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**Collection:** Childress, Richard T.: Files  
**Folder Title:** POW/MIA Tomb of the  
Unknown (3 of 4)  
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# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
letter case (8402258)			
<del>1. memo</del>	<del>from Bud to Caspar Weinberger re: selection of Unkown Soldier from Vietnam War (1p) R 7/25/00 NLSM98-001 # 5</del>	<del>4/2/84</del>	<del>P-1</del>
<del>2. memo</del>	<del>from Robert McFarlane to the President re: selection of Unkown (2pp) A 7/25/00 NLSM98-001 # 6</del>	<del>3/27/84</del>	<del>P-1</del>
<del>3. memo</del>	<del>from Richard Childress to McFarlane re: selection of Unkown (2pp) A 7/25/00 NLSM98-001 # 7</del>	<del>3/26/84</del>	<del>P-1</del>
<del>4. memo</del>	<del>copy of itme # 3 (2pp) R 7/25/00 NLSM98-001 # 8</del>	<del>3/26/84</del>	<del>P-1</del>
<del>5. memo</del>	<del>from McFarlane to the President re: selection of Unkown (2pp) A 7/25/00 NLSM98-001 # 9</del>	<del>n.d.</del>	<del>P-1</del>
<del>6. memo</del>	<del>copy of item # 1 (1p) R 7/25/00 NLSM98-001 # 10</del>	<del>n.d.</del>	<del>P-1</del>
<del>7. memo (8301156) (8206000)</del>	<del>from Childress to Willaim Clark re: Tomb of the Unkown Soldier (1p) A 7/25/00 NLSM98-001 # 11</del>	<del>2/18/83</del>	<del>P-1</del>
8. memo	from Childress to Clark re: selection of a Vietnam Unkown (3pp)	8/26/82	P-1 P-5
<del>9. list</del>	<del>re: Service Preecedent for Unkown (1p) R 7/25/00 NLSM98-001 # 12</del>	<del>n.d.</del>	<del>P-1</del>
COLLECTION:  CHILDRESS, RICHARD T.: Files			cas
FILE FOLDER:  POW/MIA - Tomb of the Unkown [3 of 4] OA 92409			10/31/95

### RESTRICTION CODES

**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-5 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(5) of the FOIA].
- F-6 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-7 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

*Unknown*

2898

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

April 9, 1984

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: RICHARD CHILDRESS *RC*

SUBJECT: Ceremonies for the Unknown Serviceman of Vietnam Era, May 28, 1984

Recommend you sign the memorandum at Tab I to Deaver.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments

- Tab I Memorandum McFarlane to The President
- Tab A MDW Memorandum dated 3/30/84
- Tab II Internal NSC Routing Slip

cc: Gaston Sigur

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TO: BOB KIMMITT

FROM: **WILLIAM HENKEL**  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
Director of Presidential Advance

- Information
- Action

PER YOUR REQUEST.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Bill Henkel

TO:

FROM: BILL SITTMANN  
Special Assistant to the President  
and Special Assistant to the  
Deputy Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Attached

I've spoken to Ed Hickey and we  
don't have to do both of these.  
Para. 3 is the one we will do.

Information

Action



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
 HEADQUARTERS US ARMY MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
 FORT LESLEY J. MCNAIR  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20319

*KR File - Triple  
 CC TO  
 So*

REPLY TO  
 ATTENTION OF

ANC&SE

30 March 1984

*E.V.H.*

*But  
 are we required  
 to do both ceremonies?*

MEMORANDUM THRU EDWARD V. HICKEY, JR.

FOR WILLIAM F. SITTMANN / MICHAEL K. DEEVER

SUBJECT: Ceremonies for the Unknown Serviceman of Vietnam

1984 APR - 1 PM 4: 17

1. The President should arrive at the U.S. Capitol Rotunda at 2:35 p.m. on 25 May 1984.
2. Upon arrival at the East Capitol Plaza, he will be assisted to his position in the Rotunda by his escort officer. When all participants are in position, the casket will be brought into the Rotunda. At this time, the President will deliver the eulogy. At the conclusion of the eulogy, a soldier will position himself near the foot of the casket with the Presidential Wreath. The President should move to him and place the wreath at the casket assisted by the wreath bearer, and return to his position. The benediction will be given at this time. This ceremony will last approximately 15 minutes and concludes the ceremonies for the day.
3. The President should arrive at Arlington National Cemetery on 28 May 1984 at 1:30 p.m. He will be escorted to the dismount point at the north entrance of the Amphitheater. Upon his arrival at the north entrance, he will be taken to the Memorial Display Room; when all is ready, the President will be escorted to his seat in the Apse. The funeral service will last approximately 25 minutes. The U.S. Army Band will sound honors to the Unknown, and the casket will be carried into the Apse--the President should stand during honors and place his right hand over his heart. When the casket is in place, the U.S. Marine Band will begin the funeral service with the playing of the National Anthem--the President should stand and place his right hand over his heart. At the completion of the National Anthem, there will be 1 minute of silence. At the conclusion of the 1 minute of silence, the Catholic chaplain will give the invocation. The Trumpet Call will then be sounded, and the audience will join in singing "My Country Tis of Thee." At the conclusion of the song, the President will make a brief address, present the Medal of Honor, and return to his seat. The chorus will sing "On Bended Knee." The Jewish chaplain will then read Psalm 91 followed by the U.S. Army Chorus singing "The Last Words of David." The Protestant chaplain will then read the New Testament lesson from John 14:1-7, 15-17 and 27. Following the reading, the chorus will sing "The 23rd Psalm." At the conclusion of the song, the Orthodox chaplain will pronounce the benediction--all standing. The

