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"THE INSIDERS"
P. O. Box 182
Vienna, VA 22180

December 11, 1985

Dear Friends,

A lot has happened!

1. Two women came from Florida to Washington, DC to handcuff themselves to the White House fence in support of Gino Casanova.

2. Gino Casanova got a phone call from President Reagan and ~~they agreed~~ to meet with leaders of the Vietnam veterans.

3. NBC leaked it out that Gino also has asked that the meeting include Congressman Billy Hendon.

4. The objective of this meeting is to present to the President, the information that proves there are live POWs.

5. Anyone with proof that live POWs are in Southeast Asian prisons is asked to gather this proof and submit it for review so that when the staff of the President asks for an agenda for the meeting, we can lay out our best shot.

Analyst's Statement: Gino did what we have been trying to do for five years, in 50 days. He gets to meet President Reagan and let him know that live POWs are in captivity in Southeast Asia. We must seize the opportunity to show Reagan that the people know live POWs are still held and we want them to be brought home, irregardless of the political repercussions. A briefing is being prepared for Gino during his sixty days of recovery. Anyone who wishes to send him a note can write to him at:

c/o Veterans Administration Medical Center
1660 South Columbian Way
Seattle, Washington 98108

The National Vietnam Veterans Coalition, along with "The Insiders", hope to make a significant contribution to this meeting, so please help.

6. The Congressional Record 12/3/85 is attached where Hendon told the House good-bye to Bud. "This Bud's for you!"

7. Attached is a copy of what a milk company is printing on its milk cartons to increase public awareness of our POWs and MIAs from New England. This is a great project and can be done all over the country.

"THE INSIDERS"
P.O. Box 182
Vienna, VA 22180

December 11, 1985

Gino Casanova
c/o Veterans Administration
Medical Center
1660 South Columbian Way
Seattle, WA 98108

Dear Gino,

Thank you for all you did for the "live POWs" in Southeast Asia. I hope your health recovers over the next sixty days while you plan your meeting with the President.

Lynn and Leigh Hampton came up to Washington, DC from Florida and handcuffed themselves to the White House fence in support of your effort. I coordinated their activities with the press, the White House police, a meeting with Congressman Hendon and Senator Slade Gorton's office. Attached is the press release and the news they generated in Washington, DC. I feel their effort helped President Reagan make up his mind to help by calling you.

If you would like to thank them, you can call (813) 294-1248 or write them at:

1776 Sixth Street, NW
Winter Haven, FL 33880

To give you some background, I write a newsletter called "The Insider". Dan Smith is a member of this group. Attached are the last two issues for your review.

The National Vietnam Veterans Coalition (a group of 26 Vietnam veterans organizations), of which I am an advisor, wishes to coordinate your Presidential meeting. What needs to be done is several preliminary meetings need to take place with the White House staff to set up the agenda. I am given to understand from several sources that you have asked Congressman Hendon (a long time live POW advocate) to attend your meeting with the President. Further, I understand that Colonel (retired) Earl Hopper is going to come to Washington state to brief you. Col. Hopper's son is missing in Southeast Asia. The active groups and people in the Live POW Lobby are all planning to offer you agenda and advice on how best to make your meeting effective.

My advice is simple, present the five strongest things we have that prove live POWs are still held prisoners by the Southeast Asian communists. I will be glad to coordinate it so you meet the right people. Let me know if I can help.

8. Attached is an article about candle light vigils. Remember, we all would like to take a trip to Vietnam, not to bury memories, but to rescue live POWs.

9. Anyone who sends a telegram for $25.00 to Hanoi, addressed to a POW, or sends a package or letter and has received a response from East Germany or Hanoi, is encouraged to let me know. I have a tip, a lead, and a project I am working on. Please help.

