

2023 AKBFF

American Korean Businessmen Friendship Forum



미한 기업인 친선 포럼 창립대회 INAUGURATION CEREMONY

■ Date ■

May 4, 2023

■ Place ■

The Westin Tysons Corner

7801 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22043



AKBFF
AMERICAN KOREAN BUSINESSMEN FRIENDSHIP FORUM

Raison d'être and Mission of American Korean Businessmen Friendship Forum **AKBFF**

Mission Statement

In 2022 United States and Republic of Korea celebrated the 140th anniversary of diplomatic ties and in 2023 the 70th anniversary of the Korea-US Mutual Defense Treaty. The relationship between the two countries has become closer and stronger now than ever. The relationship has grown to bind the two countries with inseparable ties, which is unprecedented in the history of relationships between any two countries. Cooperation between Korea and the US in bilateral and multi-lateral trade is noteworthy and remarkable. As you are aware, Korea used to be one of the poorest countries in the world and went through a horrible internecine war. However, because of diligence and hard work of its people, Korea has now joined the economically developed countries and is enjoying the fruit of its prosperity.


With this background there is a growing need to further strengthen this good and strong economic relationship by informing the future generations of both countries of these strong ties and encourage them to maintain the tradition even more. It is essential that the governments as well as the businessmen, who have contributed greatly to the economic development of the two countries, participate in this task to promote mutual friendship and to make efforts to find a way for industrial coexistence and co-prosperity in the rapidly changing global economic environment

One noteworthy fact in this relationship is that exchanges and fellowship flow naturally among big companies and their leaders. But that is not the case for small and medium-sized businesses. The time is ripe to form an organization that would promote exchange and friendship of small and medium-sized businesses and their leaders between the two countries. Considering that Korean American Businessmen Friendship Forum (KABFF) was established already and actively working in Korea for this purpose, it is desirable to establish a US counterpart to the Korean organization.

In February of this year six businessmen and professionals got together in this area to form a preparatory committee for establishing AKBFF with the focus on business and industry leaders in small and medium-sized businesses who would sympathize with and promote together the mission and purpose of AKBFF. In the process of forming an organization with such a specific mission we determined that it would be best to establish it in the Washington, D.C. area.

Our mission is simple: Develop and Promote Friendship and Fellowship between small and medium-sized businesses of the United States and Republic of Korea. We hope AKBFF, in doing its mission, will become an essential and important bridge to the businesses of these two countries and contribute to their ever-stronger economic ties and relationship. Thank you for joining us in this endeavor!

PROGRAM



	■ MC So Lim
National Anthems	■
Opening Remarks	■ Sang Park, President
Greeting Remarks	■ Silvia Patton, Chairwoman of the Board Recognition of Distinguished Guests
Congratulatory Remarks	■ Mark Warner, US Senator Gerry Connolly, Congressman of the U.S. House of Representatives George Barker, Senator of Virginia Vivian Watts, Virginia House of Delegates Seijoong Kwon, Consul-General, Embassy of the Republic of South Korea Sunshik Min, President of KABFF
Presentation of Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition	■ Gerry Connolly, Congressman of the U.S. House of Representatives
Introduction of Founding Members and 2023 Executive Team	■
Group Photo Taking	■
Closing Remarks	■ Go Eun Kang, Secretary General of AKBFF
Dinner	■

AMERICAN AND KOREAN BUSINESS PEOPLE BUILDING STRONG BONDS OF FELLOWSHIP

■ AKBFF 2023-2024 Officers

President Sang Park | **Vice President** Roy Jung | **Treasurer** Sammy Kim
Secretary General Go Eun Kang | **Recording Secretary** Eric Lee

■ Board of Directors

Chairwoman Silvia Patton | **Vice Chairman** Jin Song
Board Members Sojung Lim / Roy Jung / Eric Lee / Sammy Kim / Sang Park / Go Eun Kang

■ **Advisors** Jang-Hee Yoo / Sunshik Min / David Sohn



Dear Friends:

On behalf of the American Korean Businessmen Friendship Forum(AKBFF), it is my honor and pleasure to welcome all of you to our inauguration ceremony. The American Korean Businessmen Friendship Forum is an excellent platform to strengthen the cooperation between American and Korean companies and their leaders for small and medium-size and explore ways to enhance our business relationships.