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~ *m*

ANC&SE

SUBJECT: Ceremonies for the Unknown Serviceman of Vietnam

President will then be escorted into the Memorial Display Room. When all is ready on the Plaza, the President will follow the casket, escorted by General Ballantyne, to his position on the Plaza. The chaplains will then deliver their committal prayers. At the conclusion of the prayers, the President will place the Presidential Wreath and return to his position facing the Tomb. The Saluting Battery will fire a 21-gun salute--the President should place his right hand over his heart. At the completion of the gun salute, the chaplain will give the benediction. At the conclusion of the benediction, the President should again salute as the firing party fires 3 volleys followed by the playing of Taps. When Taps is complete, the interment flag will be folded and presented to General Ballantyne. General Ballantyne will then give the flag to the President. The President will then present the flag to the Superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery, for safekeeping. The ceremony is thus concluded, and the President will be ushered off the Plaza to his vehicle for departure.



PAUL C. MILLER  
Director  
Ceremonies and Special Events

1 Encl  
State Funeral Plan

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.~~ M-77

THE STATE FUNERAL PLAN FOR THE INTERMENT  
OF THE  
UNKNOWN SERVICEMAN OF VIETNAM

The designation ceremony for the Unknown American Serviceman killed in Vietnam will take place in Hawaii on 17 May 1984 at 1100. Following the designation ceremony, the Unknown will depart Hawaii with ceremony at approximately 1200 and be transported by ship to Alameda Naval Air Station, California, arriving no later than noon, 24 May 1984. The anticipated travel time from Hawaii to San Francisco is approximately 7 days. The Unknown will arrive at Alameda Naval Air Station with ceremony and will be transported to the base chapel, Travis Air Force Base, for repose. The Unknown will be received with ceremony and will lie in repose until 0500, 25 May 1984. Public viewing during the period of repose will be continuous until 2 hours prior to the departure from the base chapel, if public interest requires. A guard of honor will attend the Unknown while in repose.

On 25 May 1984, the deceased will depart the base chapel with ceremony at 0530 and will be transported to the Travis air terminal for departure. The Unknown will depart Travis Air Force Base with ceremony at 0600 and will be transported to Andrews Air Force Base. The Unknown of Vietnam will arrive at Andrews Air Force Base with ceremony on Friday, 25 May 1984, at approximately 1400 and will be escorted to the U.S. Capitol for lying in state.

The deceased will be received with ceremony at the U.S. Capitol at approximately 1445 and will lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda for approximately 3 days, until 1200 Memorial Day. A guard of honor will attend the Unknown until departure from the U.S. Capitol. Public viewing during the period of lying in state in the Capitol Rotunda will be continuous until 2 hours prior to the departure from the Capitol, if public interest requires. The Unknown will be moved from the U.S. Capitol at 1200, Monday, 28 May 1984, with ceremony, placed on the caisson on the East Plaza of the Capitol and proceed to Delaware and Constitution Avenue to join the main funeral procession to Arlington National Cemetery. A flyover will be conducted as the caisson is centered on Memorial Bridge.

The funeral service will be held in the Amphitheater, Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), at approximately 1400 followed by interment at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The casket will be closed throughout all ceremonies. Honors will consist of 4 ruffles and flourishes and a 21-gun salute. The period of mourning will be from reveille, on the day of arrival in Washington, D.C. to retreat, the day of interment in Arlington National Cemetery.

Encl 1

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2258 *Childress*  
*UNKNOWN*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

April 2, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE CASPAR WEINBERGER  
The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Selection and Interment of an Unknown  
Soldier from the Vietnam War

The President has approved your recommendation for interment of an Unknown Serviceman from the Vietnam Era for May 28, 1984. Direct participation by the President in the ceremonies will be addressed separately.

We believe the announcement should be issued by the Department of Defense. Given the sensitivity of this action in relation to the President's priority on resolution of the POW/MIA issue, request the text of announcements and remarks be coordinated with us before public use.

FOR THE PRESIDENT:

*Bud*

DECLASSIFIED

NLS M98-001 #5

BY Amf, NARA, DATE 7/25/00

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The President's Office

MEMORANDUM

1984 MAR 27 AM 11:17

2258

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 27, 1984

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE *RCM*

SUBJECT: Selection and Interment of an Unknown Serviceman  
from the Vietnam Era

Issue

To proceed with interment of an Unknown on Memorial Day, May 28, 1984.

Facts

Congress enacted a Public Law over a decade ago directing the Secretary of Defense to inter the remains of an unidentified United States serviceman from the Vietnam era. Because of the increased technical capabilities of the Army's Central Identification Laboratory (CIL), almost all remains have been identified and returned to their families.

