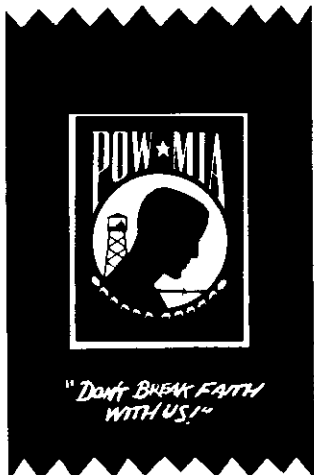


Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Natl. League of
POW-MIA Families

"DON'T BREAK FAITH WITH US!"

NAVY COMMANDER RONALD W. DODGE

AIR FORCE COLONEL DAVID HRDLICKA



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF POW-MIA FAMILIES

1608 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

- The U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency is currently investigating over 350 eyewitness reports on Americans held captive.
- Over 100 sighting reports have been received by the National League of Families of Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia of American POW-MIAs being held captive.
- In June of 1980, a mortician testified before Congress that he processed or saw the remains of over 400 Americans stored in a Hanoi facility.

Send for your purple ribbon today
— and wear it with pride. Details in
letter.

Dear Fellow American:

If you're the patriotic, God-fearing American I believe you are, I'm counting on you to help secure the release of America's 2,500 POW-MIAs from the hands of the Southeast Asian Communists.

As late as 1981, one source reported to the headquarters of the National League of POW-MIA Families that he was held with 18 American POWs underground at Son Tay Prison for five years -- from 1975 to 1980.

Can you imagine never seeing the light of day for five years -- being isolated, deprived, beaten, shackled, and tortured? But, worst of all, being forgotten by your own country. I can! I was held captive in Vietnam.

In 1978, another source reported that some 30 American POWs were held in three closely separated camps in Thanh Hoa, Vietnam. The source stated, "The POWs I saw were very thin and were covered with scabies. They were just skin and bones. The Americans were forced to carry wood from the forests and they often fell down. Sometimes they were beaten by the guards."

How can anyone break faith with American POWs going through such a horrible ordeal?

By returning the enclosed POW-MIA RELEASE FORM as early as possible, you will symbolize your personal pledge to "not break faith with our boys" still held in Southeast Asia.

And will you also sign and mail the enclosed postcards addressed to President Ronald Reagan and the Vietnamese Ambassador to the United Nations?

By doing these two things immediately, you'll be helping to hasten the long-awaited release of our fighting men still held in captivity and in secret morgues in Southeast Asia.

Your action right this minute may even save the life of a captive, forgotten American POW in Vietnam.

Please let me explain ...

I'm Major John W. Parsels, U.S. Army (Retired). I was shot down and captured by the Vietnamese on February 5, 1970, and was a POW until my release in March of 1973. Since then I have been actively working with the League of Families to account for my friends and fellow servicemen who are still being held in Southeast Asia. I am writing this letter on behalf of the League because I feel many of you loyal Americans will want to help if you realize the disgraceful fact that all the POWs DID NOT come home in 1973. The National League of POW-MIA Families, is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to:

((Obtaining the release of all prisoners ... the fullest possible accounting for the missing ... and the return of remains of those who died serving our country.))

You see, the League includes the wives, parents, children, and other close relatives of U.S. servicemen or civilians who are or were prisoners or missing in Southeast Asia -- as well as returned Vietnam prisoners of war.

From 1970 to the present, the League has managed to work on a shoe-string budget. It is officially located in The American Legion Building in Washington, D.C. Thanks to The American Legion, the space is donated rent-free.

Fortunately, over the last eleven years, the generous donations of family members and friends have sustained the League long enough to uncover the convincing evidence spelled out above -- evidence which no government can ignore.

((Conclusive proof that the Vietnamese are withholding remains of Americans hit home recently, when three flag-draped coffins arrived at Travis Air Force Base in California. Finally, the bodies of Navy Commander Ronald W. Dodge of Olympia, Washington, and two other known POWs have been laid to rest.))

When North Vietnam released its list of prisoners in 1973, Commander Dodge's name wasn't on it. Not only had his capture been reported by Radio Hanoi in 1967; his picture appeared in a Paris magazine four months later. After confronting Vietnamese officials with the article, they denied it.

For eight long years the U.S. government discounted reports of POWs still held, however, recent evidence has forced a change in policy. Reportedly, the U.S. sent a secret force into Laos to obtain additional evidence that Americans were imprisoned in a jungle camp there.

The results were inconclusive ... but that doesn't rule out the existence of American POWs.

((In fact, CIA documents confirm the existence of 44 prison camps in Laos. Many of these facilities reportedly held American POWs. None of these men have ever been released.))

I don't know about you, but, personally, I won't be at peace until every one of my fellow servicemen is returned home, either dead or alive. And I pray we can reach some of them before they succumb to the torturous methods of the Vietnamese -- and are killed.