10. Attached is an article about the identification of bone chips from the Daily Oklahoma newspaper. Most of you have seen this by now, I hope. I do not mean any disrespect, but these bone chips they have "positively identified" as MIAs, is a crock of shit. An historical perspective proves that the military sent back caskets (boxes of bones) and five years later these men came back alive. I can't say that any of these men are live, but I can say that voodoo anthropologists can not identify these bones positively and the families should not be forced to accept these findings. Further, it is criminal for the military to entomb these bone chips under any MIA's name. They belong in the tomb of the unknown soldier.

11. The last telephone tree and live POW lobbying letter has been written and this is it! I feel we have created a great deal of public awareness on the "live POW" problem. We have all the people in our government rattled to the point where they have stopped asking, "Are there live POWs?" and are now saying, "How do we get the live POWs home?". Congress is convinced, Reagan's convinced, DoD is convinced, and the State Department is still out in the cold. What needs to occur now is action. Public awareness has peaked. Someone needs to rescue a live POW. It is important that you keep up you individual efforts to get co-sponsors to HCR 129 and to get articles and stories published.

Our last project:

TARGET DATES: December 18, 19, 20th

TARGET: Art Silverman
"All Things Considered"
National Public Radio
2025 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
202/822-2000

Please send cards and letters to this address and call them. Point out that "live POWs" are an issue you want them to discuss. The show is a 15-20 minute news clip at 5:00 PM in Washington, DC and other cities.

Thank you for helping to rescue the live POWs in SE Asia.

Sincerely,

Michael Van Atta

Continued from 1B

Lynn Hampton said her sister, who is a nurse at Humana Hospital in Dade City, saw the show and together they decided to do something to publicize Casanova's plight.

"We've always been really close," Lynn Hampton said about her and her sister, "but we've gone our separate ways. We said we were willing to help."

Acquaintances in the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition suggested the protest at the White House gate.

Fourteen others have been arrested in recent weeks at the White House during similar protests, according to spokesmen for the group.

Lynn Hampton said her time spent as an Army nurse in Vietnam makes her more aware of the MIA problem. She believes Americans are still being held there.

"I feel in my heart that they're still there," she said. They are actively suffering. We know they're there and our government knows they're there. I think this is really a matter of life and death."

Lynn and Leigh Hampton were unable to meet with members of the Florida Congressional delegation Thursday. Lynn Hampton said she will try to meet with U.S. Rep. Andy Ireland, R-Winter Haven, to discuss the situation.

Deeply religious, Lynn Hampton said her trip to Washington was divinely inspired. "If you tell the Lord you want to help, he'll take you places," she said.

Hampton first went to El Salvador several years ago after hearing a plea on another Christian television show for medical missionaries to that country.

Information from The Associated Press was used in this story.

AP photo

Haven protesters

Lynn, left, and Leigh Hampton, both of Winter Haven, handcuff themselves to the north gate of the White House during a protest for the return of all MIAs in Southeast Asia. Story, 1B. Related story, 14A.

Protesters returning to Haven

By Harvey Dickson
The Ledger

Lynn Hampton is expected to come home to Winter Haven today, two days after she and her twin sister chained themselves to a White House gate to protest what they said is the continued captivity of Americans in Vietnam.

Their arrests cost the sisters $75 each.

They were charged by U.S. Park Service Police with the misdemeanor offense of attaching a sign to the fence surrounding the White House.

"I've never been arrested before," Lynn Hampton said during a telephone interview Thursday evening, "but this is an honor."

The two women were handcuffed to the fence for roughly five minutes Wednesday afternoon. The Park Service confiscated the handcuffs after they were unlocked.

Lynn Hampton carried a sign reading, "Bring 'em home before they're bones." Leigh Hampton had a sign reading simply, "Free them." They chanted: "President Reagan, rescue the POWs. They are alive."

The National Vietnam Veterans Coalition claims as many as 300 soldiers are still be held in captivity in Southeast Asia. Hundreds more have never been accounted for.

Lynn Hampton, a nurse who served in

The Philadelphia Inquirer Monday, December 2, 1985

Going back in bid to heal a war's scars

By Howard Goodman
Inquirer Staff Writer

Timon Hagelin cannot forget Saigon.

