

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
of
AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
1608 "K" Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

NATIONAL COORDINATOR'S STATEMENT

Thank you for the many Christmas cards sent to the office. Your greetings and thoughtful provoking messages were very much appreciated by all of us during those busy days.

As 1971 ended, my lonely thoughts could only reflect, as yours must have, that another year was lost for our beloved men. And as the second hand on the clock swept into 1972, I could only wonder, will this be "THE YEAR"? It has to be! But it won't just happen; we've got to make certain that it does happen.

As individuals, we each have specific ideas on how to best work to get the men home and accounted for. It is one of our responsibilities of the League office to try to activate your ideas the best possible way. Our plans are to organize or sponsor a special project each month in diverse areas so that each of you has the opportunity to actively participate. Nov. was our U. N. Trip and hopefully another trip to meet with the Secretary General to follow up on the petition will be announced soon. In Dec. Candlelight Rallies were held in many states. The 1, 2, 3 of Feb. is the trip to Congress. If you cannot make the trip, write to your Congressmen. March is the WEEK OF CONCERN with special emphasis on trips abroad for an International Day of Prayer.

Our aim is to reach you and we welcome suggestions on what you want to do. Your ideas are our guidelines. Your participation is critical this year of decision.

In every way we must show the world how much we want our men home and until that wonderful day, we want to know about them and hear from them. It isn't too much to ask it loudly and certain

VIVA SYMPOSIUM

A four day, Voices in Vital America, sponsored, national coordinating symposium will be held February 3 - 6, 1972, at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, California. All POW/MIA groups are invited to attend, as well as family members and other concerned citizens. The purpose will be to exchange ideas and to formulate unified national programs in order to stimulate the greatest possible impact on the nation for the national Week of Concern in March. Beginning at 2:00 P. M. on Thursday, a full schedule is planned for both days and evenings of working sessions, panel discussions and meetings conducted by leading public will be \$6.00 per person per night, based on double occupancy. For information and reservations, contact Steve Bank. % VIVA

PONY EXPRESS RIDE FOR

On January 8, 1972, a re Pony Express Ride of the Saint Joseph, Missouri -- freedom of our POW/MIAs, through 180 different cities will include major events in Lake City, Sacramento, Angeles and San Diego, end January 26. Alor will pick up mail at Congress, to the President citizen feels will Robert Frishman. lected, a deleg Frishman will ride is being

STATES' EXCHANGE COLUMN

WASHINGTON - The Washington Families of Missing and Missing were invited to a Service of Remembrance for POW/MIA by the Washington military services of the area, 1971. The McChord AFB gymnasium was decorated by a simple, raised altar of flowers and greenery and flanked by the colors of the Army, Navy and Air Force. Words of courage honoring our men were spoken by representatives of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. Each verbal offering was followed by a prayer by the chaplain of that particular service. A representative of the governor of Washington read an alphabetical list of all the POW/MIA of Washington. Music was provided by the McChord Air Force Band and the combined choirs of the Protestant and Catholic chapels. After the ceremony Gen. Backman, Commander of the MAWG, hosted a cocktail party for the families and military and civilian guests at the officer's club. The families of Washington State boast that this service was probably the finest anywhere for thoughtfulness, consideration and inter-service cooperation. They gave special thanks for those who planned and participated: Master Sgt. M. Curtiss, AF; Col. W. Stowers, AF; BrigGen. B. AF; MajGen. A. Burke, AF; Maj. AF; MajGen. A. Bolling, Army; Maj. Hald, Navy; Capt. R. Bonner, Newschwander, Wash. State; Maj. k, AF; RAdm. J. McClland, Maj. J. Lee, AF; Col. F. d Army, Navy and Air Force

tr meeting, aerograms to
ident Nixon were passed
sent.

ES' WEEKEND RETREAT
in the Southern California area
with the assistance of
and a psychologist.
free hours, relig-
meetings with

2.

Chaplains and/or the psychologist, group therapy sessions and time to be alone to hike and otherwise collect ones' thoughts. From the Northern California Newsletter: "We all worked out our hostilities and voiced our fears and somehow came up with some answers. Not perfect ones but ones that helped us to achieve some inner peace and acceptance and most important tolerance of each other and other people. We all agreed that we need these sessions at least every two to three months. It is important for us to hang on to some kind of balance and try to become as strong as we can before our husbands come home. For those of us whose husbands do not return, we need to be equally strong enough to start our lives anew." For information for planning a retreat in your area contact: Mrs. V. Eldora Ford

MARYLAND - The Maryland Chapter has utilized some of the undelivered letters to Hanoi collected during the letter writing campaign last year. They bundled the letters in packets and asked the citizens of the state to help finance the mailing of these packets to the 129 heads of state of the signatories of the Geneva Convention. An accompanying letter was written explaining that the views expressed in those letters represented the deep concern of American citizens for our prisoners of war and missing in action. To date, 8 countries have responded. Some offered to deliver the letters, others stated that they will continue to make interventions on behalf of American POW/MIAs. Should you be interested in trying a similar project, we will be glad to send you copies of the names of the heads of state and their addresses as well as the forms used in this project.