I'm reminded of what Major James Nicholas Rowe said after he escaped from the Viet Cong -- one of few POWs to do so:

"There is a memory that refuses to die, however -- one of a single over-powering fear. It wasn't the fear of death. A quick death, at times, was almost welcome, a tantalizing alternative to the constant struggle to remain alive. It wasn't fear of pain, for pain and torment simply became factors in a world measured in those very terms ...

... The fear that nagged my every conscious thought, remorseless and unanswerable, was that I would be forgotten, abandoned in that steaming green hell, with slow death my only escape ..."
(Parade Magazine, May 31, 1981)

Major Rowe and I were among the fortunate. We got out. But there are live Americans still being held over there. Some may have even been held for 15 years under God knows what kind of conditions. Who knows how many American soldiers are still enduring the pain, the torture of the Vietnamese with the constant thought, "America has forgotten me."

The frightening question is how much will could be left when you've been waiting for your government to get you out all this time.

Every day counts. Every minute. That's why I'm urging you to help me in this life-saving effort to get our POW-MIAs returned.

I must tell you that I'm afraid. My grave fear is that Americans, inadvertently, have broken faith with our POW-MIAs, with the forgotten servicemen such as:

- ★ • Air Force Colonel David Hrdlicka. His plane went down in Northern Laos May 18, 1965. His capture was announced. The following year a letter from him was broadcast in Laos ... his photo ran in a Moscow newspaper. Still, his sons, daughter and parents wait.
- ★ • Staff Sergeant Donald Sparks captured June 17, 1969, officially listed missing in action. In 1970, a letter from him was found on the body of a Vietnamese soldier. He was reclassified as prisoner of war.

For all we know, these men and countless others are alive -- the evidence is convincing. And now, we need increased support from the media and President Reagan. (In 1973, President Nixon assured the nation all our fighting men were out of Southeast Asia. Every administration following him supported this position until Reagan took office.)

On July 17, 1981, at POW-MIA recognition day, President Reagan sent word:

"It is our duty to keep faith with them for they did not break

faith with us. My Administration is determined to obtain the fullest possible accounting of these brave Americans."

Will you be one of the millions of supporters needed to keep the pressure on, to keep the momentum going, to keep faith with our POW-MIAs?

Right now, the League needs thousands of dollars to begin a national media campaign to spread the word and to enlist the help of millions of Americans like you to help get our men home.

All you have to do is:

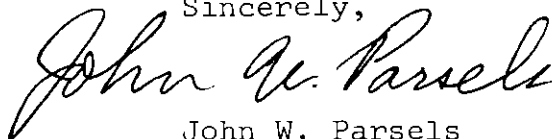
- ✓ 1) Return the enclosed POW-MIA RELEASE FORM -- your personal pledge to not break faith with our American fighting men.
- ✓ 2) Sign and mail the enclosed postcards to President Ronald Reagan and the Vietnamese Ambassador to the United Nations. This will help put and keep pressure on the Vietnamese government to return our men -- both living and dead.
- ✓ 3) Send the largest gift you possibly can -- \$10, \$15, \$25, \$50, \$100 -- or whatever you can afford. We need it desperately to help pay for a national media campaign to gather the support needed to act immediately.

In return for every gift of \$15 or more you will receive your own purple ribbon to wear with pride until our boys are all home.

Remember, some men may have died during this past year waiting for your help. We must act with urgency. Every second is crucial. With whatever you can send, together we may finally end the Vietnam War for everyone -- the families still waiting -- but, most important, the men still held captive and waiting for your help.

Thank you. And God bless you for acting quickly in this life-saving effort.

Sincerely,



John W. Parsels
Major, U.S. Army (Retired)

JWP/795-1

P.S. I cannot stress strongly enough how important it is that we hear from you immediately. POW-MIA's are still imprisoned. Only an overwhelming cry from a united America can insure the return of these men. You are an American. Your voice can make a difference!

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Ambassador Ha Van Lau
SRV Representative to the United Nations
20 Waterside Plaza
New York, New York 10010

Dear President Ronald Reagan:

As a patriotic, God-fearing voter and citizen, I want you to know I fully support your determination to ensure that our forgotten heroes in Southeast Asia are all returned home. And I want you to know that I, too, have not broken faith with them.

Please continue to make resolution of the POW-MIA issue a top priority for the State and Defense Departments.

I am confident that you will ensure specific action is taken to bring our men home. I urge you to continue to stand up to World Powers and countries like Iran and Vietnam. May God bless you as you lead this country in a responsible and dignified way.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Dear Ambassador Ha Van Lau:

As an American citizen, I strongly urge the release of the U.S. servicemen and civilians, both living and dead.

I am thankful for the release of those men you have returned, but I am appalled that your country continues to hold American soldiers. Please take immediate action to release our men and demonstrate to the world some humanitarian compassion.

I will await your prompt reply, expecting you to move swiftly to end the pain and suffering of both the families and the men still imprisoned.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____