

That phony issue again

Sen. Bob went to Vietnam. He took along a traitor who broadcast propaganda to our troops during the late unpleasantness there. Sen. Bob will stop at nothing to exploit a phony issue.

So Sen. Bob Smith, R-N.H., who had gathered no evidence and found out nothing, made some accusations and demanded an investigation. All this foofraw would make no sense if it weren't involved in the "POW-MIA issue," a myth that has no need of facts. Smith is only the latest charlatan to play a hustle that cruelly plays on the inevitable small portion of soldiers

who died without their bodies being recovered. Virtually all were accounted for, however. Nonetheless, an industry has developed in this country that requires no proof of anything.

Turncoats like Bobby Garwood are even considered credible. Nobody cares that many more Americans are still listed as "missing" from Korea and World War II. We don't seem able to end the Vietnam War the same way and admit that the dead are dead.

Until we do, though, the dead will never really rest, and clowns like Senator Bob will haunt us all.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1993

Readers are welcome to submit proposed "Guest Opinion" columns to the Editorial Department, Daily News, P.O. Box 7788, Philadelphia, PA 19101 or fax to 215-854-5691.

All submissions are subject to editing.

Editorial Board

Guest Opinion

POW/MIAs are not a phony issue

We Vietnam era veterans strongly protest the July 13 editorial, "That phony issue again." The only traitors or turncoats are the U.S. government and the news media for abandoning American servicemen for more than four decades. That is fact!

We have not and will not forget those Americans who were abandoned in World Wars I and II, Korea, Southeast Asia and the Persian Gulf.

We are not surprised by your editorial, for it displayed your lack of knowledge on the POW issue. You do not even take the time to investigate the issue. In airborne language, you write from your fourth point of contact.

We urge you to read the Senate foreign relations report on POWs/MIAs, "Kiss the Boys Goodbye," "Soldiers of Misfortune," etc.



BOBBY WINGATE JR.

WE ARE VERY THANKFUL FOR SEN BOB SMITH

a Vietnam War veteran who continues to work for abandoned American POWs/MIAs. He hasn't turned his back on them. Why have you? As for Bobby Garwood, he is a true American. When his country called, he served. He was abandoned by those who sent him to Vietnam. We salute him! Should you be looking for a turncoat or traitor, look at Jane Fonda.

Try telling Mrs. Van Wees that no one cares about her son, Cpl. Dutch Van Wees, missing since the Korean War.

Tell Mr. and Mrs. Pearce of Milford, Pa., they should accept a single tooth as their son (MIA Laos 1972), and bury this single tooth with full honors. Could you?

Tell Mrs. Diane Mossman there is no hope of her husband being alive. If it was your dad, brother or husband, could you believe a government that has not been telling the truth from day one? We sure could not and will not. It is a sad, sad shame you all have, and continue to do so.

The only clowns who haunt us are the news media and our government for allowing Americans to be knowingly left behind. Many could have come home alive and many still can come home alive if you all would get your act together.

Support 100 percent those who have been abandoned. No money, loans or relations with any country where Americans were abandoned.

All too often, the freedoms we all enjoy are forgotten. Why we enjoy them is because veterans such as us were willing to serve and die for the ideas we believe in.

Freedom now for American POWs/MIAs abandoned for over four decades! ■

Bobby Wingate Jr. is one of 22 military veterans, all employees at the 30th St. Post Office, who signed this guest opinion.