

STATE - AID - USIA
NOMINATION FOR INCENTIVE AWARD
 Submit in an original and five (5) copies

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE			
STATE	AID	USIA	
HONOR NO.	CASH NO.		
DATE REC'D. BY AWARDS COMMITTEE			

PART I - NOMINATION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Last, First, Middle Initial) STRUHARIK, Paul A.	2. ORG. SYMBOL OR POST
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3. PRESENT POSITION TITLE AND GRADE Assigned to AID/W	4. POSITION HELD DURING PERIOD COVERED BY NOMINATION, IF DIFFERENT THAN PRESENT US Province Representative, Darlac
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5. TYPE OF AWARD RECOMMENDED				
<input type="checkbox"/> A. Secretary's Award	<input type="checkbox"/> C. Distinguished Honor Award	<input type="checkbox"/> E. Meritorious Honor Award		
<input type="checkbox"/> B. Award for Heroism	<input type="checkbox"/> D. Superior Honor Award	<input type="checkbox"/> Award for Valor		
6. BASIS FOR AWARD		7. ESTIMATED 1ST YEAR TANGIBLE BENEFITS	8. INTANGIBLE BENEFITS	9. RECOMMENDED AWARD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. Special Act	<input type="checkbox"/> B. Superior Performance			Award for Valor

10. JUSTIFICATION FOR NOMINATION (Include a concise 3 or 4 line statement pinpointing the achievement that could be used on the honor award certificate)

Mr. Struharik is nominated for the Award for Valor on the basis of his exceptional bravery and sustained performance under harassment following his capture by North Vietnamese military forces on March 12, 1975 until his release October 30, 1975.

As U.S. Province Representative in Ban Me Thuot, Darlac Province, Mr. Struharik assembled the American citizens and others for whom he had evacuation responsibility in his compound shortly after the North Vietnamese army assault on that city. For three days, while intense fighting raged around the compound, he fed and housed this group (which included women and children), while maintaining radio contact with aircraft from the Consulate General at Nha Trang and keeping up group morale.

Following their capture on March 12th, Mr. Struharik and his companions were moved to extremely primitive jungle prison camps. Accommodations were so rudimentary and food so scarce that for nearly three months life for Mr. Struharik and the others became a struggle for physical survival. Several of the group became seriously ill before adequate medical treatment became available. Throughout this ordeal Mr. Struharik exercised a high degree of leadership, organizing the group to share limited supplies, dividing the workload, pressing the Vietnamese for better treatment, and generally working to sustain morale.

In mid-August Mr. Struharik's group was moved to Son Tay prison in Hanoi. For the next two and a half months they were subjected to interrogation and political indoctrination. Because of his "bad attitude", i.e. his refusal to criticize the U.S. Government and its policies, Mr. Struharik was put in solitary confinement for three weeks, during which he was subjected to severe psychological pressures. He resisted these,

(Continue below, if necessary)

10. JUSTIFICATION FOR NOMINATION (Continued)

and on October 30th was released, together with the rest of his group, for repatriation to the United States by representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Mr. Struharik's loyalty and dedication to his country in the face of physical privation and psychological pressure, and his sustained leadership and support for his fellow prisoners clearly qualify him for the Award for Valor.

(If necessary, use additional sheets and staple them to this form)

11. NOMINATING AND CLEARANCE OFFICIALS

A. Typed Name	B. Title	C. Location	D. Signature	E. Date
1. Moncrief J. Spear	Former Consul General	Nha Trang	<i>Moncrief J. Spear</i>	1/13/76
2. Frank A. Sieverts	Spec. Asst. for POW/MIA Matters	Dept. (D/HA)	<i>Frank A. Sieverts</i>	1/9/76
3. Robert H. Miller	Deputy Asst. Secretary, EA	Dept. EA	<i>Robert H. Miller</i>	1/14/76