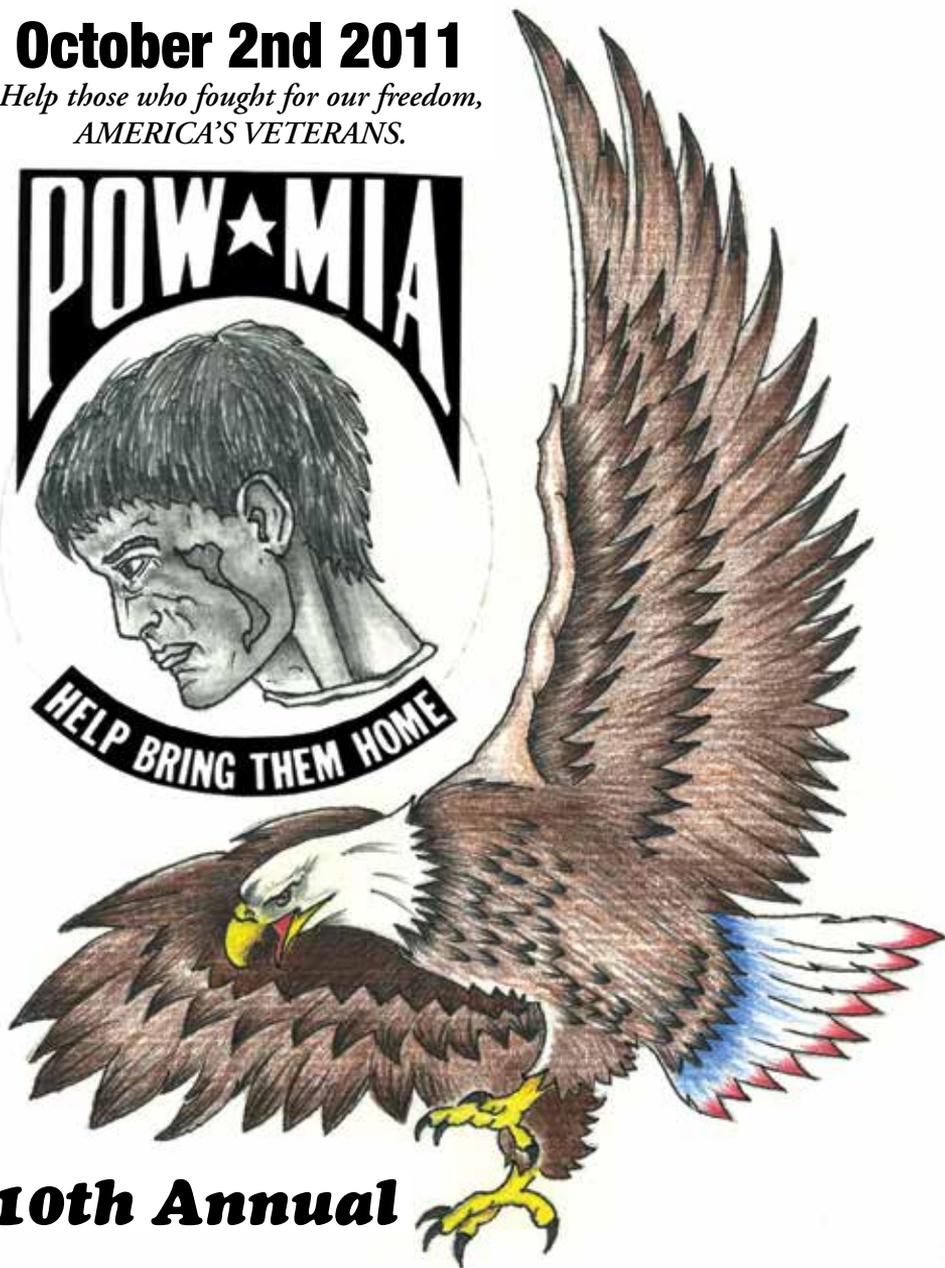
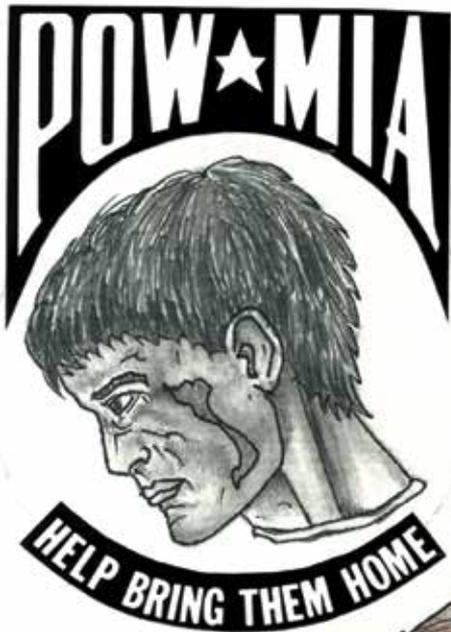


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FR. GHIDO

**POW+MIA**  
THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

**THE COST OF FREEDOM**

National POW/MIA Recognition Day  
September 16, 2011

[www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo)

**Illinois Soldiers Still Wait**

Illinois POW/MIAs

WWII	1510
Korean War	417
Vietnam War	60

Rolling Thunder® Mission Statement  
"To Correct The Past and Protect The Future"

Rolling Thunder Inc.'s major function is to publicize the POW/MIA issue. To educate the public of the fact that many American prisoners of war were left behind after all past wars. To help correct the past and to protect future Veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners of War/Missing in Action. We are committed to helping Disabled Veterans from All Wars.

I KNEW I COULD FIGHT,  
I HOPED I WOULDN'T DIE,  
I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD STILL  
BE HERE AFTER EVERYONE ELSE  
HAS GONE HOME

Above from a plaque at the National Vietnam Veterans  
Art Museum, Chicago, IL.

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Rolling Thunder®  
**POW/MIA**



## Gold Star Pin



Just a tiny gold pin. A token from this country in return for the life given for our freedom. This pin is sent to the widow, parents and other next of kin of a military person killed in action or serving during a military conflict.

It began with WWI, from April 6, 1917 to March 3, 1921; WWII, from September 8, 1939 to July 25, 1947; Korea, from June 27, 1950 to July 27, 1954; military conflict from June 30, 1958 'till the Vietnam War July 1, 1958 to the present.

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## What is a Gold Star Mother?

What is a Gold Star Mother?

A Mother whose grieving heart reaches out to comfort another.

A Mother who feels compassion when casualty lists are read.

A Mother who suffered the heartache of hearing her son was dead.

A Mother whose dreams were shattered on a battlefield afar.

A Mother who has the privilege of wearing the little gold star.

A Mother who walks so bravely to a fallen hero's grave.

A Mother who loves the nation her son gave his life to save.

This is a Gold Star Mother —

A Mother with courage and pride, whose son went forth to battle and in line of duty died.

Author unknown

## Vietnam War Memorial

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties.

Beginning at the apex on panel 1E and going out to the end of the East wall, appearing to recede into the earth (numbered 70E- May 25, 1968); then resuming at the end of the West wall, as the wall emerges from the earth (numbered 70W - continuing May 25, 1968) and ending with a date in 1975. Thus the war's beginning and end meet. The war is complete, coming full circle, yet broken by the earth that bounds the angle's open side and contained within the earth itself.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of the North Weymouth, Mass. listed by the U.S. Department of defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall. 39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger. The largest age group, 8,283 were just 19 years old. 3,103 were 18 years old. 12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old. On soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old. 997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam. 1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam. 31 sets of brothers are on the Wall. Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons. 54 soldiers on the Wall attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia. I wonder why so many from one school. 8 Women are on the Wall. Nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall. Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons. West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. there are 711 West Virginians on the Wall. The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses on the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. they lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 - 245 deaths. The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred. That's 2,415 dead in a single month.

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## **"It is the Soldier"**

***It is the soldier,  
not the reporter  
Who has given us  
freedom of press.***

***It is the soldier,  
not the poet  
Who has given us  
freedom of speech.***

***It is the soldier,  
not the campus organizer  
Who has given us the  
freedom to demonstrate.***

***It is the soldier,  
not the lawyer  
Who has given us  
the right to a fair trial.***



***It is the soldier  
Who salutes the flag,  
Who serves under the flag,  
Whose coffin is draped in the flag,  
Who allows the protester to burn  
the flag.***

- Charles M. Province

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# Dispatches from Afghanistan's Valley of Death

By Rob Lewis

Photographer Tim Hetherington shares his experiences from Outpost Restrepo

In 2007, the war in Afghanistan ran a distant second to Iraq in competition for the attention of the American public, even though a fierce battle was raging against a resurgent Taliban and an increasingly powerful al Qaeda.

That same year, author Sebastian Junger (*The Perfect Storm*) and acclaimed photographer Tim Hetherington dug in with the soldiers of Battle Company of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne in the Korengal Valley, a stark, craggy basin of Kunar Province often referred to as the deadliest place on Earth.