Discussion

While the DOD was intensively investigating whether any of the remains in our possession were unidentifiable, our priority on the POW/MIA issue was revealing the lack of adequate medical and dental records on file to allow the CIL to make appropriate comparisons. Because the families of our missing men believe, and we agree, that they have first claim on any remains, we slowed the interment action until we were absolutely sure that all records were available and the partial set of remains was truly unidentifiable. League of Family objections in the past were not against interment of a Vietnam unknown, but against interment of someone identifiable. All criteria have been met now, the Executive Director of the League Ann Griffiths has been briefed fully and the League will now support moving forward.

Secretary Weinberger (Tab A) has recommended we proceed with interment on Memorial Day, May 28, 1984. We support this recommendation and believe this announcement should be issued from the Department of Defense. Your direct participation can be decided later, but we need a decision now on going forward due to the massive logistical preparations required.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

NLS M98-001 #6

BY smf, NARA, DATE 7/25/00

Recommendation

OK

No

OK

\_\_\_\_\_

That you approve the interment of an Unknown Serviceman from the Vietnam Era and I notify Cap Weinberger of your decision.

Attachment

Tab A Secretary Weinberger's Memorandum dated 3/16/84

Prepared by  
Richard Childress

cc: Vice President  
Mike Deaver



## THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

16 MAR 1984

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Selection and Interment of an Unknown  
Serviceman from the Vietnam Era

In 1973, Congress enacted Public Law 93-43 which directs the Secretary of Defense to inter the remains of an unidentified U.S. Serviceman from the Vietnam Era as the Vietnam Unknown to lie beside the other three Unknown Soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

We have attempted to identify all remains from the Vietnam Era and to the good fortune of many families we have been quite successful. There have been very few remains which were not almost immediately identified.

In 1982 we began an intensive effort to determine whether any of the remains in our possession are qualified candidates for the Vietnam Unknown. We concluded that we have one set of remains which cannot be identified and which, although not as complete as we would like, meets the legal requirements for the Vietnam Unknown and therefore is qualified.

There has been considerable interest in interring a Vietnam Unknown. Concerned Members of Congress (90+) and the principal Veterans organizations support the early interment of a Vietnam Unknown. The National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia objected in the past but now support the interment of the Vietnam Unknown.

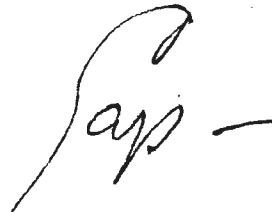
The interment of a Vietnam Unknown is the highest honor our Nation can give to the Vietnam Veterans. The Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery is visited by most visiting Heads of State, other foreign dignitaries, State Governors and millions of visitors annually. They come to honor the Unknown Soldiers who symbolize the sacrifices made by all who served in the respective wars, particularly those who made the supreme sacrifice. I believe the Nation would consider the interment of an Unknown a fitting honor to those who served their country in Southeast Asia.

However, in our public relations we should provide assurance that the interment of an Unknown will not result in a diminution of efforts to secure the remaining MIAs.

Fred Fielding, Craig Fuller and Jim Jenkins of your staff were briefed some time ago on this matter.

Based on the mandate from Congress and other considerations mentioned above, we plan to inter a Vietnam Unknown on Memorial Day, May 28, 1984. As with previous Unknown Soldiers, you will be asked to issue a Presidential Declaration calling for a period of mourning and a State Funeral for the Vietnam Unknown. The Army will be my executive agent in this affair. Unless you want to announce this decision from the White House we will make the public announcement after notifying key Congressional interests, the Veterans organizations and the League of Families.

I look forward to joining you in honoring those who faithfully served their Nation during those difficult times.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Fay -', is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2258

Final

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

March 26, 1984

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: RICHARD CHILDRESS *RC*

SUBJECT: Selection and Interment of an Unknown Serviceman  
from the Vietnam Era

The formal memorandum from the Secretary of Defense recommending interment of an Unknown Soldier from the Vietnam Era is at Tab A.

I need not go into the unnecessary turmoil this action caused in the past, except to make two points: 1) Contrary to the statement in the Secretary's letter -- the National League of Families has never opposed interment of a Vietnam Unknown, only the interment of anyone identifiable, which DOD attempted to do; and 2) I have personally gone through two briefings and the entire file, as has Ann Griffiths of the League, and conclude the partial remains to be interred is unidentifiable, all medical records that could apply are present and interment would not preclude identification of the remainder of the remains in any future recovery effort.

Ann Griffiths forwarded the letter at Tab III after the meetings/briefings that we arranged with the Army here.

I do not know how the political side of the White House will respond to Presidential participation, but as Secretary Weinberger points out, his and other remarks will have to be carefully drawn to avoid controversy. I previously forwarded a Schedule Proposal for the President's participation in the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony. The schedulers need to understand that these are two different events and different constituencies. Ideally, he should attend both -- to honor Vietnam vets at the Tomb of the Unknown and reaffirm his commitment and report to the nation on POW/MIA progress. If we are in an either-or situation, clearly the Unknown comes first with the right words on the POW/MIA issue. If done sensitively, it can not only honor Vietnam vets, but increase public awareness on the POW/MIA issue, part of our overall strategy.

Due to the extraordinary logistical requirements for proceeding with the interment, we need a two-tiered decision -- 1) approval for interment now, and 2) a decision on participation by the President later.

