

# THE MESSENGER BAG



*Mission Driven. Family Focused*

Quarters 3 Newsletter

July – September 2023



## Letter from the President

Wow! The past several months have been terrific for Mission: POW-MIA. Our membership has continued to grow as we steadily bring more programs and initiatives to life to support our members in their SEARCH for answers.

Much has been accomplished since our inaugural Messenger Bag newsletter a few months ago. In this issue you will hear about Mission: POW-MIA involvement and support for our Vietnam War, Korea/Cold War (a special focus for us back in July), and World War II missing and their families. From attendance at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Korea/Cold War Annual Government Briefing, to speaking at the Special Operations Association Annual Reunion, to working with partners such as Healing Through History to expand research and analysis in support of DPAA's efforts, Mission: POW-MIA is actively pursuing our mission objectives of S.E.A.R.C.H.

- S – seeking the fullest possible accounting for our missing and unaccounted-for Americans
- E – engaging with partner organizations
- A – advocating for the families of our missing
- R – researching and investigating for case resolution
- C – conducting outreach and education
- H – honoring the service and sacrifices of our missing and their families

I want to specifically thank some of our corporate and veteran support organization (VSO) organizations whose support has been critical to our start up and growth.

Gun Barrel Coffee, who has extended their Mission: POW-MIA fundraiser through the end of 2023.

Vietnam Veterans of America national headquarters.

Special Operations Association.

The growing number of state and local veterans and family support organizations.

You will see articles written by our members as you read about Mission: POW-MIA's efforts in this issue. A hearty thank you to those who contributed. I encourage all of our members to join in and contribute your family stories and news of POW/MIA recognition activities in your area.

Thank you for your support getting Mission: POW-MIA up and running. You have our pledge to continue increasing our efforts on your behalf, as together we seek the fullest possible accounting of American's missing from past conflicts. In return, I ask you to encourage others to join Mission: POW-MIA. Together, with a growing unified voice, we can make a real difference in the SEARCH for answers. Thank you.



Sincerely,

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# HISTORY

The immediate need for a family focused advocacy organization developed following the dissolution of the National League of POW/MIA Families on January 31, 2023. Following a 4-3 vote to close the League, the dissenting Board Members (those who voted to keep the League open) reached out to other POW-MIA families to gauge interest in forming a new family organization.

The response was overwhelming from POW-MIA families as well as retired military officers and concerned Americans. Mission: POW-MIA was incorporated on February 22, 2023 in Chesapeake, Virginia. Our initial Board of Directors includes five family members from unaccounted-for cases and two retired Naval officers.

Our **vision** is to establish Mission: POW-MIA as an inclusive organization recognized for its transparency, determination, and dedication to end the uncertainty faced by generations of America's POW/MIA families.

Our **mission** is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of missing and unaccounted-for Americans from past conflicts through partnerships, research and outreach; by collaborating with like-minded organizations; advocating for our families as they S.E.A.R.C.H. for answers; conducting research and investigations to aid in case resolution to end uncertainty; informing and educating current and future generations; honoring the service and sacrifices made by past generations and their families and ensuring our Nation fulfills its promise to "leave no one behind."

Our **mission objectives** are defined as follows:

**S** – seeking the fullest possible accounting for our missing and unaccounted-for Americans

**E** – engaging with partner organizations

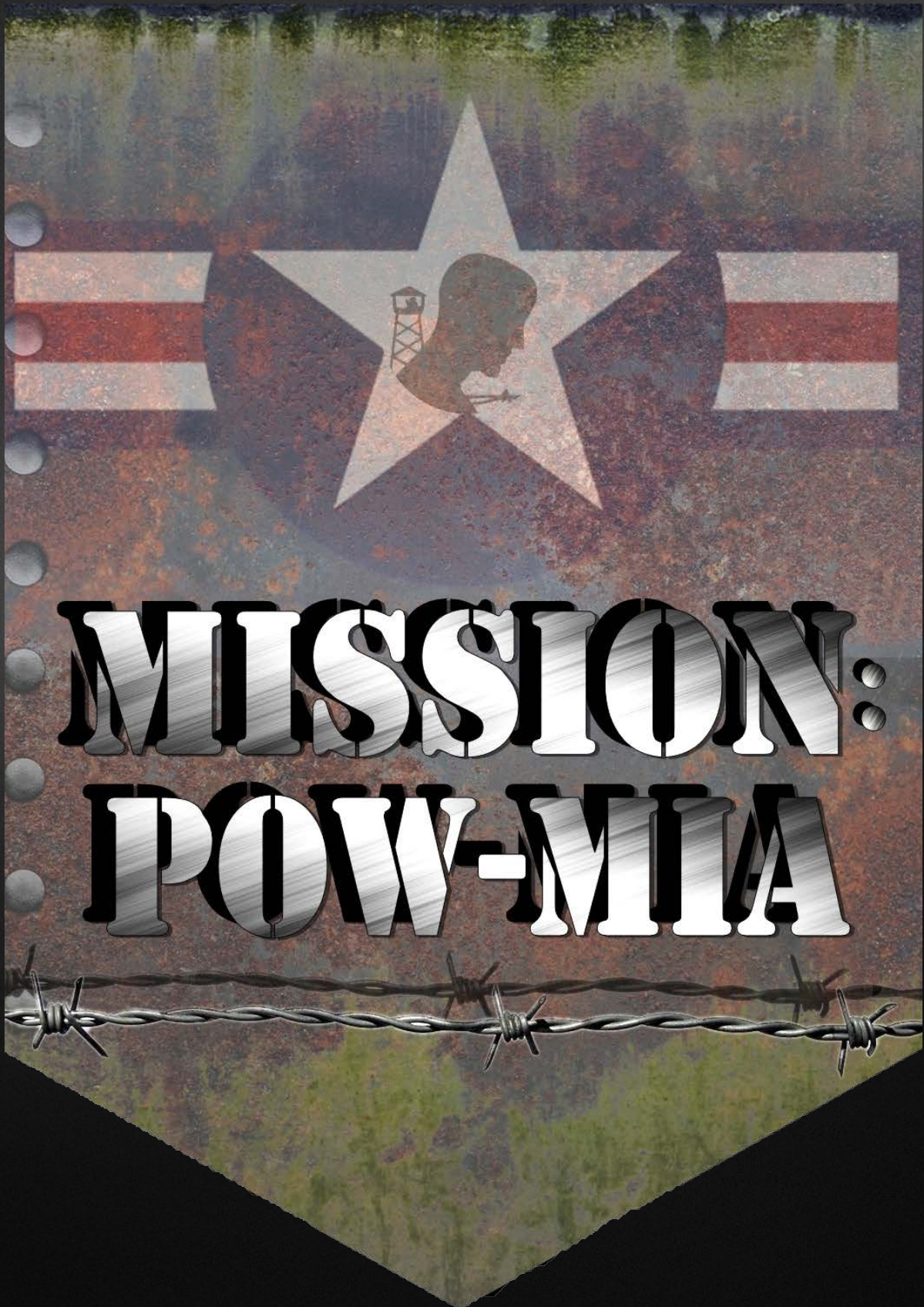
**A** – advocating for the families of our missing

