathers today. As a child, you may think you have no power. No. Wrong. You are cute, but very powerful messengers, even more powerful than any Korean government officials.

You can deliver South Korea's genuine message to the heroes of the Korean War. "We Koreans will never forget you forever."

Now you come to know: History is not a book, but of humans.

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# APPRECIATION LETTERS

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from Korean Students to Korean War Veterans





## Hwan Kim, 5th grade

Dear Korean War Veterans

Hello. My name is Hwan Kim. I'm here for studying English. And I'm South Korean.

Thank you for your service in Korea. If you didn't participate in Korea war, maybe our president would be Jung-un Kim, and we will be under Kim's dictatorship. And that's awful. I respect you from the bottom of my heart. If I was you, I think I don't want to go to the Korean war because it is risky, and it is not related to America, but you did! I feel really, thank you and respect you.

Sincerely, Hwan Kim.

**Thank you** for Protecting Our Freedom

**Ashley Park, 7th grade**

Dear, Korean War Veterans

Hello, my name is Ashley.

Thank you for helping us when our country was  
in war.

If I was you, I think I can't fought in Korean War.

You are very respectful for me

If your country didn't help our country,  
we were supposed to be dead.

I think you are very brave.

Sincerely,

Ashley



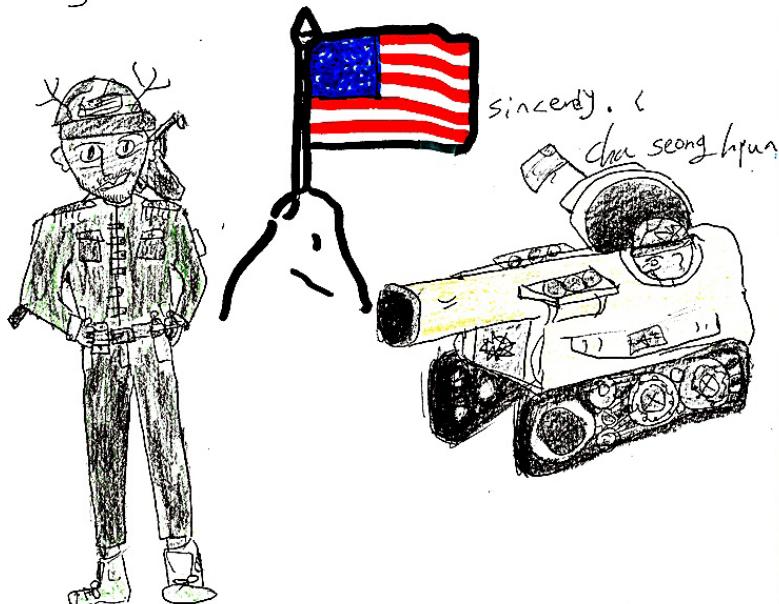
Thank  
you



## Seunghyun Cha, 7th grade

Dear. Korean war veterans

Hello my name is Cha Seong Hyun (David) from Korea. I would like to say thank you to you. I want to be like you. without your service, I would probably be under Kim's dictatorship, it is because of you that I am able to come to the United States and study here. Once again, thank you for your service.



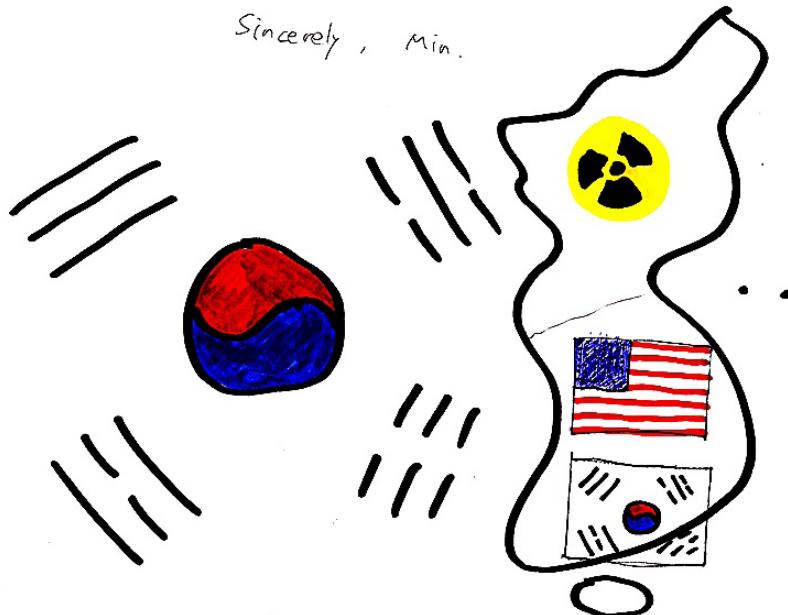
**Thank you** for Protecting Our Freedom

**Minwoo Kim, 9th grade**

Dear Korean War veterans.