DECLASSIFIED

NLS M98-001 #2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BY *anf*, NARA, DATE 7/25/00

RECOMMENDATION

That you forward the memorandum at Tab I to the President and sign the memorandum to Cap Weinberger at Tab II after a decision.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments

- Tab I        McFarlane Memo to the President
- A     Secretary Weinberger Memorandum dated 3/16/84
- Tab II     McFarlane Memo to Secretary Weinberger
- Tab III    Ann Griffiths Letter





NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES  
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-8846

March 15, 1984

*File - FYE  
do*

The Honorable John O. Marsh  
Secretary of the Army  
Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Jack:

I deeply appreciated the briefing recently provided to me concerning the Army's current efforts on the question of potential interment of remains in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from the Vietnam War.

It is my firm belief that efforts are now legitimately being pursued and as I have repeatedly made clear, the League has no opposition to interment in the Tomb of the Unknown, providing remains interred are not identifiable by the Army's Central Identification Laboratory.

With that in mind, I fully support current efforts and look forward to coordinating language for public statements with members of your staff. I'm sure you understand that this topic is particularly sensitive in view of the need to maintain the integrity and credibility of the CIL and to simultaneously reaffirm the President's commitment to resolution of the POW/MIA issue.

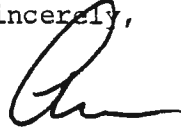
As we have previously discussed, the families have great confidence in CIL's capabilities. That confidence must be preserved; therefore, timing and language will be extremely important in transmitting current intentions to all of the POW/MIA families, veterans organizations and the general public.

I intend to make no statements concerning this issue without full coordination with your staff given the sensitivities involved. It is my understanding that there will also be full reciprocity on any U.S. government statements or releases.

The Honorable John O. Marsh  
Page 2

The significance of this project to the POW/MIA families is easily understood - one of their own will likely be interred. This event should and will have a healing effect on the nation, but under no circumstances must it be allowed to signal any lessening of effort to account for POW/MIAs or to "finally put the Vietnam War behind." I look forward to a unifying event for all connected with the war in Indochina.

Sincerely,



Ann Mills Griffiths  
Executive Director

AMG/la

cc: Mr. Richard Childress ✓  
National Security Council

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2258

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

March 26, 1984

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: RICHARD CHILDRESS *RC*

SUBJECT: Selection and Interment of an Unknown Serviceman  
from the Vietnam Era

The formal memorandum from the Secretary of Defense recommending interment of an Unknown Soldier from the Vietnam Era is at Tab A.

I need not go into the unnecessary turmoil this action caused in the past, except to make two points: 1) Contrary to the statement in the Secretary's letter -- the National League of Families has never opposed interment of a Vietnam Unknown, only the interment of anyone identifiable, which DOD attempted to do; and 2) I have personally gone through two briefings and the entire file, as has Ann Griffiths of the League, and conclude the partial remains to be interred ~~is~~ *are* unidentifiable, all medical records that could apply are present and interment would not preclude identification of the remainder of the remains in any future recovery effort.

Ann Griffiths forwarded the letter at Tab III after the meetings/briefings that we arranged with the Army here.

I do not know how the political side of the White House will respond to Presidential participation, but as Secretary Weinberger points out, his and other remarks will have to be carefully drawn to avoid controversy. I previously forwarded a Schedule Proposal for the President's participation in the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony. The schedulers need to understand that these are two different events and different constituencies. Ideally, he should attend both -- to honor Vietnam vets at the Tomb of the Unknown and reaffirm his commitment and report to the nation on POW/MIA progress. If we are in an either-or situation, clearly the Unknown comes first with the right words on the POW/MIA issue. If done sensitively, it can not only honor Vietnam vets, but increase public awareness on the POW/MIA issue, part of our overall strategy.

Due to the extraordinary logistical requirements for proceeding with the interment, we need a two-tiered decision -- 1) approval for interment now, and 2) a decision on participation by the President later.

DECLASSIFIED

NLS M98-001 #8

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BY *smf*, NARA, DATE 7/25/00

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECOMMENDATION

That you forward the memorandum at Tab I to the President and sign the memorandum to Cap Weinberger at Tab II after a decision.

Approve       ✓      

Disapprove                     

Attachments

Tab I        McFarlane Memo to the President  
              A        Secretary Weinberger Memorandum dated 3/16/84  
Tab II        McFarlane Memo to Secretary Weinberger  
Tab III       Ann Griffiths Letter

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM

2258

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

SUBJECT: Selection and Interment of an Unknown Serviceman from the Vietnam Era

Issue

To proceed with interment of an Unknown on Memorial Day, May 28, 1984.

Facts

Congress enacted a Public Law over a decade ago directing the Secretary of Defense to inter the remains of an unidentified United States serviceman from the Vietnam era. Because of the increased technical capabilities of the Army's Central Identification Laboratory (CIL), almost all remains have been identified and returned to their families.