In today's interconnected global economy, it is more important than ever to collaborate and build strong partnerships. The Forum's focus on topics such as trade, environmental protection, social responsibility, and diversity highlights the organization's commitment to fostering sustainable and ethical business practices.

It is our mission and vision to address the challenges facing American and Korean companies in pursuing sustainable management practices. As we navigate the complex economic landscape, it is crucial that we work together to develop innovative and responsible solutions.

Thank you for joining me to welcome inception of the American Korean Businessmen Friendship Forum for its dedication to strengthening the business ties between our two great nations. I am confident that we will continue to play a vital role in promoting economic growth and prosperity for all.

Sincerely,

Sangkuen Park
President of AKBFF

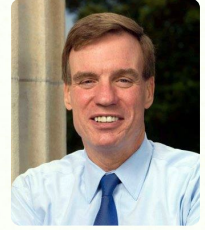
Silvia Patton
Chairwoman of the Board AKBFF

MARK R. WARNER
VIRGINIA



UNITED STATES SENATOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 4, 2023



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to all who are gathered for the American Korean Businessmen Friendship Forum's (AKBFF) Inauguration Ceremony.

This event provides a special opportunity to celebrate the establishment of this organization that aims to foster closer ties between American and Korean businesses. The United States and the Republic of Korea have a long history of collaboration and a shared commitment to democracy, the roots of which date back to the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation. I understand that your organization plans to strengthen the bonds between our countries as you promote collaboration by focusing on issues like environmental conservation, social contributions, and diversity. I am excited to see all that your organization will achieve as it brings business leaders together to discuss these topics and advance a more equitable and sustainable future.

I send my best wishes for a successful and fulfilling event.

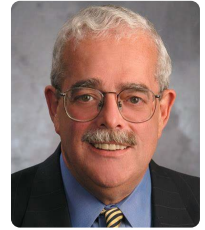
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark R. Warner". The signature is fluid and cursive.

MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator



GERALD E. CONNOLLY
WASHINGTON, D.C.



May 4, 2023

Dear Friends,

It is my honor to welcome you to the founding ceremony of the American Korean Businessmen Friendship Forum! The 11th District of Virginia, which I am proud to represent in Congress, is blessed by its diversity. My district is home to one of the largest concentrations of residents of Korean ancestry in the entire nation. Korean Americans comprise the largest single ethnicity among our Asian-American residents. We also have the largest number of Asian-American owned businesses in the National Capital Region and the Commonwealth of Virginia. This cultural diversity enriches our entire community.

As co-chair of the Korea Caucus in the United States House of Representatives, I look forward to continuing and strengthening our partnership as we build on the success of our alliance and work together toward the achievement of our common goals. I will continue to do all that I can to ensure that the U.S.-Korea alliance remains strong and enduring.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful event!

Warmest Regards,

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia

SENATE OF VIRGINIA



GEORGE L. BARKER
39TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
PART OF FAIRFAX AND PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTIES; AND PART OF THE CITY OF
ALEXANDRIA
P. O. Box 10527
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22310

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
EDUCATION AND HEALTH
FINANCE
GENERAL LAWS AND TECHNOLOGY

May 4, 2023

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to congratulate you on the Inauguration ceremony of the American Korean Businessmen Friendship Forum.

Today marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the relationship between American and Korean business leaders. Congratulations on the establishment of AKBFF based on the principles of mutual respect, cooperation, and friendship.

I hope this opportunity will strengthen the ties between our two countries and create a new partnership that will benefit our economies and societies.

AKBFF invites distinguished business leaders, legal experts, and management consultants to speak and provide a forum for mutual benefit between the US and Korea.