Always, it was the bodies. "In Saigon, they'd fill up the planes with the KIAs," those killed in action, he said.

"It was an awesome sight. You cannot imagine — I could not imagine — how many there were. They'd put them in aluminum cylinders and ship the bodies in huge transport planes."

Later came the ghosts.

"I've had about 22 jobs since I came back from Vietnam," said Hagelin, a father of two girls and a resident of the 1000 block of North 67th Street in the city's Overbrook section. He has had depressions and rages, and each week he takes part in group therapy at the Vet Center, 11th and Arch Streets, for treatment of post-traumatic stress syndrome, he said.

Hagelin was 18 when his 12-month stint in Vietnam began in 1968. His job was in graves registration, the grisly task of cataloguing the dead.

Now, he is going back.

The Army veteran is among nine men departing today for what Hagelin believes is the first non-official visit by Americans to the former enemy nation. With little expectation of meeting government officials or making progress on such issues as the status of prisoners of war or the missing in action, this visit is a gesture of normalcy. The visitors are going as tourists.

The Philadelphia Inquirer / TOM GRALISH

Drexel University sophomore Larry Dodds lights a candle held by Leo Saviour during a service at the Chapel of the Four Chaplains marking National Recognition of POW/MIAs Day.

But with a difference. "Maybe I can go back there and resolve a few things," Hagelin said. "Vietnam is a part of me, like my leg or my hand. And here's the opportunity to go back, to make the return."

"I think it will be healing for him," said his wife, Lynn. "It can be a very positive experience to see the country when it's not at war, when it's not violent as it was."

The trip follows an invitation made last month by the Vietnamese government to the operator of a travel agency with a special interest in Southeast Asia, Indochina Consulting Group Ltd., of Westbury, N.Y., Hagelin said. The invitation is apparently one in a series of recent efforts by the Vietnamese to improve relations with the United States, he said.

It comes during a period of redoubled efforts to account for American POWs and MIAs, efforts underscored in Philadelphia yesterday during a candlelight vigil at the Chapel of the Four Chaplains on the Temple Uni-

(See VETERANS on 6-B)

VETERANS, from 1-B

versity campus to mark National Recognition of POWs/MIA Day. Hagelin said his group's visit may help the cause in a small way, by broaching the subject in private conversation and therefore showing the Vietnamese the seriousness with which Americans take the issue.

Eight of the visitors will be Vietnam veterans, hailing from six states. During nearly two weeks in the country, they will see such sights as the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the ancient city of Hue and Da Nang, once a major U.S. base.

"I'm forcing myself not to have any preconceptions" Hagelin said, "so I'll have no disappointments."

Hagelin learned about the trip just last week. Leaping at the chance to go, he quickly raised the $2,953 fare from savings and from friends and relatives.

The Philadelphia native was as impressionable as most of the men who went to fight a war in which the average age of fighting men was 19, the age just before adulthood, Hagelin said, when experiences are especially intense. "There was an extreme kind of violence," he said, "an extreme kind of paranoia, not knowing who the enemy was. You lived for years later in a kind of paranoid limbo.

"Maybe I can go back and throw out some ghosts."

"LEST WE FORGET"
OUR NEW ENGLAND
MIA/POW's
VIETNAM
Lt. Col. Charles E. Cappelle
Commander Laurent M. Dion
Major George H. Jourdeness
Col. Curtis A. Eaton
Major Kenneth B. Goff, Jr.
Lt. Commander Orland J. Pender, Jr.
Lt. Col. Fredrick M. Mellor
Lt. Jr. Grade Edward B. Shaw
Staff Sgt. James M. Ray
Sgt. First Class Lewis C. Walton
WE CARE
THE DAIRY MART FAMILY

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1985 25¢

Military's Identification Process Questioned

Exclusionary Method Doesn't Give Positive ID

By Ray Robinson
© 1985, The Oklahoman

As U.S. military men sifted the wreckage of a crashed bomber in Vietnam this week, documents inadvertently released to *The Oklahoman* by the Pentagon have disclosed that in previous cases, missing airmen were sometimes identified from only the tiniest fragments of bones, using methods that are shunned by scientists in the private sector.

