

God's Hope for America Holy Ground Pilgrimage visits Unification National Wonjeon

Michael Balcomb

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Under blue skies and the hot early morning sunshine of Sunday, July 13, forty participants of the God's Hope for America Holy Ground pilgrimage made a special stop to pray at the Unification National Wonjeon (cemetery). Located in a quiet corner of the Fort Lincoln National Cemetery in Northeast Washington, D.C., this sacred site was indeed at one time a fort, built in 1861 during the Civil War to protect the city from a possible flanking attack from the Northeast.



The pilgrim group was joined by several Unificationists from Washington, D.C., including Mr. Thomas McDevitt and Rev. Greg Carter. Both men have spouses at rest in the National Wonjeon, and on behalf of all the families, Mr. McDevitt, who serves as president of *The Washington Times* located just a mile away, offered a heartfelt prayer to open the proceedings.



Dr. William Selig, who serves the National Seonghwa (funeral/memorial) Ministry, explained the decision to establish this beautiful place of rest for the members and family of Unificationists who served side by side with True Parents and ascended to join True Father in the heavenly spirit world.

The first Unificationist buried there, Mr. Tom Wojcik, lapsed into a coma on September 11, 2001, at the very moment and hour that terrorist attacks were shaking the nation to its core. He passed a week later. Since then, more than 35 others have joined him at rest in this peaceful corner of Washington, D.C. Dr. Selig observed that there is room for hundreds more when the day comes, as it must, for each of us to make that transition.



Before the unison prayer, the circle of pilgrims opened up into a U-shape, so that all the spirits of the ascended might enter the area freely and join the prayers. After a moment of absolute silence, a recording of "Taps," played by a bugler from the U.S. Marine Corps Band, was played. The simple, pure notes brought a sense of peace and readied everyone for a deep prayer of appreciation and gratitude.



Family and friends of other ascended Unificationists around the nation had been invited to send the names of their loved ones to be included in the prayers, and approximately 200 names were read aloud by Dr. Michael Balcomb, president of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU USA). "Those who were not able to be included this time will be remembered in future ceremonies," he said. "It is never too late."

"We are the luckiest, happiest people in the world," said FFWPU Continental Director Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, "because we know and worked with True Parents. Whether we are standing in the sunshine or at rest in the cool earth beneath our feet is not nearly as important as having had the immeasurable blessing of knowing and joining our beloved True Father and Mother."

A name list of those honored in prayer can be found here:

Names of the Ascended

Grace Elaine Adams
 Elias Mikhael Akiki
 Debbie Anderson
 Alain Aridj
 Fumi Azami

 Paul A. Bader
 Javier Balbin
 Maria Isabel Balbin

Geoffrey Balcomb
 Garry Barker
 Rosaelena Barraza
 Beatrice Bell
 Mary Percic Bernard
 Justine Wiborg Berry
 Sonja Bowman Bessell
 Robert "Kenny" Bickford
 Donald Leland Bond

Paul Leland Bond
 Bruce Bonini
 Michael J. Bradley
 Robert Edward Bridges
 Gerald Brock
 Patricia Walsh Brush
 Arthur John Brush
 Arthur Alden Brush
 Jin Ju Byrne

Andrew Byrne
Shawn Byrne
Joe and Myrvine Byrne

Kimie Carr
Jon Carter
Juan Castillo
Maria Louisa Castillo
Daniel Clipper
Jeffrey Clubb
Roger Corless
Masako Corley

Johannan Darsey
Jacob Davin
Robert M. Davis
Melodie Dickerson
Jean Dominique
Marie-France Germain
Dougherty
Tad Dryl
Godwin D'Silva
Karen Lynn Dufour
Barret Dungan

Lewis and Dorothy Epstein

Wonsung Mark Fairbrother
Dennis Feinmann
Karmina Ferabolli
Jessica Fladung
Tony Flores
John Foss
Jean Francois Franquelin
Dora Fuehrer

Pamela Jean Gaarder
Father Garret
Edward Gerena
Sami Gharzeddine
Lancy Gray
Yasuko Takada Greene
Ronald Edmund Gurtatowski

Muriel Johnson Hausner
Josef Hausner
Walter Haynes
Heartle Herbers
Robert and Edna Herbers
Eric Herring
Maureen Hieta-Aho
Brian Hill
Takayoshi Hisano
Greggory C. Hoebel (Peter T. Wolff)
Eric Holt
Vincent Hunte
Kathy Hutcherson

Yoshitaka Inomata

Yimiga Jean
Paxton Jessop
Milton & Miriam Johnson

Stefania Evans Kajakawa

Kye Soon Kang
Helene Abou Karam
Maria Kartel
Calen Kawakami
David Sang Chul Kim
Eui Hong Kim
Young Oon Kim
Mr. and Mrs. Kimura
Edmé Georgine Kingsbury
Richard Thomas Kirst Jr.
Christian Krakow
William Kratz

Kwan Jung Lee
Phyllis Loum
Gordon Philip Lowe
Clarkia Rae Lowe

Tom Mackin
Chris Mackin
Young Hea Marchant
Nobuko Martin
Christine Martinez
Robert (Bob) Loren Mason
Sylvia Berry McCready
Hal McKenzie
Atsuko Minakawa
Takefumi ("Ted") and
Sumiko Miyagi
Yuko Mock
Marston Michael Moffatt
Kenshu Morita
Kem Mylar

Danielle Nagle
Mr. Nakahira
Sarah Shortle Nimick
Yoshimaru and Yoshie
Nishioka
Soo Yung Noh
Emiliene Nono

Kenji Ohno
Susan Hughes Oliver

Frances Palmer
Chung Goo Park
Richard Parks
Ryan Parrish
Donato Pasion
Carmella Pasqua
Mrs. Pearson
Kevin Pearson
Richard and Betty Pease
Bernice Pehling
Paula Percic
Andrew Percic
Peter Percic
Rachel Hwa-Su Perrottet
Martin Porter
Ronald Morton Prost
Galen Pumphrey
Galen and Patty Pumphrey

Landon Pyung-Hwa Quinn

Rodger Edwin Rankin
Teruko Reyes
Elliott Joseph Roschuni
June Roschuni

John Sapp
Ryoji Sawamukai
Mr. Sawamukai's assistant
Joseph Scazzero
Francis Scazzero
Janice Scheuneman
Ron Schmidt
Lee D. Shapiro
Joseph Sheftick
Osamu Shishido
Gus and Thelma Sickles
Francisco Silva
Dale Irwin Smith
Gladys Starr
Franz Steinbauer
Rosina Steinbauer
Ernie Stewart
Alice Berry Stone
Debra Sullivan
James Sullivan
Mary Sutton

Shunichi Takagi
Kunkhiko Takahashi
Yukichi Tate
Mrs. Tateishi
Christina Tengan
Darwin and Kathryn Thoms
Lennox Thornhill
Linda Trigol
Michio Tsuji
Joe Tully

Monte Vianale
Ralph Vitale
Shirley Vlasic

Marion Walsh
Russell Walters
Mr. Watanabe
Kenneth Weber
Paul Werner
Christine Wesley
Mark Wilenchek
Bruce Griffin Williams
Sarah Witt
Tom Wojcik
Teruyo Wolinski

Reinhardt Yager
Yasuko Yamane
Sachiko Yamane
Ichiro Yamane
Fumi Yonemura
Fumitoshi Yonemura

Margarita Zajicek
Juan Mauricio Zarco
Mary Lou Zochol