

A Vigil of Remembering

In the Season of Epiphany

February 2, 2007

At the end of the Vietnam War, there reportedly were 2,583 unaccounted for American prisoners, missing or killed in action/body not recovered. There are now 1,789 US personnel listed as missing and unaccounted for by the Department of Defense. Recently, the identifications of seven Americans previously missing/unaccounted for from the Vietnam War were announced as identified. Tet 68, Inc. extends best wishes to each family, hoping this final answer brings long-awaited peace of mind. The accounting for these Americans brings to 796 the number of US personnel accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Over 90% of the 1,789 still listed as missing were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnamese wartime control. As a policy, neither the U.S. Government nor Tet 68, Inc. nor the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia does not rule out the possibility that Americans could still be held.

Unaccounted-for Americans from the Vietnam War

By Home State

Alabama – 33	Nebraska -- 19
Alaska – 2	Nevada – 7
Arizona – 20	New Hampshire - 6
Arkansas – 18	New Jersey – 49
California – 180	New Mexico – 12
Colorado – 28	New York – 116
Connecticut – 28	North Carolina – 44
Delaware – 4	North Dakota – 10
District of Columbia – 8	Ohio – 82
Florida – 59	Oklahoma – 37
Georgia – 34	Oregon – 39
Hawaii – 7	Pennsylvania – 97
Idaho – 10	Rhode Island – 7
Illinois – 73	South Carolina – 29
Indiana – 57	South Dakota – 7
Iowa – 28	Tennessee – 33
Kansas – 29	Texas – 118
Kentucky – 14	Utah – 16
Louisiana – 24	Vermont – 5
Maine – 14	Virginia – 48
Maryland – 26	Washington – 45
Massachusetts – 40	West Virginia – 17
Michigan – 54	Wisconsin – 30
Minnesota – 36	Wyoming – 5
Mississippi – 12	Panama – 1
Missouri – 38	Philippines - 4
Montana – 19	Puerto Rico – 1
	Canada & Civilians – 10

Total: 1,789 (Source: National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia)



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The purpose of this vigil is to honor all who fought, died or are unaccounted for as a result of military action in Vietnam. TET '68, Inc., recognizes that citizens of good will and patriotism hold divergent opinions on the question of POW/MIA's who remain yet alive in captivity. It is the official position of TET '68, Inc., to insist upon a full accounting of these men.

Mr. William Kirkland is the President of TET '68, Inc., a non-profit veteran's organization founded in 1986. He served with D Co. 3rd Bde, 4th Inf. Div – "None Better" – U. S. Army.

The Rev. Dr. Donald D. Denton is a Presbyterian Minister serving with the Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care. He served with Sub-Unit #1 of the 1st Radio Battalion, First Marine Division, 1968-1969. He is a life member of the First Marine Division Association.

Manchester High School JROTC is serving as our honor guard again. Sgt. Major William Wilderman (USA Ret.) is their sponsor. Manchester High School is in Midlothian, Virginia.

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NATIONAL SONGS

564 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

MATERNA C.M.D.

Samuel Augustus Ward, 1882

Katharine Lee Bates, 1893

1. O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, For am - ber waves of grain,
2. O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, Whose stern, im - pas - sioned stress
3. O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved In lib - er - at - ing strife,
4. O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream That sees be - yond the years

For pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties A - bove the fruit - ed plain!
A thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat A - cross the wil - der - ness!
Who more than self their coun - try loved, And mer - ey more than life!
Thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, Un-dimmed by hu - man tears!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee.
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw.
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee

And crown thy good with *broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea!
Con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, Thy lib - er - ty in law!
Till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness And ev - ery gain di - vine!
And crown thy good with *broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea!

*Or "servanthood."

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United States Lyrics of National Anthem

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perious light,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming!
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, now conceals, now discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines on the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner! O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the Heaven-rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, for our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

In the Season of Epiphany

Prelude

Patriotic and Religious Selections

Presentation of the Colors

Manchester High School JROTC

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem

Words of Welcome

Rev. Donald Denton

Recognition of Guests

Mr. William Kirkland

Remarks by Guests

Litany of Remembering

Liturgist: Almighty and Eternal Father, Lord of Battle and Guarantor of Peace, we gather here tonight in memory of brothers and sisters lost in battle, comrades taken in captivity and never returned. Their voices echo in our hearts. We see their faces still, forever young!

People: Merciful Christ, Shepherd of the Stars and Protector of the Weak, we honor their devotion to this nation. They served with courage. They showed true faith.

Liturgist: Spirit of Hope, You alone know the course of our life and the span of our days. Fill us with Your Spirit so that our pathway honors their sacrifice. May we always render true service to you and may our land always enjoy your blessing, Amen!

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Message

A Twenty Year Journey Toward Honor

Ceremony of the Table

2 Corinthians 1:8-11

Litany of the States

(Please 'sound off' when the number opposite from your home state when it is read)

Benediction

*O Beautiful for Spacious Skies - #564 insert
(Please join in singing together)*

Taps

Please silence your cell phones during the Vigil