I believe that the participation of various experts will create a rich platform for information exchange and networking. We look forward to contributing to the growth and development of AKBFF and enhancing the relationship between our two countries. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George L. Barker".

George L. Barker,
Virginia State Senator



VIVIAN E. WATTS
8717 MARY LEE LANE
ANNANDALE, VIRGINIA 22003
THIRTY-NINTH DISTRICT

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
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TRANSPORTATION
FINANCE
RULES

May 4, 2023

Dear Friends

It is my honor to commend your acumen in forming The American Korean Businessmen Friendship Forum. Heightened threats to the global economy make it particularly crucial to strengthen relationships with long time allies and trusted partners. Your timely initiative will have wide benefits to ensuring competition, technological advancement, innovation, and to countering inflationary geopolitical manipulation of access to raw materials.

Your choice of Virginia just outside of Washington, D.C. for the Inauguration of this Business Friendship Forum could not be more relevant to the opportunities that the United States and Korea must embrace to strengthen the free world's economic resilience and build climate sustainability. Virginia's substantial investment in our ports – ranked 6th in the world – ensures international supply chain access for goods and raw materials, while Dulles Airport's growth capacity ensures direct management access and Northern Virginia's datacenters ensure unfettered communication.

However, it is the prowess of Korean entrepreneurs that will help realize the full potential of these assets to a worldwide, free economy and to our citizens. To meet our public policy challenges, I am grateful for the continued dynamic development of the Korean economy to further expand clean vehicles, battery storage, pharmaceuticals, and research in rare element alternatives. As an American consumer, I am excited by the prospect of ever greater choice to address basic needs and to entice interest.

I am grateful for your leadership in inaugurating The American Korean Businessmen Friendship Forum to strengthening our trusted and most productive partnership.

Sincerely,

Vivian E. Watts



Korean Consulate General
Washington D.C.

주미국 대한민국 대사관



May 4, 2023

미한 기업인 친선포럼 회원여러분 안녕하십니까?
주 미국 대사관 총영사 권세중입니다.

미한 기업인 친선포럼 창립 대회식의 개최를 진심으로 축하 드립니다.
먼저, 오늘의 결실이 있기까지 준비 과정에서 노고를 아끼지 않으신 박상근 회장님,
실비아 패튼 이사장님 및 강고은 사무총장님을 비롯한 모든 관계자 여러분께
감사 말씀을 드립니다.

특히, 금년도 한미동맹 70 주년이라는 특별한 해를 맞이하여 미한 기업인 친선포럼이
발족함으로써 더욱 의미가 깊다고 생각합니다.

미한 기업인 친선포럼은 2018 년 한국에서 발족된 한미기업인친선포럼에 상응하는 파트너
기관으로, 양국에 소재한 중소기업들의 활발한 교류 및 소통을 이끌어내어 두 국가의
경제관계를 더욱 공고히 발전시킨다는 데 의의를 두고 있습니다. 1 년에 4 번 개최되는
포럼을 계기로 경제와 사회 전반에 걸친 다양한 문제들을 논의하고 한국 및 미국 회원들의
폭넓은 인적 및 물적 교류를 통해 양국 관계도 더욱 돈독하게 발전할 것으로 기대됩니다.

다시 한 번 오늘의 발족을 위해 두 발로 뛰며 노력해오신 미한 기업인 친선포럼의 관계자
여러분과 이 자리를 빛내주신 모든 분들께 감사드립니다.

권 세 중

주미국대사관 공사 겸 총영사



Korean-American Businessmen Friendship Forum

한미 기업인 친선 포럼



May 4, 2023

Dear Friends:

As president of the Korean American Businessmen's Friendship Forum, I am very honored and delighted to provide congratulatory remarks at this founding of the American Korean Businessmen's Friendship Forum. The KABFF was established five years ago and its members and leaders are excited to find the AKBFF ready to start in 2023.

