



MINNESOTA WON'T FORGET POW/MIA

February 7, 1996

Senator John McCain
111 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCain,

We have read with interest and amazement your statement in the Congressional Record (January 26, 1996) and an article in the Navy Times (January 15, 1996) concerning the POW/MIA issue and the Missing Service Personnel Act.

The "bizarre ranting lobbyists" as you call them, should be named "seekers of truth". If these "lobbyists, which consist of family members as well as concerned citizens, had not stood on the steps of Congress, little would have been known of the transgressions of our Government concerning the POW/MIA issue. Rather, the selling out of our POW/MIA from World War II, Korea and Vietnam would have stayed locked away, empowering the Department of Defense, DIA and CIA to continue its' travesty in future wars.

We now know, through the release of previously hidden documents, how our soldiers were offered up to Russia after World War II. Why was this factual information released? The "bizarre ranting lobbyists" demanded the USG do so. Are any of these POW's still alive? Our Government would have us believe they are all dead by now. After all, who could possibly survive this length of time working in the salt mines of Siberia? Well, isn't it interesting that a Frenchman arrested in 1940, came home to France in 1993, after fifty-three years being held against his will in Russia? Possibly we, Americans' just don't have the stamina or will to live to make it.

Captain Phillip E. Smith, USAF, held in China during the Vietnam War (returned 1973) was not released alone. Rather, Americans, held since the 1950's were brought out with him. Amazing! Did the United States Government ask why they were there or if there were any others being detained? NO! The Washington "bureaucratic self-serving ostriches" were too concerned with hiding the whole affair. Heaven forbid, there would be one "bizarre ranting lobbyist"

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with the fortitude to step forward and denounce China's activities.

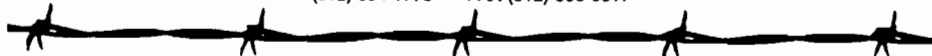
Let us further examine past mistakes. Ronald Van Weese, POW from the Korean War alive and working on a farm in Russia. Truthful, factual information was presented by Ronald's mother Rita, to the United States Government. IGNORED! by "bureaucratic self-serving ostriches". Rita worked for over forty years trying to free her son, now her daughter Lillian has taken up the fight.

What of the eleven POW's from the Korean War being held in North Korea? The information on the eleven was confirmed by the North Koreans during the January 96, meeting held in Hawaii. What are the "bureaucratic self-serving ostriches" doing about this? We also know there are supposed "defectors" living in No. Korea since the 1960's. The recently revealed letters, written in flowery Asian idioms after being in North Korea for only two days, holds one in awe of the brainwashing system used to attain such results. It is also interesting to note that Washington had no knowledge of the film "Unsung Heroes" or the book "Fortunes Favorites", but were aware of and did confiscate the film, "Pilots in Pajamas" during the Vietnam War.

Through the release of de-classified documents, the "bizarre ranting lobbyists" have unearthed a memo to Col. Joseph Schlatter, dated 8 March 1988. Col Schlatter, was made aware, by the CIA of the possibility of American POW's from the Vietnam War being brought to North Korea. Was this investigated by the "bureaucratic self-serving ostriches", or was it poured down another sand hole? The only way family members will know is by access. Access comes via the Missing Service Personnel Act.

Upon his return, E/2 Charles Craft (POW/Vietnam 1964-1967) expressed an interest in contacting the family of Maj. John Schumann, USA, with whom he had been imprisoned. The Government informed Crafts he was not to contact the family as they were not interested in hearing from anyone. NOT TRUE. The family tried then and in the twenty-one years that followed, to find out what had happened to their loved one. Finally, in 1995, Crafts and the Schumann family connected and a ninety year old father knew his son did not die alone but did die in captivity in the arms of a comrade, Charles Crafts. Of course this would not have been known if it hadn't been for the "bizarre ranting lobbyists". The Missing Service Personnel Act insures this will not happen again.

We, the citizens of Minnesota, "seekers of truth" buried the remains of one of our own in November, 1995. You can be assured



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if the "bizarre ranting lobbyists" had not stood firm on this issue, the remains of Richard Knutson, and many others like him would not be brought home. Instead, he like many others, would remain in far off places unclaimed. A mother and aunt who raised Richard have the peace of mind knowing they did everything for him and brought him back to home soil. The Missing Personnel Act insures this will continue.

Death by Association, has become the by-word in Washington while the bureaucratic self-serving ostriches" ignore first hand live sighting reports, satellite imagery and refuse to ask the Vietnamese for the Blue Files.

You have stated the Missing Personnel Act is burdensome and time consuming. This comes from an individual who served a Government who required wartime response from Washington in order to carry out bombing and combat missions. PLEASE!

The "bizarre ranting lobbyists" earned and deserve every opportunity to pursue knowledge of their missing loved one. The Missing Service Personnel Act presents them with this opportunity.

The "bureaucratic self-serving ostriches" should pull their heads out of the sand, show some compassion, honesty, dignity and GET REAL.

We are fortunate to have some in Washington who retain the moral fiber to "stand tall" on this issue, it is truly sad you are not among them. For their faith, strength and kindness, we thank them.

Keeping the Faith,

Dale Hanley
Director

cc
Sen. Bob Smith
Sen. Paul Wellstone
Sen. Rod Grams
Sen. Charles Grassley
Cong. Bob Dornan
Cong. Jim Ramstad
Cong. Bill Luther
Cong. Bruce Vento
Cong. Gil Gutknecht
Cong. David Minge
Cong. Colin Peterson

Dole for President Campaign

Attn: Ron Miller

As a concerned citizen who has worked on the POW/MIA issue for the past fourteen years, I am disturbed and troubled that Senator Dole would appoint Mr. John McCain, as his Campaign Chief National Security Advisor.

Mr. McCain has shown nothing but disrespect for family members seeking a true accounting of their missing loved one. His recent speech on the floor of the Senate indicated his strong disapproval of any legislation which would ease the flow of information to families by calling the Missing Persons Act, "unworkable, unnecessary, and burdensome". It is unthinkable that a man who has witnessed the suffering of his fellow veteran in a captive situation would hinder, in any way, those who seek the truth.

Mr. McCain chose to vote against any funding for the B-2 bomber program, authorization of a Seawolf submarine, any type of military construction, and for equipment for the National Guard or Reserve. One wonders what would have happened if there would have been someone of his ilk in the Senate at the time of the Vietnam War who would have prevented the building of the B-52?

Mr. McCain further stated he is against the "buy America" program for DOD. Would he rather we purchase equipment from Countries such as China, with its' sweat shops? American workers produce quality products, raise families and produce the future citizens of this Nation. Mr. McCains' statement is a slap in the face to Americas' workforce.

Senator Dole, I have been watching and listening to all the candidates, weighing all arguments, before deciding for whom I would vote. Your announcement of Mr. McCains' appointment as cancelled any thought of voting for you.

Sincerely,

Karen Hanley
Concerned Citizen
Member of Minnesota Won't Forget POW/MIA