**R** – researching and investigating for case resolution

**C** – conducting outreach and education

**H** – honoring the service and sacrifices of our missing and their families

We are so honored to have set course in a new direction with our family members and concerned supporters. It is time to bring back HOPE as we continue to pursue answers for all our POW-MIA families.



# Mission: POW-MIA is Thankful for You...

## Our Families, Our Members & Our Supporters





Thank YOU for all you continue to do  
for the MISSION!



# JULY

## 70TH COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

### KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL



Remarks by Congressman Mike Gallagher (WI-8th), Chairman, House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)



Opening remarks by GEN John H. Tilelli, Jr., U. S. Army (Retired), Chairman of the Board, Korean War Veteran's Memorial Foundation.



Mr. Rick Downes, President of the Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs standing next to a picture of his father, 1st Lt Harold W. Downes, Jr., USAF, MIA at the KWVM Wall of Remembrance .

Rear Admiral Jon Kreitz, U.S. Navy (Retired), President, Mission: POW-MIA and Mr. Rick Downes, President of the Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs standing adjacent to a picture of Rick Downes' father, 1st Lt Harold W. Downes, Jr., USAF, MIA at the KWVM Wall of Remembrance.

# KOREAN WAR DAILY POSTS

**MISSION: POW-MIA**  
**KOREAN WAR**

**1ST LT SCOTT ANDERSON HOLZ**




On the night of July 13, 1953, a B-26 Invader (tail number 44-14523), call sign "Petal 141" departed Kunsan Air Base with a crew of five. The mission was a night-time bombing mission against the main supply route (MSR) between Pyongyang and Sinuiju, known as Purple 4. An F-4 Phantom II crossed into enemy territory; the pilot contacted the air controller (call sign "Dewey 7") reporting that they were rebuffed to the target area. This was the last known contact with the crew. Aerial searches were conducted the following day, but found no signs of the missing aircraft.

First Lieutenant Scott Anderson Holz, who joined the U.S. Air Force from Ohio, served with the 90th Bombardment Squadron, 3rd Bombardment Group. He was one of three navigators on the B-26 when it disappeared. No returned prisoners of war (POWs) mentioned having contact with 1st Lt Holz; nor was he seen at any known holding point, interrogation center, hospital, or permanent POW camp. He remains unaccounted for. Today, First Lieutenant Holz is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

**1ST LT HOLZ is one of 7,491 unaccounted**  
**Korean War Veterans still waiting to come home.**

**MISSION: POW-MIA**  
**KOREAN WAR**

**SGT RICHARD HUGH BARRY**




On July 6, 1953, a large Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) unit attacked and overran the U.S. Army outposts on Pork Chop Hill in an attempt to seize unsecured territory possible before the impending armistice agreement. After fighting for the position for four days, on July 10, the 7th Infantry Division Commander determined that the CCF disregard for casualties and desire to hold the outpost outweighed the position's tactical value, and ordered a withdrawal that was eventually completed on July 11. The U.S. never again contacted Pork Chop Hill, preventing thorough recovery efforts for those who were killed or went missing during the fighting.

Sergeant Richard Hugh Barry entered the U.S. Army from Mississippi and was a member of C Company of the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He went missing during the action at Pork Chop Hill on July 9, though the exact circumstances surrounding his loss are unknown. His remains were not recovered, and he is still unaccounted for. Today, Sergeant Barry is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

**SGT BARRY is one of 7,491 unaccounted**  
**Korean War Veterans still waiting to come home.**

**MISSION: POW-MIA**  
**KOREAN WAR**

**ATC HOWARD LAMONT CROSHAW**



On the night of July 13, 1953, a B-26 Invader (tail number 44-14517) departed Kunsan Air Base with a crew of five. The mission was a night-time bombing mission against the main supply route (MSR) between Pyongyang and Sinuiju, known as Purple 4. An F-4 Phantom II crossed into enemy territory; the pilot contacted the air controller (call sign "Dewey 7") reporting that they were rebuffed to the target area. This was the last known contact with the crew. Aerial searches were conducted the following day, but found no signs of the missing aircraft.

Master Sergeant Howard Lamont Croshaw, who joined the U.S. Army from Utah, was assigned to the 13th Bombardment Squadron, 3rd Bombardment Group. He was the center fire control gunner aboard this invader when it went missing. No returning POWs mentioned having contact with ATC Croshaw while in captivity. Nor was he seen at any known holding point, interrogation center, hospital, or permanent POW camp. He remains unaccounted for. Today, Master Sergeant Croshaw is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

**ATC CROSHAW is one of 7,491 unaccounted**  
**Korean War Veterans still waiting to come home.**



**Men with the 5th and 7th regiments, U.S. 1st Marine Division, receiving an order to withdraw from their positions near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, November 29, 1950**

**MISSION: POW-MIA**  
**KOREAN WAR**

**CPL OTIS LEE BROOME**



On August 7, 1951, elements of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, were ordered to attack the CCF's main supply route (MSR) between Pyongyang and Sinuiju, known as Purple 4. An F-4 Phantom II crossed into enemy territory; the pilot contacted the air controller (call sign "Dewey 7") reporting that they were rebuffed to the target area. This was the last known contact with the crew. Aerial searches were conducted the following day, but found no signs of the missing aircraft.