Korea and the United States share a common belief in the principle of democracy, as well as in the importance of a market economy. Businesses in both countries maintain close relationships in many areas. Not only big multinational companies, but medium- and small-scale businesses find business opportunities in our respective countries.

While trading and direct investment have been the major driver of the traditional business relationships between our two countries, the scope is expanding to include service industries and so-called soft industries like entertainment.

I hope and believe that the two organizations will be able to help businessmen in both countries to find partners and seek market opportunities for their mutual benefits. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Ms. Silvia Patton, Mr. Sangkeun Park, and Dr. Jang -Hee Yoo for their leadership and contribution to establishing the two organizations.

Sunshik Min

President of the Korean American Businessmen's Friendship Forum



May 4, 2023

Dear Friends:

I am so delighted and honored to have this opportunity to convey my congratulatory remarks to the inauguration ceremony of AKBFF.

In Korea, KABFF was formed in 2018 by a group of Korean businessmen who have had close business relations with American partners. Most of them who did understand the importance of the tie between the two countries wanted to strengthen the relationship even further by sharing the growth potential of both in this 4th industrial revolution era.

I am absolutely delighted to learn that there are also American businessmen who share the same values and concerns with KABFF. They also decided to form a forum to pursue the same objectives. They even decided to name the forum similar to KABFF, as AKBFF.

I am sure both AKBFF and KABFF will work together in years to come and will try to find ways and means to insure the business relationship between the two countries, eventually spreading the harmonious theme to both sides of the Pacific. There will be many arenas to cooperate with each other such as the following: running annual joint events, exchanging innovative ideas, finding co-working partners, proposing good policies to both governments, welcoming individual members when they visit either Korea or the U.S., to name only a few.

Congratulations and thank you again to those who worked so hard setting up and developing this forum. God bless you and God bless the U.S. and Korea.

Thank you indeed.

Jang-Hee Yoo, Ph.D.
Senior Advisor, KABFF
Former Chairman, Korea Commission for Corporate Partnership

AKBFF 미한 기업인 친선 포럼 후원자

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Korean American Chamber of Commerce USA
CEO
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KABFF



Korean-American Businessmen Friendship Forum

한미 기업인 친선 포럼

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세계 일류 기업들과 함께하는
한미 기업인 친선 포럼 KABFF입니다.

KABFF

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1968년 창립
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Starkey

스카이데일리
Sky's Daily

TROPINES
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SEJONG TELECOM
세종텔레콤

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마담 폴라
Madame Polla

Leaders' World

dsec 주식회사 디섹

Daewon
대원제약주

neipes
주식회사 네페스

YBM

미한 기업인 친선포럼
창립 준비모임

AKBFF

Founders



2nd Meeting

민선식 KABFF 회장님과의 미팅

SEOUL 2022



4th Meeting

AKBFF 창립준비모임 2

VIRGIINIA 2023



1st Meeting

유장희 KABFF 상임고문님과의 첫미팅

SEOUL 2022



3rd Meeting

AKBFF 창립준비모임 1

VIRGIINIA 2023



American Korean
Businessmen Friendship
Forum

Founding Members

AKBFF



Jang-HeeYoo
(유장희)

Senior Executive Advisor
of KABFF

Dr. Yoo is a former vice president and currently a professor emeritus of EwhaWomans University. He is also serving National Academy of Sciences of Korea as Chairman, Economic & Management Division of the Academy. He taught economics at Clark University (Massachusetts) and Virginia Commonwealth University in the U.S. and Seoul National University in Korea before he joined EwhaWomans University.

He served the Korean government in various capacities, e.g., President of Korean Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), one of the major government thinktanks, Vice Chairman of National Economic Advisory Council for President, Chairman of Korean Commission for Corporate Partnership (KCCP) and Chairman of Policy Advisory Council for Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While he was teaching at various universities, he undertook the presidential position of major academic societies, e.g., Korean Economic Association, Korean International Economic Association, Korean Association for Negotiation Studies, and APEC Studies Association of Korea. As an economist, he worked with many private firms such as POSCO (Chairman of the Board), KT&G, Hansol Paper, and Iljin Corporation as an external director. Dr. Yoo is well known in the Korean voluntary society as well. He worked for Rotary International as the governor of its district 3650 during 2020 ~ 2021.