According to government records obtained by *The Oklahoman* under the federal Freedom of Information Act, some identifications have been made with only small fragments of burnt, fractured and weathered bones. In other cases, the true origin of the bones turned over by the Vietnamese government appears to be unknown.

And in one case, stemming from the crash of an Air Force gunship in Laos, the remains of a young airman were identified by government scientists with only a single small fragment of charred bone from the upper arm, which had apparently lain at the crash site in Laos from 1972 to this year.

Dr. William Bass, a forensic anthropologist at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, who agreed to examine the documents for *The Oklahoman*, said in an interview that he was "a little bit appalled" at the methods being used by government anthropologists to identify the remains.

The methods have also been criticized by two other respected forensic anthropologists, Dr. Michael Charney of Colorado State University and Dr. Clyde Snow of the University of Oklahoma. Charney and Snow have examined not only government records, but some of the actual remains at the request of MIA families.

A Pentagon spokesman, when contacted earlier this month about the controversy, said the Pentagon would not comment on specific cases. He said the release of the records to the newspaper appeared to have been in violation of Department of Defense policies.

Later, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger contacted *The Oklahoman* and asked to be notified in advance of the publication of this report so that the servicemen's families could be notified in advance. The newspaper agreed to that request.

Release of the documents came as a team from the U.S. Joint Casualty Resolution Center in Honolulu searched a site this week in Yen Thuong village in Vietnam. There, an Air Force B-52 bomber is believed to have been shot down on Dec. 20, 1972, with four men aboard.

The search is the second such excavation in Indochina conducted by the federal government since the war ended in 1975.

A site that government officials say contained bones of 13 airmen shot down over Laos 13 years ago was excavated last Febru-

See BONE, Page 15

Bone Fragments, Exclusionary Method Used for IDs

From Page 1

ary. *The Oklahoman* obtained reports on those 13, as well as two others.

The records indicate anthropologists employed by the U.S. Army have repeatedly rested their identifications of fragmentary or partial remains on the so-called "exclusionary procedure."

Under that procedure, if two men are lost in the same aircraft, and the remains of one can be identified, the other bones at the crash site can be assumed to belong to the second man, even if they are insufficient by themselves for a positive identification.

In the case of the young airman from the Air Force gunship, records show, the process was carried even further, with government anthropologists deciding that the small piece of burnt bone could not have come from any of the other members of the plane's crew.

The exclusionary procedure, Bass said in a report prepared for *The Oklahoman*, "is not a means of positive identification."

And, referring to another case in which the exclusionary procedure was used, Bass said, "In a war situation, the skeletal remains of many individuals could be in proximity of the aircraft crash.