Discussion

While the DOD was intensively investigating whether any of the remains in our possession were unidentifiable, our priority on the POW/MIA issue was revealing the lack of adequate medical and dental records on file to allow the CIL to make appropriate comparisons. Because the families of our missing men believe, and we agree, that they have first claim on any remains, we slowed the interment action until we were absolutely sure that all records were available and the partial set of remains was truly unidentifiable. League of Family objections in the past were not against interment of a Vietnam unknown, but against interment of someone identifiable. All criteria have been met now, the Executive Director of the League Ann Griffiths has been briefed fully and the League will now support moving forward.

Secretary Weinberger (Tab A) has recommended we proceed with interment on Memorial Day, May 28, 1984. We support this recommendation and believe this announcement should be issued from the Department of Defense. Your direct participation can be decided later, but we need a decision now on going forward due to the massive logistical preparations required.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

NLS M98-001 #9

BY pmf, NARA, DATE 7/25/00

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Recommendation

OK

No

\_\_\_\_\_

That you approve the interment of an Unknown Serviceman from the Vietnam Era and I notify Cap Weinberger of your decision.

Attachment

Tab A Secretary Weinberger's Memorandum dated 3/16/84

Prepared by  
Richard Childress

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



## THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

16 MAR 1984

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Selection and Interment of an Unknown Serviceman from the Vietnam Era

In 1973, Congress enacted Public Law 93-43 which directs the Secretary of Defense to inter the remains of an unidentified U.S. Serviceman from the Vietnam Era as the Vietnam Unknown to lie beside the other three Unknown Soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

We have attempted to identify all remains from the Vietnam Era and to the good fortune of many families we have been quite successful. There have been very few remains which were not almost immediately identified.

In 1982 we began an intensive effort to determine whether any of the remains in our possession are qualified candidates for the Vietnam Unknown. We concluded that we have one set of remains which cannot be identified and which, although not as complete as we would like, meets the legal requirements for the Vietnam Unknown and therefore is qualified.

There has been considerable interest in interring a Vietnam Unknown. Concerned Members of Congress (90+) and the principal Veterans organizations support the early interment of a Vietnam Unknown. The National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia objected in the past but now support the interment of the Vietnam Unknown.

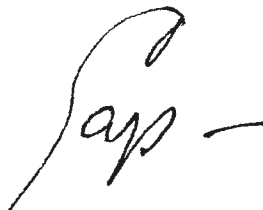
The interment of a Vietnam Unknown is the highest honor our Nation can give to the Vietnam Veterans. The Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery is visited by most visiting Heads of State, other foreign dignitaries, State Governors and millions of visitors annually. They come to honor the Unknown Soldiers who symbolize the sacrifices made by all who served in the respective wars, particularly those who made the supreme sacrifice. I believe the Nation would consider the interment of an Unknown a fitting honor to those who served their country in Southeast Asia.

However, in our public relations we should provide assurance that the interment of an Unknown will not result in a diminution of efforts to secure the remaining MIAs.

Fred Fielding, Craig Fuller and Jim Jenkins of your staff were briefed some time ago on this matter.

Based on the mandate from Congress and other considerations mentioned above, we plan to inter a Vietnam Unknown on Memorial Day, May 28, 1984. As with previous Unknown Soldiers, you will be asked to issue a Presidential Declaration calling for a period of mourning and a State Funeral for the Vietnam Unknown. The Army will be my executive agent in this affair. Unless you want to announce this decision from the White House we will make the public announcement after notifying key Congressional interests, the Veterans organizations and the League of Families.

I look forward to joining you in honoring those who faithfully served their Nation during those difficult times.





~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2258

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE CASPAR WEINBERGER  
The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Selection and Interment of an Unknown  
Soldier from the Vietnam War

The President has approved your recommendation for interment of an Unknown Serviceman from the Vietnam Era for May 28, 1984. Direct participation by the President in the ceremonies will be addressed separately.

We believe the announcement should be issued by the Department of Defense. Given the sensitivity of this action in relation to the President's priority on resolution of the POW/MIA issue, request the text of announcements and remarks be coordinated with us before public use.

FOR THE PRESIDENT:

DECLASSIFIED

NLS M98-001 #10

BY Amf, NARA, DATE 7/25/00

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES  
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

March 15, 1984

*File - FYE  
oo*

The Honorable John O. Marsh  
Secretary of the Army  
Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Jack:

I deeply appreciated the briefing recently provided to me concerning the Army's current efforts on the question of potential interment of remains in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from the Vietnam War.

It is my firm belief that efforts are now legitimately being pursued and as I have repeatedly made clear, the League has no opposition to interment in the Tomb of the Unknown, providing remains interred are not identifiable by the Army's Central Identification Laboratory.

With that in mind, I fully support current efforts and look forward to coordinating language for public statements with members of your staff. I'm sure you understand that this topic is particularly sensitive in view of the need to maintain the integrity and credibility of the CIL and to simultaneously reaffirm the President's commitment to resolution of the POW/MIA issue.

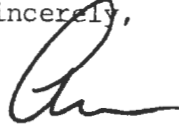
As we have previously discussed, the families have great confidence in CIL's capabilities. That confidence must be preserved; therefore, timing and language will be extremely important in transmitting current intentions to all of the POW/MIA families, veterans organizations and the general public.

I intend to make no statements concerning this issue without full coordination with your staff given the sensitivities involved. It is my understanding that there will also be full reciprocity on any U.S. government statements or releases.

