

90th Anniv. of Birth of Kim Jong Suk

December 24th this year makes the 90th anniversary of birth of Kim Jong Suk who accomplished distinguished exploits for the Korean revolution.

Old era and generation are replaced by new ones with the passage of time, but Kim Jong Suk always lives in the hearts of the people as the heroine of the anti-Japanese struggle.

She was born into the family of a poor peasant at Osandok-dong, Hoeryong City, North Hamgyong Province, in the northern part of Korea on December 24, 1917.

At the time of her birth, the Korean people were undergoing national sufferings under military occupation by the Japanese imperialists (1905-1945). From her childhood she was revolutionarily influenced by her family members. In the meantime she, personally experiencing the maltreatment and exploitation the Korean nation, was being subjected to, harbored enmity toward and burned with the spirit of insubordination to the occupiers. In the spring of 1922 she, together with her family, left her native town of Hoeryong and moved to northeast China. And from the summer of 1930 she, attending a night school run by a political underground worker dispatched by General Kim Il Sung (1912-1994), the leader of the Korean nation, exerted herself to learn the truth of the revolution. She joined the Children's Vanguard in 1931, got affiliated with the Young Communist League of Korea and guided the work of the Children's Corps in 1932. She conducted positive activities as a YCL leading worker from 1933.

She had the honor of meeting General Kim Il Sung for the first time in her life in March 1935 and was enlisted in the Korean People's Revolutionary Army led by him in September of the same year.

Until Korea was liberated from Japanese colonial rule since then she won fame as an anti-Japanese woman general and a competent political activist covering hundreds of thousands of miles through bloody battles with arms in hand to save the country. She took part in many battles, including the battle to defend the Chechangzi guerilla base, the battle at Fusong county seat, the battle at Dadeshui and the battle at Shungshanzi and displayed unrivalled bravery, remarkable resourcefulness and marksmanship worthy of a crackshot in these battles. In these days she received an important assignment for political underground work from General Kim Il Sung and energetically carried out the work for expanding the network of organizations of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland (an organization of the anti-Japanese national united front founded by General Kim Il Sung on May 5th, 1936), thus uniting all sections of the

popular masses under the banner of the anti-Japanese struggle and laying the solid mass foundation for all-people resistance struggle.

She performed exploits conducive to the cause of national liberation. Worthy of note in her exploits in particular was the fact that she resolutely supported and defended General Kim Il Sung.

To give some examples, she resolutely backed up and defended the idea and line of the General at the Qingfeng secret camp far distant from the Headquarters of revolution early in 1939, pitting herself against a person, who was in charge of that secret camp at that time, and protected the General from personal danger, using her body as a shield against bullets of the enemy at the critical moments in the battle at Hongqihe in March 1940 and in the battle at the entrance to Dashahe in the summer of the same year.

Traces of her struggle for the cause of Korean liberation are reflected clearly even in the slogans the anti-Japanese fighters carved on the trunks of trees in thick forests in those days:

“Twenty-million countrymen, commanders of Korean independence are Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Suk”, “General Kim Jong Suk, anti-Japanese woman commander of Mt. Paektu, is a peerlessly brave woman born of Korea”, “The woman general of Mt. Paektu smites Japs, appearing in unexpected places and at unexpected moments and making the land contract”...

Even after Korea’s liberation from Japanese colonial rule (August 15th, 1945) she dedicated all her strength and wisdom to the implementation of the policy of building a new Korea put forward by President Kim Il Sung. She gave energetic guidance to the work of various fields in Unggi (the Rason area at present) and the Chongjin area in North Hamgyong Province situated in the northeastern part of Korea for nearly a month from late November 1945. She set a lofty example in vigorously arousing the people to make labour efforts for the building of the new country, including the Pothong river improvement project started in May 1946. Endowed with exalted personality, she exerted herself to locate the whereabouts of sons and daughters of the comrades-in-arms who had fallen in the sacred war to liberate the fatherland. Then she took good care of them and led them forward so that they could grow into fine pillars of the country. All this left an indelible mark in the modern history of Korea.

Her greatest exploit is that she brought up the leader Kim Jong Il as President Kim Il Sung’s successor and put him forward as the prominent leader who would lead the future Korea.

She deeply implanted in the mind of Kim Jong Il who was born in the secret camp of Mt. Paektu, the base for the anti-Japanese armed struggle, a trait and disposition which a great man should possess, such as ardent love for the country and nation, high moral repute and warm human love, tough, bold and indomitable courage and pluck and sentimentality. Indeed, yesterday and today of socialist Korea can hardly be thinkable apart from her.

Kim Jong Suk who accomplished immortal exploits for the country and nation and enjoyed boundless love and reverence of the people died of illness regrettably at the too early age of 32 on September 22, 1949.

Though she passed away long ago her august name and exploits are shining long along with eternally prospering socialist Korea.