



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

5673 COLUMBIA PIKE, SUITE 100, FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22041

PH ---703/465-7432

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FAX ---703/465-7433

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AMERICANS RECENTLY ACCOUNTED FOR: On April 5th, DPAA posted the names of two Vietnam War personnel as now accounted for. **Col Peter J. Stewart, USAF**, of FL, listed MIA 3/15/66, was ID'd on 2/28/18. **Army SSGT Marshall F. Kipina**, of MI, listed MIA 7/14/66 in Laos, was ID'd 2/1/18. Recovery dates were not provided for either serviceman. Prior to that, DPAA posted the news that **LTC Robert G. Nopp, USA**, of OR, listed as MIA 7/14/66, was recovered 2/17/16 and ID'd 2/1/18. On January 18th, DPAA released notice that **Col Edgar F. Davis, USAF**, of NC, listed MIA in Laos on 9/17/68, recovered 4/29/15 and ID'd 12/22/17, is now accounted for, the first such announcement since September 11th of last year. At that time, DPAA reported the accounting for **CAPT James. R. Bauder, USN**, of CA, listed as MIA 9/21/66 in North Vietnam, recovered 6/11/17, and ID'd 8-28-17. The number still missing (POW/MIA) and otherwise unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR) from the Vietnam War is now 1,598. Of that number, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia or Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,252 (VN-457, VS-795); Laos-291; Cambodia-48; PRC territorial waters-7. (Country-specific numbers fluctuate when investigations result in changes to loss locations.)

Since formation 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 **985**. A breakdown by country of these 985 Americans is: Vietnam – 666, 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 1,048. 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, 721 from Vietnam, 42 from Cambodia and 3 from the PRC.

DPAA DIRECTOR McKEAGUE VISITS SOUTHEAST ASIA: DPAA Director Kelly McKeague, supported by Policy & Plans Director John Hamilton, Vietnam War Policy specialist Jack Kull and Lt Col Bernard Smith, USAF, the Director's Senior Military Assistant, recently returned from meetings with senior Vietnamese and Lao officials, as well as US Ambassadors, Country Team members and DPAA Detachment staff in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. This was Director McKeague's first official visit to these critical countries since being named DPAA Director on September 5, 2017. This visit was a crucial step in advancing the mission as the US seeks to maximize the favorable environment that has created a unique opportunity to expand the pace and scope of accounting efforts as advocated by Vietnam since first proposed to a League Delegation in 2009.

LEAGUE & SOA/SFA DELEGATIONS RETURNED FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA: A National League of POW/MIA Families Delegation, led by Chairman of the Board/CEO Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths, traveled to Southeast Asia (Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, & Thailand) January 11th, and returned January 30th. She was joined once again by the League's Senior Policy Advisor since 1989, Richard Childress, COL, USA (Ret), and, for the first time, MIA daughter Cindy Stonebraker, elected member of the League's Board of Directors. Parallel to the League Delegation, and representing the Special Operations Association (SOA) and Special Forces Association (SFA) was Mike Taylor, LTC, USA/SF (Ret), Vice President of SOA and Chairman of the joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee. Mrs. Elli Childress and Mrs. Laura Taylor accompanied their respective husbands and participated in some social events and cultural activities.

Both delegations met in each country with US Ambassadors and Embassy officials, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Stony Beach specialists and DPAA Detachment personnel. While in Hanoi, the League Delegation met briefly with **US Secretary of Defense James Mattis** who was in-country for meetings with Vietnam's Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense, as well as other senior Vietnamese officials. The League Delegation also met with senior Lao, Vietnamese and Cambodian officials to discuss concepts to advance the accounting mission. In addition to meeting with US officials, SOA/SFA's Mike Taylor met with American and foreign veterans, some of whom fought as enemies during the war. While in Laos, representatives of both delegations (Stonebraker, M. Taylor and L. Taylor) visited a remote recovery site to thank US and Lao personnel for their often dangerous efforts during Joint Field Activities (JFAs) to account for missing Americans. A comprehensive report will be distributed as soon as possible, but suffice it to say that primary objectives were met and all participants hold the view that, difficult as such missions are, this was well worth the effort.

49TH ANNUAL MEETING: The League's 49th Annual Meeting will be held **June 20-24th**, again at the Hilton Crystal City Hotel, 2300 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington VA 22203. The **Opening Session** will be on Thursday, June 21st, and there will be two full days of presentations by current and former US officials and noted private experts, official briefings by investigators, interviewers, analysts, survey and recovery specialists, scientists and guest presenters on the complete range of issue-related policy and operational matters.

The **49th Annual Dinner & Candlelight Ceremony** will be held the evening of June 21st. This year's program includes a workshop on Friday, June 22nd, immediately following **Service-hosted Luncheons**. That evening, DPAA will host a visit to the USMC Museum in Quantico, VA. Included will be a reception, patriotic music, and an escorted USMC Museum Tour. Bus transportation will be available starting at 5:45 PM and will return to the Hilton between 9:00 – 9:30 PM. Saturday morning, June 23rd, a three-hour **Q&A Session** will be held with working-level officials from DPAA, DIA's Stony Beach Team, AFDIL and the Service Casualty Offices, followed by the **League Business Session** and a closing **League-hosted Farewell Reception**.

Transportation: As required by law, the Secretary of Defense will again authorize transportation for two family members of each Vietnam War missing and unaccounted-for serviceman or civilian to attend. Service Casualty Officers have already sent or will shortly be sending information to the **Primary Next of Kin (PNOK)** about the 49th Annual Meeting, as well as forms to complete for requesting transportation (COIN Assist), case file reviews, and attendance at **Service-hosted Luncheons**. In authorizing COIN Assist, original Congressional intent was to ensure that each missing American is represented at the League's annual meeting at which official government briefings will be given. **All family members** are eligible to attend, though some League events are open only to those who register for the full League 49th Annual Meeting. Questions? Call the national office, 703-465-7432.

MAKE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS TO ARRIVE ON JUNE 19TH AND DEPART ON SUNDAY, JUNE 24TH. THIS WILL ENSURE PARTICIPATION ON CAPITOL HILL ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20TH, AND THE Q & A SESSION ON SATURDAY, IN PREPARATION FOR VOTING IN THE BUSINESS MEETING ON POLICY RESOLUTIONS. THESE OFFICIAL POSITIONS ARE GEARED TOWARD DEVELOPING LEAGUE POLICY ON THE WAY FORWARD TO ACHIEVE OUR SHARED ACCOUNTING OBJECTIVES.

Registration: To register for the 49th Annual Meeting, go to the League website: www.pow-miafamilies.org and use the Registration Form to pay online with your credit card, or print out the Registration Form and send with your check to the League Office.

Reservations: This year, the hotel rate for rooms at the **Hilton Crystal City Hotel** is **\$155.00** (plus tax), per room, per night – single or double, with a charge of \$20 per night for each additional adult in the room. To make reservations, call 800-HILTONS (800-445-8667), noting affiliation with the League's 49th Annual Meeting. You can also go to www.hilton.com and use the code **MIA**. **Deadline to secure the special rate is June 1st**. The room-block is limited; early reservations are encouraged.

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 **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.

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

DPAA-HOSTED FAMILY UPDATES: DPAA-hosted Family Member Updates (FMUs) are scheduled for 2018 and no longer restricted solely to family members. Responsible VSO representatives can now be included, as are League and other NGO officials who are not family members. Following are upcoming dates and locations: April 21st, Rapid City, SD; and May 19th, Louisville, KY

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