



NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES

FOR THE RETURN OF AMERICA'S MISSING SERVICEMEN

WORLD WAR II + KOREAN WAR + COLD WAR + VIETNAM WAR

POWS-MIAS

BITS 'N' PIECES JANUARY 21, 1995

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"AMERICAN SERVICEMEN IN ENEMY HANDS - AN EXHIBITION OF WARTIME PHOTOGRAPHS FROM HANOI" - THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF CONGRESSMAN ROBERT DORNAN (R-CA), THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES WAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY A PORTION OF OUR COLLECTION OF WARTIME PHOTOS, IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE CANNON BUILDING OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THE COLLECTION INCLUDES PHOTOS OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR, AIRCRAFT CRASH SITES AND PERSONAL EFFECTS OF BOTH RETURNED PRISONERS OF WAR AND MEN STILL MISSING IN ACTION.

THE MOVING AND UNIQUE DISPLAY IS THE WORK OF VIETNAM VETERAN DENNY CLARK, OF LOS ANGELES CA. THIS EXTRAORDINARY EXHIBITION IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC MONDAY THRU FRIDAY, AND RUNS FROM JANUARY 23RD THRU FEBRUARY 3RD 1995. VIEWING HOURS ARE 7:00 AM TO 9:00 P.M.

CALL YOUR CONGRESSPERSONS AND SENATORS, ASK THEM TO VIEW THIS EMOTIONAL DISPLAY, ON YOUR BEHALF. ALSO ASK THAT THEY REQUEST THE EXHIBITION BE EXTENDED IN THE HOUSE AN ADDITIONAL TWO WEEKS. ALSO SUGGEST TO YOUR SENATORS THAT THEY SPONSOR THIS POWERFUL DISPLAY IN THE SENATE ROTUNDA. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL 206-881-1499.

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FOIA FOLLIES - REMINDER - - ARE YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS BEING DENIED? ARE YOUR FOIA REPLIES UNRESPONSIVE TO YOUR ORIGINAL REQUESTS? IF SO WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU. WE ARE GATHERING INFORMATION IN AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE IF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ARE APPLYING FOIA LAWS PROPERLY. IF YOUR FOIA'S ARE DENIED OR YOUR FOIA REPLIES UNRESPONSIVE, PLEASE SEND US COPIES OF YOUR ORIGINAL FOIA REQUESTS AND THE AGENCY RESPONSES. PLEASE NOTE WHETHER YOU ARE A FAMILY MEMBER OR ACTIVIST. WE CAN NOT ALLOW GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO MISUSE THE FOIA LAWS. IN ORDER TO CHALLENGE THEM WE NEED YOUR HELP. PLEASE CONTACT THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES AT: P. O. BOX 40327 BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON 98015-4327.

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BLACK THURSDAYS - IT WAS ONE YEAR AGO ON THURSDAY JANUARY 27, 1994 THAT THE UNITED STATES SENATE VOTED TO SUPPORT THE LIFTING OF THE TRADE EMBARGO AGAINST VIETNAM. ONE WEEK LATER ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 3, 1995 PRESIDENT CLINTON LIFTED THE TRADE EMBARGO. PERHAPS A QUICK NOTE TO THE SENATORS AND PRESIDENT THAT SOLD OUR POW/MIAs IS IN ORDER. ONE OF THE GREAT THINGS ABOUT POW/MIa FAMILY MEMBERS AND ACTIVISTS IS THAT WE HAVE LONG MEMORIES. WE WILL CARRY THE MEMORY OF THEIR SELLOUT TO THE NEXT ELECTION.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 20TH - 23RD. IN PLANNING FOR THIS YEARS' FORUM, WE ARE ASKING FOR SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHOM YOU WOULD LIKE AS GUEST SPEAKERS. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS CONTACT: BARB SWORSKI AT 612-378-1947 (VOICE/FAX).

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DPMO TASKS FORCE TO VISIT MAGADAN - IN SEPTEMBER OF 1993, MS. IRENE MANDRA, SISTER OF POW PHILIP MANDRA (KOREA,) WAS NOTIFIED THAT RUSSIAN COL. MALININ, REPORTED SEEING AN AMERICAN PRISONER AT THE SOVIET PRISON IN MAGADAN. HE IDENTIFIED THAT PRISONER AS SGT. PHILIP MANDRA, PRISONER OF WAR AUGUST 7, 1952, KOREA. SINCE THAT TIME, MS. MANDRA CONSISTENTLY PRESSURED INVESTIGATORS TO VISIT MAGADAN. ORIGINALLY, MS. MANDRA WAS TOLD THE VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN SUMMER 1994, SOME SIX MONTHS AFTER THE ORIGINAL REPORT. THAT TRIP WAS CANCELED BECAUSE THE RUSSIANS STATED THEY DID NOT BELIEVE COL. MALININ. NOW, FINALLY, THANKS TO IRENE'S EFFORTS U.S. INVESTIGATORS WILL VISIT MAGADAN IN FEBRUARY OF 1995.

