



**NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

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AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: DPAA announced on 8/24/18 that **CDR James B. Mills, USNR, CA**, was accounted for on 8/20/18. Listed as MIA on 9/21/66, NVN, his remains were recovered in June, 2018. Earlier in the month, DPAA announced that **Col Richard A. Kibbey, USAF, NY**, was accounted for on 8/6/18. Listed as MIA on 2/6/67, NVN, his remains were noted as returned on April 13, 2017. The accounting for CDR Mills and Col Kibbey reduces the number still missing from the Vietnam War to **1,594**. Prior to that, and dated 7/17/18, DPAA released the name of **Col Frederick M. Mellor, USAF**, listed as MIA, NVN, on 8/13/65. Prior to this posting, the most recent Vietnam War accounted-related release was on May 31st when DPAA posted the name of **LCDR Larry R. Kilpatrick, USN**, of GA, though he actually was accounted for on May 18th. Listed as MIA on 6/18/72 in North Vietnam, remains were recovered 12/14/2015. **The number still missing (POW/MIA) and otherwise unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR) from the Vietnam War is 1,594.** Of that number, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia or Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,248 (VN-453, VS-795); Laos-291; Cambodia-48; PRC territorial waters-7.

Since chartered in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for the missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains. The total accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is **989**. A breakdown by country of these 989 Americans is: Vietnam – 670, Laos – 274, Cambodia – 42, and the PRC – 3. In addition, 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975, the formal end of the Vietnam War, for a grand total of 1,052. These 63 Americans, accounted for by US-only efforts in accessible areas, were not due to cooperation by post-war governments in Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia. Combined, a total of 282 have been accounted for from Laos, 72 from Vietnam, 42 from Cambodia and 3 from the PRC.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY: Secretary of Defense General James N. Mattis, USMC (Ret), delivered inspirational, encouraging messages that signal solid US commitment to the accounting mission. In part he stated:

“As we honored those who returned after enduring our enemy’s worst, we also remember those still missing in action, those still awaiting their return. And we thank their families for their unrelenting courage and faith, as we strive to bring them home – some of these families honor us by their presence here today.”

We are grateful to the men and women of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Veteran Service Organizations and other advocates for their fierce resolve and tireless commitment to realize this mission. You give today’s warriors great courage and confidence as they launch into harm’s way knowing that no matter what destiny has in store for them, they will never be forgotten and that their fellow citizens will go to the ends of the earth to bring them home.”

As examples of family members present, the Secretary stated.....“the family of Army Sergeant Edward Saunders, a soldier in the 2nd Infantry Division who was killed following his capture in Korea by Chinese forces in 1951. Also the family of CDR James. B. Mills, a radar intercept officer shot down over the Gulf of Tonkin in 1966. His sister, Ann Mills-Griffiths, has carried his memory in her advocacy for this community ever since. And we are so grateful that he’s home now.”

In August, your community and our entire military family received an infusion of hope in the repatriation and homecoming to Hawaii of 55 cases of remains from the Korean War. President Trump made this a priority in his meetings with Chairman Kim. Because of it, we can welcome home two long lost heroes, Army Private First Class William H. Jones of Nash County, North Carolina and Army Master Sergeant Charles H. McDaniel of Vernon, Indiana. Two beloved sons of America, finally home on our soil.

Our POWs, our missing in action, their families, they have met the most terrible challenges undeterred, with the highest fortitude, honoring a nation that loves them for what they call out in each of us. And for that, we owe an irredeemable debt of gratitude.”

Chairman's Comment: The League especially welcomes the strong commitments made by Secretary of Defense Mattis, recognizing the importance to the Trump Administration's interagency community. We also recognize the importance of DoD's continued support for longstanding US policy to pursue accounting objectives on a separate humanitarian basis, despite political or policy issues that divide the US and counterpart countries in which cooperation is imperative. The League was very pleased to learn that National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies were held in Bangkok, Hanoi and Vientiane. This year's POW/MIA Recognition Day undoubtedly hit an all-time record for the number of events held throughout the country and on military installations and some US Embassies around the world. The significant expansion is due to many factors, including social media, but was heightened by the Singapore Summit in June and agreement reached between President Trump and Chairman Kim to repatriate remains of US personnel killed during the Korean War.

