

"IN COMMEMORATION OF THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF AMERICA'S VIETNAM VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS"

By Christine Cook

You would think that a tribute, Commemoration the Service and Sacrifice of America's Vietnam Veterans, their families and friends, offered by the Vietnamese EX-Prisoners of War representing the former Republic of Vietnam, would be permitted at any military installation.

Imagine... after all these years... men who survived the gulags of communist Vietnam... men who never forgot the sacrifices of the American "freedom fighters". And, imagine... our Veterans and their families, receiving the "Thank You" that America had either forgotten or was unwilling to give...

However, June 11, in response to a request that the *tribute* be allowed to take place at Lowry Air Force Base, July 3, the eve of celebrating America's freedom and independence, the Department of Defense indicated that such a ceremony would be too politically sensitive.

...It should be understood, that any reference to "P.O.W." is politically sensitive. (Yes, the Vietnamese are former "P.O.W.s", who come before us, perhaps, finally defining the face and the reality of that war in Vietnam).

...Also, there are *certain organizations* who are known to oppose the Department of Defense' POW/MIA policy, not to mention *certain individuals*, such as former Naval Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel, a decorated Vietnam Veteran and former "P.O.W.", who graciously accepted to receive the tribute on behalf of all America's Veterans. He is recognized as an opponent of the Department of Defense' policy and procedure regarding America's POW/MIA.

...[Therefore, it is possible, *something* might be said... something *sensitive*. Something *contrary*? to the current administration's POW/MIA policy. Whatever that policy might be.] Then there's the media [Heaven forbid that the media should understand the "*tribute*", and that their interpretation could cause embarrassment between the US government and the communist regime in Vietnam]!

Well, the Department of Defense is right on target! Something sensitive will be said... Something sensitive to the hearts, minds and souls of thousands of Americans who have waited for years, and yearned to know that what they gave, and what they *did* is *honored and not forgotten*, by those Vietnamese who were ultimately sacrificed at the "Alter of Communism."

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COLORADO ROCKIES PAY MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE TO COLORADO'S POWs & MIAs

On Memorial Day, May 31st, for nearly three (3) minutes, over 47,000 baseball fans stood in silent tribute to POWs and MIAs with Colorado ties. Just minutes before the Colorado Rockies and Pittsburgh Pirates took to the field, the announcer said, "Ladies & Gentlemen, The Colorado Rockies, players, management and staff along with the Colorado POW/MIA Coalition presents a special Memorial Day remembrance to our POWs and MIAs with Colorado ties." He then introduced eleven family members, representing their loved ones. And then, as the names of the forty-one Colorado MIAs and thirteen MIAs with Colorado ties were scrolled on the diamond screen, 47,677 fans stood in silence. One hundred three (103) members of the "Coalition" and their families attended the game.

COLORADO POW/MIA COALITION

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MAY 22, 1993

Respectfully Submitted by Sid Terry, Secretary

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The COLORADO POW/MIA COALITION monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Saturday, May 22, 1993 at 9:00 a.m. at the VFW Post #1, 9th and Bannock Street in Denver, Colorado.

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The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Don Stafford, Pres. Russ Tarvin, Past President led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Don asked for a moment of silence as a tribute for Colorado's POW/MIAs lost during the month of May:

LOST AND MISSING IN ACTION BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

LEROY MELVIN DONOVAN, Cedaredge, CO USA,
May 19, 1965

DAVID LOUIS HRDLICKA, Littleton, CO
USAF, May 18, 1965

JAMES JOSEPH JAGUES, Denver, CO
USMC, May 15, 1975

THOMAS BARRY MITCHELL, Littleton, CO USAF,
May 22, 1968

FRANK D. RALSTON III, Denver, CO
USAF, May 14, 1966

A special tribute was also paid to
DOUGLASS MARION MURRAY

who was called by our Creator on April 28, 1993. Doug was the "Coalition" Treasurer and a lifetime friend to our POWs & MIAs.

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Nineteen (19) members and others including ten (10) Directors attended the meeting.

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Secretary Sid Terry read the minutes from the April meeting. Don suggested amendments to the Treasurer report. Leo Johnson moved that we accept the minutes with amendments. The motion carried and minutes approved.

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The financial report was read by Don Stafford. The balance of account, as of May 10th, was \$3,238.25. April expenses were \$509.53 and deposits and interest earned were \$392.33.

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OLD BUSINESS

MOONEY VIDEO TAPES: We now have more video tapes of Jerry Mooney's briefing to the "Coalition". They are available for a donation of \$20. Contact Don or Bev Stafford.

"BAMBOO CAGE": We still have 12 copies of the "BAMBOO CAGE", authored by Nigel Cawthorne, available for a donation of \$10. This is one of the best books written on the POW/MIA issue.

MEMORIAL DAY CHURCH SERVICE: The Berkley Baptist Church has invited our organization to participate in and attend their Memorial Day Service. Cindy Kuehl will address the congregation.