Perhaps "dug in" isn't the right term. The company leaders made a bold decision to go farther into the "Valley of Death" than soldiers on previous rotations. This meant Battle Company soldiers engaged in an average of four to five firefights a day for nearly 14 months.

One of Battle Company's first losses was its spirited medic, Pfc. Juan Restrepo. To honor their fallen comrade, the soldiers named their new home Outpost Restrepo. The glorified bunker served as a home and a thin line of defense for the soldiers, who formed a close bond under hellish conditions.

The assignment at Restrepo turned out to be a wealth of inspiration for the two civilians. The assignment was originally for a *Vanity Fair* article on soldiers fighting in the Korengal. Junger interviewed the soldiers and handled the written word while Hetherington captured dozens of rich and expressive photographs.



Tim Hetherington

Hetherington also used his keen eye to capture hours of video footage which was combined with post-deployment interviews of Battle Company soldiers to create the documentary film "Restrepo." The award-winning documentary premiered at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival and went on to earn high praise from critics for its unblinking soldier's eye view of relentless combat.

"Restrepo" received a nationwide theatrical release last year and is available on DVD. For more information, visit <http://restreptomovie.com/>.

Next came Junger's book, *War*, a visceral and thoughtful meditation on life and death at Restrepo as well as the very nature of man and battle. The book was met with critical acclaim and still holds a spot on various bestseller lists.

And now comes the release of *Infidel*, an exquisite bound collection of Hetherington's camera work in the Korengal Valley. *Infidel* captures life for the often weary Battle Company soldiers with an almost surreal intimacy. The book is now available for sale at stores and through online booksellers.

Hetherington recently sat down with *DAV Magazine* to talk about *Infidel* and the life-changing experience at Outpost Restrepo.

*Continues on page 7*



**DAV:** Your time in the Korengal Valley was longer and more intense than many embeds. Were you prepared for this experience by past assignments, or was this something completely different?

**Tim Hetherington:** I've covered conflicts for over ten plus years and have been in some pretty demanding situations, but every war has a different dynamic, so it's hard to make comparisons about this one being more or less.

What was certainly different was the amount of time I spent with the guys, about five months in total, all of it in the Korengal Valley during their deployment. Getting to know them, being accepted into the group and sharing experiences with them was a profound experience and one which I will carry for the rest of my life. That was certainly different. I mean, I was once embedded with a rebel army in Liberia but did not manage to share as much as I did with the men of second platoon.

I definitely didn't expect the experience to be as kinetic as it was. Remember that my colleague Sebastian Junger and I went there in 2007 when the world was firmly focused on Iraq. I thought I was going on a quiet assignment for *Vanity Fair*, and I expected there would be a lot of walking in the mountains, meeting elders and drinking cups of tea and occasionally getting shot at.

Nothing prepared me for the reality that the war in Afghanistan was slipping out of control, and by the end of October 2007, about a fifth of all fighting across the entire country was taking place in that six-mile-long valley.

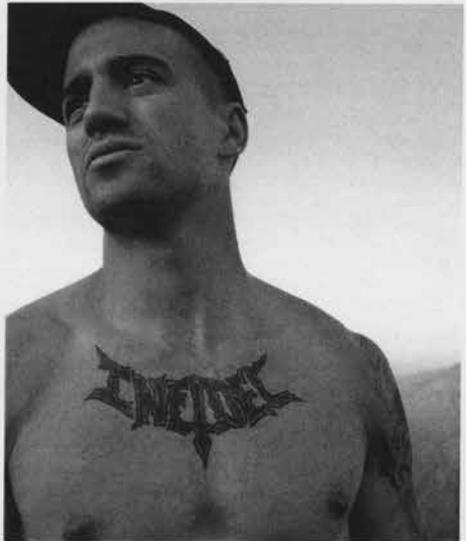
**DAV:** What was it like to be an artist in the midst of warriors? Did you find yourself or your perception of the American military changing?

**Hetherington:** You get all types of people in life, and the military is no different. There were a number of guys in the platoon that also had an artistic sensibility: Misha Pemble-Belkin was always drawing, and Vinny Cantu was a great tattoo artist. In fact, that's where the title of my book *Infidel* comes from. Vinny brought a tattoo gun up to the Korengal, and a number of guys had the word "Infidel" inscribed in large letters across their chests. I asked one of them why, and he replied, "Well, it's what the enemy calls us on the radio, so why not?" They wore it like a badge of honor.

This was my first time with American soldiers, and I was really impressed by them. They were a disciplined and tough bunch, but being up at Outpost Restrepo with them was also fun because they all had a great sense of humor. When I did need to leave the Korengal, I'd always end up missing being there and was constantly wondering what was going on. Also, as a European, I'd had East and West Coast experience of the U.S., but within the platoon there were people from all places and backgrounds, so I was keen to learn a lot more about the U.S.

I guess one of the main things, is that I really expected to be much more heavily controlled by the military in terms of the work I was making. In fact, we weren't censored at all, and that was important because we've managed to make a work that is honest to us and to the soldiers. It's a warts-and-all view of things out there — the good and the bad — but it's also done with a lot of affection. And that really resonates for the civilians back home who don't really understand the experience of what it's like to be a soldier but who don't want to be fed military propaganda.

**DAV:** How do you think being British colors your perspective of the American soldier? Did this change after your experiences at Restrepo?



**Hetherington:** I spent eight years living away from the U.K. and haven't been embedded with British troops, so I can't make a military comparison. However, I think Brits are culturally more cynical than Americans; it's in our genes to be pessimistic. Think of all that bad weather and the fact that Britain has already fought wars in Afghanistan. So I'd have these conversations with Sebastian about whether the U.S. was going to succeed building a road through the valley as they had planned. Sebastian was the optimistic American saying that they'd succeed, and I was the pessimistic Brit saying that it wouldn't work. But as for the soldiers themselves, I liked them from the start and found a common bond. Sometimes I think being a Brit actually helped because I was not part of their society but at the same time a bit of an object of curiosity... I mean they all used to [give me a hard time], and I'd throw it back at them for being Yanks, which all made us laugh.

**DAV:** How much are journalists accepted by the military in Afghanistan? At Restrepo? Is it different there than at other parts of the combat theater because of the intensity and the intimacy of that small firebase?

**Hetherington:** It's hard for me to make sweeping generalizations, but on the whole I think the U.S. military understands that journalism is important and that trying to censor journalism is really something that we expect from places like China or Iran. The soldiers get this too, and often on Facebook I read postings by soldiers saying that they were fighting to support democratic ideals like freedom of speech. You know, one of the really amazing things about the guys out there is that they also understood that they were fighting for people who opposed the war, and they accepted that. Their tolerance is something society at home would do well to emulate.

Perhaps this was because all that was important was being a good soldier and making sure that you didn't get anyone else, or yourself, killed. I think that being in so much combat in a remote outpost like Outpost Restrepo did have some kind of positive effect on them. I mean, the group bond was incredibly strong. As one soldier said, "There are guys in the platoon that outright hate each other, but they would all die for each other." So he's talking about a brotherhood rather than a friendship that is particularly profound and which adds a lot

of significance and meaning to their lives. It's no wonder they come home and actually miss being "out there," a fact that most civilians can't get their heads around.

**DAV:** Describe what it is like to view war through a lens. How is it different than, say, a sniper who also sees much of combat through a lens?

**Hetherington:** I've never been a sniper or carried a weapon in war, so it's hard for me to make a comparison. What I do know is that I would put myself in very dangerous situations when filming or photographing. It's like I have an "off" switch in my head that I hit when I have to go and do something that is dangerous which leaves me able to focus on the job I've got to do. In some ways, I imagine it's a bit like soldiers who are trained to stand up in a firefight and shoot back. They put themselves at risk but are so focused on the job that they can overcome their fear. I remember one time in the Korengal when Tad Donoho was firing a [grenade launcher] from his knees as we were being attacked by insurgents. I was about a foot or so from him also on my knees and filming him. Later he asked me if I had seen the tracers pass between our heads. I hadn't, but I later returned to the spot where we'd been and saw the trees were completely chewed up. I hadn't noticed it at all because I'd been so consumed with what I was filming. I felt pretty shaken up thinking about it.