BREAKTHROUGH ON AMERICANS UNACCOUNTED-FOR FROM KOREAN WAR: In a formal statement signed by President Trump and Chairman Kim Jong Un, the United States and North Korea agreed to the recovery and repatriation of Americans still unaccounted-for from the Korean War. This stunning agreement, a potential win-win-win scenario, affords the affected families from the US, South Korea and Japan, in particular, an unprecedented opportunity to obtain long awaited answers.

As pledged, on July 27th, North Korea turned over 55 transfer cases, draped with the United Nations flag under which they served during the Korean War. Though the actual number of remains is as yet unknown, those remains are being carefully analyzed at DPAA's laboratories in an effort to establish individual identification. In fact, the first two identifications were announced: Army PFC William H. Jones and MSGT Charles H. McDaniel.

On September 27th, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, a formal ceremony was conducted to repatriate remains of some 64 Republic of Korea soldiers who were killed during the Korean War and recovered by the US from 1996 – 2005 in the DPRK. Scientists from both South Korea and the US worked together to ensure that the remains to be repatriated were those serving the Republic of Korea during the Korean War.

Chairman's Comment: Having sought the fullest possible accounting for decades, the League and all POW/MIA families welcome this encouraging development. The League can take pride in having led the way and laid the groundwork for all that is evolving nearly 50 years since officially formed on May 28, 1970.

In the early 1980s, the Reagan Administration took the initiative to raise intelligence priorities and obtain the evidence that is now publicly known and forms the basis for accounting expectations, not only for the Vietnam War, but also the Korean War. As the demand for expanding the accounting mission raised to a higher level in the early 1990s and the Korean War/Cold War POW/MIA families began organizing, the League fully supported efforts to recover and account for US personnel who didn't return from wars and conflicts further past, so long as the priority on Vietnam War POW/MIAs was not adversely impacted.

DPAA Director Kelly McKeague has pledged to sustain operational priority on accounting for as many as possible of our 1,594 unreturned veterans from the Vietnam War. The reality is that uncertainty is greater for Vietnam War families, and there are more immediate family members impacted by US accounting efforts. Worldwide efforts are ongoing, both operationally and from disinterring remains known to be those of American, buried as unknowns in US cemeteries around the world. Though known killed in action decades ago, reactions by relatives when recovered and identified today are evident and compelling. Congress just approved additional funding for DPAA to expand operations into North Korea, and negotiations to accomplish that objective are ongoing.

US/VIETNAM COOPERATION: DPAA and Defense Intelligence Agency/Stony Beach (DIA/SB) field operations resumed in mid-August and concluded recently with another repatriation ceremony in Da Nang. US-SRV Technical Talks took place September 10th in Hanoi, led by DPAA Deputy Director Rear Admiral Jon Kreitz. As anticipated, Vietnam was responsive to US requests, other than a couple that are under discussion, and the pace and scope of cooperation continues to expand.

Chairman's Comment: The League deeply appreciates efforts by the government and people of Vietnam to work constructively and effectively to achieve the fullest possible accounting. Vietnam's initially sporadic and frustrating cooperation has expanded steadily over the last 40 years and today can be described as forward leaning, proposing initiatives, and providing increased opportunities for success.

US/LAO COOPERATION: As field operations ended in Vietnam, DPAA and SB personnel began investigation and recovery operations on several cases of US personnel missing in Laos. These field recoveries also concluded with a repatriation ceremony conducted at the Luang Prabang Airport on August 14th. US-Lao consultations were held September 7th in Vientiane, led by the Deputy Director. Significant agreement was reached to expand support for year-round DIA/SB investigations, and Joint Field Activities (JFAs) are scheduled to resume soon.

Chairman's Comment: The League looks forward to positive results from these efforts, recognizing and applauding several significant developments in POW/MIA cooperation that the Lao leadership has authorized in recent months. These include base-camping at remote locations, increasing the number of US participants on a case-by-case basis, and extensions of time on field recovery sites when justified. Despite often difficult conditions, including advance destruction of unexploded ordnance, conditions for humanitarian cooperation to account for US personnel continue to improve, for which all Americans are grateful. Hopefully, further **Department of Homeland Security (DHS) sanctions against Laos** for failing to accept Lao nationals who long ago immigrated to the US, were since convicted of criminal acts and are now scheduled for legal deportation back to Laos, will not negatively impact humanitarian POW/MIA cooperation.

