



**EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Hanoi, Vietnam**

April 12, 2018

AMBASSADOR

Ms. Ann Mills Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041

Dear Ann:

It was truly a privilege and honor to see you and host your delegation in Hanoi in January 2018. The National League of POW/MIA Families' tireless efforts for nearly 50 years to achieve the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel from the Vietnam War remains the bedrock upon which our relations with Vietnam are built. The League's dedication and commitment to this humanitarian effort is commendable and inspiring. Please accept my personal congratulations, gratitude, and best wishes to you and the members of the National League of Families on the occasion of your 49th Annual Meeting.

Over the last year, we experienced a continued maturing of the U.S.–Vietnam bilateral relationship. The strengthening of ties has been marked by reciprocal key leader visits, most notably President Trump's 2017 attendance at the Asia Pacific Economic Forum in Danang and state visit to Hanoi, and Secretary of Defense James Mattis' visit in January 2018. Secretary Mattis' first stop upon his arrival in Vietnam was the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's (DPAA) Detachment Two office in Hanoi, where he underscored the importance of the DPAA's work. Additionally, in March 2018, the USS CARL VINSON made a port call in Danang – the first visit to Vietnam by a United States aircraft carrier since the Vietnam War. These visits delivered a strong reaffirmation of the American government's unwavering commitment to the Vietnam War accounting

mission. These actions demonstrate our country's commitment and promise to the families of those still missing from the Vietnam War. I am delighted as well that you had a chance to meet with Secretary Mattis while you were both in Hanoi.

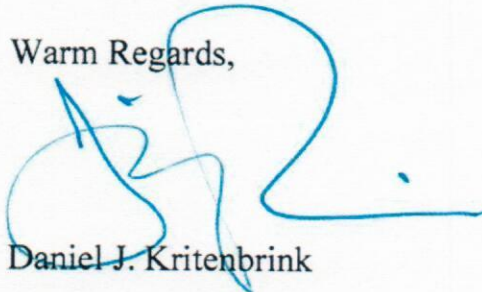
The Vietnamese government continues to support increasing the operational pace and scope of investigation, research, and recovery activities, as exemplified by its use of host-nation capabilities to conduct underwater investigations, increased support for unilateral recoveries, and canvassing witnesses in support of trilateral investigations for Laos and Cambodia cases. In addition, we continue to push for enhanced archival access and greater operational flexibility in the central provinces, as well as urging Vietnam to support the permanent stationing of a Stony Beach POW/MIA investigator in Hanoi.

You may be assured the U.S. Mission will continue to provide the strongest support to this noble humanitarian effort and will work closely with DPAA, under the leadership of Director Kelly McKeague, to whom I expressed my personal commitment to the accounting mission when we had the opportunity to meet in March. We persist in our efforts to increase the pace and scope of investigation, research, and recovery operations, to include underwater activities, to fulfill our nation's promise to the families and service members of the past, present, and future.

Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation to all the members of the National League of Families for their continued advocacy. I hope everyone in attendance enjoys the camaraderie and fellowship that another year has brought, and I wish you a most productive and successful annual meeting.

Thank you, Ann!

Warm Regards,



Daniel J. Kritenbrink