Hello. I'm Minwoo Kim. My English name is Min. I'm live in Korea. Through this letter, I would like to express my gratitud for your service. I, min, would not be here if you did not fight for Korea. Thank you.

Sincerely, Min.





## Leo Lee, 7th grade

Dear Korean war veterans

Hello I'm Leo from Korea. Before I continue with letter I just let you know my grandfather also fought Korean war. Writing this letter means a lot to me. Your service in Korea has saved millions of lives. Thank you, again, for your service and time in Korea.

Sincerely,

Leo

Korea

**Thank you** for Protecting Our Freedom

**Annie Jeon, 7th grade**

Dear. Korean War Veterans

Hello, I am Annie. I am 13 years old.

I heard that you fought in the Korean War for South Koreans. I think you were really brave soldier. Thank you for fighting the Korean War for us. Thankfully, we can live in Korea peacefully. When I was 6th grade of elementary school, I learned about the Korean War. It was so terrible because both sides are in same country named Korea. Also, I learned that many people in various countries helped us to keep Seoul and win the battle. I can't imagine how hard the war is. Many people have died or injured during the war. I am not sure that if I was not Korean, I didn't fight in the Korean War. That's because it's just related in Korea. I don't participate in the war, if I am not Korean. I feel greatly thankful but I can't express enough by words. However, I want you to know that I appreciate your service.

Sincerely

Annie



## Sooyoung Kim, 6th grade

Dear, Korean war veterans

Hello, my name is Soo Young Kim.

Thank you for fighting in the Korean war.

I think you gave us an enormous present for people.  
Korea is exist, thanks to you.

And I'll remember Korean War Veterans.

And, I think we should do our best for not to reply war.  
I promise you.

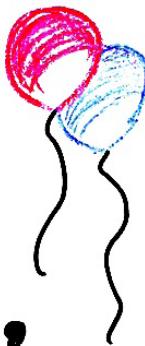
Thank you, thank you so much.

From, Korean Student  
(Soo Young)

"감사합니다" = Thank you.

Thank  
you!

Korea



# Thank you for Protecting Our Freedom

## Blaire Lee, 9th grade

To Whom It May Concern

- maybe: grandpa?

Hi ! I 'm Blaire. I 'm from Korea ( Republic of ), Ulsan, above Busan. ( I hope you know Busan ! It 's biggest port city in Korea. U.S soilders ' first landing spot was in Busan, I believe.) Well, my introductions was to long, huh ? I want to say thank you. I 'm so grateful of your brave behavior. With you and your comrades, our territory wouldn't be kept. I learned that it was really bad condition because the Soviet Union, and China helped North Korea. Thanks again to fight for us. You 're my (our - Korea's) hero.

in detail, I 'm from

With Love, Blaire Lee. 11/11/2018  
Thank you again ! I wish you enjoy longevity !



## Hyeong-Gyu Kim, 6th grade

Dear korean war veterans,

Hello my name is Hyeong-gyu Kim and my English name is Jacob. The reason why I came here is because I wanted to study English more.

And Thank you for fighting in the Korean War.

If you had known me to fight, my country have become North Korea now.

I respect you all.



# Thank you for Protecting Our Freedom





**Thank you** for Protecting Our Freedom

**Na-yeon Lee, 7th grade**

Dear. Korean War Veteran,

My name is Dana from South Korea. I am very thankful for fighting at Korean war.

I think you are very brave and very strong. Because you have lived through the war, I am very happy you did this for my country.

Maybe you are very scared and tired. But you fight at war for a long time.

I respect you.



Sincerely,  
Dana OLYOL



## Young-woo Cho, 7th grade

Dear Korean War Veteran...

Our South Koreans are very proud of you. If you didn't come to Korea and help the South, we would have lost the war. Maybe we could be North Korean. It's not very good to us. Because you helped South Korea, we could get the lead of the war. I'm so thankful of you.