Regarding Cambodia: In Cambodia, long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen issued a "temporary suspension" to POW/MIA cooperation with DPAA when **DHS sanctions were levied against Cambodia** several months ago and has since declined appeals to lift the suspension. All are hoping, now that his predictable re-election has occurred, the Prime Minister will lift the unwarranted suspension; however, there was nonstop anti-US rhetoric through run-up to the election. Also, the Prime Minister has declared the suspension will end when the sanctions do. In the interim, DIA's Stony Beach Cambodia specialist continues to work constructively on the mission.

PRESIDENT'S STRONG MEMORIAL DAY COMMITMENT TO THE ACCOUNTING MISSION: The League was very pleased to see the President include language strongly committing the United States to *"remember the American servicemen and women who remain missing from wars and conflicts fought over the past century. We will never stop searching for them...and whenever possible, we will bring them home. We pledge to remember not just on Memorial Day. We will always remember them. We will remember them every day."*

DPAA BUDGET UPDATE FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018 & 2019 (Verbatim from DPAA): FY18: On March 23, 2018, the President signed the 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act which funded the Federal government through 30 September 2018. The legislation provided DPAA with \$146.3M to fully fund the agency over and above their original budget request. Specifically, DPAA received a \$10M increase for "Southeast Asia operations" (Vietnam War operations more accurately) and \$5M for partnerships. As a result of the recent return of remains from the Korean War, DPAA has requested additional funding from DoD to pay for unforecast expenses related to the repatriation and analysis of the remains. Vietnam War-related operations continue to be the agency's number one priority and will continue as planned and scheduled.

The Federal government's **FY19** appropriations request is making its way through the congressional review and approval process. In June, the House of Representatives passed a Defense Appropriations Act, which is only one step in a multiple step process. In addition, the House Appropriations Committee added \$10M for "SEA operations" (Vietnam War more accurately), while the House also added \$20M in amendments for Korean War operations. In the Senate, the Appropriations Committee passed their version of the Defense Appropriations Act; however, there were no adds for the POW/MIA mission. The Senate still must vote on the bill. Although none of these additions to DPAA's budget have been appropriated, if DPAA actually receives its full budget request plus the current House Funding additions, the agency could potentially receive \$160.696M for FY19.

HOUSE PASSES H. RES. 129: On February 12, 2018, the House of Representatives passed this important resolution by a vote of 411 – 0, sending a unified message to the American people – including our Armed Forces serving today and our veterans, as well as foreign nations. Introduced by **Representative Sam Johnson (R-TX)**, former Vietnam War POW, on February 14, 2017, his strong message on the Floor of the House occurred almost precisely 45 years after he and his fellow POWs were released from many years of captivity. Passage of this resolution reflected true bipartisan, non-political support for the humanitarian accounting mission. It is the US Senate's turn to act. The identical measure was simultaneously introduced in the US Senate by the late **Senator John S. McCain (R-AZ)** as **S. RES. 61**. Senate passage would further reinforce our country's support for achieving the fullest possible accounting for those who serve our nation – past, present and future. To date, there are only 13 co-sponsors in the Senate, the most recent being September 25th.

CONTACT YOUR SENATORS TO URGE IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF S. RES. 61

On September 7, 2018, **Representatives Mike Bishop (R-MI), Timothy Walz (D-MN), and Sam Johnson (R-TX)** introduced **House Resolution 6734, the Full Military Honors Act of 2018** to allow enlisted Medal of Honor recipients and Prisoners of War (POW) who are eligible for burial at Arlington National Cemetery to receive a full military honors burial. Currently, full military honors are reserved for commissioned officers, warrant officers, and senior non-commissioned officers. There are now 61 co-sponsors, the most recent being September 27, 2018.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO URGE PASSAGE OF H. RES. 6734.