Corporal Otis Lee Broome entered the U.S. Army from New Jersey and served in B Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. On August 8, 1951, after B Company had completed its withdrawal from the MSR, most soldiers were dispatched to guard the enemy positions in the area. While attached to one of these platoons, CPL Broome and several other men were killed in action. His remains were not recovered, and he is still unaccounted for. Today, CPL Broome is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

**CPL BROOME is one of 7,491 unaccounted**  
**Korean War Veterans still waiting to come home.**

**MISSION: POW-MIA**  
**KOREAN WAR**

**PFC GEORGE ERVIN BRADWAY**



On August 7, 1951, elements of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, were ordered to attack the CCF's main supply route (MSR) between Pyongyang and Sinuiju, known as Purple 4. An F-4 Phantom II crossed into enemy territory; the pilot contacted the air controller (call sign "Dewey 7") reporting that they were rebuffed to the target area. This was the last known contact with the crew. Aerial searches were conducted the following day, but found no signs of the missing aircraft.

Private First Class George Ervin Bradway, who entered the U.S. Army from Minnesota, served with B Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division at the time of the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. He was killed in action during the battle, but his remains could not be recovered at the time of his loss due to battlefield conditions, and later attempts to locate them were unsuccessful. Today, Private First Class Bradway is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His name is also inscribed on the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, which was updated in 2002 to include the names of the fallen.

**PFC BRADWAY is one of 7,491 unaccounted**  
**Korean War Veterans still waiting to come home.**

**MISSION: POW-MIA**  
**KOREAN WAR**

**MSG JOHN JACKSON MORROW**



On November 27, 1950, the 11th Regimental Combat Team (RCT), tasked with replacing the 5th Marine Regiment on the east side of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea, arrived at the Punggyong Ri. That night, Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) launched a massive surprise attack against the soldiers and Marines at the site. The 11th RCT managed to repel the numerically superior CCF's initial attack; however, the enemy continued to attack over the next two nights. On December 1, the 11th RCT began its withdrawal from the Punggyong Ri to Hagaru-ri.

Master Sergeant John Jackson Morrow, who joined the U.S. Army from Tennessee, served with C Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was killed in action on November 28, 1950, during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir as his unit fought the CCF at the Punggyong Ri near Sŏngju. Due to harsh conditions on the battlefield, his body could not be recovered before his unit withdrew to Hagaru-ri, and after the war his remains were not identified among those returned to U.S. custody. Today, Master Sergeant Morrow is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His name is also inscribed on the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, which was updated in 2002 to include the names of the fallen.

**MSG MORROW is one of 7,491 unaccounted**  
**Korean War Veterans still waiting to come home.**

# AUGUST

## KHEDIVE LEGION OF HONOR



Mission: POW-MIA spoke at the Khedive Shriners Legion of Honor in Chesapeake, VA on Aug 24, 2023. We had the honor of welcoming home 7 Vietnam War veterans during their meeting. Thank you to the Shriners and their members for inviting us out and making this such a memorable event.



# SEPTEMBER

## VFW 4809



### VFW Post 4809 JOINS MISSION: POW-MIA

On September 11, 2023, Mission: POW-MIA was honored to speak at VFW Post 4809 in Norfolk, Virginia. We highlighted several of our POW-MIA family member cases and displayed the 1578 "Never Leave A Fallen Comrade Behind" poster. To our surprise, the members of Post 4809 voted to become the FIRST Mission: POW-MIA Founding Organization right after our presentation. We are excited to have them join us and show support for our families! Please share information about Mission: POW-MIA with all Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs), civic groups and others that they can join us as well!



# UNITED STATES INSTITUTE FOR PEACE



DPAA, USIP and SVR representatives standing with Gold Star daughters .



DPAA Dir Kelly McKeague and Dr David Yang, USIP



US Vietnam Veteran & researcher Richard Wagner, receives his Vietnam War Commemoration Vietnam Veteran pin and official "Welcome Home" from Jeanie Huffman of Mission: POW-MIA in partnership with the Vietnam War Commemoration .



Senator  
Jeff Merkley (D-OR)



Dr Andrew Wells-Dang  
of USIP



VNOSMP with  
Mission: POW-MIA



DPAA Director Kelly McKeague, Kim Benner (founding member Mission: POW-MIA) and representative of the 2 Sides Project, COL Matt Brannen (DPAA)



Colleen Shine (founding member of Mission: POW-MIA and representative of SDIT) with Jeanie Huffman

# USIP-SEPTEMBER



Multiple panel discussions took place at USIP including panel discussions and Q&A with US Vietnam Vets and Vietnamese researchers .



Panel discussion and Q&A with US Vietnam Vets and Vietnamese researchers at Fragments of Memory film screening. Co-sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Arlington, Virginia.



Mr Jack McManus, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America



Film crew of Fragments of Memory holding our POW/MIA flag



US Army Command MSGT (RET) Kin Lo, who assisted in the search for mass graves of Vietnamese soldiers, signs our POW/MIA flag .



US Ambassador to Vietnam Marc Knapper signing our POW-MIA flag.



DPAA representatives signing our POW-MIA flag.

# UNITED STATES & VIETNAM COMPREHENSIVE-STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP RECEPTION



Prime Minister of Vietnam,  
H.E. Phạm Minh Chính with  
Mission: POW-MIA



Celebrating the establishment of the Vietnam-  
U.S. Comprehensive Strategic Partnership,  
Washington, DC.



Ambassador of the Socialist  
Republic of Vietnam, H.E.  
Nguyen Quoc Dzung and Mad-  
am Tran Thi Bich Van with  
Mission: POW-MIA



Dr Van Truong and  
Jennifer Nasarenko (DPAA)  
with Mission: POW-MIA



Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)  
with Mission: POW-MIA

# RECOGNITION DAY SEPT 2023



Rutgers University ROTC unit holds its annual National POW-MIA Day Recognition ceremony on September 15, 2023. The event included the Missing Man Table Ceremony. The guest speaker was Mission: POW-MIA Founding Member Maureen Caporaso. Thank you to Maureen and the Rutgers ROTC Corps of Cadets!

# RECOGNITION DAY SEPT 2023



Governor Green declared Sept 15, 2023 as POW/MIA Recognition Day in the State of Hawaii. Thank you to Natalie Rauch (founding member of Mission: POW-MIA) with her new friend Mona who made this happen.



The Chair of Honor dedicated at Puyallup VFW Post 2224. Rick Holland (founding member of Mission: POW-MIA) shared this beautiful dedication with us.



Mission: POW-MIA at Harbor Park (Norfolk, VA) home of the International League Champion Norfolk Tides. There were 14,000 baseball fans in attendance .



On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, Sept 15, 2023, Air Force Sergeants Association hosted the event at Keesler AFB. Thank you to Diane Moore (founding member of Mission: POW-MIA) for sharing these wonderful photos.