If I become a big person in the world, I'll make a statue of 'Brave Korean War Veteran'. I think you are very brave and strong because you didn't get scared of war, and fought for us. I want to be like you.

Thanks for Korea!

Sincerely, Wayne..

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**Thank you** for Protecting Our Freedom

**Haegun Yang, 7th grade**

Dear. Korean War Veteran,

Hi, My name is Joe, (Haegun Yang). We are always proud of you and You are always honorable. Our Korea had very hard in that Korean War in June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1950. And It's still until to now. If you were not come to here during Korean War, We could be North Korea now. That times, Many peoples and kids are killed and dead by the Korean War. But, Many U.S and others veteran came to Korean War and they are in Korean war, so I'm so thankful for you and Our Koreans and I will always remember Korean War and you who Korean War veteran. I will respect you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joe, (Haegun, Yang)



## Jiwoo Choi, 7th grade



Dear Korean War veteran,



Hello, My name is Ji woo.



First, I want to say thank you.

If I'm in that situation, I think I'll  
Just run away and hide.

But you fought bravery.

So, I respect you for your bravery.

If you don't fought or didn't exist in  
that situation, I'll not be here,  
And my friends, family, too.

You save south korea and many people.

I want to say you are hero of south  
Korea. I really respect you and  
really thank you.



Sincerely,

Jiwoo (Zoy)





## Haesol Kim, 5th grade

Dear. Courageous Veteran,



Hello, my name is Hae Sol Kim.

First, I want to say "thank you" because you and different people fought for the country.

I think many veterans are very brave and strong.

I know you have a hard time, but stuck with it and fought through the war. Because of your bravery in the war, I can live.

Thank you for saving me.

Regards,  
Haley Kim



## Woosuk Han, 7th grade

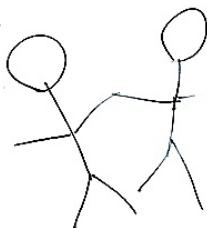
Dear Korean War Veteran,

Thank you for being very  
Brave and strong. I am

Glad that you were courageous.

Thank you for helping South Korea.

I hope that you are living  
Well. You are very Honorable.



Sincerely, Albert / Woosuk

**Thank you** for Protecting Our Freedom

**EuiHyeon Cha, 9th grade**

Dear Korean War veteran

Hello my name is Eui Hyeon Cha and I am happy to write letters to you. You are a hero to us. You are very courageous and brave and strong and tough. Thank you

Sincerely EuiHyeon Cha.





## Minseok Park, 5th grade

Dear Korean War Veterans

Hi, my name is Tom, and I'm a person who lives in South Korea. Firstly, thank you for saving our Korea. I think you very for you, I want meet you hurry up!

Sincerely,

Tom



Thank you for Protecting Our Freedom

Jaeyeon Kim, 8th grade

Dear. Korean War Veteran

Hello! I'm Claudia Kim from South Korea. 

I cannot still believe that you participated in the war against North Korea around my age. Thank you for fighting for Korea!

We probably would have lived under Kim Jung Un if it weren't you. I'm really really thankful to all of you even though the word 'thankyou' is not enough.

Thankyou for being heroic, brave, and strong.

I hope we have peaceful world without any wars. Bye!

Sincerely,  
Claudia Kim  
(김재연)

~~W.W.W~~



## Eugene Jeong, 8th grade

Dear Korean War Veteran

Hello, my name is Eugene Jeong. Firstly, I'm really thankful that you protected South Korea from North Korea. Your bravery, courage, and strength protected South Korea. If you didn't fight for us, I would not exist, and would not be able to write this letter for you and other. Veterans of all countries that made Korea's future. Veterans also protected 38 line. I'm very grateful for all veterans.

Sincerely, Eugene



**Thank you** for Protecting Our Freedom

**Saejin Park, 7th grade**



Hello my name is Daisy. I heard you helped Korea when we fought against North Korea. I am grateful that you fought for my country. I respect your bravery. You makes me happy now! Your bravery is so cool! If you didn't help, I couldn't live happily like now. It's hard to fight for a country! I'm very thankful of you one more time and I hope you are happy as well!