49th ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY REPORT: The Opening Session on June 21st at the Hilton Crystal City Hotel opened with customary formalities, including Presentation of Colors by the Sergeants-at-Arms Committee Chairman, Les Brown, Elko, assisted by committee members from Boise and Pocatello, Idaho. The inspirational **In Memory Ceremony**, during which the names of 10 Americans accounted for since the 48th Annual Meeting in 2017 were read aloud, followed by guest soloist Wendy Coble (previously worked for the League, now with DPAA) singing “*On Eagle’s Wings*.” **Mr. Michael Cassata, Executive Director of the POW/MIA Memorial at Cecil Field**, Jacksonville, Florida, followed with a brief presentation on his nonprofit organization’s plans to create the National POW/MIA Memorial at former NAS Cecil Field.

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian & Pacific Security Affairs Mr. Randall Shriver represented the Secretary of Defense, bringing a message of full support for the accounting mission and for **DPAA Director Kelly McKeague’s** leadership in guiding renewed efforts to achieve results. **Mr. W. Patrick Murphy, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Asian & Pacific Affairs**, outlined US policy in support of achieving US accounting objectives, focused on Vietnam War-related countries, but also regional factors that apply.

Richard T. Childress, Director of Asian Affairs on the National Security Council (NSC) staff (1981-89), a recognized Southeast Asian specialist, a retired US Army Colonel and in-country Vietnam Veteran, again brought a meaningful, attention-raising message as he has each year since 1982. As the chief architect of policy developed by the POW/MIA Interagency Group, approved at the highest level, and pursued as a matter of highest national priority during President Ronald Reagan’s two terms, he has served as **League Senior Policy Adviser** since his retirement in February, 1989, and has participated in all League Delegations to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand since 1999. Entitled “Melting Icebergs,” his remarks outlined the positive changes now taking place in DPAA, thanks to Mr. Kelly McKeague who took the lead in September, 2017. These changes include increased transparency within DPAA and improved communication and partnership between the League and DPAA. Bottom line, Mr. Childress’ remarks summarized his rationale underscoring the positive attitude that carried throughout this year’s annual meeting. (A full copy of his remarks is posted on the League’s website, www.pow-miafamilies.org or can be requested by email or phone call to the League office.)

Chairman of the Board/CEO Ann Mills Griffiths’ remarks addressed diverse aspects of the accounting process, a virtual read-out on the positives and negatives, stressing the need for patience as the new DPAA Director considers alternatives moving forward. She expressed the need for DPAA to continue to increase the pace and scope of operations to maximize the relatively short time remaining to prioritize the Vietnam War accounting efforts. She noted the urgency of finding and interviewing sources before it is too late, fully integrating DIA’s special Stony Beach Team to augment the investigation efforts, as well as obtaining answers while immediate family members are still living and seeking answers to end their uncertainty. She also noted the confidence she has and the hope we all share that, when needed, reinforcement by the highest levels of the Trump Administration will step in to reinforce DPAA’s efforts with all counterpart countries, but in particular with the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation, neither of which are providing the cooperation long sought. (No copies are available as Mills-Griffiths’ remarks were from notes.)

The morning session closed with a presentation by **MG James Jackson, USA (Ret), Director of the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commission**. He discussed the Commission’s charter to thank and honor Vietnam War Veterans and their families, plus showed a short video and presented special pins to families afterward.

The afternoon session featured up-to-date presentations by senior DPAA officials. **Director Kelly McKeague, Policy & Plans Director John Hamilton, Partnership & Innovation Director Dr. Tom Holland, Outreach & Communications Director Todd Livick** and **Outreach & Communications Deputy Director Johnie Webb** outlined DPAA’s policy approach and operational direction, focused primarily on Vietnam War areas of interest. (All DPAA presentations are posted on the League website or can be obtained from the League office.)

The afternoon session was highlighted by participation of **Mr. Sergey Koshelev, Deputy Chief of Mission in the Embassy of the Russian Federation**. He was joined by **USRJC Co-Chairman Gen Robert “Doc” Fogelsong, USAF (Ret)**. The two men focused on the bilateral agreement between the US and Russia to work together on the POW/MIA issue despite the ongoing tensions between the two countries. **DPAA’s Director of the Europe–Mediterranean Directorate COL Christopher Forbes, USA** reported on the 21st USRJC Plenum in Moscow, Russia, and the more recent USRJC Vietnam War Working Group Technical Talks in Hawaii.