# RECOGNITION DAY SEPT 2023



Cindy Stonebraker Reed (MIA daughter of Lt Col Kenneth Stonebraker, and Board Member for Mission: POW-MIA) speaks at the Rolling Thunder, Inc. Chapter 5 NC in Jacksonville, NC for National POW/MIA Recognition Day, September 15, 2023



National POW/MIA Recognition Day 2023, The Pentagon.

# MIA CASE SPOTLIGHT

## STORY BY SUSAN CROSBY

### FOUNDING MEMBER

My years of research of an American pilot that is MIA while serving in the Vietnam War began because of a POW MIA bracelet I've had for 50+- years with "**Lt. Col. Carter Luna, 3-10-69**" inscribed on it. The bracelet is a gift from my mother who was a psychiatric nurse in V.A. Hospitals for 33 years. About eight years ago I started in-depth research of who air force Lieutenant Colonel Luna was and what happened to him during the Vietnam War more specifically the "*Secret War in Laos*". In addition, I've made three trips to Laos since 2017 to honor him, and investigate more about his fate. When people see my bracelet they usually ask if I'm related to Colonel Luna and I answer "no". But, through my research, contact with his family and others I have come to know who he was as an air force officer, husband, and father. It would have been an honor to know Colonel Carter Luna.

Prior to my most recent trip to Laos in March 2023 I had really ramped-up my research of the loss of Colonel Carter Luna on 10 MAR 69. One of the most important documents I've acquired is the SAR (search and rescue) logs that I have studied and made spreadsheets of from the day when then Lieutenant Colonel Luna and his WSO (weapon systems officer) Captain Aldis Rutyna were shot down in Savannakhet Province Laos. While conducting daytime bombing runs their F-4D Phantom was hit by enemy ground fire. Both crewmembers ejected, landed on the ground safely and had radio communication with SAR forces who arrived in the area a short time later. During the search and rescue efforts over the next few hours Captain Rutyna was rescued. Radio contact was lost with Lieutenant Colonel Luna and no further information about his status or location via his beeper was known.

In the decades that followed now *Colonel* Luna becoming MIA and ultimately classified as KIA/BNR (killed in action/body not recovered) there have been many investigations into his loss as well as hundreds of other airmen who became MIA during the Secret War in Laos. These investigations were conducted by U.S. government officials at DPAA (Defense POW MIA Accounting Agency, formerly JPAC Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command; both part of the Department of Defense) along with cooperation from the Vietnam and Laos governments. Investigations often involved interviewing former North Vietnamese soldiers who operated in the area where Colonel Luna was shot down. Some of these soldiers had firsthand information about the fate of Colonel Luna while others offered hearsay information. The most likely conclusion based on the information available is that Lieutenant Colonel Luna was shot and killed with an AK-47 when confronted by NVA soldiers searching for him in the area where he and Captain Rutyna were observed to eject and land. Statements by NVA soldiers indicated that Lieutenant Colonel Luna was buried by a team of NVA soldiers. I've spent countless hours reviewing the investigative reports that are available on the internet and through other sources. Some JFA (joint field activity) recovery missions led DPAA investigators to sites identified by NVA witnesses as a possible burial site of Colonel Luna. In **2006** a surface sweep was conducted at coordinates near Colonel Luna's last known position, however, there was no evidence found to warrant an excavation. In **2013** the same NVA witnesses led investigators to two sites but extremely close to being one site that were 150 meters away from the one examined in 2006. The site identified in **2013** was excavated but did not reveal any human remains or evidence that would relate to Colonel Luna. I found a notation from **2019** that strongly recommended that the location identified in **2006** be excavated but to my knowledge this has not occurred. I think that based on all the information available to me that the location where the cursory check was done in **2006** is quite likely where Colonel Luna's remains could be found.

# LT COL CARTER LUNA, MIA 10 MAR 1969



Last known photo of Col. Luna, Ubon  
RTAFB, 1969



Map: last known position of Col. Luna, excavated sites, other loss  
sites, possible burial site, NVA fighting position



Purple flower found near Col.  
Luna's last known position



Berries found near Col. Luna's last  
known position



Me near Col. Luna's last  
known position

# MIA CASE SPOTLIGHT



Ban Kok Mak squat toilet



Ban Kok Mak Mouk and I with children



Ban Kok Mak me giving custom made leather gift to assistant village chief and elder that we interviewed



Ban Kok Mak lady washing clothes



Ban Kok Mak village children

During my research I have spoken to or had electronic communications with several people knowledgeable of Colonel Luna. Through e-mails I have communicated with Colonel Aldis Rutyna, Ret. who was rescued on 10 MAR 69. Additionally, I have spoken to Captain George Marrett who led the SAR mission on 10 MAR 69. In his book *"Cheating Death- Combat Air Rescues in Vietnam and Laos"* he recounts that mission along with other missions that he flew during the Vietnam War. I've had phone conversations with the crew chief who prepared the F-4D Phantom ser. #: 65-0722 for what would be it's last flight on 10 MAR 69. Another air force officer who served with Colonel Luna stateside and although in a different squadron was also at Ubon RTAFB in Thailand on the day the colonel flew his last mission. He described to me the mood at the 8<sup>th</sup> TFW at Ubon upon Captain Rutyna's return later in the day on 10 MAR 69 after being rescued. He recounted a somber yet hopeful mood that Lieutenant Colonel Luna could still be rescued; it was not known at the time that the SAR mission had been called off. It has amazed me that 54 years after the event on 10 MAR 69 I've been able to have contact with these and other individuals. I've also been contacted by a few other people that wear a POW MIA bracelet with Lieutenant Colonel Luna's name on it, and some stay in touch with me to find out if I have any new information.

During my trip to Savannakhet Province Laos in March 2023 I went to Ban Kok Mak which is one of the closest villages to the rescue site of Captain Aldis Rutyna, and where Lieutenant Colonel Luna is last known to be alive. Along with my driver Chris of Lao Adv Tours, and a guide/translator we met with the assistant village chief early on 21 March. During the conversation with our translator the assistant village chief agreed to accompany us to the area where a couple excavations took place as well as probable crash sites. Since Lieutenant Colonel Luna and his WSO ejected I have never had much interest in the location of their downed F-4D. But, if it can be found it is a part of the history of what happened on 10 MAR 69 in Savannakhet Province Laos.