Sincerely,

Daisy

Thank You



## Hyunjin Choi, 8th grade

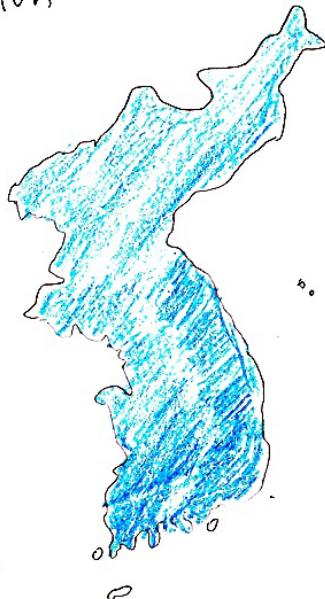
Dear Korean War veterans

Hello my name is HYUN-JIN CHOI

Thank you for helping us in the Korean War

I will not forget your help and your legacy

You were brave courage ous with  
you help we have be come a better  
nation



Sincerely



Thank you for Protecting Our Freedom

Jinwon Lee, 6th grade

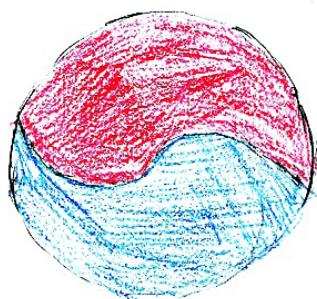
Dear Korean War veterans.

Hello, my name is Jinwon Lee. I'm twelve years old. I'm from South Korea.

I am writing this letter to you. I read about the Korean War on Never. We fought against North Korea. The U.N helped South Korea. The U.N is very friendly because they helped South Korea. Thank you veterans. I will not forget you. And I will not forget they the U.N. fought North Korea for us. Thank you.

Sincerely, Jinwon

1/9/2013





Eunjin Kim, 6th grade

# DEAR KOREAN WAR VETERANS



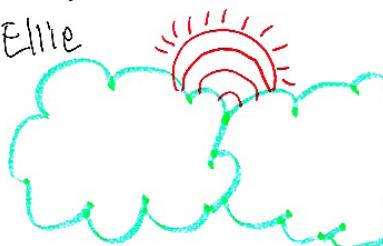
Hello, I'm Ellie. I'm just a normal student who lives in Korea. I got a chance to write some letters to you so I am writing this letter.

Well, I'm very grateful that you worked for our country

during the Korean War. If you didn't fight didn't fight during the war for our country. I would be a member of North Korea. I'm so glad that I am the member of South Korea and I'm able to write a letter to you. If we lost the war, I would not come here and you'll not be able to see this letter. It's all because you fought bravely to protect South Korea. I hope you are proud that you are a Korean War Veteran and live very well as a member of America.

I'm so glad that you read this letter.

Sincerely, Ellie



**Thank you** for Protecting Our Freedom

**Jaeyoung Jeon, 7th grade**

Dear Korean War veteran,

Nice to meet you. I'm Jae Yeong from Korea and say thank you. Without you, it may have been impossible for Korea to have a democracy and to have hope. It's all because of your effort that Korea is now a cool country. Your legacy lives on. Korea is safe because of your effort. Thank you.

Sincerely, Jae Yeong



**Siyeon Yoo, 7th grade**

# DEAR KOREAN WAR VETERANS,

Hello, I'm Siyeon Yoo. Nice to meet you. I am impressed by your bravery and courage. Thank you for protecting our country. I hope you will live well. I respect you and everybody ~~else~~ respects you. Because of you, I can have my own future. Even though we are divided into two, I am able to live a happy life. I will not forget you.

Bye

- Siyeon Yoo -

**Thank you** for Protecting Our Freedom

**Seeun Kim, 8th grade**

Dear. Korean War  
Veteran

Hello! My name is se eun kim and I'm from south korea.  
I respect your courage and your strong mindset.  
Thank you for risking your life and fight against  
North Korea Armies to protect south korea.  
Your actions made south korea's future.  
Always stay healthy and I hope for your happiness.

Thank you!

&

I LOVE you!

From. Se eun kim





Hyungseok Kim, 5th grade

# Dear Korean War "VETERANS"

[Hello. My name is MinSeo Kim.

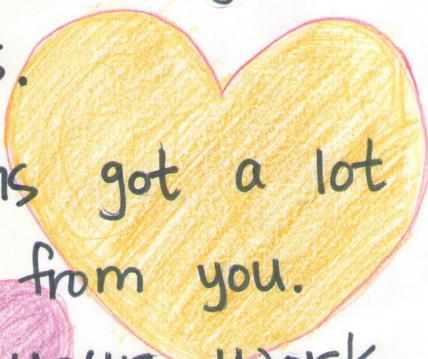
Thank  for coming to  
fight for us.

