

‘I miss my hometown, Gunsan’; 91-year-old grandmother from U.S. sends handwritten letter

Mayor Kang Im-jun responds to heartbreaking communication from Korean American, enclosing travel brochure.



“I’ve lived in the United States for nearly 60 years, but I still miss my hometown, Gunsan, so much that it brings tears to my eyes.”

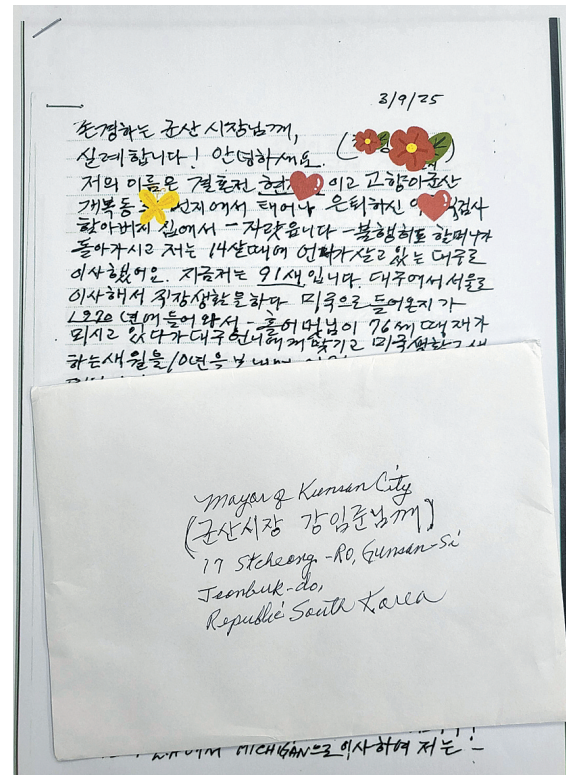
A 91-year-old Korean American woman, who left her hometown of Gunsan, North Jeolla Province, over 70 years ago, has delivered a deeply moving handwritten letter filled with longing. The protagonist of this story is a grandmother named Hyun Mo, who lives in Colorado.

Hyun sent a handwritten letter addressed directly to Gunsan Mayor Kang Im-jun in March, revealing that Gaebok-dong, Gunsan, was her hometown.

In the letter, Hyun stated: “I lived in Gunsan until I was 14, then moved to Seoul to work and immigrated to the United States in the 1970s. I’ve lived in the United States for nearly 60 years, but I still miss my hometown, Gunsan, so much that it brings tears to my eyes.”

Hyun expressed her longing for her hometown, saying, “After watching a performance by Gunsan native singer Kim Seong-hwan at the Gunsan Ggongdang Barley Festival on YouTube, I was reminded of my childhood memories,” and asked Kang about her elementary school friends.

As soon as the mayor received Hyun’s letter, he handwrote a letter of reply. Kang expressed his gratitude, saying, “I was deeply touched by the heartfelt sentiment you sent from a faraway land.” He also sent a booklet showcasing the beauty of Gunsan and tourist information materials.



A handwritten letter from a Korean American

Hyun responded to Kang’s letter in June of this year. She expressed her gratitude, saying: “I couldn’t be happier. Our people are truly warmhearted.”

She also sent a photo of herself and her family, along with a postcard depicting the natural beauty of Colorado, along with a reaffirmation of nostalgia for her hometown.

“The handwritten letter fostered a warm exchange between Gunsan and overseas Koreans who yearn for their hometown,” Kang said. “I will continue to strive to strengthen the pride and bond with our overseas Koreans in Gunsan through communication with our compatriots.” 🇰🇷