We traveled a short distance by pick-up truck to a dirt path to two excavated crash site. The first site is where Captain Alva Krogman, USAF crashed on **17 JAN 67**. His remains were found in **2019** and he was positively identified in **2020**. It was quite a *moment* for me to be standing in the middle of this excavated site. Arriving at the second site we did not know whose loss it related to at the time. Upon contacting a source of mine I found that this is most likely the site where Captain William Cogdell was shot down on **17 JAN 67** when he flew into the area searching for Captain Krogman. Ultimately, this crash site was found and excavated in **1994** with his remains being positively identified the same year.

The assistant village chief directed us back to the original dirt path that we were on and pointed out an area where he said another U.S. aircraft crashed. He did not think that the site has been visited by the U.S. government so we did not wander into the heavily wooded area because we doubted that it had been cleared of UXOs (unexploded ordnances). I think it's possibly the location where Colonel Luna's F-4D crashed. **(NOTE: Without independent confirmation from the U.S. Government all locations referred to in this summary from my time on the ground in Laos are my conclusions based on the information available to me, and my best efforts to confirm information through research of losses.)**

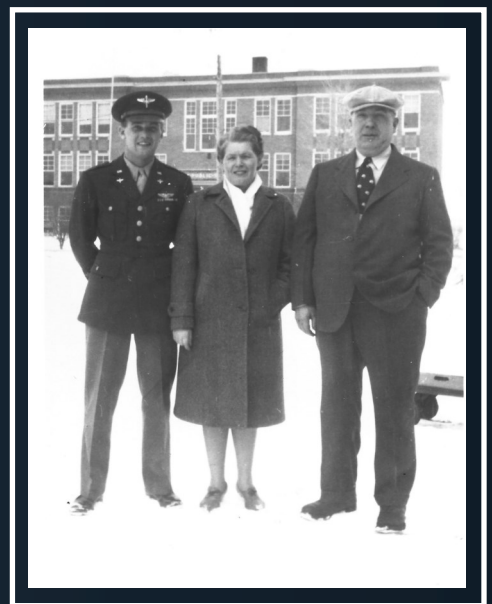
After dropping off the assistant village chief at Ban Kok Mak we traveled back to Vilabouly to stop at a market to buy food and water for the villagers. I had bought small toys that I shipped to my son in Southeast Asia before my trip and now had them with me. Before returning to the village we stopped at two coordinates of interest related to Colonel Luna. To get to the first coordinates we walked through a cassava field that had been harvested, so it was easy for Chris and I to navigate through it. Chris then located the coordinate of Colonel Luna's last known position in an adjoining brushy area. I'm still at a loss for words to describe how I felt standing on the ground in the area where Colonel Luna was 54 years earlier.

# **MIA CASE SPOTLIGHT**

## **STORY BY BRIAN HANSON**

### **FOUNDING MEMBER**

Warren Sanderson was born on 12/27/23 to Fred and Stella Sanderson in Climax, Mn. He graduated from HS in June of 1942 and enlisted in the Army Air Force on 11/5/42. He served as bombardier and navigator in the North Atlantic and was discharged on 1/3/46 but signed on as a reserve. On 5/10/1947 Warren married Gloria Anderson. He obtained a degree in Forestry from the University of MN. in 1949 and was assigned to the US Forestry Service in Park Rapids. He returned to active duty on 3/1/51 and was assigned to the 343rd SRS and 55th SRW. He trained in Biloxi, MS as an ECM and graduated as a "Raven". As a Raven, one of his duties was to identify vulnerabilities in enemy targets. The surveillance techniques he would use were listed as classified by the CIA and Warren was required to take an oath of secrecy. Warren and Gloria's first son, John, was born while in Biloxi. John would later follow in his father's footsteps of serving in the military by enlisting in the United States Army. He served in Vietnam. After completing his army career, John continued to serve by becoming a police officer in Fargo, ND. Warren was assigned to Forbes AFB in Ks. which was home of the SAC at the time. His unit worked for the State Dept. and went on temporary duty at Yokota AFB in Japan in Feb. of 1953 under control of FEAF. They began flying ferret missions to monitor and measure frequencies, strengths, and locations of enemy radar in North Korea, China, and the Soviet Union. They also monitored troop and supply movement and dropped leaflets over North Korean sites.





# COLD WAR

## MIA 29 JULY 1953



RB-50G #7145 (9653)



L-R O'Kelly, Sanderson, Beahan, Bennett

While celebrating the Armistice on 7/27/1953 his crew of 17 received orders for one more mission. They were to monitor sites from North Korea to Vladivostok in Russia for forbidden movement of aircraft to and from those areas. On the eve of 7/28/1953 after flight preparations were complete, Warren wrote a letter to his wife. The letter was written at 11pm on 7/28/1953. Warren and his crew departed from Yokota at 3 am on 7/29/1953. Warren had no way of knowing that while he was writing that letter home his wife, Gloria, was in labor. She delivered their second son, Bruce Warren. Bruce was born shortly after what would be his father's final mission began. Neither of Warren's sons ever knew their father. It is unknown if Warren was aware of the birth of his second son. FINAL MISSION: Shortly after 6 am as they approached Vladivostok Harbor in the Sea of Japan their plane was intercepted by two Russian MIGs. The RB-50 was shot down. Within the aircraft an order was given directing the crew to bail out. According to reports at least 7 to 10 of the crew exited the aircraft. The co-pilot was the only known survivor and was picked up by the USS Pickens some 20 hours after the shootdown. It was later reported that Russian gunnery personnel who witnessed the incident saw 6 parachutes descend into the fog near Askold Island.

# MIA CASE SPOTLIGHT

## 1LT WARREN J SANDERSON



Another report stated that other survivors were spotted near the wreckage several miles away. Heavy fog throughout the day hampered rescue efforts. US planes reported two groups of survivors and dropped rescue boats some 11 hours after the downing. It was 9 hours later that the copilot was rescued so Russian boats had plenty of time to salvage debris and pick up survivors. There are other credible reports that lead many to believe that other crew members survived. THE SEARCH CONTINUES: The fate of the fliers who bailed out remains a mystery. The joint US-Russian commission on MIAs treated the RB-50 case as their top priority. Warren's sons as well as other family members worked tirelessly for decades trying to find answers to their questions as to the fate of their loved one. The search for those answers continues today. Over the years various reports have surfaced: Russian President Yeltsin in June of 1992 announced that "as of August 1, 1953, 12 previously unacknowledged American fliers were being kept in prisons or psychiatric hospitals after being shot down over Soviet territory". A formerly classified State Dept. cable sent to the US Embassy in Moscow in 1953 states: "it almost appears certain that Soviets have in custody some survivors of the crash". A Japanese citizen released from a Soviet prison near Inta in 1955 told Air Force investigators that a fellow prisoner in his camp was Warren Sanderson.