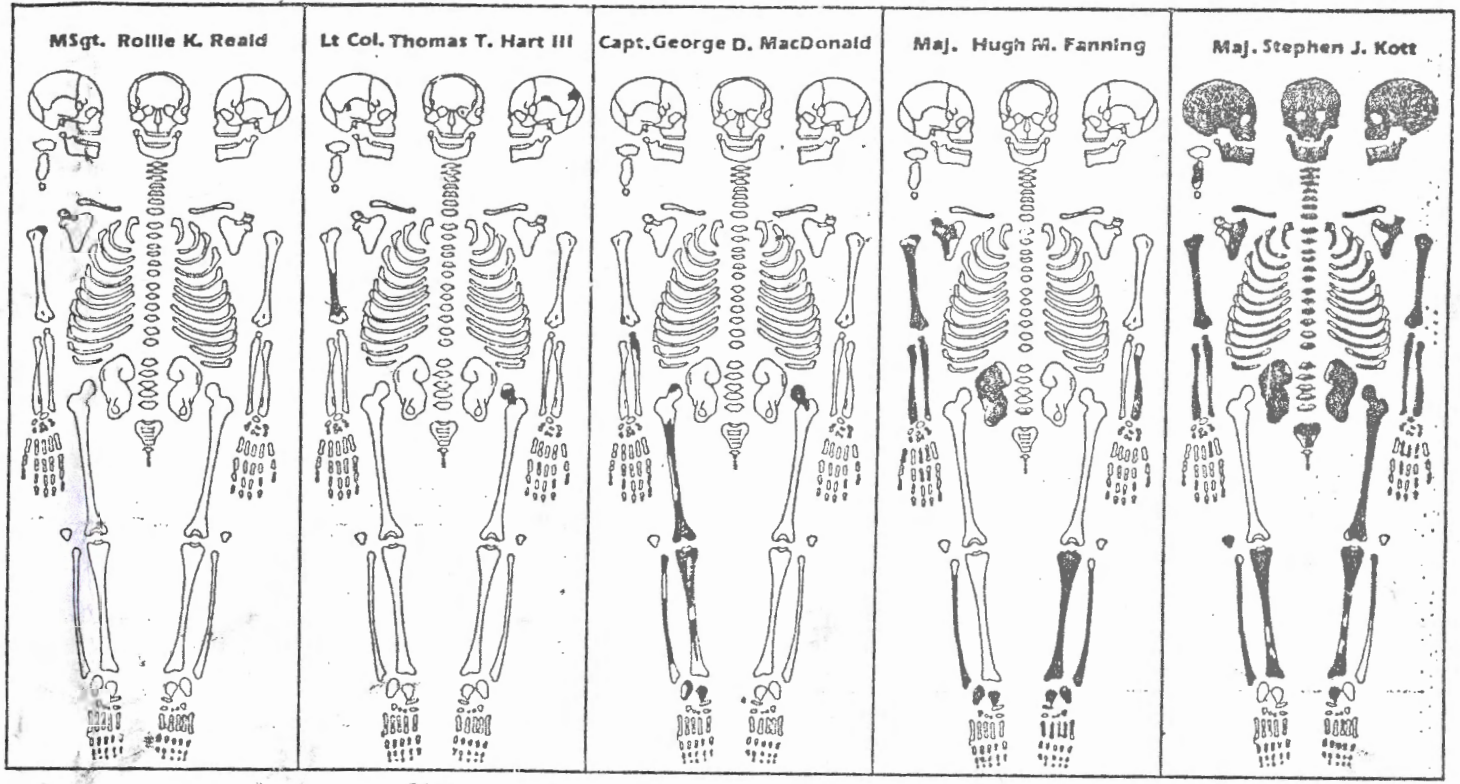
"There is no indication in the records of of how careful these remains were treated after discovery. In other words, could they have been mixed with some other individual?"

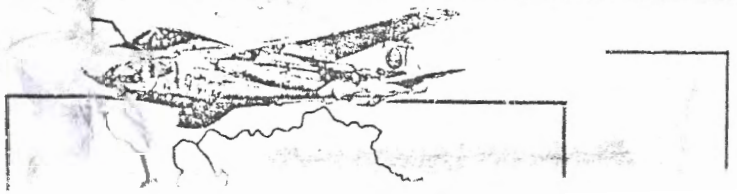
Findings Processed

On Dec. 21, 1972, a U.S. Air Force AC-130A gunship was hit by anti-aircraft fire as it returned from a mission over Laos, where it had raked enemy trucks and gun emplacements with its rapid firing mini-cannons.

The four-engine, turbo-prop plane, designated as "Spectre 17," remained under control until fuel began to leak, causing a violent explosion which separated its left wing. As flames spread

BLACKED OUT PORTIONS RECOVERED





ings after reviewing the records, said that in general, the types of positive identifications claimed by the laboratory are impossible unless there is some "before death" record for comparison purposes, such as X-rays of teeth or prior bone fractures.

In Kott's case, the laboratory took X-rays of the [illegible]

geant.