The Honorable John O. Marsh  
Page 2

The significance of this project to the POW/MIA families is easily understood - one of their own will likely be interred. This event should and will have a healing effect on the nation, but under no circumstances must it be allowed to signal any lessening of effort to account for POW/MIAs or to "finally put the Vietnam War behind." I look forward to a unifying event for all connected with the war in Indochina.

Sincerely,



Ann Mills Griffiths  
Executive Director

AMG/la

cc: Mr. Richard Childress ✓  
National Security Council

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

*4/13*

April 11, 1983

Dear Ann:

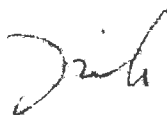
I appreciate your inquiry concerning our official position on the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" and the need for you to be able to respond accurately to family and media inquiries.

Clearly, interment of an unknown would honor Vietnam Veterans, but we would not take such action unless we possessed a set of remains that were determined to be unidentifiable. We view interment as a logical outcome of the accounting process and given our current technical capabilities to identify, as well as our relatively detailed knowledge of crash sites and locations of missing ground personnel, it is possible that a qualified set of remains will not materialize.

Our current plans call for the erection of temporary plaques at the tomb site to explain to the general public why a Vietnam unknown has not been interred.

The support of the National League of Families in our conscientious effort to be sensitive to the legitimate concerns of the families and honor Vietnam Veterans is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Richard T. Childress

Mrs. Ann Mills Griffiths  
Executive Director  
National League of Families  
of American Prisoners and  
Missing in Southeast Asia  
1608 K Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

# VFW

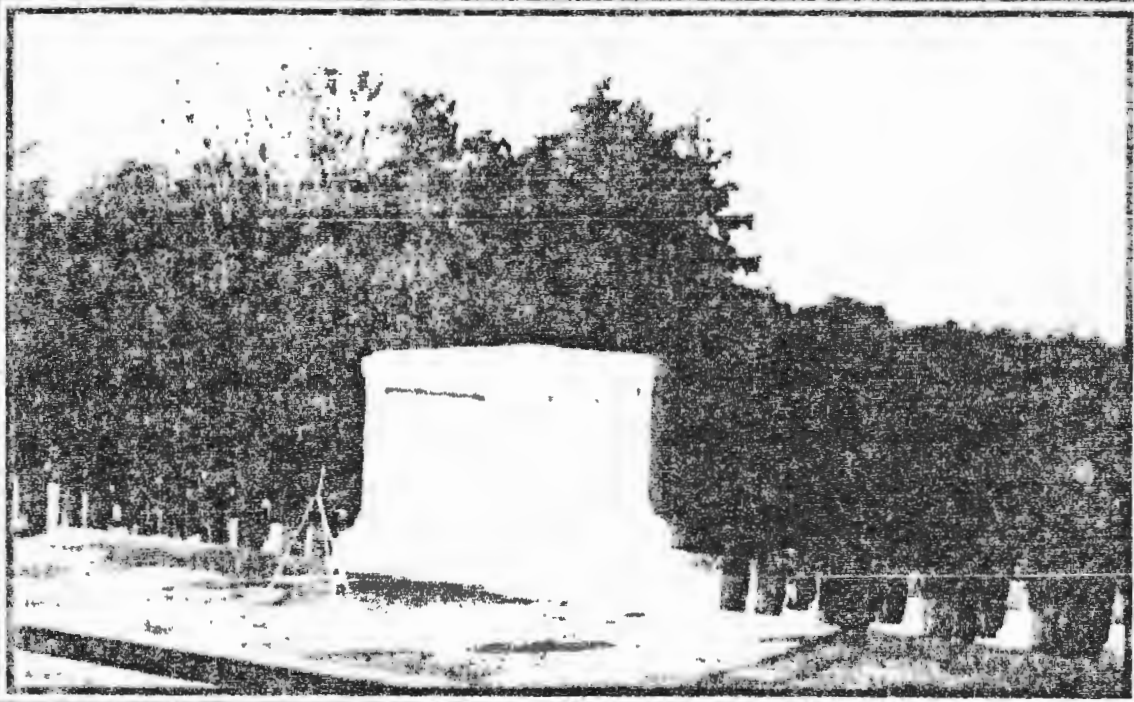
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