# MIA CASE SPOTLIGHT COLD WAR

In 1977 a Soviet Jewish dissident repatriated to the US stated he had known 6 of the RB-50 crew in the prison camp where he lived. He said they spoke about the details of the incident. A document dated October 9, 1954, from the US State department to the Russian government states: "The US Government is confirmed in its conclusions and its charges that these Soviet craft, the PT boats, picked up survivors and a majority, if not all of the men, were able to exit the airplane...". State department and CIA documents regarding this incident remain partially or totally redacted. Family efforts through FOIA to release these documents have not been successful. We continue to hope that all documents can be provided in an unredacted form. Our family continues to search for answers. Warren's sons passed away 6 years ago. Jayne Hanson, Warren's niece, and her husband, Brian, from Minnetonka, MN are the primary next of kin. Brian and his grandson Jon Hanson are Founding Members of Mission: POW-MIA. We welcome any comments and information. Please contact at: [jayne@arvig.net](mailto:jayne@arvig.net)



# FORMER POW SPOTLIGHT

## STORY BY ARN MANELLA

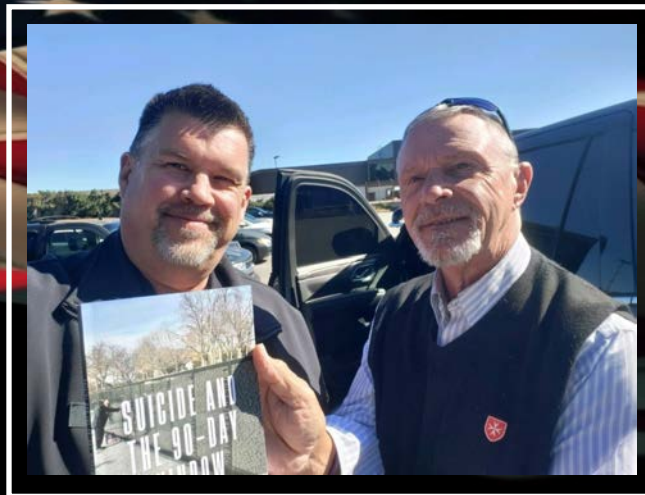
### FOUNDING MEMBER

**Corporal Dominick George "Shorty" Manella, U.S. Army**

My Dad enlisted in the US Army on April 10, 1941, joining the 5th Infantry Division at Fort Custer, Michigan, that October. I believe he's assigned to the 10th Infantry Regiment.

In May 1942, the Division replaced the British garrison in Iceland. Although Dad spoke very little of his experiences, he liked to tell about how he put one over on the Company Commander. The company is scheduled to conduct a forced march with full gear over twenty miles in a snowstorm on this particular day. Before departing, the Captain asked if anyone had experience working with stone. Dad immediately raised his hand. The job was constructing a stone fireplace for the officer's club. So, with the help of his friend, they spent the next week on the fireplace.

Dad left Iceland in early August 1943 and was sent to England to prepare and train for the eventual invasion of Europe. Upon arrival in England, the 5th Division is stationed at Tidworth Barracks before moving to County Down and the port city of Kilkeel in Northern Ireland. Once again, Dad volunteers to guard a boat that frequently moves livestock to Scotland for our stationed troops. On the return, he would bring whisky.



Arn Manella is a retired United States Marine combat veteran who served in Vietnam and around the world. He is the author of Suicide and the 90 Day Window. A book written to help veterans and First Responders who may be battling with thoughts of suicide.

After two years of training, the 5th ID landed in Normandy on Utah Beach on July 9, 1944, over a month after the initial D-Day landings. Dad's regiment was successful on many occasions, taking Saint-Lo, Angers, and Fontainebleau. The Germans displaced American units in December, starting the Battle of the Bulge. Dad's regiment is rushed in to reinforce. It was bitterly cold and disorganized. Later that month, my family in Chicago received the dreaded telegram from the War Department: "PFC Dominick George Manella, #36018837, missing in action, presumed dead."

Here's where things begin to get foggy. Dad seldom talked about the war, but every summer, his friend Hladen, a Detroit Police Lieutenant, visited Dad. When I was twelve, Hladen said I was old enough to appreciate my Dad as a hero.

On this particular day, as their company rushed to the front, Military Policemen (actually Germans in US uniforms) directed them into a farm yard ambush. Dad pulled Hladen under a dead cow. Remember Dad's nickname is Shorty; he's 5' 6". Hladen is 6' 2". When the Germans began shooting the wounded in the head, Dad jumped up and surrendered. They were among the one hundred or so captured that day. The six survivors joined other captured Americans and are loaded into boxcars destined for Stalag 3B, Furstenberg, in Eastern Germany (Prussia). The large POW camp holds many Americans captured during the siege of Tobruk in 1941. There were also RAF and French POWs.

The Stalag wasn't all that bad. Housing was clean, and the food was augmented with Red Cross and YMCA packages. The Germans took the cigarettes and chocolate. My Dad's father was an Italian shoemaker. So, when the German civilians had any leather materials, Dad, for extra rations, would repair or make serviceable items for them. He then distributed the rations to other POWs.

As the allies pushed closer, the order to abandon the Stalag was given, and the POWs were marched on February 7, 1945, to Stalag 3A near Luckenwalde, a distance of about seventy miles. Water and food are severely rationed. On April 22, 1945, the Russians captured the Stalag.

Dad and Hladen, among others, are repatriated to an embarking point in France. The Captain is filling in my Dad's paperwork, and upon hearing all he did on the battlefield and in the Stalag, he spot promotes Dad to Corporal.

Dad and other service members, injured in combat, often were sent to Miami Beach, Florida, for rest and recovery before returning to their homes. In 1957, Dad, Mom, my brother Dominick, Jr, and I drove to Miami Beach to see the Caravelle Hotel, where Dad and others improved.

I started this story by mentioning Dad spoke very little about the war. When I returned from Vietnam, we talked about our experiences. And, years later, my son Christopher and I sat on the same beach chairs in the driveway of our California home and talked. Christopher had been wounded in action after serving a combat tour as a United States Marine.