**DAV:** Tell us one story that best sums up the experience of being there in that firebase with those soldiers.

**Hetherington:** There are so many that it's hard for me to pinpoint something that could be representative. I was on the same combat operation where Sal Giunta earned the Medal of Honor (he's the first living recipient since Vietnam) for stopping insurgents from dragging away his friend Joshua Brennan during a close quarter ambush. Sal represents the best of Battle Company — tough and humble. He's quick to remind people that other soldiers, including all the guys in First Platoon, were also part of that action. Like I've been saying, it's a big family. ©

*"Restrepo" is available on DVD. Sebastian Junger's War and Tim Hetherington's Infidel are available from bookstores and online retailers.*





## **Rolling Thunder**

*by Marsha Burks Megehee*

**A thundering vigil of truth, trust and honor  
Of brothers chained, forgotten and denied  
Thank God the sounds of Rolling Thunder  
Grow louder than the presidents who lied.**

**Forgotten heroes, made to be remembered  
By a nation that sacrificed their souls to war  
This roaring fire of freedom, from just an ember  
A brother's promise - brought from near and far.**

**A parade of truth, Memorial Bridge is sighted  
Old Glory's promise flying in the wind  
Tattooed Angels, CEO's, GI Joes united  
Cry "Freedom! We have not forgotten them!"**

**The Run to The Wall where many secrets slumber  
Names, roses, gifts and loved one's tears  
On Capitol Hill they're only just a number  
Lost names no politician ever hears.**

**They thunder past the bridge at Arlington  
Phantom soldier coffins, row on row  
False tombs holding paper fathers, sons  
While secret sins of betrayal rest below.**

**Past the White House, flag of POW/MIAs  
Somber Black, head bowed, a prisoner of the past  
Rolling Thunder's promise will never go away  
Until their missing brothers - come home at last. . .**

# History of the National League of POW/MIA Families' POW/MIA Flag

In 1971, Mrs. Michael Hoff, an MIA wife and member of the National League of Families, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs. Prompted by an article in the Jacksonville, Florida Times-Union, Mrs. Hoff contacted Norman Rivkees, Vice President of Annin & Company which had made a banner for the newest member of the United Nations, the People's Republic of China, as a part of their policy to provide flags to all United Nations members states. Mrs. Hoff found Mr. Rivkees very sympathetic to the POW/MIA issue, and he, along with Annin's advertising agency, designed a flag to represent our missing men. Following League approval, the flags were manufactured for distribution.

On March 9, 1989, an official League flag, which flew over the White House on 1988 National POW/MIA Recognition Day, was installed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th Congress. In a demonstration of bipartisan Congressional support, the leadership of both Houses hosted the installation ceremony.

The League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever displayed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda where it will stand as a powerful symbol of national commitment to America's POW/MIAs until the fullest possible accounting has been achieved for U.S. personnel still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355, which recognized the League's POW/MIA flag and designated it *"as the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation"*.

The importance of the League's POW/MIA flag lies in its continued visibility, a constant reminder of the plight of America's POW/MIAs. Other than "Old Glory", the League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever to fly over the White House, having been displayed in this place of honor on National POW/MIA Recognition Day since 1982. With passage of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act during the first term of the 105th Congress, the League's POW/MIA flag will fly each year on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day on the grounds or in the public lobbies of major military installations as designated by the Secretary of the Defense, all Federal national cemeteries, the national Korean War Veterans Memorial, the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the White House, the United States Postal Service post offices and at the official offices of the Secretaries of State, Defense and Veteran's Affairs, and Director of the Selective Service System.

© 1998 National League of POW/MIA Families

For more information visit [www.pow-miafamilies.org](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org)



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Left, Liz Feeny, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command along with JPAC Deputy Director of Public Affairs Michelle Lee Thomas update attendees at the POW/MIA Seminar at National Convention. A comprehensive presentation of identification and repatriation of U.S. servicemen was illustrated to those delegates attending.

## Missing Americans Remembered



By Thom Wilborn

**S**eptember 17, the national day of remembrance for those missing from our nation's wars, is marked with ceremonies and military salutes at the Pentagon, across the Potomac River from Washington.

Meanwhile, the Defense Department POW/Missing Personnel Affairs Office (DPMO) holds out hope that Russia will reconstitute its membership in the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs. The commission was founded in 1992 and idled by the Russians in 2004.

U.S. officials say they hope for greater cooperation with the Russians concerning POW/MIA issues. But it may take White House talks with Russian leaders to get commission members appointed.

"We've seen the impact that veterans service organizations like the DAV and family organizations have had in opening up the files of foreign governments concerning our POWs and MIAs," said Na-

tional Legislative Director Joseph A. Violante. "The United States has led the way in the fullest possible accounting of our POWs and MIAs, and it remains one of our most important initiatives."

Those records, along with many others currently withheld by Russia, could shed light on the fates of American servicemembers who were held in the former Soviet Union during World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Cold War.

The United States has been forthcoming with information concerning Russian MIAs — resolving 455 cases for next-of-kin, releasing more than 55,000 pages of information and clarifying the fates of 450,000 Russian and Soviet citizens. The United States is also offering to respond to inquiries about former Soviet troops missing in Afghanistan.

The United States hopes to get topographic maps used by Soviet forces during the Korean War, interview Russian Korean War veterans, and gain access to KGB files. Also

on the U.S. wish list are reports on ten downings of American aircraft and accounting of MIAs during the Cold War. The World War II items the United States seeks include the total U.S. losses in the Russian Far East and reported aircraft crash sites on the Kamchatka Peninsula.

As POW/MIA ceremonies are conducted, the families of those missing look to Washington and Moscow for support in learning the fates of their loved ones. Relations between the two countries remain unsettled at best, but the support of veterans in both countries is lending strength to the fullest possible accounting of those missing in action.

With the recent congressional mandate to implement a comprehensive program to account for those missing from World War II through Desert Storm, the DPMO has expanded its efforts to focus on accounting for the more than 70,000 Americans missing from World War II. The U.S.-Russia Joint Commission could be a major contributor to that effort.

"We look to our government in hopes that any dispute with Russia can be resolved to the point that the U.S.-Russia commission returns to work," said Violante. "As we remember our POWs and MIAs, it would be a significant milestone to see Washington and Moscow work together to bring our servicemembers home." ©

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Milan (Moe) Kondich  
Owner

# Rolling Thunder<sup>®</sup>, Inc. Mission Statement

*Rolling Thunder<sup>®</sup>, Inc.'s major function is to publicize the POW/MIA issue. To educate the public of the fact that many American prisoners of war were left behind after all past wars. To help correct the past and to protect the future veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners Of War/ Missing In Action. We are committed to helping American veterans from all wars. Rolling Thunder is a non-profit organization and everyone donates his or her time because they believe in the POW/MIA issue.*

## **The Rolling Thunder Story**

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In the fall of 1987 in a little diner in Somerville, New Jersey, two Vietnam veterans met to discuss their personal concerns about the prisoners of war (POW) and missing in action (MIA) from the Vietnam War. Having honorably served their country, and having taken an oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies..." and to "bear true faith and allegiance to same," they were deeply troubled by the abhorrent neglect of attention given to those who did not make it out with their lives or their freedom. These two veterans discussed the more than 10,000 reported sightings of live Americans living in dismal captivity. Intelligence reports of these sightings were generally ignored by the government and mainstream press. These two veterans were Artie Muller and Ray Manzo.

## **The First Rolling Thunder Demonstration**

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Artie and Ray were ordinary men who understood that they had a right to have their voices heard and proceeded to lay down the plans for a gathering in Washington, D.C., during the 1988 Memorial Day weekend. They reached out to their families, fellow veterans and veteran's advocates to unify and form a march and demonstration in our nation's Capital. Their arrival would be announced by the roar of their motorcycles, a sound not unlike the 1965 bombing campaign against North Vietnam dubbed *Operation Rolling Thunder*. Hence, they would call themselves "Rolling Thunder" a title that would endure time and be trademarked in 1990. Word spread quickly and by Memorial Day weekend in 1988, approximately 2,500 motorcycles from all over the country converged on Washington, D.C. to demand from our leaders a full accounting of all POW/MIA's. As they made their stand that day in front of the Capitol, Artie and Ray reflected thankfully for the people who came in support of the POW/MIA issue, and for the unity that was felt. This was Rolling Thunder's first demonstration. Only until ALL POW/MIA's ARE ACCOUNTED FOR, it will not be their last. On that day, the foundation was laid for the annual "Ride for Freedom" to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall (also referred to as the "Ride to the Wall").

## **Rolling Thunder Today**

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Please visit the National website at: [www.rollingthunder1.com](http://www.rollingthunder1.com)

The number of participants/spectators in the Memorial Day weekend Ride for Freedom has grown from 2,500 to an estimated 850,000. Incorporated in 1995, Rolling Thunder, Inc. is a class 501(c)(4) non-profit organization with over 88 chartered chapters throughout the United States and members abroad. While many members of Rolling Thunder are veterans, and many ride motorcycles, neither qualification is a prerequisite. Rolling Thunder members are old and young, men and women, veterans and non-veterans. All are united in the cause to bring full accountability for POWs and MIAs of all wars, reminding the government, the media and the public by our watchwords: "We Will Not Forget." No officers or members of Rolling Thunder receive compensation; we all donate our time.

### **Supporting Local Veterans & Community Involvement**

---

In 2007, Rolling Thunder Charities®, Inc. was established as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt non-profit organization which enables individuals and corporations to receive a tax deduction for funds donated to Rolling Thunder Charities, Inc. Funds are used for veterans, active military and their families in need of help. No officers of Rolling Thunder Charities, Inc. receive compensation; we all donate our time.