He graduated from Seoul National University (BA in economics), UCLA (MA in economics), and Texas A&M University (Ph.D. in economics).



Silvia Patton
(윤영실)

Chairwoman of the
Board AKBFF

Silvia Patton is well known for her dedication to the welfare of women in need. She has been serving the local community for over 30 years in various fields such as social welfare, politics, and promoting exchange and understanding between the two countries.

Currently, she is serving as the Chairwoman of the Korean American Women's Associations of the USA, Inc. and the Advisory Council Member of National Peaceful Unification Advisory Council - Washington Chapter, and the former President of the Korean American Democratic National Organization and the BOD of Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans of Virginia and the Commissioner of Fairfax County Commission for Women, and a former member of the Virginia Asian Advisory Board to the Governor.

Ms. Patton possesses a broad spectrum of abilities including experience as an advisor, president, and superb leader.

Ms. Patton has been the recipient of many awards recognizing her ability and dedication to the community. These include the Korea Overseas Foundation Newspaper People of the Year Award, Community Service Awards from Fairfax County, Prince George County, State of Virginia and State of Maryland, the Outstanding Community Leadership Award from the Asian Pacific American Heritage Council, the Act Caring Award from the National Association of Counties, Virginia Governor's Appreciation Award, Certificates of special congressional Recognition, U.S. Senator Citation and various achievement and appreciation awards from the Korean-American Community.

Founding Members

AKBFF



Sunshik Min
(민선식)

President of the Korean
American Businessmen's
Friendship Forum

Sunshik Min is the CEO/Chairman of YBM. The company and its subsidiaries publish books and magazines, including the Korean edition of National Geographic Magazine, and administer language-proficiency and IT-skills tests. They also operate language schools for children and adults. Dr. Min is the head of the Korea International School (KIS). Founded in 2000, KIS offers a K-12 English-medium curriculum at three campuses and is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in the United States.

Dr. Min is actively involved in activities of not-for-profit organizations including the Korean American Businessmen's Friendship Forum (KABFF), Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Korea Britain Society. He received the Medal of Industrial Merit from the Korean government and was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE).

Dr. Min received a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Seoul National University, a Master's degree in Management from MIT, and a Doctoral degree in Business Administration from Harvard University. Dr. Min has served as a lecturer and adjunct professor at several universities in Korea, Singapore, and Japan.



Sangkuen Park
(박상근)

President of AKBFF
Attorney at Law

Sang K. Park is a graduate of Seoul National University College of Law (1979) and its law school with LL.M. in International Law (1981). Came to US in 1981 and graduated from George Washington University, National Law Center with LL. M. in Comparative Law (1983) and International Law (1985). Having been a member of District of Columbia (1988), Virginia (1989) and Maryland State Bars (1992), his primary practice is in the area of commercial real estate transactions, landlord and tenant law, labor law, immigration law and conflicts of law between US and Korea. He has been associated with several title insurance companies as a transactional attorney for the past fifteen years. In helping Korean community to be assimilated into mainstream society, he served for fifteen years as a legal counsel for Korean American Association of Washington Metropolitan Area and for Korean American Grocers' Association of Greater Washington. As an advocate for political and social empowerment of Korean Americans he was one of the founders of Advocates for the Rights of Korean Americans, an advocacy organization supported by 1st and 2nd generation Korean immigrants, and later served as its executive director. In public arena, Mr. Park served as a member of Advisory Committee to Immigrant and Refugee Policy Council under Virginia General Assembly and was a member of Fairfax County Human Rights Commission from 1999 to 2001. In 2018 he finished the term as the president of Korean CBMC (Connecting Business and Marketplace to Christ) of North America that represents Korean Christian businessmen and professionals in North America.