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NEW BUSINESS

CALL FOR ELECTION: A 30-Day Call for election was announced for the purpose of electing Treasurer [vacated by death of Doug Murray], Vice President [vacated by resignation of Claudia Schore to accept Treasurer, if elected], and two (2) Directors. The nominating committee has recommended the following:

Vice President	-	Joyce Apodaca
Treasurer	-	Claudia Schore
Director	-	Chuck Lavery
Director	-	Pat McCue

Election will be held at the June 26th meeting.

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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NEW BUSINESS cont'd

SENATOR CAMPBELL CORRESPONDENCE: A response was finally received from Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell [see May Newsletter]. A discussion ensued in regard to any further contact. It was decided that the ball is now in his court. He indicated he will, "continue to work to establish a time for a meeting." We'll see!!!

Don and Bev Stafford had a meeting with **CONGRESSMAN DAVID SKAGGS**, a freshman on the House Intelligence Committee. Several issues were brought to his attention and he did show interest. His office has indicated an interest in making arrangements for him to meet with the "Coalition".

GAIL SCHETLER, State Treasurer, was discussed about her articles in the Rocky Mountain News. She declined respond to the "Coalition" requests. It was discussed that Governor Romer should remove her from office.

The **COLORADO "ROCKIES" BASEBALL TEAM** will pay a special tribute to POWs and MIAs with Colorado Ties on Memorial Day, May 31st. The "Coalition" was promised discounted tickets for 6 to 10 individuals. A sign-up sheet was passed at the meeting.

H.R. 551 VIETNAM POW/MIA RESCUE ACT was introduced by Rep. Fred Upton. We should all follow through and help get this passed, but delivering the POWs to the USG was questioned.

VAUGHN TAYLOR, Bobby Garwoods attorney will be the guest of Peter Boyles on May 26, 7:00 to 8:00 am. They are planning a trip to Vietnam and donations are needed for their expenses. Send to Jimi Kaufman @ or, send to the "Coalition" earmarked for Bobby Garwood Fund. **ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS** are needed to make plans for the September meeting. Chris Cook and Bev Stafford offered to Co-Chair the committee. Rod Utech and Don Stafford will help.

LED HRDLICKA briefed us about his planned trip to WDC to start on June 16th. His itenary has been sent across the Eastern part of the US. Donations to help with his expenses can be sent to the "Coalition" and will be forwarded to "Freedom Banner". Anita Moss asked for proper procedure of the Budget Committee to request a donation for Freedom Banner trip. She asked that a \$300 donation be considered. Russ Tarvin raised that to \$1,000. The Budget Committee was to meet after the meeting and make the final decision.

RETURN FROM KUWAIT: Chuck Lavery brief us about their trip to Kuwait and the marvelous reception they received. The Emire of Kuwait stated they have over 600 MIAs from Desert Storm.

CARTER PILCHER, Legislative Assistant to Senator Brown was our Guest Speaker. He did not have any new revelations or answers.

T.F.O. of COLORADO briefed of scheduled and past events. Tree ceremony on Apr. 25 went well. B'day ceremonies are continuing. Four events planned for Memorial Day weekend. June 5th, Huerfano Cty Fair parade & awareness table. June 13th Ft. Collins poker run. June 13th TFO will speak at Good Shepard Church. June 19th, Ceremony for Hannatty. July 4th, HOG/ABATE Awareness run for POW/MIA about 500 motorcycles are planned, TFO will have a hospitality table.

"LIVE" POW COMMITTEE of Colorado met with Red McDaniel for dinner on May 20th. Scheduled for Commerce City Memorial Day Parade, Peoples Fair in Denver and Greeley Stampede. Jim Paris asked for support for all of these events.

At **BAILEY DAY**, Aug. 14th, the "Coalition" will have a booth donated by and beside VVA #107.

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The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm

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**THE JUNE MEETING OF THE
COLORADO POW/MIA COALITION
WILL BE HELD AT THE**

**VFW, JOHN S. STEWART POST #1
SATURDAY, JUNE 26TH AT 9:00 AM.**

Dear Friend(s),

If you have not yet joined the **COLORADO POW/MIA COALITION**, I thank you for your interest today, and now ask you to join us in support. There continues to be a failure of our government to adequately address POW/MIA issues - and together we must work to change that. For our soldiers who remain Prisoners of War, for their families, for your future, too - please help. Because...

It's The Right Thing to Do!

Yes, I do support the Colorado POW/MIA Coalition...

I want to be a Supporting Member of the Colorado POW/MIA Coalition. Please add my name to your membership and accept my enclosed donation of:

☐ Student

\$5.00

☐ Individual

\$15.00

☐ Family

\$25.00

☐ Organization

\$100.00

Name: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State/Zip: _____
Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____ Fax: (____) _____
Family Member
of MIA: _____

Mail to:

COLORADO POW/MIA COALITION

P.O. Box 4517

Denver, CO 80204-0517



Mr. Garnett Bell
Special Asst.

AMERICA'S P.O.W.'s NEED YOUR HELP, NOW!!!