

Traces of Devoted Service

Leader Kim Jong Il of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who passed away on a train during a trip for on-site guidance for the well-being of his people, left indelible traces of devotion throughout the country.

Kim Jong Il followed the road of Songun all his life.

He inspected 2 755 units of the armed forces from August 25, 1960 when he started the Songun-based leadership to 1994. His leadership of the Korean People's Army gained momentum from 1995 when he administered Songun politics on a full scale to the last days of his life, before his death on December 17, 2011. He made inspection tours of 2 492 units of the KPA in over 16 years.

The painstaking efforts he exerted to defending his country and socialism are evidenced by his ceaseless inspection tours of the frontline units of the KPA since the mid-1990s when the imperialists' offensives against socialism were reaching fever pitch, crossing the Chol Pass over ten times. A legend-like story goes that when his field car suddenly began to skid downward on his way to the army posts on Mt. Osong with 152 rugged bends, he pushed the car up the mountain in order not to fail to see his soldiers there. He inspected Panmunjom, the forward post along the Military Demarcation Line from which the enemy's post was just a stone's throw, and a post on an island on the west sea, braving the ferocious waves.

Thanks to his devoted leadership, Korea has attained a high level of its military power capable of defeating any formidable enemy if it dares attack. The excellent ideological and spiritual world of the KPA soldiers who are willing to lay down their lives in defending their leaders and system constitutes the features unique to the KPA, winning great admiration of the world. With the steady development in building self-reliant national defence industry Korea has possessed the capabilities to produce by itself sophisticated military hardware needed for national defence, and even a powerful nuclear deterrent that has put an end to the previous times when the imperialists threatened it by means of atomic bombs.

Kim Jong Il dedicated his all solely to the well-being of the people.

People are above me, Kim Jong Il, and I am a son of the people—it was his creed, and his greatest wish was to build a thriving socialist country which has strong national power and in which everything prospers and people live well with nothing to envy in the world. To realize his wish he continuously made energetic guidance tours all across the country, rain or shine. He

walked along the rough path of a farm and even entered a pit face where water was dripping from its ceiling and a waterway tunnel of a power station under construction.

He was on the road of devotion to people's happiness, regardless of his health, until the last moment of his life.

It was a severe cold day in December 2011 when he visited the amusement park in the Kaeson Youth Park refurbished with modern facilities. When the employees there worried about his coming in such a bad weather, he said, smiling, that when he came on such a day, people would enjoy themselves there on fine days.

It became known later that he was seriously ill owing to the excessive mental and physical exertion in the last period of his life. In such a critical condition he visited in three years before his death nearly 1 000 units, leading the building of a thriving country. When doctors told him with tears that he should refrain from giving field guidance in consideration of his serious illness, he continued to start his inspection tour, saying he was very sorry to the doctors for failing to do as he was told, but, instead, they should obey him. Two days before his sudden death he gave field guidance at the Hana Music Information Centre and the Kwangbok Area Supermarket, devoting his heart and soul to building a thriving nation and improving people's standard of living.

He visited 14 296 units on 6 914 occasions, travelling 669 847 km throughout his life.

By his devoted efforts Korea has launched vigorous campaigns of the urban construction, tideland reclamation, the gravitational waterway projects, large-scale land realignment and so on, thus radically turning the landscape of the country as befits the 21st century. The flames of the industrial revolution in the new century kindled by him are pushing forward the campaign in all fields to break through the cutting edge.

The traces of his devoted service will be etched down forever in the history of ever-prosperous socialist Korea.