LOST AND FOUND

The Statler-Hilton Hotel has returned to the League office a pair of prescription sun glasses apparently lost by one of our

3.

TRIP TO CONGRESS

If you have received the comminque regarding the scheduled trip to Congress, February 1, 2, 3. Please reread it and help make the week of Feb. 1st a week to concentrate on CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

OFFER FOR SUMMER CAMP TUITION REDUCTION

Echo Hill Camps, New Jersey, offers reduced summer camp tuition to twelve children between the ages of 7 and 12. The reduction is about 50% (\$157.50) per camper applies to the July 30 - August 26, 1972 period. A 5% reduction is offered for the entire season of July 2 - August 26, 1972. For further information and enrollment write to Lynn and Fred Berkobin, Echo Hill Camps, Stanton Station near Sunnyside, Box 5168, Clinton, New Jersey 08809. Please indicate that you are associated with the League of Families.

OFFERS FOR ASSISTANCE

A group of Military lawyers at SAMS (Space and Missile System Operation) has offered legal assistance to families of POW/MIAs. If you are interested contact Capt. Maddow, SAMS (SMJA) Los Angeles A.F.S., AFUPO, Los Angeles, California 90045.

A John Sexton fund has been established for the purpose of assisting primary next of kin who need financial aid - especially those with relatives in South Vietnam. Members in this category who wish to take advantage of this kind offer should write to the League, % Confidential. Your letter will be forwarded to the fund director for consideration and response. Be specific about your problem and state the amount of money you need.

Many times we receive inquiries from people who wish to help POW/MIA families. These

people would like to become involved in the cause on a personal basis. Concerned individuals have become aware of the needs of families. These people would like to help with minor household maintenance, with toy assembling or with child care. There are those who would enjoy taking children to the circus, to sporting events or on fishing trips. Many would like to be a special friend to remember birthdays, stop by for a chat, see that everything is okay and help where they can.

Will you let us know in what ways they may be of assistance?

Child excursions _____

Child care _____

A male friend for a child _____

Minor household repair _____

Advisor (what capacity) _____

Interested friend _____

Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Relationship: _____

Please respond to Mrs. David Kick,

D.A.V. (Disabled American Veterans) has offered to mail communiques, of charge, to the League membership. Please be on the alert when you receive a letter with their return address.

WILL IT HELP THE M

I keep a sheet of paper above five words print
tions run high; when
others try to influence
cision must be made,
that serve as a guide
answer. I pass them
too, will find the
activities in the
WILL IT HELP THE

NE

Diane Sheph
18 Summer
Stratford
(202)

LEAGUE OFFICE ACTIVITIES

The last newsletter was published, and the candlelight vigil have been held. Generally speaking, most states have been and received good publicity.

Recently scheduled activity for membership participation is the Feb. trip to Congress for the purpose of stressing Congressional Responsibility.

Several state legislatures have passed bills granting free tuition to state institutions for children of POW/MIAs. This legislation is being sponsored by the Am. Courier Corporation.

A representative of the League has been appointed to attempt to have a prayer for POW/MIAs included in every worship service in all religious denominations. This has been done in various sections of the country but attempts are being made now to do so on a national level.

Concrete plans are being formulated for the Week of Concern which will be sent to the membership in time to get your area organized.

There has been allotted an exhibition for the SPO '72, Washington, D. C. held at Dulles International June 2. Fairchild-Hiller offered to design the display. We hope to use Shary of POW/MIAs to greatest time. (A detailed suggestion and display of Mrs. and copies of these are sent to State Co-

Techniques have been membership to send president on a this religious so sponsored schedule

4.

A PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE is less expensive than a regular telegram. The schedule has been given to your state coordinators. Check with her to find out when it is your state's turn.

A legislative fact sheet is being compiled with information pertinent to the POW/MIA issue. It will be included in the next newsletter and will be available for the trip to Congress.

YOU CAN HELP

1. Contact your local Jaycees Chapter asking them if you can assist them in the Robbinsdale Jaycees' POW/MIA Project for the National League of Families. Every JC's chapter should have received a letter for help from the Robbinsdale Jaycees.

They ask that the Jaycees purchase their POW/MIA packages containing post cards for mailing to Congress, lapel pins and bumperstickers. Each package costs \$30.00 of which all proceeds will go to the League (approx. \$16.00 per package).

2. This may seem like old hat but suggestions like these are still coming in: Start a scholarship program in your community, honoring your POW/MIA, to be given to a needy child. Have the name of a building changed or dedicated to honor your POW/MIA either permanently or until he is home or has been accounted for. Have a "day" honoring the man or men from your area.

3. Visit Congress on February 1, 2 and 3. If you are unable to come, write to your Congressman and Senators during those three days. Many of them will be home during the Lincoln Birthday recess, Feb. 9 - 16. Make an attempt to see them at their home office.

4. Colorado Springs for POWs has received such a tremendous response to the Christmas seal that they are continuing to produce the seal.