Rolling Thunder, Inc. spends hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in financial support, food, clothing and other essentials to veterans, homeless veterans and veterans' families in need, womens' crisis centers and toys for children.

In 2005, Rolling Thunder, Inc. united with the National Alliance of POW/MIA Families to petition the U.S. Government to use the designation "Prisoner of War/Missing In Action" (POW/MIA) – a designation recognized by the Geneva Conventions - not "Missing/Captured." This will ensure that prisoners' rights and protections remain consistent under the Geneva Conventions.

Expenditures exceed over half a million dollars a year, nationwide, to educate the public and increase awareness about the POW/MIA issue and other injustices suffered by veterans. The organization regularly donates POW/MIA flags to local area schools, youth groups, non-profit organizations and special interest groups, and organizes flag-raising ceremonies. Veterans speak to youth groups about the honor of serving their country and educating them about the POW/MIA issue.

Rolling Thunder, Inc. sponsors search missions into Southeast Asia for POW/MIAs, and the remains of those killed in action.

Thousands of hours are logged in by Rolling Thunder, Inc. members at local VA hospitals nationwide. Members visit and provide moral support to nursing home veterans and patients suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Rolling Thunder, Inc. helped facilitate the publishing of a POW/MIA U.S. postage stamp through the U.S. Postal Service that displayed dog tags with the declaration, "**POW & MIA-NEVER FORGOTTEN.**"

Rolling Thunder, Inc. National is on the Board of Directors of the Ride to the Wall Foundation, a veterans' fund established through the sales of the musical CD, "Ride to the Wall" produced for Rolling Thunder XIV by Paul Revere and the Raiders in cooperation with Rolling Thunder.

Rolling Thunder, Inc. participated in the dedication of the World War II Memorial in 2004 and assisted with organizing the World War II parade that took place on that historic date.

## Laws Passed Through Rolling Thunder Endeavors

Rolling Thunder, Inc. has advocated and co-authored legislation to improve the POW/MIA issue, veterans' benefits, concerns and interests. Please visit the National website: [www.rollingthunder1.com](http://www.rollingthunder1.com) then click on *About Us* for information on the following Legislation.

- Establishing a Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs (House Res. 111)
- Encourage the designation of "Hire a Veteran Week" (H.Con.Res 125)
- Respect for Fallen Heroes Act of 2006 (H.R. 5037)
- Veteran's Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006 (S.1235)
- Veterans Benefits, Health Care and Information Technology Act of 2006 (S.3421-Public Law 109-461)
- Veteran-Owned Small Business Promotion Act of 2005 (H.R. 3082)
- Persian Gulf War POW/MIA Accountability Act of 2002 (S.1339)
- The POW/MIA Memorial Flag Act of 2001 (S.1226)
- Displaying the POW/MIA Flag over Federal Buildings & Military Facilities
- Bring Them Home Alive Act of 2000
- Missing Service Personnel Act of 1997

# Number of Americans Missing & Unaccounted for from Each State

as of 9-Aug-05

Alabama	34	Maryland	26	South Carolina	29
Alaska	2	Massachusetts	41	South Dakota	7
Arizona	18	Michigan	55	Tennessee	33
Arkansas	20	Minnesota	37	Texas	120
California	183	Mississippi	12	Utah	16
Colorado	29	Missouri	38	Vermont	5
Connecticut	28	Montana	19	Virginia	48
Delaware	4	Nebraska	19	Washington	45
D.C.	9	Nevada	8	West Virginia	17
Florida	60	New Hampshire	6	Wisconsin	30
Georgia	35	New Jersey	51	Wyoming	5
Hawaii	7	New Mexico	12	Canada	2
Idaho	10	New York	118	Panama	1
Illinois	73	North Carolina	44	Philippines	4
Indiana	58	North Dakota	10	Puerto Rico	1
Iowa	28	Ohio	83	Virgin Islands	0
Kansas	30	Oklahoma	40	Civilians*	8
Kentucky	14	Oregon	39		
Louisiana	24	Pennsylvania	98	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,815</b>
Maine	14	Rhode Island	8		

\*These 8 civilians do not have a listed home of record.

For more information about Rolling Thunder, or to learn how to become a member or supporter, please contact Rolling Thunder National headquarters at (908) 369-5439.

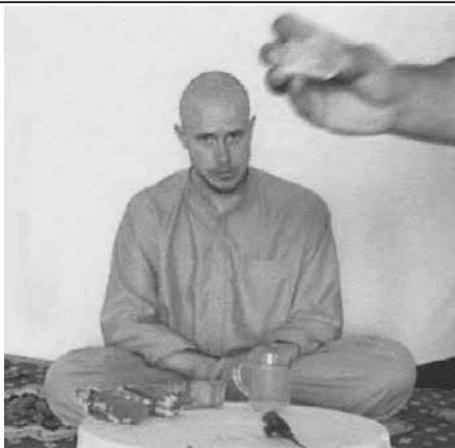


# POW

## Bowe Bergdahl

### Captured

#### June 30th, 2009



Visit the Bergdahl Family Website on Bowe at [www.supportbowebergdahl.blogspot.com](http://www.supportbowebergdahl.blogspot.com)

#### Captured U.S. Soldier in Taliban Video Identified Officials Say Captive Soldier Shown on Taliban Video Is Bowe Bergdahl, 23

By LUIS MARTINEZ and LAUREN COX  
July 19, 2009

Department of Defense officials confirmed the identity of a captured American soldier in a video posted online Saturday by the Taliban.

Pfc. Bowe Bergdahl, 23, of Hailey, Idaho, went missing from his base in eastern Afghanistan on June 30. On July 3, officials declared him "missing-captured." Early in the video, a captor holds up the soldier's dog tag to the camera. Later Bergdahl states his name and hometown. Bergdahl is a member of 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, out of Fort Richardson, Alaska. Bergdahl is shown in the video sitting cross-legged with a shaved head eating a meal. During the footage, the camera frequently cuts back and forth to shots of Bergdahl answering questions in short, stilted sentences.

"I am scared -- scared I won't be able to come home," Bergdahl says in the video. "It is very unnerving to be a prisoner." Bergdahl, who appeared dressed in gray with the start of a beard, spoke of his family and the girlfriend he hopes to marry back home. For a moment, he began to break down and cry.

In subsequent shots, he was asked, "Any message to your people?"

He replied, "To my fellow Americans who have loved ones over here, who know what it's like to miss them, you have the power to make our government bring them home."

The 28-minute video features more question and answers about Bergdahl's view on the war, which he called extremely hard, and about Bergdahl's desire to learn more about Islam. The military first made Bergdahl's capture public on July 2, though he was believed captured on June 30.

A Department of Defense official told ABC News on Friday that if it hadn't been for the BBC reporting on the missing soldier on July 2, the military would have kept the capture quiet. The goal, he said, was to minimize the amount of information that might get back to his captors that might influence the military's search and recovery.



# POW/MIA

## Remembrance Table

Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1 performs our Remembrance Table ceremony at many events.

Our Remembrance Table is set for (5). This place setting symbolizes all Prisoners of War and those men and women still listed as Missing in Action from all wars from the (5) branches of service.

*The chairs are empty.*

*They are not with us today.*

### **Remember**

*The tablecloth is white,  
symbolizing the purity of the  
soldiers as they went off  
to serve their country.*

### **Remember**

*The bread plates are sprinkled  
with salt, symbolizing the tears shed  
by the families as they await  
the fate of their loved ones.*

### **Remember**

*There is a lemon on each plate,  
indicative of the bitterness  
these soldiers must feel at  
being left behind by  
their country.*

### **Remember**

*The glasses are inverted.  
They cannot toast with us  
this season.*

### **Remember**

*The red rose, symbolizes the love the  
families and their fellow comrades  
have for these soldiers.*

### **Remember**

*The red ribbon on the vase, symbolizes  
the hope we all have. That someday  
these brave men and women will  
be returned to their families  
and their country.*

**Remember. . . .**



## Schedule of Events

8 AM – 10:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast (Available by VFW)
10:30 AM	Vendors set up
11:00 AM	Last Bike Out
1:00 PM	Bikes return/Parking in rear
1:00 PM – Close	Band – Kashmir
4:00 PM	Last Poker Hand In
4:30 PM	Remembrance Table Ceremony
5:00 PM	Poker Hand Results
5:10 PM	Bike Show Winners Announced
5:20 PM	Mystery Raffle Results
5:30 PM	Bike Raffle Announced