Mr. Park has been a partner of the law firm, Moon, Park & Associates located in Annandale, Virginia, since 1992.

Founding Members

AKBFF



Go Eun Kang
(강고은)

President of
Omni Financial
Risk Management

Go Eun Elaine Kang is a President of Omni Financial Risk Management Inc. the first Korean non-life insurance agent and the largest insurance company in the Korean community in Washington metro area.

As the next-generation and women's business owners, Go Eun is trying to connect the 1st generation of Koreans and the next generation, and the bridge role between the Korean community and the mainstream American society is fulfilling their social responsibilities.

She served as a member of PUAC (Peaceful Unification Advisory Council) which advises by request and makes proposals to the President of the Republic of Korea from 2017 to 2022. She served as an executive director in PUAC Washington chapter in 2021.

From 2018 to 2019, she was the senior vice president of the Korean Society of Maryland and contributed establishing an upgraded Korean American festival framework. She was awarded the Maryland Governor's Citation in 2013 and 2018 for her contribution to the harmony of local residents.

From 2016 to the present, he has been a general director of CBMC(Connecting Business & Marketplace to Christ) in North America, and is trying to practice commitment and sharing by running companies with a Christian spirit.



Jin Keun Song
(송진근)

President of
Hansan Inc

Jin Keun Song is the founder and current CEO of three companies: Han San Inc, A & S Contract Co, and Sung Eun Management. Han San Inc is a commercial siding and roofing company. A&S is a company that deals with government contracts and jobsites. Lastly, Sung Eun Inc is a reality company. Mr. Song has been the CEO of Han San Inc since 2009, making 2023 his 14-year anniversary.

All three companies have not only stood the test if time, but thrived for many years. As the CEO, Mr. Song used his new found wealth to bless those around him. The foundations that he currently donates to include the YW Kang Foundation for the Visually Impaired, the American Wheat Mission Inc, George Mason University's Mason: Korea project, and St Jude Children's Hospital. He also donates to multiple different cancer events and disabled children foundations every year. Mr. Song is very involved with the Korean community in Newport News. He annually donates to the Korean Elderly foundations and the local Korean Schools.

Founding Members

AKBFF



Eric Lee (이양기)

Senior Vice President
of Hughes Network
Systems

Eric Lee (이양기) is Senior Vice President of Hughes Network Systems, located in Germantown, Maryland and is responsible for supply chain management for the entire company. Eric has a track record of delivering strong contributions to efficiency, effectiveness, and profitability with deeply committed relationships across the US, Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Dedicated to end-to-end demand-driven supply chain management, He consistently engages customers, suppliers, and sales teams to anticipate needs, identify cycles and proactively address market volatility.

Eric is a highly respected leader, communicator, mentor, and trusted advisor within and outside the organization. Eric also has strong financial management skills, including P&L and working capital management. Eric received BS of Electronic Engineering from Sogang University and MBA from George Washington University. Eric currently serves as the president of George Washington University Korean Alumni Association. He recently joined AKBFF as one of founding members.



Sojung Lim
(임소정)

Owner and operator
of Lim's Insurance
Agency

Sojung Lim is serving her third term as a Council Member in the City of Fairfax, Virginia, since 2018. The City of Fairfax has a council/manager form of government. The mayor and six council members are elected every two years on an at-large, non-partisan basis. The current term expires 12/31/2024.

Sojung is the owner and operator of Lim's Insurance Agency, in operation since 1992 and located in Fairfax, VA since 1997. During her career with Nationwide Insurance and Financial Services, she has earned numerous awards, including: the President's Awards, Championship Awards, Community Service Awards, and Top Producer Award in Commercial & Financial Products. Sojung also serves as a board member of two different boards at George Mason University; School of Visual and Performing Arts and Mason Korea. She also served a two year term as the 38th President of the Korean American Association of the Washington Metropolitan Area during 2015-2016. She is the president of the U.S. chapter of the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation (THF), a branch of World Taekwondo, that works with refugee camp children to teach the values and principles of Taekwondo.

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