



**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](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org)

FAX ---703/465-7433

**POW/MIA ACCOUNTING MISSION IN BRIEF  
October 22, 2024**

**WHO WE ARE:** The National League of POW/MIA Families is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization founded on May 28, 1970, with a threefold mission: 1) the return of all prisoners; 2) the fullest possible accounting for the missing; and 3) recovery and repatriation of remains of those who died while serving our country during the Vietnam War and have yet to return. We advocate responsibly on behalf of their families seeking answers to end their uncertainty through US Government action.

**BRIEF HISTORY:** In the late 1960s, families of missing Americans banded together to form the League. What began as a grassroots effort to raise awareness about the plight of Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) quickly grew into a national movement. These efforts led to our POW/MIA flag becoming the recognized symbol of those yet to return from serving during the Vietnam War, including those captured and missing.

**WHAT WE DO:** Since formed in 1970, the League has worked directly with the US Government, primarily the Departments of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs. Within DoD, most communication is with and from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Armed Forces DNA Medical System, and the team devoted solely to Vietnam War Accounting, the Defense Intelligence Agency's Stony Beach Team.

DIA's special team of highly skilled specialists is equipped with language, cultural and historical knowledge training to best obtain useful, case-related information through person-to-person investigations. Their sole purpose is working with counterpart officials and citizens in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to locate, recover and return unaccounted-for US servicemen and civilians. The League also provides support to the POW/MIA families, helping them pursue answers, while keeping loved ones' memories alive to ensure they are not forgotten.

**WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO:** The League is fueled by a deep respect for those who serve and have served our country. We are especially grateful for the sacrifices many made during the Vietnam War and other wars and conflicts. All who serve do so knowing the risks, but are eager to return to the family and friends who await them. When they don't, it is our nation's duty to do our best to bring them home, difficult as it often has been over the years. Having said that, and despite significant recovery efforts in past wars, the effort post-Vietnam War was prompted in no small part because so much was televised, positive and negative. The families of unreturned POW/MIA personnel live in constant uncertainty about the fate of their loved ones who served and fought for our country.

**A HEARTFELT PLEA:** Due to the passage of time and the acidic nature of the soil in Southeast Asia, time is very limited when it comes to recovering our unaccounted-for Vietnam War Veterans. Witnesses are also increasingly rare as many are deceased or elderly and can no longer provide useful information. Our missing men answered the call to duty, and now it's our turn to ensure they are not forgotten. This is a mission that unites us all. We ask you to stand with us, show you care about accounting for them and bringing them home by lending your voice. By doing so, we not only honor them, but do our best to ensure none who serve our country are ever left behind.