**10th Annual**



## **“Big Thunder” Run**

**October 2nd 2011**

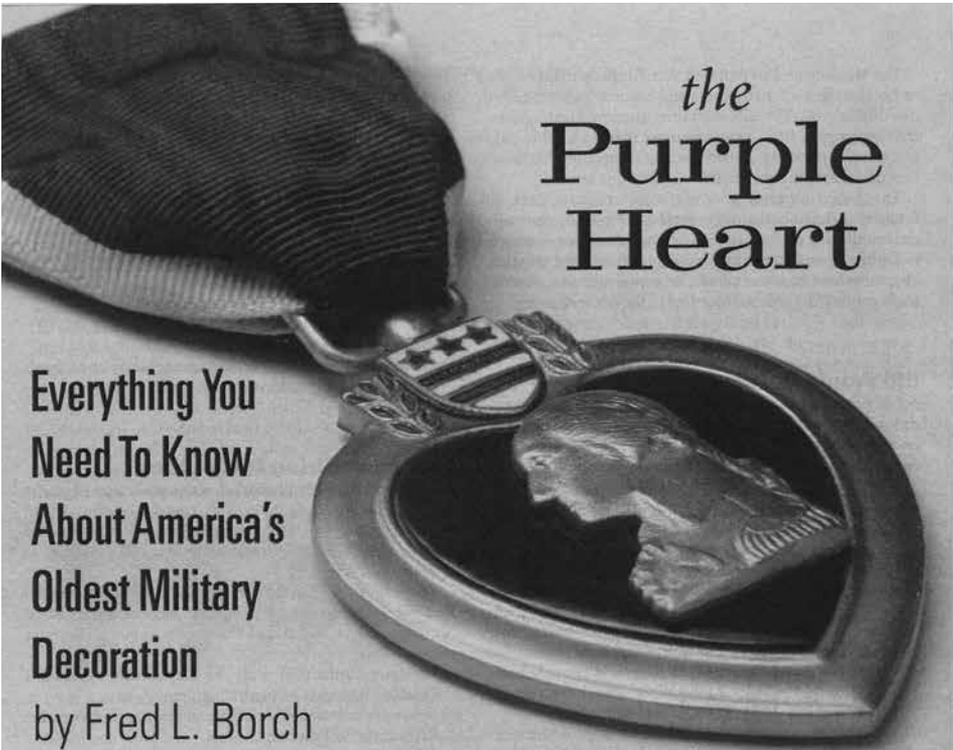
**Rolling Thunder® Illinois Chapter #1  
would like to thank our friends at**

### **Batavia Overseas Post 1197 Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**for allowing us the use of their facilities and  
their kindness to us.**

**Please support their efforts.**

**Batavia VFW  
645 S. River Rd (Rte. 25)  
Batavia, IL 60561**



# the Purple Heart

## Everything You Need To Know About America's Oldest Military Decoration

by Fred L. Borch

**I**n February 1932, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, then-Army chief of staff, announced that the War Department was reviving Gen. George Washington's Badge of Military Merit as a new decoration: the Purple Heart. Since then, more than one million Americans have been awarded this unique medal.

It traces its origins to Aug. 7, 1782, making it America's oldest military decoration and, except perhaps for the Medal of Honor, is the best known military medal.

### Unusual Features

The Purple Heart is today awarded only to those in uniform who are killed or wounded in combat or similar hostilities. But its original intent was to be an award for wartime meritorious service—with the definition of meritorious

service including wounds received in action against the enemy.

This explains why the reverse of the Purple Heart medal contains the words "For Military Merit." It also explains why several thousand Purple Hearts were awarded to soldiers who had been awarded a *Meritorious Service Citation Certificate* in WWI (usually for doing outstanding work as staff officers or NCOs).

These "Purple Hearts for merit" did not cease until 1942. With the creation of the Legion of Merit as a new award for meritorious achievement or service, the Army decided that the Purple Heart would be awarded exclusively to those killed or wounded in combat.

Prior to this decision, however, about 270 Purple Hearts had been awarded for merit in 1942. Two of the best known recipients are Army Brig. Gen.

Frank D. Merrill (who received his Purple Heart for leading Merrill's Marauders) and Army Air Forces Gen. George C. Kenney (who received his Purple Heart for inventing the bomb that could be dropped by parachute in an attack on Japanese aircraft).

Unlike today, the 1932 criteria for the Purple Heart also prohibited posthumous awards. This was MacArthur's decision: he believed that the Purple Heart should inspire the living, and that awarding it to the dead would have a "depressive" influence.

It was not until early 1942—after Pearl Harbor—that the Army reversed MacArthur's decision and began awarding posthumous Purple Hearts. The first went to soldiers killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

There was another feature of the original Purple Heart criteria that was

unusual: there was no restriction on retroactive awards. Consequently, any soldier who had been wounded in action in an earlier war might apply for the Purple Heart.

As a result, at least 14 Union Army veterans are known to have applied for—and been awarded—Purple Hearts for wounds received during the Civil War. One of those recipients was Oran Randlett who, having been wounded at Chancellorsville in 1863 and Cold Harbor in 1864, was awarded a Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster in 1933.

### Evolving Eligibility

The Purple Heart's award criteria underwent major changes at the outbreak of WWII. In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order giving the Navy the authority to award the Purple Heart to sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen. (Prior to 1942, Marines and sailors could only be awarded Army-issued Purple Hearts—and only if they had been wounded while serving alongside soldiers in combat.) This same executive order also permitted posthumous awards retroactive to Dec. 6, 1941.

Some 846,000 Purple Hearts would eventually be awarded to GIs wounded or killed between 1941 and 1945. The record for the most Purple Hearts to one individual was set during this period, with Brig. Gen. Robert T. Frederick receiving an unprecedented eight Purple Hearts (including three Purple Hearts on one day—June 4, 1944).

Only two other servicemen have equaled this achievement. Col. David H. Hackworth received four Purple Hearts for action in Korea and four in Vietnam. Col. Robert Howard was awarded eight Purple Hearts during his Vietnam service.

The next major change in the Purple Heart's evolution occurred in 1962, when President John F. Kennedy signed an executive order that again expanded the decoration's eligibility criteria. American military advisors serving in Vietnam were being killed and wounded while serving alongside South Vietnamese soldiers battling the Viet Cong.

Because the U.S. was not at war—and there legally was no "enemy" or "enemy action"—the Purple Heart could not be awarded to these Americans. Kennedy's

## Purple Heart Recipients by War

The approximate and some exact figures for the number of Purple Hearts awarded in major wars are tabulated.

WAR	ARMY	NAVY	AIR FORCE	MARINES	TOTAL
World War II	700,000	71,000	*	75,000	846,000
Korea	75,000	1,500	1,500	10,000	88,000
Vietnam	220,521	5,500	2,500	50,000	278,521
Iraq†	24,670	701	475	9,475	35,321
Afghanistan†	5,029	161	178	1,659	7,027

Source: Author

\* Included under Army. Also, 750 Coast Guard are included under Navy for WWII; 67 for Vietnam.

Note: Totals include KIA and WIA, but cannot accurately account for multiple awards or non-awards.

† For Iraq and Afghanistan, total KIA and WIA (as of June 5) are simply added together. However, the Army had actually only awarded 21,231 for Iraq and 3,636 for Afghanistan as of May 31.

## Top Known Purple Heart Recipients

NAME	SERVICE	WWII	KOREA	VIETNAM	TOTAL
Brig. Gen. Robert Frederick	Army	8			8
Col. David Hackworth	Army		4	4	8
Col. Robert Howard	Army			8	8
Sgt. Randy L. McConnell	Army			7	7
Corpsman Wallace Grey Rafter	Navy			7	7
Maj. Gen. James L. Day	Marines			6	6

Source: [www.homeofheroes.com](http://www.homeofheroes.com)



Brig. Gen.  
Robert Frederick



Col. David Hackworth



Col. Robert Howard

### Should You be on This List?

We would like to know if you or someone you know earned six or more Purple Hearts. Only those who can verify it will be recognized. Write to: **Purple Heart List**, VFW Magazine, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

executive order added language to the Purple Heart's award criteria, allowing the decoration to be awarded to those wounded or killed by a "hostile foreign force."

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed an executive order expanding the award criteria of the Purple Heart to permit it to be given to U.S. personnel killed or wounded as a result of international terrorist attacks or while serving on peacekeeping missions such as Lebanon.

Purple Hearts went to those wounded in terrorist attacks including the 1986 bombing of the La Belle disco in Berlin. Gen. Frederick Kroesen, wounded in an assassination attempt by the Red Army Faction in Germany in 1981, also received a Purple Heart.

Prior to 1997, civilians accompanying the Army and Navy had been eligible for the Purple Heart and about 100 had been awarded. The earliest awards went to a handful of war correspon-

dents during WWII. The most famous recipient was newspaperman Ernie Pyle, who was shot by a Japanese sniper in the Pacific in 1945 and received a posthumous Purple Heart.

A small number of civilians working as U.S. civil servants in Vietnam and wounded in Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army attacks also were awarded Purple Hearts.

**Below left:** The reverse side of the medal is usually engraved with the recipient's name when it is posthumous.

**Below right:** Ernie Pyle was one of about 100 civilians awarded the medal after being killed or wounded while serving alongside military personnel.



