

# POW/MIA PROGRAM

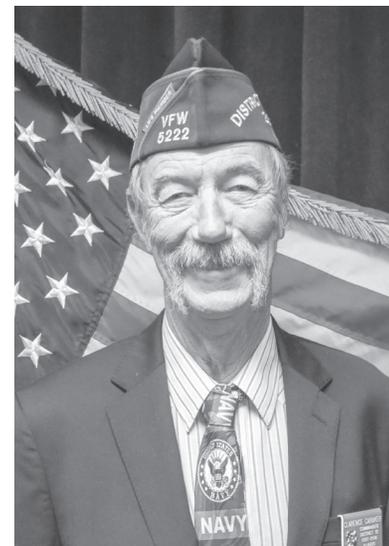
We have not fulfilled our goal for a complete accounting of all our lost. What about our MIA or KIA's? We must continue to work for all the families to receive closure of their loved ones.

Now here are a few ways to get your X and be reported.

- The third Friday of September is National POW-MIA Recognition Day. Plan and carry out a POW-MIA service and invite your Post & Auxiliary members and the general public to attend.
- Display the POW-MIA missing man table & chair cover & recite the POW-MIA prayer at your meetings. (The prayer can be found in the manual procedure & ritual book )
- Carry the POW-MIA flag in a parade or fly or display it at your Post home or donate flags to local schools, village buildings or even nursing homes.

You can also send a \$50.00 donation Department of Illinois Headquarters. Don't forget to report your activities to receive your X on the report sheet. (Do Not send \$\$ to the Director !)

**REPORT REPORT REPORT !!!!**



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### MEANING OF THE POW/MIA TABLE

The table is set for five, representing the five branches of our Armed Forces, the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard. The military is filled with symbolism and this table is a way of symbolizing those that are missing from our midst, who are commonly called POW/MIA'S.

The table set for five symbolizes the frailty of the prisoners alone against their oppressors.

The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms.

The single rose displayed in the vase is symbolic of the families and loved ones who keep the faith waiting for their return.

The red ribbon tied so prominently on the vase is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn upon the lapel and breast of thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing and the return of all live POW'S and all those left on foreign soil.

The slice of lemon on the bread plate is to remind us of their bitter fate.

There is salt on the bread plate which is symbolic of the families tears as they wait.

The chairs are empty, they are not here.....

### POW / MIA PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father, At such time and place as we know not, there are Comrades being held against their will in hostile circumstances. Prisoners of war and those missing in action who did not return. We plead for assistance in our efforts to bring them home. Our hearts bleed for the families of these veterans, may we not forget their sacrifice and be reminded by this vacant chair of our duty toward them. (Amen)

### AWARD

The **Dennis Nelson Memorial POW-MIA Award** will be awarded to the VFW Post that demonstrates the most outstanding POW/MIA Recognition Program within their community.

Let's make sure this year we put our renewed commitment into action as we embody  
"Mission First - Veterans Always"