More  
on Agent Orange

MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY • 1983

## Choose Vietnam Unknown Now, VFW Demands



### How VFW Programs Help Communities Through Service



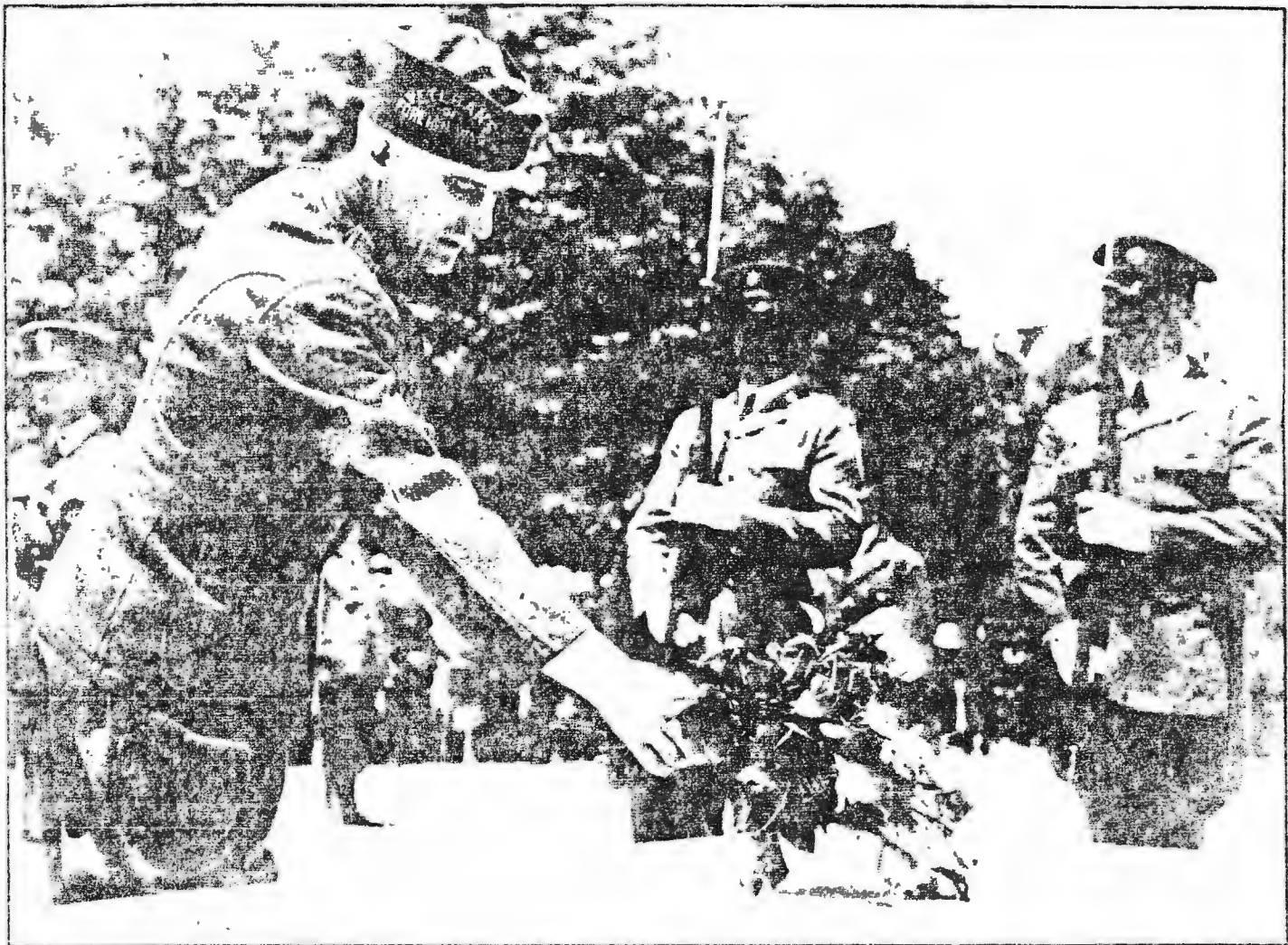
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*Wearing his VFW cap and his Doughboy's uniform, Edward F. Younger places a floral tribute on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Memorial Day, 1930. Younger chose the casket bearing the body of the man who became the Unknown Soldier after World War I.*

## Choose Vietnam Unknown for Burial On Memorial Day, VFW Demands

Commander-in-Chief James R. Currie is urging President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger to set in motion the machinery to choose the body of an unidentified serviceman killed in Vietnam and bury him in Arlington National Cemetery as the Vietnam Era Unknown.

In calling for this action, Currie noted that "in the opinion of the VFW, legislation under consideration would not in any way affect efforts to locate and recover members of the Armed

Forces who are missing."

Currie's demand was based on Resolution 671, adopted at the 83rd National Convention in Los Angeles last August. It is entitled "Select Unknown Vietnam Vet for Burial at Tomb of Unknown Soldier in Arlington, Va."

In its resolved portion, 671 asks that the VFW petition:

"The President and the Department of Defense to enforce Public Law 93-43 and revise the criteria added by the Department of Defense so one of the Unknowns from the Vietnam Era can

be selected for proper burial and respect at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery."

Currie's full statement issued Dec. 15 follows:

"The VFW fully supports House Concurrent Resolution 413, legislation which urges the President and Secretary of Defense to act expeditiously to bury the remains of an American serviceman who was killed in Vietnam and whose identity has not been established.

"At least one set of remains exists  
"At least one set of remains exists

which could be designated as an Unknown of the Vietnam Era and who served in Southeast Asia.

"In the opinion of the VFW, legislation under consideration would not in any way affect efforts to locate and recover members of the Armed Forces

---

**"At least one set of remains exists which could be designated as an Unknown of the Vietnam Era and who served in Southeast Asia."**

---

who are missing.

"Plans exist which would honorably and with dignity return the remains to the United States and inter an Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery.

"The VFW believes that next Memorial Day is an appropriate occasion for the ceremony.

"If legislation to expedite the burial does not pass this session, the VFW will request similar action in the new 98th Congress."