Gen. Douglas MacArthur revived George Washington's Badge of Military Merit in 1932, calling it the Purple Heart. He also received the first Purple Heart.

On Nov. 13, 1995, a car bomb blew up the building housing the Office of the Program Manager/Saudi Arabia National Guard in Saudi Arabia. Among the casualties were Department of Defense civilians—four killed and 37 wounded. Their Purple Hearts sparked intense debate, leading to a policy change.

Purple Hearts for civilians came to an abrupt end when Congress, at the urging of the Military Order of the Purple Heart veterans group, enacted legislation in November 1997 restricting the Purple Heart to military personnel.

### In the Future

It seems likely that changes to the Purple Heart's eligibility criteria will continue to be made in the future. In 2008, the Defense Department announced that any U.S. prisoner of war who is killed or dies in captivity may be awarded the Purple Heart.

One of the most vexing questions continues to be what qualifies as a "wound."

That question came to the fore during the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Beginning in 2009, the services began awarding Purple Hearts for traumatic brain injury (TBI) as a result of a concussion caused by an IED explosion, for example. No visible blood is required for proof of wound.

Each service established its own eligibility criteria, but basically the wound must require treatment (and be given) on the battlefield by a medic/corpsman and/or a doctor in a hospital. Finally, the treatment has to be officially recorded.

No one knows who the last recipient of the Purple Heart will be—but the first was Douglas MacArthur. As the top-ranking officer in the Army, he was issued Purple Heart No. 1 in February 1932.

**FRED L. BORCH** served on active duty in the Army for 25 years and now works as the regimental historian and archivist for the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. He is the author of *For Military Merit: Recipients of the Purple Heart, which was published by the Naval Institute Press in July 2010.*

## Marine to receive Medal of Honor

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will award the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration for valor, to Dakota Meyer, the White House said Friday.

Meyer, a former Marine corporal now a sergeant in the Reserves, will be the third living recipient of the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq and Afghanistan and the first Marine.

Meyer was in Afghanistan in September 2009 when he repeatedly ran through enemy fire to recover the bodies of fellow U.S. troops.

## Vietnam War airman's remains identified

The remains of a U.S. Air Force pilot listed as missing in action since his plane crashed in Laos in 1967 have been identified and will be returned to his family, the Defense Department said.

On June 21, 1967, Capt. Darrell Spinler crashed along the Mekong River in Laos. Authorities had thought his remains were likely swept away until last year when the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command recovered remains.

Spinler will be buried June 18 near his hometown in Browns Valley, Minn.

## Dale W. Evanovich

March 7, 1947  
January 23, 2011

### Military Honors

8:00 pm, Jan 27, 2011  
Steuерle Funeral Home, Ltd.

### Indian Prayer

Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there. I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow, I am the diamond glint on snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain, I am the gentle autumn rain. When you wake in morning hush, I am the swift uplifting rush Of quiet birds in circling flight. I am the soft starlight at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there. I did not die.



PHOTO: GARY JANE PEREZ LOPEZ

## New "Presumptive" Illnesses Proposal for Iraq, Afghanistan Veterans

In a long overdue decision affecting veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Department of Veterans Affairs has moved to grant presumptive service connection for nine illnesses, making it much easier for those veterans to obtain health care and disability compensation.

"We congratulate VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki for making the right decision to help the millions of veterans who served and fought in Iraq and Afghanistan, only to be disabled by illness," said National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson. "No longer will these veterans suffer without VA medical care and disability compensation."

"These presumptive service connections are part of a much larger picture of illnesses that affect our veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan," said National Service Director Randy Reese. "This decision affects more than a million veterans who served in Iraq since 1990 to date, and all who served in Afghani-

stan since 2001."

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Gulf War and Health report recommended in October 2006 that the VA establish new presumptions of service connection for brucellosis, campylobacter jejuni, coxiella burnetii (Q fever), malaria, mycobacterium tuberculosis, nontyphoid Salmonella, shigella, visceral leishmaniasis and West Nile virus.

The proposed federal rule authorizing the presumptions covers the nine diseases associated with military service in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, or in Afghanistan on or after September 19, 2001. It includes all veterans of Iraq since Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990.

The presumption means that if a veteran served in Iraq or Afghanistan and is diagnosed with any of the nine chronic illnesses it may make the veteran eligible for VA health care and disability compensation much sooner. For

non-presumptive conditions, a veteran is required to provide medical evidence that can be used to establish an actual connection between military service in Southwest Asia or Afghanistan and a specific disease.

The VA decided that the 2006 NAS report, which differed from four previous reports, justified presumptive service connection because it reviewed the long-term health effects of certain diseases found to be related to veterans of the Gulf War and Afghanistan.

The VA proposed regulation applying to presumptive service connection acknowledges there is an association between service by veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and certain diseases.

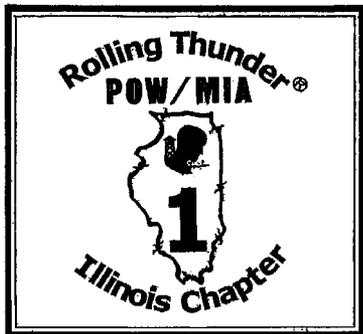
Because the Gulf War has never officially ended, veterans serving in the current Iraq war are eligible for VA's new presumptions. Afghanistan war veterans were included because the NAS found the nine diseases are widespread in that country as well.

"We recognize the frustrations that many Gulf War and Afghanistan veterans and their families experience on a daily basis as they looked for answers to health questions, and sought benefits from VA," said Secretary Shinseki.

"The decision to grant presumptive service connection for these veterans is long overdue," said Reese. "They are repairing a problem that has existed for nearly 20 years, and this should be the first of several steps to recognize the service and sacrifice of the veterans who have served and continue to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan."

"We're delighted Secretary Shinseki has taken this bold step on behalf of our nation's disabled veterans and their families," he said. "But this is one of the first steps. Additional steps need to be taken to finally and completely service-connect the multiple illnesses and disabilities that these veterans suffer from every day." ©

**If You Think the Way We Do?**



**AND - You want to learn more,**



**come and Ride with a Purpose!**

**We meet on the First Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm.**

**AT**

**The V.F.W. in Warrenville, IL**



The forum was part of the Obama Administration's commitment to end homelessness among veterans by 2015.

New Programs House, Support

# HOMELESS VETERANS

By Thom Wilborn

Several ongoing programs and proposed new approaches to eliminate homelessness among veterans highlight the need for coordinated services at the national, state and local levels, according to government and private experts attending a two-day forum in Washington, D.C. The forum was convened to assess the effectiveness of programs run by the departments of Veterans Affairs, Labor and Housing and Urban Development.

The forum was part of the Obama Administration's commitment to end homelessness among veterans by 2015.

At the forum, VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. Robert Petzel was named to direct all VA homeless veterans programs. The Veterans Health Administration will provide the leadership within the department



Dr. Petzel

and create a system to coordinate homeless programs involving Vet Centers, regional offices, VA health care networks and individual medical centers.

"The VA homeless programs are gaining momentum," said Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman. "The VA will soon launch the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Programs that will include housing and supportive services from non-VA community-based providers and other federal agencies and create other new programs."

The VA budgeted \$3.5 billion in 2010 to eliminate homelessness among veterans over five years and proposed \$4.2 billion in 2011. VA already has a national hotline for homeless veterans seeking assistance, and more new and expanded programs were announced at the December forum. Among the new programs

is to create a registry of homeless veterans and families. That would provide the VA with the most accurate estimate of the number of homeless veterans and their needs.

HUD Office of Special Needs Assistance Program director Ann Marie Oliva said a study would help the VA determine local priorities for funding, monitor how the system is working and better understand the national homeless trends. Such a study would focus on how long individuals and families remain homeless, the impact of grants and the success at reducing the number of homeless veterans. In addition, the VA has instituted risk screening for homelessness, prevention and rapid-rehousing and methods to keep veterans and their families in their homes.

There are nearly 4,300 points of contact for homeless veterans including VA medical centers, community-based outpatient clinics and counseling centers, and 2,300

DAV MAGAZINE

nonprofit and for-profit service providers.

Proposed regulations published in December recommend a prevention program to provide health care and treatment and rehabilitative services directly through the VA or by contracting with community-based treatment facilities, such as halfway houses, for veterans suffering from serious mental illness or substance abuse.

Under the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program, the VA would identify homeless veterans with serious mental illness or substance abuse. VA would be allowed to contract with community-based providers for short-term housing and mental health or substance abuse treatment to veterans. During their stays at these facilities veterans would be connected with other resources designed to provide longer-term housing.

At the homelessness forum, VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki also unveiled the Supportive Services for Veterans Families, which, for the first time, will fund services for the spouses and children of veterans at risk of becoming homeless. Under the program, the VA will provide grants to community organizations to provide counseling, training, education assistance, direct time-limited financial assistance, transportation, child care and other services for participating veterans and their families. In addition, temporary financial assistance payments may be available to third parties on behalf of homeless veterans. Claims services for VA benefits will also be provided to homeless veterans.