But according to their report, the anthropologists were able to determine that the fragment came from someone under 21 years old, which narrowed it down to Reaid and one other member of the crew. The fragment also came from someone

B

emand action for POWs

Staff and wire reports

WASHINGTON — Twin sisters from Winter Haven, one of them a Vietnam veteran, handcuffed themselves to a White House gate Wednesday to call for more action to secure the release of Americans they believe are still held alive in Southeast Asia.

Lynn and Leigh Hampton were arrested by U.S. Park Service police a few minutes after locking themselves to a gate along the north fence of the White House. They chanted: "President Reagan, rescue the POWs. They are alive."

Lynn Hampton, a former Army nurse who served in Vietnam in 1967-1968, carried a sign reading, "Bring 'em home before they're bones."

Their protest was the latest in a series outside the White House staged by the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition. The coalition includes various veterans groups that contend that 200 to 300 Americans are being held in Southeast Asian countries more than 10 years after the end of the Vietnam War.

Fourteen other people have been arrested in similar protests in recent weeks, coalition spokesman Ted Sampley said.

Police Maj. Richard Cusick said the women were charged with a misdemeanor violation of federal law that forbids signs from being attached to the fence. He said the women were released after agreeing to pay a $75 fine.

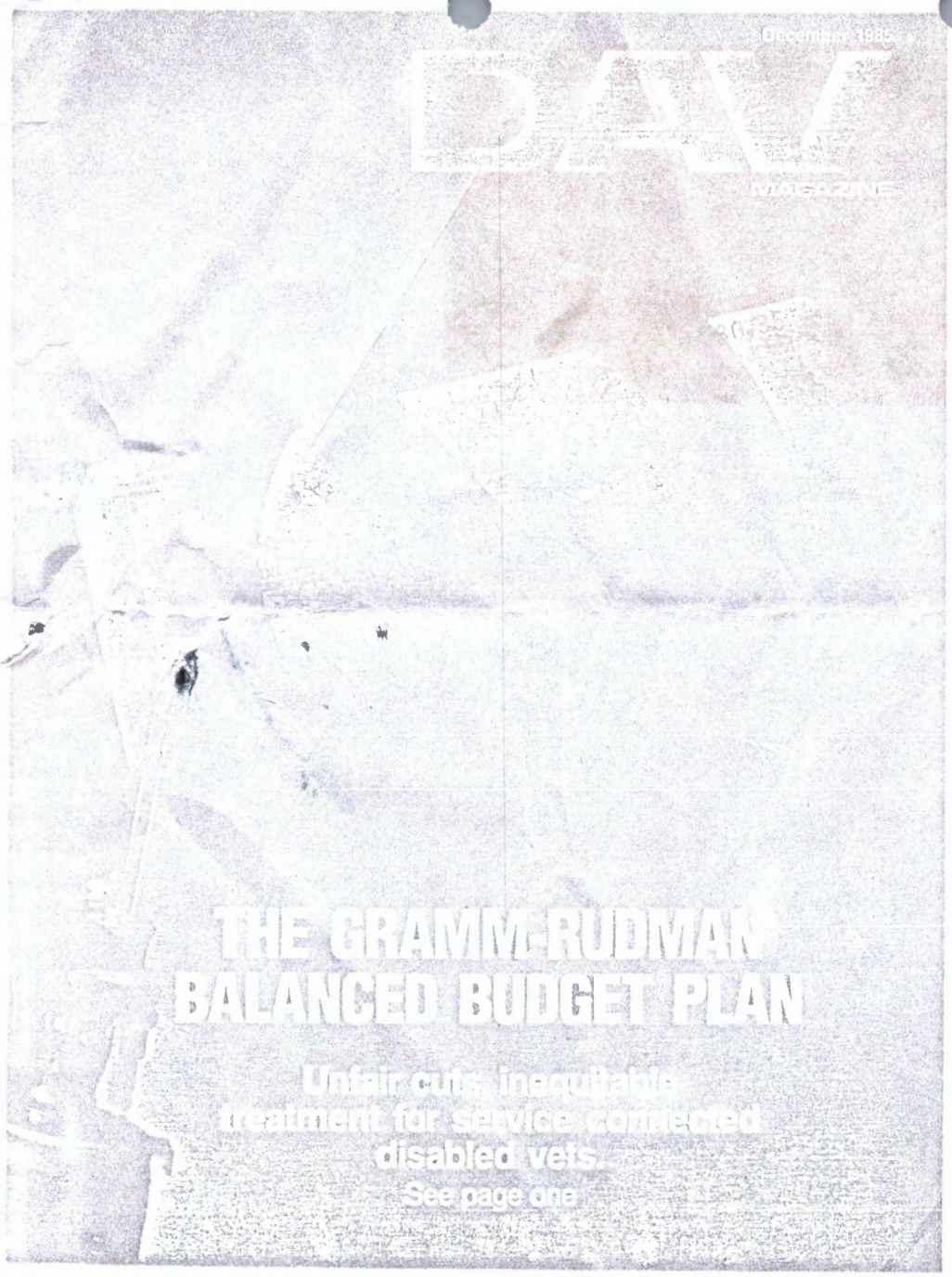
Group organizers said they hoped the arrests would call attention to Vietnam veteran Gino Casanova, who began a hunger strike on Oct. 16 in Kent, Wash. He says he intends to fast for 61 days, one day for each Washington state resident missing in action.

