



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

5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041

PH ---703/465-7432

www.pow-miafamilies.org

FAX ---703/465-7433

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Dear League Members & Friends,

I am writing this note to introduce the beautiful program that was intended for distribution at our 52nd Annual Meeting, long scheduled for June 22-25th, at which the Vietnam War Annual Government Briefings were to be given by officials from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL).

As you will see from the attached program, senior officials from State Department, National Security Council (NSC) Staff, our US Chairman of the US-Russia Joint Commission (USRJC) on POW/MIA, General Doc Foglesong, USAF (Ret), and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley, USA, all responded positively to the League's invitation. In addition, numerous senior officials of the Military Services, Ambassadors from key counterpart countries and prominent former officials who have been with us for decades also planned to attend.

In reality, our 52nd Annual Meeting was to have been the first "normal" annual meeting since our 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting in June, 2019. Unexpectedly and very sadly, legal interpretation by DoD/DPAA attorneys of reportedly existing laws, rules and COVID-related regulations, left no alternative but cancellation. In fact, DPAA even made arbitrary, uncoordinated decisions to revise the program, impose stipulations and canceled support for a traditional highlight for the families, the Service-hosted Luncheons.

The unanimous decision by the League's Board of Directors was also based on serious concern over the safety of our largely senior-citizen membership. On June 6th, notice was sent to DPAA and posted on the League webpage, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and sent electronically to all League members with email addresses, then the more detailed process of rescinding invitations began.....our 52nd Annual Meeting will be rescheduled for June 2023, but possibly NOT at the Hilton Crystal City Hotel, unless they graciously agree to drop their demand for full payment of contracted income expected over the course of the three-four-day meeting.

Once legalities are settled, our focus must be on raising funds to sustain the League Office moving forward.....it hasn't been easy for many years, but I've been able to call on people to step up when necessary.....that time is here again. If you can possibly afford to skip one pizza dinner a month and go online to our website or send the League a check for \$25 instead. That would mean \$300 a year. If you truly want your missing loved one home, I strongly suggest you not just depend on DPAA to make that happen.....If not for the League, the accounting mission would not have survived and DPAA would not even exist, but at this stage, the League must be stronger than ever. Each of you can help! Please do so!

As ever, and onward.....Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chairman & CEO