RB-50 crew

Photo provided by Brian Hanson

## The Cold War Project: 126

We are looking for photos to recognize our 126 missing and unaccounted-for service men from the Cold War. (The flags on the poster each represent a man that we have been unable to locate their photo. Their names are listed to the right of each column)

Please email us if you have any photos of these 40 brave men. [info@missionpowmia.org](mailto:info@missionpowmia.org)

CAPT LOUIS C. WENDLER  
 1ST LT NORMAN BARRY WALKERSON  
 A TFC DAVID WOODROW WELLS  
 A 1ST LIEUTENANT WOODSON  
 2D LT ROBERT ARTHUR VOLTS  
 POW LLOYD LAWRENCE YOUNG

2945 DAWN GLEN CLARK ANGELIZ  
 7161 TAYLOR PALMER O'ARROWOOD  
 4011 REUBEN SAMUEL NAVIGETT  
 4282 LIGHT FRANCIS BALDENMAN  
 472 DONALD WATKINS BARBER  
 103 RONALD A BEHRA  
 430 ROSCOE GEORGE BECKER  
 FRANK LLOYD BECKMAN  
 426 JOHN EDWARD BERTY  
 510 ESTATE ROY BORG

1LT FRANK ERNEST BEYER  
SSG WILLIAM ARCHIBALD BIZZARD  
SSG LEON FRANK BORUNA  
AL3 JOSEPH JAY BOUBASSA  
1ST LT PAUL EUGENE BROCK  
CAPT ROBERT N BROOKS  
WALLACE A BURFORD  
ENS TOMMY LEE BURGESS  
MAJ SAMUEL NATHAN BUSCH

A02 WARREN EDGAR CARON  
AT2 STEPHEN CURTIS CHAMBER  
S 54T SAMUEL ALBION COLLAN  
AT2 BERNIE JOEL COLGIN  
AD8J BALLARD FRANKLIN CONNORS  
1LT EDMUND J. CEYE  
AD6 JOE HERVEY DAINONS  
T 50T BOBBY NAY DAVIS  
JESSE BRAXTON DEAR

CYR GARY RAY DUCHAMNE  
LT JOHN DEEMA  
ADC WILLIAM H ELLIS  
CAPT EUGENE MINOT ENGLISH JR.  
ADC WAYNE J FAIR  
CAPT RODGER A FRIES  
LT JOHN H FETTE  
LTJG FRANCIS ARTHUR FLOOD JR.

LT DENNIS BAIRD GLEASON  
CAPT OSCAR L GOFORTH  
JLC ROLAND EDGAR GOULET  
ART3 GENE BENNETH GRAHAM  
AEC LAVERNIE ALBERT GREINER  
SSG DONALD G HILL  
S SGT JOHN ARTHUR HIRSCH  
LTJG JUDD CLARENCE HODGSON

ATR1 JAMES JOSEPH HOBBS  
 AOS WILLIAM MICHAEL HUMBERT JR  
 LEOR MALTON HUTCHINSON  
 SGT RAYMOND D JOHNSON  
 AEL PAUL GUY JURIC  
 CPT JAMES GORDON KEITH  
 ALC FRED GRADY KENORICK  
 ATR1 RICHARD HENRY KINCAID  
 2LT RICHARD T KOSYAKO

ADD JACK D. LVELF  
ADD HAROLD EDWIN LEONHURTY  
Q56T HUGH MICHAEL LYNN  
ASC HARRY S. MAXWELL JR.  
PHS WILLIAM F. MCCLOURE JR.  
2D IT ROBERT JAMES MCDONNELL  
CAPT WILLIAM J. McLAUGHLIN  
A58C MARSHALL HARRY MCHAMBER  
AT8J THOMAS HARRIS MICHEL

AT3 WILLIAM SAMUEL MEYER  
CTE3 JOHN ALEXANDER MILLER III  
SSG MIGUEL WILLIAM MORDERKAT  
MSGT DAVID L MOORE  
AT-3 PAUL ALAN MORLEY  
A2C FRANK EUGENE NEAR III  
MAJ LACE C NEIGHBORS  
LCOR JAMES HOWARD OVERSTREET

MAJ EUGENE E. POSE  
 CPTJ JOHN HOWARD POTTS  
 A2E WALLACE WISBLOW POWELL  
 AN RICHARD THOMAS PRINGLE  
 CTS EDWARD I. PURCELL  
 A2C EARL W. RADZIN JR.  
 POS ERNATH DOYLE RADWIN

AT2C JOSEPH MORRIS RIVIER  
AT2 JAMES LEROY ROACH  
LTXS SAM ROSENFELD  
A2C CHARLES J RUSSELL JR  
1LT WARREN J SAUNDERS  
CAPT NORMAN A SCHWARTZ  
1LT JAMES ALONZO SLOAN JR

LT JOHN HALLICK SINGER  
ADC LEO J SLOAN  
KOS LLOYD SMITH JR.  
ENS DONALD ALLEN SMITH  
CTC RICHARD EARL SMITH  
DONALD EUGENE SPRINCLE

LTJ LONARD STYKOWSKY  
 CTR PHILIP DAVID SUNDY  
 SGT PAUL W SWINNEY

LTJ ROBERT JOSEPH SYKORA  
 CAPT PAT PATRICK TAYLOR  
 LT ROBERT FRANK TAYLOR  
 MAJ FRANCISCO J TEJEDA  
 CMSG STEVEN JOSEPH THORNE  
 SMSGT JERRY WILLIAM THORNA

CAPT JOHN C WARD  
CAPT RICHARD E WATSON  
ALZ RALPH A WERTZEL

CAPT LLOYD C WIGGINS  
1TIE NORMAN EBERT WILKESON  
A7N3 DAVID MORRIS WILIS  
A2C JAMES E WOODS  
2D LT ROBERT ARTHUR YATES  
PO3 LLOYD LAMAR YOUNG

# MISSION: POW-MIA



## A photograph of three people at night looking at a large, illuminated wall of names. The wall is covered in many small, glowing lights, and the ground is paved with cobblestones.



