



**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 brings the number still missing from the Vietnam War down 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 formed 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, 725 from Vietnam, 42 from Cambodia and 3 from the PRC.

US/VIETNAM COOPERATION: Field operations resumed in mid-August and are due to conclude soon. US-SRV Technical Talks took place September 10th in Hanoi. Led by Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Deputy Director RDML Jon Kreitz, and as anticipated, Vietnam was responsive to US requests, other than a couple that are under continuing discussion, and the pace and scope of cooperation continues to expand.

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

US/LAO COOPERATION: Just as field operations were ending in Vietnam, DPAA personnel, augmented by POW/MIA specialists from the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Stony Beach Team, began recovery and investigation operations on several cases of US personnel missing in Laos. Those field recoveries recently 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 Deputy DPAA Director RDML Jon Kreitz. Initial reports indicate significant agreements were reached, 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 as fully as possible 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 convicted of criminal acts and are now scheduled for legal deportation will not negatively impact humanitarian POW/MIA cooperation.

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 opt to lift the unwarranted suspension. Notable, however, was almost nonstop anti-US rhetoric through the election run-up, and the Prime Minister has declared the suspension will end when the sanctions do.

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, Secretary of Defense James Mattis just announced that the first two identifications are nearly completed and will be announced shortly

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 already ongoing, both operationally and from disinterring remains known to be American, buried as unknowns in US cemeteries around the world. Their loved ones are known to have died decades ago, but their reaction to honoring and remembering their long-lost relatives is evident. Congress just approved additional funding for DPAA to expand operations into North Korea, and negotiations to accomplish that objective are ongoing.

HOUSE PASSES H. RES. 129: On February 12th, 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, 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 reflects 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 12 co-sponsors in the Senate, the most recent being September 6, 2018. Members of the US Senate should be ashamed. **CONTACT YOUR SENATORS TO URGE IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF S. RES. 61**

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY – SEPTEMBER 21ST: Make plans now to attend a ceremony in your city, state or at the Pentagon in Washington, DC, for the national ceremony, hosted by Secretary of Defense General James Mattis, 5:00 PM on the Parade Grounds. Details will follow when available.

Donate today, 501(C)3, #23-7071242, at www.pow-miafamilies.org