



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

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## **Update: July 7, 2022**

**CHAIRMAN/CEO MESSAGE:** I am writing this note to introduce the beautiful program that was to be distributed at our **52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting**, long scheduled for June 22-25<sup>th</sup>. As you will see in the program, senior officials from the State Department, National Security Council (NSC) Staff, US-Russia Joint Commission (USRJC) on POW/MIA, US Chairman 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.

Numerous senior officials from the Military Services, Ambassadors from key counterpart countries and prominent former officials who have been with us for decades also planned to attend. In addition, the Vietnam War Annual Government Briefings (AGBs) were to be held in conjunction with remarks given by officials from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Director, LTG Scott Berrier, USA, and DIA's Stony Beach Team, and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL).

Our 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting was scheduled to be the first "normal" annual meeting since our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting in June 2019. Sadly, legal interpretation by DPAA attorneys of existing laws, rules and COVID-related DoD regulations, left no alternative but cancellation. In fact, DPAA unilaterally revised the program, imposed restrictions and stipulations, even cancelling 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 mostly senior members. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, notice was sent to DPAA and posted on the League webpage, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, then sent to all League members with email addresses. Once that was accomplished, a detailed process of rescinding invitations began.

We plan to reschedule our 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting in June 2023. Once settled, **our focus must turn to raising funds to sustain the League going forward**....Yes, that time is here again. If you are able, go to the League's website or send a check for \$25 each month, meaning \$300 a year, or more if possible....If you truly want your missing loved one accounted for and, if possible, returned, make two choices: 1) Take an active role in your missing man's case; 2) Support the League....If not for the League and President Reagan's personal commitment, the accounting mission would not have grown to what it is today, nor even survived, and DPAA would not exist. Now, the League must be stronger than ever. **Each of you can help!**

**LEAGUE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL MEETING COMING UP:** Enclosed is a "Save the Date" advertisement inviting all League members and friends to this important 3-day meeting, hosted in Virginia Beach by Southeast Regional Coordinator Dave Huffman, and his wife, MIA daughter Jeanie Jacobs Huffman, also serving as the League's SE Virginia State Coordinator. This meeting will be diverse, filling in the blanks on where the issue stands, and looking forward, as is now imperative. Read "**Save the Date**" to see the plans for this special meeting, being purposely held ASAP after the "no-choice" cancellation of our 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting.

There is an urgent need to bring together as many as possible – family members and concerned Americans – who genuinely care, want to learn, and are willing to step up. Additional plans are being finalized related to affordable hotel accommodations, interesting historic tours, events, practical steps you can take to expedite resolving your own family's case. **If we don't show our determination to get the fullest possible accounting for America's missing Vietnam War Veterans, who will?**

**DPAA-DIA MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU):** On September 17, 2020, DPAA Director Kelly McKeague and former Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Director LTG Bob Ashley, USA, signed an MOU to formalize Cooperation between DIA's Stony Beach specialists and DPAA's Detachments 1, 2 and 3, in Thailand (for Cambodia), Vietnam and Laos, respectively. Formed in 1986, Stony Beach's sole objective was, and still is, Vietnam War accounting, focusing priority on resolving Last Known Alive (LKA) cases of US personnel initially listed as POW/MIA.

**Implementation Required:** This MOU was, and is, a critically important step to fully utilizing the singularly focused, highly-trained Stony Beach specialists to expand case investigations while there is still time. Though nearly two years have already passed, DPAA is now beginning to maximize use of these specialists. **Vietnam has finally agreed to permanently station a Stony Beach specialist in Hanoi, working out of DPAA Detachment 2.** This will facilitate more timely, effective source interviews and field investigations, as Laos and Cambodia have allowed for years. Cautioned that time was running out as witnesses were dying, remains were disintegrating due to acidic soil, and development was increasingly expanding, the League had pursued this long-overdue step for roughly 16 years!

**MISSING AND UNACCOUNTED FOR – VIETNAM WAR:** The number missing (POW/MIA) and unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR) from the Vietnam War is **STILL 1,584**. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced on March 14<sup>th</sup> that US Naval Reserve CDR Paul C. Charvet, 26, killed during the Vietnam War, was accounted for March 1, 2021.

**Case Specifics:** On March 21, 1967, CDR Charvet's A-1H Skyraider aircraft disappeared near Hon Me, an island off the coast of northern Vietnam. Remains were unilaterally recovered by a Vietnamese Recovery Team and turned over to the US for identification. This was a significant step by Vietnam and one which the League had long advocated, recognizes and appreciates. Very importantly, until this unilateral recovery Vietnam undertook in the area previously proposed by the League as the site of a US-SRV Joint Training Mission, there had been no US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War since July 2020.

**Today's Unchanged Statistics:** Of the 1,584 still missing and unaccounted-for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia or Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,244 (VN-442, VS-802); Laos-285; Cambodia-48; PRC territorial waters-7. Since chartered 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 **999**. A breakdown by country of these 999 Americans is: Vietnam – 674, Laos – 280, Cambodia – 42, and 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 1,062. These 63 Americans, were accounted for by US-only efforts in accessible areas, not due to cooperation by post-war governments in Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia. A total of 288 have been accounted for from Laos, 729 from Vietnam, 42 from Cambodia and 3 from the PRC.