The afternoon session was concluded with a meaningful presentation from **Board Secretary Cindy Stonebraker** and **SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee Chairman and LTC Mike Taylor, USA/SF (Ret)**. The two participated in the League and SOA/SFA parallel delegations to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand in January of this year. They each noted the impact that their experiences during the visit had on them. Ms. Stonebraker, MIA daughter of Col Kenneth Stonebraker, USAF, listed MIA in NVN on 10-28-68, was visiting the region for the first time; LTC Taylor was returning for the first time since serving five tours (1968-72) during the Vietnam War.

The **49th Annual Meeting Dinner and Candlelight Ceremony** that evening was enjoyable, entertaining and inspirational. Following the Chairman's welcome, the **Military District of Washington (MDW) Armed Forces Color Guard** presented the Colors, and the National Anthem and the Service Medley were played. **DPAA Command Master Sergeant Michael E. Swam, USA**, Senior Enlisted Leader, read the **Missing Man Table Honors Ceremony**. US Army Chief of Chaplains **Father (MG) Paul Hurley** gave the invocation and later, to his great surprise, **was presented a League Award** for extraordinary support of the League. Long time League coordinator and year-round volunteer and annual meeting assistant chairman **Betty Bartels Murphy** was **presented the League Distinguished Service Award**, following in the footsteps of her late mother, Betty Adair Bartels. While introducing special guests, the Chairman called on **RADM Kevin Sweeney, Secretary of Defense Mattis' Chief of Staff**, who pledged the Secretary's full support, including hosting this year's National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony, a pledge that was just realized. Concluding the evening was the **Candlelight Ceremony honoring Vietnam War POW/MIAs**, with the Roll Call by **LTC Taylor**, and **Ms. Wendy Coble** singing a beautiful rendition of "*Somewhere Over the Rainbow*" before leading all in "*God Bless America*."

Friday, June 22nd, was another full day of government briefings beginning with the **Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) LTG Robert Ashley, Jr., USA**. General Ashley's remarks were so moving you could have heard a pin drop. He outlined DIA's commitment to supporting Stony Beach and working to expand operations into Vietnam. For the rest of the day, we heard from specialists dealing with all aspects of in-country activities, from investigations, including Stony Beach Team Members from (DIA) and larger-scale DPAA Investigation Teams (ITs), to surveys, recoveries, underwater recoveries (both US and Vietnamese), and processes utilized within the three separate DPAA Laboratories in Hawaii, Nebraska, and Ohio.

Those gathered also listened attentively to presentations on specific assets that can be incorporated to augment field operations, such as a presentation from **CWO Christopher Timothy, USN**, with the **Mobile Diving & Salvage Unit (MDSU)**, members of which have specialized training uniquely qualifying them to support underwater recovery efforts. **Dr. Tim McMahon, Director of the Department of Defense DNA Registry & Armed Forces DNA Laboratory**, gave an important presentation on the importance of DNA in identification efforts. He gave an in depth explanation for how even small amounts of DNA can be used to link missing servicemen to their families.

The day was closed out with a DPAA-hosted visit to the **National Museum of the US Marine Corps**. Participants of the annual meeting received a police escort from the Hilton Crystal City Hotel to the museum in Triangle, Virginia. The visit opened with a short reception featuring remarks from **DPAA Director Kelly McKeague** and **LtGen George Christmas, USMC (Ret), former President and CEO of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation**. The guests were then given the opportunity to tour the museum.

Saturday, June 23, marked the final day of the annual meeting and featured a three-hour Question & Answer (Q&A) Session allowing participants to pose questions that may have arisen as a result of presentations by individuals over the course of the annual meeting. The closing League Business Session provided family members with the status of the League's day-to-day operations, financial report for the past year, the archival/digitization project, and a report on the League educational foundation concept. The session closed with consideration and passage of resolutions.

Resolutions Passed at the 49th Annual Meeting Business Session:

1) Whereas, the POW/MIA Families, second only to our missing loved ones, are the primary stakeholders in DPAA's efforts, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the National League of POW/MIA Families, convened during the Business Session of our 49th Annual Meeting on June 23, 2018, fully supports the priority, direction, vision, transparency and partnership that DPAA is committed to pursuing under the leadership of Director Kelly K. McKeague, and looks forward to continued creativity in seeking solutions to obtain the fullest possible accounting for America's 1,597 personnel still missing from the Vietnam War.