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AT LAST - ACCORDING TO DPMO, THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH KOREA RECENTLY APPROVED THE U.S. REQUEST TO DEBRIEF FORMER POW, LT. CHO, WHO RECENTLY ESCAPED FROM NORTH KOREA. LT. CHO WAS HELD AS A POW SINCE HIS CAPTURE IN 1951. ACCORDING TO THE DPMO WEEKLY UPDATE, JANUARY 20, 1995, "HE REPORTED SEEING AMERICAN POWS IN 1951 AT THE TIME OF HIS CAPTURE, HE REPORTED THAT HE DID NOT SEE ANY AMERICANS AFTER 1953. HOWEVER, MR. CHO MENTIONED HEARING ABOUT AMERICAN IN THE MID-1960'S."

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GET WELL - DROP NOTES OF GET WELL WISHES TO WALT HANDY, OF THE NEW YORK STATE POW/MIA ACTION GROUP, AT 102 E. ROSE GARDEN APTS ROME N.Y. 13440. WALT SUFFERED SERIOUS INJURIES DUE TO A FALL ON ICE.

GET WELL WISHES CONTINUE FOR THE FAMILY OF JOHN M.G. BROWN, INJURED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT, SEND CARDS AND NOTES TO, BOX 30, PETROILA CA. 95558.

ADRIAN FISCH, OF RED BADGE OF COURAGE, OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU. ADRIAN IS SUFFERING FROM A DEGENERATIVE BRAIN DISEASE. SEND NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT TO, 1023 5TH AVE. SOUTH, ST. JAMES MN. 56081.

SYMPATHIES TO POW/MIA ACTIVIST JIM COPP AND FAMILY ON THE DEATH OF HIS MOTHER MARY COPP. NOTES MAY BE SENT TO - PO BOX 265 - HAMSTEAD N.C. 28443

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NOW, WE ARE A CULT - JUST WHEN WE GOT USED TO BEING CRAZIES - A RECENT ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN, REFERS TO POW/MIA ACTIVISTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS AS A "VINDICTIVE CULT." THE ARTICLE TITLED "VINDICTIVE CULT: WRONG FOR MIA ACTIVISTS TO DEMAND UNITED STATES WITHHOLD NORMALIZED RELATIONS" SUPPORTS COMPLETE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE REPRESSIVE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM, WITH NO THOUGHT TO LEARNING THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR POW/MIAS OR THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE..

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REGIONAL FAMILY MEETING IN LOS ANGELES -- GENERAL JAMES WOLD WILL HOLD THE FIRST, IN A SERIES OF REGIONAL MEETING IN LOS ANGELES CA. THE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 28, 1995 FROM 10:00 AM TO 2:00 P.M. AT THE MARINA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL IN MARINA DEL RAY, LOS ANGELES. FAMILY MEMBERS, INTERESTED IN ATTENDING SHOULD R.S.V.P. BY TUESDAY JANUARY 24, TO THE DPMO AT 703-602-2101 EXT. 165.

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NEW BOOK - "INSIDE HANOI'S SECRET ARCHIVES" BY MALCOLM MC CONNELL WITH RESEARCH BY THEODORE SCHWEITZER, HITS THE BOOKSTORES THIS WEEK. UNLIKE THE KATZ-KEATING BOOK, THIS PIECE IS A WELL WRITTEN DISTORTION OF THE TRUTH. THE BOOK IS RESEARCHED AND WELL FOOTNOTED. UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS BASED SOLELY ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE VIETNAMESE. RECENT NEWS ACCOUNTS FOCUSED ON STATEMENTS OF COL. THI. HE STATED THAT MANY HUNDREDS OF POW/MIA WERE MURDERED OR TORTURED TO DEATH. THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N. WAS QUICK TO DENY COL. THI'S ALLEGATION. IS COL. THI LYING? WHY ARE SCHWEITZER AND MC CONNELL SO WILLING TO BELIEVE HIS STATEMENT? FOR IF TRUE, WHERE DID THESE MURDERS TAKE PLACE. THEY HAD TO BE IN THE HANOI PRISON SYSTEM. WHY WERE THEY NOT REPORTED BY OTHER POWS? COULD THEY HAVE BEEN IN THE SECOND TIER PRISON SYSTEM, BOTH WASHINGTON AND HANOI SO STRONGLY DENY? WHERE ARE THE REMAINS OF THESE HUNDREDS OF POW/MIAS?