"We want to bring President Reagan's attention to the fact we think there's information he doesn't know of," said Lynn Hampton. "We think if he knew the truth he would act — that there are live POWs (prisoners of war) in Southeast Asia."

AP photo

Ends fast

Vietnam veteran Gino Cassanova, right, sips mineral water with friend Marilyne Williams to celebrate his decision to end his 51-day fast in exchange for a meeting with President Reagan to bring attention to soldiers missing in action in Vietnam.



DAV Magazine welcomes letters from its readers. However, due to the large volume of mail received each month, it is impossible for each letter to be acknowledged. Also, space limitations permit us to publish only a small number of letters in the "Loud 'n Clear" section. Letters requesting assistance in obtaining veterans' benefits are referred to the DAV Service Department in Washington, D.C., for necessary action. DAV Magazine, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214.

A POW-MIA Solution

Editor: I have comments about the "Commander's viewpoint" column in the October 1985 issue of *DAV Magazine*. Commander Albert H. Linden's article, "It's time we help our own," starts out, "There's a quiet crisis building in America. People are finding it easier to turn their backs on people in need." How true this statement is concerning our POWs and MIAs in Southeast Asia. They are military. They are our own. Our comrades, brothers, buddies, whatever you prefer to call them . . . If each and every member of the dAV would only take 30 minutes out of their lives, a solution is possible. How many precious minutes has a POW-MIA or family member given of themselves? Is this too much to ask? Please contact your elected officials. Tell them you want something done now, and House Concurrent Resolution 129 is one place to start. That resolution establishes a nonpartisan committee responsible to find a final solution to the POW-MIA issue. "It's time we help our own."—**Victor F. Bartholomew, Derby, Kansas.**

The December issue of the Disabled American Veterans magazine was kind enough to publish my letter to the editor. I am a life member of DAV Chapter 4 of Wichita, Kansas. I also sent similar letters to the editors of American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Air Force Association and the Air Force Sergeants Association magazines. I heard from the editor of American Legion. He informed me he was way ahead of me and had a POW article in a previous edition. I have not heard from him since I sent him a second letter immediately following receipt of his letter. Thus far, nothing from any of the others.

Bart

P.S. The published letter was edited. My original letter was longer, but they did not remove the intent of my message.

"THE INSIDERS"
P.O. Box 182
Vienna, Virginia 22180

-PM
DEC 3
1995

USA 22

J. Thomas Burch
National Vietnam Veterans Coalition
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