2) Whereas, the POW/MIA Families, second only to our missing loved ones, are the primary stakeholders in DPAA's efforts, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the National League of POW/MIA Families, convened during the Business Session of our 49th Annual Meeting on June 23, 2018, welcomes and commends the stated commitments of DIA Director LTG Robert Ashley, USA, to fully support, sustain and work to increase the capacity of DIA's Stony Beach Team of specialists, including his commitment to the long-sought permanent stationing in Hanoi, Vietnam, of a Stony Beach Vietnam specialist, as well as efforts to expand and fully integrate the Stony Beach Team into the broader US Government accounting effort.

3) Whereas, the POW/MIA Families, second only to our missing loved ones, are the primary stakeholders in DPAA's efforts, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the National League of POW/MIA Families, convened during the Business Session of our 49th Annual Meeting on June 23, 2018, that the League welcomes Director Kelly McKeague's commitment to restore and improve the process of reporting to the NOK information that pertains or may pertain to missing US personnel and looks forward to adoption and implementation of such a process that includes a means of tracking the incoming information through the various processes for expeditious delivery by the Service Casualty Officers to the NOK.

4) Whereas, the POW/MIA Families, second only to our missing loved ones, are the primary stakeholders in DPAA's efforts, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the National League of POW/MIA Families, convened during the Business Session of our 49th Annual Meeting on June 23, 2018, that the League appreciates DPAA's commitment to notify all federal departments and agencies, and repositories of FOIAs filed at these respective agencies and elements, of the necessity to ensure that DPAA is notified and provided copies of all such information for integration into the individual case files, as well as insure such information is provided to the NOK in each instance.

5) Whereas, the POW/MIA Families, second only to our missing loved ones, are the primary stakeholders in DPAA's efforts, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the National League of POW/MIA Families, convened during the Business Session of our 49th Annual Meeting on June 23, 2018, that DPAA should proactively notify families when changes to DPAA processes and procedures occur that impact the accounting effort, including **ADDITIONS FOR ALL FIELD OPERATIONS** and DPAA rationale for prioritization of field activities; and be it further

RESOLVED that copies of case narratives and reports submitted to DPAA for field prioritization be shared with the families in a timely manner; and be it finally

RESOLVED that DPAA should establish a more formalized, transparent process for evaluation by DPAA leadership of said narratives and reports and should thoughtfully re-establish this process as quickly as possible.

6) Whereas, the POW/MIA Families, second only to our missing loved ones, are the primary stakeholders in DPAA's efforts, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the National League of POW/MIA Families, convened during the Business Session of our 49th Annual Meeting on June 23, 2018, that DPAA should develop a program to pursue potentially useful information from Lao, Vietnamese and Cambodian people now in the US or elsewhere.

DPAA-HOSTED FAMILY UPDATES: DPAA-hosted Family Member Updates (FMUs) are no longer restricted solely to family members. Responsible Veteran Service Organization (VSO) representatives can now be included, as are League and other Non-Government Organization (NGO) officials. Following are upcoming dates and locations: November 17th, Greensboro, NC; January 26th, **2019**, San Antonio, TX; February 23rd, San Jose, CA; March 23rd, Birmingham, AL; April 20th, Salt Lake City, UT, and May 18th, Omaha, NE

50TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL MEETING AND CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY: Don't miss being a part of this historic event, June 20-23, 2019. In addition to the always outstanding and informative speakers, panel discussions, and presentations, special guests and special events are being planned. Stay tuned for more details! Save the dates and book your room at the **Hilton Crystal City Hotel**, 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202. Book through the Hilton Link <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/D/DCANAHF-MIA-20190615/index.jhtml>. Or call 703-418-6800 or 800-774-1500; the group code is **MIA** and the room rate is **\$158**, per room, per night, plus applicable taxes. Though the room allocation has been raised, attendance is expected to be high, so book early, or no later than May 16th, to reserve your room.

REMINDER: Next year, **2019**, is election of the League's **2019 – 2021 Board of Directors**. If you are a League family member in good standing (dues paid current), you are eligible to be a candidate. More information will be available in the December/January League Newsletter.

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