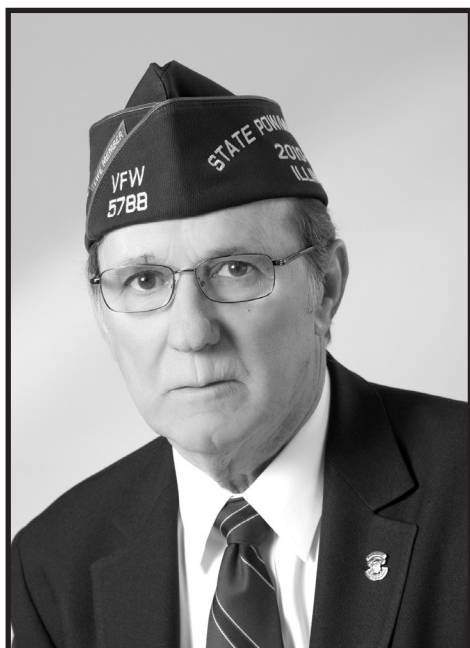




POW/MIA PROGRAM



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“WE CONTINUE TO SERVE! What a perfect theme our State Commander Bill Phillips has selected. Another year has come and gone, and we still do not have the fullest accountability of our POW-MIA’S from all wars. We, as leaders and members of the greatest veterans organization, need to keep this in the forefront of the public and our nations leaders. The families of these POW/MIA’S still need to know what happened to their loved ones and have closure so if ***“WE CONTINUE TO SERVE”***, hopefully in the near future we will all have closure.

It’s very easy to get on the “X” Sheet. Here are a few ways to get reported:

- 1) The third Friday in September is National POW/MIA Recognition Day....Plan and carry out, a POW/MIA service or vigil. Invite all of your Post members and the general public to attend the services or vigil.
- 2) Carry the POW/MIA flag in a parade, fly it at your post home, at your own home, local park, schools or community buildings.
- 3) Display in your Post Home, the missing mans table, display the missing man chair cover and recite the POW/MIA prayer at your meetings (This prayer can be found in your Manual of Procedure and Ritual Book available from the National Emblem & Supply Catalog)
- 4) You can send a donation of \$50.00 to State of Illinois Headquarters and don’t forget to report it on the Program Report Form on line. **DO NOT SEND IT TO THE CHAIRMAN!!!**

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)

The Dennis Nelson Traveling Plaque will be awarded to the VFW Post that reports the most HOURS, DOLLARS, AND MEMBERS.

Let's make sure that this year we put our renewed commitment into action as

"WE CONTINUE TO SERVE"