"The DAV's National Service Officers are an important link in obtaining VA benefits for service-connected disabilities," said Gorman. "They are available at each VA regional office around the nation and are committed to helping restore the lives of homeless veterans and providing our services."

A new \$1.5 billion HUD program for homelessness prevention would provide for up to 24 months of transitional housing, with a typical stay expected to be about six months. In 2009, HUD spent \$25 million in a demonstration project to see how it would work. HUD found that transitional housing can be provided rapidly when needed by veterans. It is estimated the program would serve more than 318,000 households needing assistance.

The re-housing program focuses on providing temporary financial assistance and services to help build long-term stability for veterans who are homeless or would be homeless if not for the assistance. A HUD study found

there are 1.3 million veterans living in poverty and that at least one in 10 of them became homeless at some point during 2009.

The overall homeless veteran population has declined from 240,000 to 107,000 over the last decade. However homelessness among veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has doubled since 2008. There are now 13,000 estimated homeless veterans from the current wars, including 1,600 women. More than 16 percent of veterans of the current wars suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, and may self-medicate using alcohol or substance abuse which can lead to homelessness.

"Nearly all of our homeless veterans come from the post-Vietnam War era and later," said Gorman. "Many have served multiple deployments during the current wars. It is our obligation as a nation to ensure that these men and women receive the best possible care and service rather than live an isolated life as a homeless veteran on the streets."

A 1996 study by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty found that women veterans are three to four times more likely to become homeless than non-veteran women. The full magnitude of homelessness among women veterans is unknown. Dr. Donna L. Washington of the VA Greater Los Angeles Health Services, Research and Development Center of Excellence told the forum that a study of homelessness among women veterans, focusing on characteristic risk factors and perspectives on service needs and barriers, is vitally needed.

One such study found that 61 percent of homeless women veterans are disabled, and 27 percent have a service-connected disability. One in four is unemployed and nearly all have an annual income of less than \$20,000. More than half have suffered military sexual trauma, 58 percent have poor or fair health and all of the women veterans in the study used VA health care. The top needs of homeless women veterans are dental care, permanent housing and mental health treatment. At least 30 percent of them say a major barrier to obtaining health care is they are unable to see a female doctor.

"It is crucial that safe housing should be a first for homeless veterans and their families," Gorman said. "There should also be a strong emphasis on health, employment and a positive lifestyle that help the physical, social and emotional needs of our veterans to restore them to productive lives." ©

### Freedom Award Recipient

The 2010 DAV Freedom Award was presented to Army veteran **John D. Barnes**, whose journey from a mortar attack in Iraq to the mountains of Snowmass encompasses the horrors of traumatic brain injury and the hope of recovery from devastating injury.

Barnes served as an infantryman in the famed 101st Airborne Division in Iraq before he was injured on March 14, 2006 by a mortar explosion. He took the brunt of the blast that wounded 17. Shrapnel tore through his helmet and cut into his brain.

Teetering on the brink of death, he recovered consciousness but woke to a brain injured so severely that he suffered memory loss, seizures, partial paralysis and depression. Along with these injuries came the loss of identity as a soldier, loss of mobility and independence, and—as a final blow—the end of his marriage.

Throughout his recovery, his mother Valerie Wallace was by his side, supporting him even as he slipped into a treacherous cycle of self-medication with alcohol and drugs.

A fellow mother of a traumatic brain injury victim, Cheryl Lynch encouraged Wallace to get her son to the winter sports clinic.

After three years of prodding, the retired soldier reluctant-

ly agreed to attend. He also embraced sobriety and agreed to start setting goals and taking small steps toward recovery.

The clinic brought about a notable transformation.

"When he left the snow, he was excited, happy and exhilarated. He was excitedly telling everyone who would listen how he was going to get back out on the mountain Wednesday and 'tear it up,'" she recalled. "The next morning, when he woke up, he told me he felt like a million bucks. Before breakfast, he was telling me about what he wants to do *when he comes back next year.*"

Days into the clinic, she said her son smiled more than he had in the years since his injury. His renewed dedication to recovery and the transformation he shared with his fellow participants embody the inspiration and spirit that the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic makes possible.



## PROFILES

■ Kevin Pannell was in an alleyway in Iraq when the Army infantryman heard the spoons clinking on the pavement.

"I turned around and there were three guys throwing grenades in on us. I saw the first one come up over my shoulder but I didn't see the one or two that hit me," he said. "It knocked me forward on my face. My legs looked like they'd been through a hay baller."

His femoral arteries in both legs had been severed and another high in his arm was spouting blood. "By the time we got to the hospital, I thought that was it. I was calm about it. It seemed like the next logical step in the progression of things that were happening. It wasn't scary."

Beyond survival, the clinic made him feel once again that he was part of a team. "It's a different kind of homecoming [for the injured]. You go from getting all the briefings and intel to within a snap being just another person in the states who doesn't know anything," he said. "It's cool to be around the military guys again. It's one of the things you lose when you get out—he camaraderie."

A first-timer, Chapter 1 in Portland, Ore., sponsored Pannell as a participant. Pannell is an avid athlete—a mixed martial arts fanatic who trains as a fighter and taught himself how to ski after his injury. For him, the clinic offered the opportunity to hone his skills.

"My goal is to be a pro snowboarder," said Pannell, who works for a non-profit helping people with disabilities in Portland.

"I'm never going to be Shawn White, but I always tell people if you don't have two legs you only have to be half-assed about everything and people think you're awesome," he jokes. "I think if I can get half as good as some of the people out there, I'll be good to go."





# CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY

JPAC FS-3

"Until they are home"

Fact Sheet

*The Central Identification Laboratory of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command is the largest skeletal identification laboratory in the world and is staffed by more than 30 anthropologists and four forensic odontologists (dentists). JPAC's mission is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the nation's past conflicts. CIL scientists also provide support on humanitarian missions as well as to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.*

## IN THE FIELD



Standard recovery missions occur around the world and last 35 to 60 days depending on the location, terrain, and recovery methods. Anthropologists travel to sites that are located throughout the world.

At a recovery site, the anthropologist directs the excavation much like a detective oversees a crime scene. Each mission is unique, but there are certain things that each recovery has in common. The first step is for the anthropologist to define the site or determine the site perimeter. Recovery sites can be as small as a few meters for individual burials to areas exceeding the size of



a football field for aircraft crashes. Once that has been defined, a grid system is established. Careful excavation occurs using that grid system. Every inch of soil that comes out of the site is screened for any potential remains, any life support equipment or any material evidence. Initial analysis occurs at the site, and the material is then brought back to the lab for additional examination.



## IN THE LAB

The forensic anthropologist assigned the case in the laboratory is not the individual who completed the recovery in the field. This entire procedure is carried out "blind," meaning that the anthropologist does not know the suspected identity of the individual under analysis and only those details that are required to select the appropriate scientific techniques (e.g. the approximate era of the loss incident). The blind analysis is completed in order to prevent any subconscious bias from influencing the scientist's analysis. CIL anthropologists examine all recovered skeletal remains in order to produce a "biological profile."

This profile includes the sex, race, age at death, and height of the individual. Anthropologists also analyze any trauma caused at or near the time of death and pathological conditions of bone such as arthritis or previously healed fractures. Anthropologists are also



responsible for the analysis of material evidence such as military uniforms, personal effects, and identification tags.

## MISSING AMERICANS FROM PAST WARS



World War II	~ 78,000
Korean War	~ 8,060
Vietnam War	~ 1,740
Cold War	~ 125

JPAC FS-3

[www.jpac.pacom.mil](http://www.jpac.pacom.mil)

2009

## FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY



Dental remains are extremely important to the identification process, both because they offer the best means of positive identi-

fication of an individual and because they are durable and may contain surviving mtDNA. An individual's dental records are often the best means of identification due to the unique characteristics that are available from teeth, including commonly observed dental treatments such as extraction, fillings, crowns, and partial dentures. The dental records from an individual's personnel file are compared with remains received at the laboratory by the forensic odontologists. Ideally, the forensic odontologist will have antemortem (before death) X-rays to use for comparison, but even hand-written charts and treatment notes can be critical to the identification process.

## DNA



The CIL uses mtDNA in more than half of its cases. Successful use of mtDNA for identifications requires a family reference sample and the process of obtaining these can add over a

year to the identification process. All mtDNA samples taken at the CIL are analyzed at the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL), located in Rockville, Md. AFDIL extracts and amplifies surviving mtDNA, and determines the genetic pattern present. This pattern is compared with patterns from family reference samples given from each (suspected) unidentified service member's family.

## CIL FACILITIES



The Central Identification Laboratory is the only skeletal laboratory accredited by the American Society Directors. Additional CIL special capabilities include: alternate light source analysis, scanning electron microscopy, digital radiography,

bone histological analysis, ground penetrating radar, and a full array of underwater survey equipment. The CIL is currently identifying about two Americans a week, about 74 per year.