South Koreans got a lot  
of benefits from you.

I admire your work.

I  really appreciate that.

Sincerely.]

  
From. MinSeo

# An Appreciation Letter

## from KWVA

January 23, 2026

Intercultural Leadership Program  
Educational Divide Reform (EDR)  
The Academy at Harvard Square (TAHS)  
30 John F. Kennedy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138



Dear Students,

Thank you for participating in Bridging Generations: With Heroes of the Forgotten War. The American community and the Korea War Veterans Association are thankful to have such a hard working and thoughtful young person recognize our dedication to your country during the Korean War.

We salute your families abroad for encouraging you to come to the United States and learn more about America and the history this country shares with Korea. Your participation in this program is proof that our sacrifices are a part of your prosperity. We hope that you continue to strengthen the relationship between both nations and maintain a high standard for civil liberty, justice, and freedom that our countries value so highly.

Please remember that to be a global citizen and leader, it is absolutely imperative that you embrace the value of democracy and freedom. We fought alongside your forefathers so that you may have a bright future full of opportunities.

Congratulations again on a wonderful performance and taking steps towards being a leader.

We look forward to welcoming you back very soon to the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Captain Albert McCarthy  
2nd Vice President, KWVA





# EVENT SPEECH

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By **Captain** Albert McCarthy

2nd Vice President, KWVA

**O**n behalf of our Korea veterans and myself, I would like to thank Dr. Cazabon and Dr. Jang for this very special occasion.

We veterans are very pleased and proud to be with you who have come so far to expand your knowledge of the world, and experience the special relationship of our two countries.

There are over three million American veterans who have served in Korea. Some fought against the Japanese to liberate Korea and help reestablish your nationhood in 1945. Some fought long and hard against extraordinary and sometimes impossible odds from 1950 to 1953 to ensure South Korea's survival.

And for the last 75 years Americans have served alongside ROK troops to protect and defend South Korea and the United Nations DMZ from a determined and tyrannical dictatorship in North Korea during the so-called armistice. An armistice that has seen the loss of 1,947 Americans and over 2,000 South Koreans.

Some have asked why America fought in Korea? The answer is simple; because the struggle for Freedom in Korea was and is, the same struggle for Freedom that we in America, fought so hard for, many years ago. The desire of the people of South Korea to live free and determine your own destiny was, and is, the same desire that the American people had in 1776 and still have today.

Our two countries have grown, developed, and prospered because the potential of our people was set free when our military forces defeated dictators who would enslave our minds, bodies, and souls.



So why are we Korea veterans here tonight? It is because you are our legacy. When we look in your eyes, when we hear you laughter, when we see what your country has done with its' freedom, we know that everything we Americans did, and still do, to help ensure your freedom has been worth every single drop of blood, every single drop of sweat, and every single tear that has been shed.

We are proud of what we did in Korea, and very proud of you, our legacy. God bless you,

God bless Korea, and God bless America.

Anyoung hashimnikka!



# ABOUT EDR

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Educational Divide Reform



Based in Cambridge/Boston, MA, the **Educational Divide Reform (EDR) Institute**

is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on inclusive social cohesion and community development via youth education. EDR supports immigrant and first-generation American students with the Step Up and Step Forward programs to boost academic and social-emotional learning, and offers the Pathfinder program for career exploration and mentoring in high school.

Internationally, EDR promotes global citizenship. The Power of Hope (POH) program develops leadership among North Korean refugees, enhancing democracy and prosperity, while the My Global Village program supports rural communities with projects aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

EDR partners with governments, educational institutions, NGOs, corporations, and community organizations to achieve these goals.



# Special Thanks to

## **Korea War Veterans Association:**

Captain Albert McCarthy, 2nd Vice President

## **Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Boston, MA:**

Kim, Jae-hui, Consul General

## **Andover Public Schools:**

Dr. Magda Parvey, Superintendent

Katherine McGonagle,

Interim Program Coordinator for World Language

## **Andover High School:**

Jimmy D'Andrea, Principal

## **Doherty Middle School:**

Rebecca Perry, Principal

## **West Middle School:**

Matthew Fox, Principal

## **Wood Hill Middle School:**

Patrick J. Bucco, Principal



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