WHAT NEWS ACCOUNTS IGNORED IS A SMALL PASSAGE, ON PAGES 265 AND 266, RELATING TO AN INCIDENT INVOLVING 4 MEN ON APRIL 21, 1967. MC CONNELL AND SCHWEITZER RECOUNT IN GREAT DETAIL THE WARTIME

EXPERIENCE OF COL. PHAM DUC DAI, AND HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE AMBUSH AND KILLING OF THE 4 SOLDIERS. MC CONNELL AND SCHWEITZER ARE CORRECT IN THEIR RECOUNTING OF COL. DAI AND HIS STATEMENTS. COL. DAI HAS TOLD THE STORY TO SENATORS AND REPORTERS, SINCE NOVEMBER 1992. WHAT MC CONNELL AND SCHWEITZER DO NOT REPORT IS *THE FACT THAT COL. PHAM DUC DAI IS A LIAR*. HE WAS NOT PRESENT DURING THE INCIDENT, AS HE CLAIMS. HE HAS RECANTED HIS STATEMENT TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND ADMITS HIS STATEMENTS ARE BASED ON HEARSAY ACCUMULATED AS THE STORY PASSED FROM VILLAGER TO VILLAGER. THE AUTHORS DID NOTHING TO CONFIRM VIETNAMESE INFORMATION REGARDING POW/MIAS, MUCH OF WHICH IS CONTRADICTED BY OFFICIAL RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AGENCIES.

UNFORTUNATELY, BY VIRTUE OF PUBLICATION THE MISINFORMATION AND DISTORTIONS OF TRUTH PRESENTED IN "INSIDE HANOI'S SECRET ARCHIVES" WILL BECOME FACT IN THE MINDS OF AN UNINFORMED PUBLIC. THE POORLY WRITTEN KATZ-KEATING BOOK, WAS OUTRAGEOUS IN ITS' DISTORTIONS, MISINFORMATION AND FALSE ALLEGATIONS, THEREFORE NO DANGER TO A THINKING READER. UNFORTUNATELY "INSIDE HANOI'S SECRET ARCHIVES" WILL BE VIEWED BY THE UNINFORMED AS AN ACCURATE WORK, AND CITED BY CRITICS OF THE POW/MIA ISSUE AS SUCH. THE AUTHORS' REPORT IS ONLY A FRACTION OF THE TRUTH. THE MAJORITY OF THE SUPPORTING FOOTNOTES COME FROM THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THAT FOR

SO LONG HAVE BLOCKED THE TRUTH ON OUR POW/MIA'S. THIS ADDS AN AIR OF CREDIBILITY TO THE BOOK.

HOWEVER, WE CAN STATE WITHOUT DOUBT OR RESERVATION THAT COL. PHAM DUC DAI LIED IN HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENTS OF APRIL 21, 1967. THE DOCUMENTS PROVING THAT LIE ARE IN THE HANDS OF THE FAMILIES INVOLVED. *THE FAMILIES ARE WILLING TO PRODUCE THOSE DOCUMENTS AND HAVE CONTACTED REUTERS AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS IN THE U.S. AND HANOI. AS YET, THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE.*

THE COVER OF "INSIDE HANOI'S SECRET ARCHIVE" BEARS THE WORDS "SOLVING THE M.I.A. MYSTERY," IF ONLY THAT WERE TRUE. INSTEAD THE AUTHORS HAVE ADDED TO IT. WHY IS THE PUBLISHING WORLD AND MEDIA IN GENERAL SO WILLING TO PUBLISH PROVABLE LIES AND GROSS DISTORTIONS OF THE TRUTH. **"INSIDE HANOI'S SECRET ARCHIVES" DOES NOT SOLVE THE MIA MYSTERY, IT ADDS TO IT.**

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PUBLIC FORUM

POW books distort facts

This letter is in response to the Jan. 20 Daily News article headlined, "Book disputes theory Hanoi withheld POWs."

The book referred to is "Inside Hanoi's Secret Archives" by Malcolm McConnel, which is the second book released within two months trying to debunk the truth about our abandoned servicemen. The other book is "Prisoners of Hope" by Susan Katz-Keating.

Both books purport to present evidence that shows that Hanoi never held back American prisoners of war after Operation Homecoming in 1973.

Six months prior to the release of these books, insiders within the Washington establishment sympathetic to the plight of our live abandoned servicemen warned the prisoners of war/missing in action community that our government was planning to implement a campaign to put to rest the truth about our living POWs still in captivity so that full diplomatic relations with Vietnam would go smoothly.

Both books mix half-truths with outright lies to distort documented fact that American servicemen are being held against their will in North Korea, the former Soviet Union, China and Southeast Asia.

POW/MIA family members and activists, having been forewarned of the impending propaganda campaign, doubled their efforts to refute these untruths, but, as has always been the case with the POW/MIA families, it is David against Goliath — against the U.S. government and big business, a mismatch if ever there was one.

The hope that keeps the POW/MIA families going is that, in the end, David did slay Goliath.

— Richard Smith
Reseda