The Central Identification Laboratory is always looking for talented and motivated scientists. Anthropologists with experience in skeletal analysis and archeological excavation are encouraged to contact JPAC if interested in this exciting and rewarding mission.



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# JOINT POW/MIA ACCOUNTING COMMAND

JPAC FS-1

"Until they are home"

Fact Sheet

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's mission is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the nation's past conflicts. JPAC personnel, along with other U.S. and foreign specialists, search for, recover and identify remains of Americans unaccounted-for from all conflicts from World War II through the Persian Gulf War. JPAC is organized into the following areas to get the job done:

## ANALYSTS & INVESTIGATIVE TEAMS

- The search process begins with JPAC historians and analysts. These experts gather information from records, archives, interviews and other sources.



- Researchers create a 'loss incident case file' for each unaccounted-for individual. This file includes historical background, military medical and personnel records, official correspondence, maps, photos, and other evidence.

This groundwork lays the foundation that helps JPAC locate possible sites where American MIAs may be located.

- After this evidence and information is gathered, JPAC sends out an investigative team to these potential sites.

- Each team consists of four to nine people including a team leader, analyst, linguist, and medic. In some instances, an anthropologist, explosive ordnance disposal technician, and a life support technician augment the team.

- These teams survey potential recovery sites so that recovery teams have the most up-to-date information about a case prior to deployment. They also search for new leads that may result in future recoveries. Most importantly, investigative teams help determine if and when JPAC should send a recovery team to excavate a site.

## RECOVERY TEAMS

- Once the decision has been made to excavate a site, the next step is to send a JPAC recovery team.

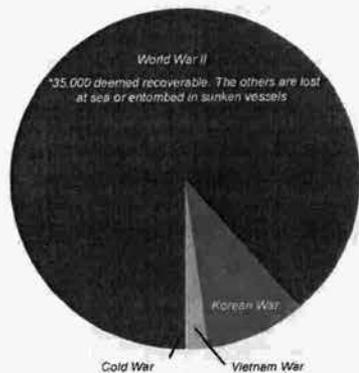


- JPAC has 18 recovery teams consisting of 10 to 14 people including a team leader, forensic anthropologist, team sergeant, linguist, medic, life support technician, forensic photographer, explosive ordnance disposal technician, and mortuary affairs specialists.

- Each year, JPAC conducts at least five recovery missions associated with the Korean War, ten missions in Southeast Asia for Vietnam War cases, and ten missions in other areas of the world to search for MIAs associated with World War II and the Cold War.

- Standard recovery missions last 35 to 60 days depending on the location, terrain, and recovery methods. Recovery

## HOW MANY ARE STILL MISSING?



JPAC FS-1

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teams use standard field archeology methods in the excavation as directed by the on-site anthropologist at each site.

- Recovery teams have to be in top physical condition to reach excavation sites, which often are in very remote places. Teams routinely have to walk through dense jungles, hike mountains and glaciers, and rappel down cliffs. Each team travels with up to 10,000 pounds in survival and excavation equipment.

- Most missions employ 10 to more than 100 local workers.

- Recovery sites can be as small as a few meters for individual burials to areas exceeding the size of a football field for aircraft crashes. Sites are sectioned into 4x4 grids for excavation.

- As a sign of respect, any remains that the teams find are placed in aluminum transfer cases and draped with a U.S. flag. An arrival ceremony is held in Hawaii with a joint service honor guard and senior military officers from each service.

- The remains and artifacts are then transported to the Central Identification Lab.

## CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY

- The CIL is staffed by more than 30 anthropologists and four forensic odontologists (dentists). JPAC has the largest staff of forensic anthropologists in the world.



- In the laboratory, anthropologists are responsible for the skeletal analysis of human remains and/or the analysis of material



evidence such as military uniforms, personal effects, and identification tags.

- While the CIL identifies about two Americans a week on average, the recovery and identification process may take years to complete. Approximately 74 POW/MIAs are identified, on average, per year.

- Once a case is completed, the identified American is transferred to the appropriate service mortuary affairs office. Military members from these offices then notify families personally of the identification.

## HISTORY

- In 1973, after the Vietnam War, the Central Identification Laboratory, Thailand (CIL-THAI) was established, focusing on the Americans still missing in Southeast Asia.

- In 1976, the Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI) was established to search for, recover, and identify missing Americans from all previous conflicts.

- In 1992, Joint Task Force-Full Accounting (JTF-FA) was established to focus on achieving the fullest possible accounting of Americans missing as a result of the Vietnam War.

- In 2002, The Department of Defense (DoD) determined that POW/MIA accounting efforts would be best served by combining the two units and operating as one.

- On Oct. 1 2003, JPAC was formed with the merger of the 30-year-old U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI) and the 11-year-old Joint Task Force – Full Accounting (JTF-FA).



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## **God and the Soldier**

**God and the soldier  
All men adore  
In time of trouble,  
And no more;  
For when war is over  
And all things righted,  
God is neglected -  
And the old soldier  
slighted!!!**

*P-body (recovered)  
Author Unknown*



## **Rolling Thunder<sup>®</sup>, Inc.**

**A non-profit organization for  
POW/MIA's and all American veterans**

Rolling Thunder<sup>®</sup>, Inc.'s major function is to publicize the POW/MIA issue. To educate the public of the fact that many American prisoners of war were left behind after past wars. To help correct the past and to protect the future veterans from being left behind, should they become prisoners of war-missing in action. We are committed to helping American veterans from all wars.



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### Woman Wears POW/MIA Bracelet f...

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. - While the war raged in Vietnam, POW/MIA bracelets were all the rage. The metal bracelets, sold by the millions, each bore the name of a soldier who was either still a prisoner in Vietnam, or missing in action.

CBS News correspondent Steve Hartman reports the idea was to wear the bracelet and only take it off your wrist when your Veteran came home.

They were very popular with kids. In 1972, when she was 12-years-old, Kathy Strong got a bracelet in her Christmas stocking.

"I was really excited," Strong said. "I read the paper that came with it. And I just thought, I'm going to keep it on until he comes home."

Strong, now 50, still remembers the name: James Moreland. Moreland was a Green Beret who'd been stationed in Lang Vei.

Moreland went missing in the winter of 1968 after the enemy over took his position. At the time, no one knew much more than that - so Kathy remained optimistic.

"They showed footage of the soldiers coming off the planes, and I always thought wherever he's flying into I'm going to be there and I'm going to give him my bracelet and I'm going to put it on his arm. That's how I always pictured it," Strong said. "But that wasn't meant to be."

After so many years, it became obvious to even the most hopeful, that everyone who could come home alive, had come home alive. Eventually, the bracelets went the way of the pet rock.

However, Strong wore her bracelet much longer than most. In fact, James Moreland's name has been on her wrist every day, without exception, for the past 38 years.

"I just wanted to keep the promise," Strong said.

At this point, Strong says keeping the promise means wearing the bracelet until Moreland's remains are found and returned.

"I knew there was family out there who was waiting for word, and I was just going to wait along with them," Strong said.

Anita and Linda are Moreland's sisters and closest surviving relatives. When they heard about Kathy a few years ago they asked to meet.

"To have worn his bracelet for so long," Anita said, "we just love her to death."

"She did care," her sister Linda added. "And she still does care."

Strong said she thinks about Moreland everyday. "It's usually when I have my hands out in front of me - you know, maybe driving a car or typing on the keyboard and I just think I wonder when he's coming home."

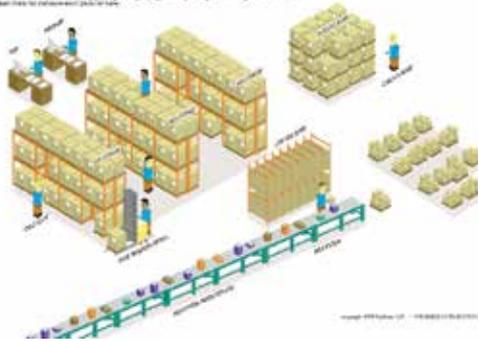
She's been wondering almost 4 decades -- but no more. In January, James Moreland's sisters got word that their brother's remains had been found and identified. In May he'll be buried, between his mother and father, in a full military funeral.

Strong said she's "going to remove the bracelet and have it buried with him."

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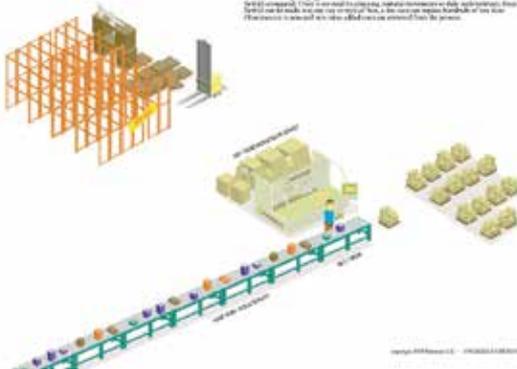


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