# to Joe

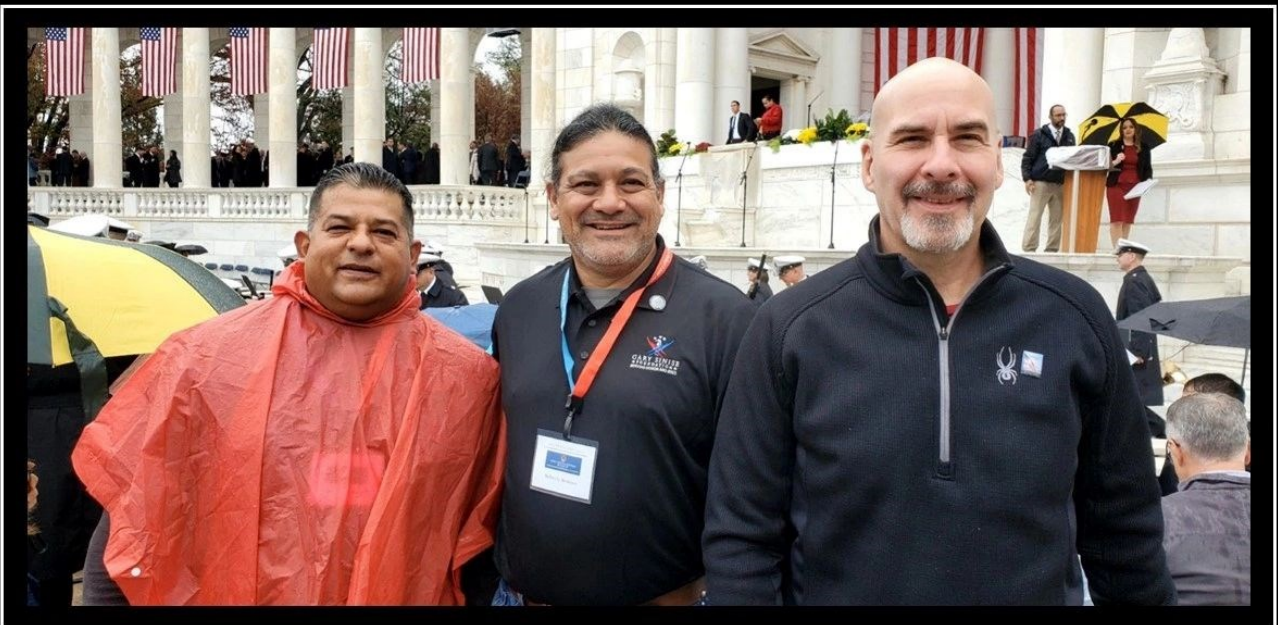


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MICHAEL JONES PHOTOGRAPHY 2018

## *Joe, My Brother...*



Joe, my brother, it was a pleasure and honor meeting you. Glad that our paths crossed and you will always be in my heart. Thanks for allowing me the time to converse with you through your troubling times and hope that you found the peace you were looking for. Will never forget the times together we forged as SDIT family and will always continue to honor your dad as a brother and family member.

Vaya con Dios mi carnal! Rolando Montana

# DPAA UPDATES

- ◇ 72,134 unaccounted for from World War II
- ◇ 7,485 unaccounted-for from the Korean War
- ◇ 126 unaccounted for from the Cold War
- ◇ 1,578 unaccounted for from the Vietnam War
- ◇ 6 unaccounted for from Iraq and Libya Conflicts



A quarterly DPAA family group/VSO call was held on October 25, 2023. Various VSO and family organizations were on the call, including Mission: POW-MIA. Director McKeague and other DPAA officials gave an overview on DPAA activities over the past few months. An important thing to note is that the DPAA budget increase (\$46M) for FY2024 will be held up until the Defense Appropriations Bill is passed by Congress and signed by the President.

The identifications for FY2023 are as follows:

- 177 identifications in total (158 newly accounted-for)

- 115 from WWII

- 39 from Korean War

- 4 from Vietnam War

WWII: DPAA completed their 80<sup>th</sup> planned disinterment for FY2023 which is the second highest annual total in Europe. Field operations in Europe are winding down for the season. Positive progress has been made with access to Kiribati, the turnover of remains from the Indian government and a resolution with Poland regarding an impasse with archaeological artifact transfer.

Korean War: An underwater IT was conducted off the coast of Buran and was the first collaboration between DPAA and the Republic of Korea Navy.

Vietnam: President Biden traveled to Vietnam and announced a Comprehensive-Strategic Partnership with Vietnam. A first ever drone survey was conducted in Vietnam. The drones used high power photography, videography and LIDAR sensors at multiple sights and will be used again in the future.

# WELCOME HOME



# WELCOMING HOME OUR VIETNAM WAR VETERANS

Mission: POW-MIA has pinned  
over 150 Vietnam War Veterans  
since May 2023



**Mission: POW-MIA & Gun Barrel Coffee  
have teamed up  
during the holidays season.**

***Gun Barrel Coffee is a great gift to warm  
those cold winters days and nights ahead!***



**A portion of the proceeds from coffee sales when you use the  
code MISSION at checkout will go to support Mission: POW-MIA.**

***To order go to [gunbarrelcoffee.com](http://gunbarrelcoffee.com) or use the QR code.***

**GUN BARREL COFFEE**  
VETERAN OWNED COMPANY



# Happy Holidays



# NEXT ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

*October 2023*



Special  
Operation  
Association  
Reunion

*November 2023*



The Wall that  
Heals

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Veterans Day  
Events

*December 2023*



Member  
Christmas  
& Holiday  
Events

# MEMBERSHIP INFO

Founding Member status is still available until March 24, 2024. You'll receive your Founding Member certificate, membership pin and special recognition on our website for you and your loved one.



Haven't become a member yet?  
What are you waiting for?

**Join Today!!!**

[www.missionpowmia.org/membership](http://www.missionpowmia.org/membership)

*Reach out to Mission: POW-MIA*

Do you know of an upcoming POW/MIA event?

Have you spoken or written about the POW/MIA issue and would you like to share the story?

Do you have photos or a family story you would like others to know about?

Contact us at [info@missionpowmia.org](mailto:info@missionpowmia.org)

# **THANK YOU!**

*So many people and organizations opened their arms to us and we just want to acknowledge the positive and collaborative partnerships!*

**Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency**

**Gun Barrel Coffee**

**Healing Through History**

**Special Operations Association**

**US Institute for Peace**

**Veterans Administration**

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Vietnam Veterans of America**

**Vietnam War Commemoration**

*Finally, a special thank you to all of our concerned supporters and most of all our POW-MIA families!*

*We are HONORED to work with you all!*

*Mission Driven. Family Focused.*