Although House Concurrent Resolution 413 was not acted on in the final moments of the 97th Congress, a spokesman for Rep. Bill Goodling (Pa.), who introduced it, said an identical bill will be reintroduced in the 98th Congress by Jan. 25, hopefully with the same numerical designation.

Meanwhile, he said, sparked by VFW support, Goodling will meet with Weinberger and Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh in an effort to prevail on them to proceed with the selection of the Vietnam Unknown and the burial.

In referring to the question of the prisoners and missing, Currie was stressing the VFW's steadfast determination to obtain a full accounting of the American POW/MIAs in Southeast Asia, as expressed in Resolution 422, adopted at the 83rd National Convention. It is entitled "America's POW/MIAs: A Non-Negotiable Matter of Honor."

The resolution concludes:

"That maximum U.S. economic and diplomatic pressure be sustained for as long as it takes to the end that those nations and movements which are hindering the search for the MIAs desist from this cruel practice and

assist in the search effort as called for not only in the Paris Accords of 1973 but also by our common humanity.

"That the Administration and the Congress speak out forcefully and publicly on this issue of our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action; that no most favored nation status be granted the Soviet Union; that no further trade agreements be negotiated with that nation, and that no material or monetary aid even be considered for the Socialist Republic of Vietnam or any other like-minded countries until such time as an accurate accounting and/or return of our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action has been made."

The resolution also denounced attempts to barter for MIA information "as the lowest and most despicable form of international blackmail."

Another resolution, 424, continues the POW/MIA Subcommittee of the National Security Committee, chaired by retired Air Force Lt. Gen. John Flynn, the senior Vietnam War POW.

The VFW was the first organization to undertake a massive campaign to demand humane treatment for the prisoners and has continued to press for an accounting of the missing. This

---

**"Plans exist which would honorably and with dignity return the remains to the United States and inter an Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery."**

---

teen years ago, long before the government itself publicly expressed alarm on the issue of prisoners and missing, the VFW led a drive for signatures on petitions that were turned over to the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris. It is said that the hundreds of thousands of names resulted in easing the conditions under which the prisoners were held.

For the past 10 years since the Paris Accords of 1973, the VFW has continued to demand an accounting of the missing and release of any American prisoners who still may be in Southeast Asia and has worked closely with the National League of Families on this issue.

The Army's most recent comment on the question of burial of a Vietnam War Unknown follows:

"Public Law 93-43, the National Cemeteries Act of 1973, requires the Secretary of Defense to cause the remains of an unidentified serviceman from Southeast Asia to be brought to the United States for burial in the Memorial Amphitheater of the National Cemetery at Arlington, Va.

---

**The resolution denounced attempts to barter for MIA information "as the lowest and most despicable form of international blackmail."**

---

"The Army, which is responsible for the operation of the Arlington Cemetery, has been designated as the executive agent of the Department of Defense in connection with that legislative mandate.

"Pursuant to obligations under law, the Army continues planning for future interment of an American unknown serviceman from Southeast Asia.

"A procedure for transporting and honoring such an Unknown is under discussion. That procedure is consistent with the precedents of previous interments of Unknowns.

"As of this date (Jan. 6, 1983), no decision has been made as to when an Unknown from Southeast Asia will be interred. When that decision is made, it will be publicly announced."

Last December, Rep. Goodling, re-elected last November with the support of the VFW-Political Action Committee, wrote each Representative seeking support for the Vietnam Unknown bill.

He said the Department of the Army has assured him that it has a set of unidentifiable American remains that could be buried in Arlington alongside the Unknowns of World Wars I and II and the Korean War.

"The crypt and the marble marker already exist, having been in place between the Unknowns of World War II and the Korean War," he wrote.

"Every indication I have received

## Goodling emphasized that burial of an Unknown is not intended to signal an end to the conflict as some people concerned for an accounting of the MIA's fear

from the Department of Defense regarding such an interment has been favorable, although no definite decision has been forthcoming.

"My resolution is intended to give DoD a little push in this direction by demonstrating the approval of Congress in this matter."

Goodling emphasized that burial of an Unknown from the Vietnam Era "is in no way intended to signal an end to the far-reaching effects of the conflict or to close the book on the Vietnam War as some people concerned for an accounting of those still missing in Southeast Asia fear.

"Indeed, I have specifically included language in the resolution to say that this is not the case and that efforts for an accounting of our missing in Southeast Asia are in no way connected with the interment of a Vietnam Unknown or adversely affected by such an interment."

Goodling's bill had 19 cosponsors.

Willy Arnheim, stone construction superintendent in the building of Tombs of the Unknowns of World War II and Korea, recalled last July in the Washington Post that the crypt for the Vietnam Unknown was completed Oct. 4, 1974, and on March 28, 1975, a 2½-ton white marble cover was installed over it. This stayed there until April 23, 1975, when it was removed and stored in an underground room of the Arlington Amphitheater after the fall of Saigon.

Red granite was set in place on July 29, 1975, to replace the marble cover and conceal the location of the Tomb of the Unknown of the Vietnam War.

Reason, wrote Arnheim, was contained in a letter from an Army official replying to Arnheim's query to President Jimmy Carter regarding the Vietnam Unknown.

The Army explained that highly

sophisticated procedures had resulted in a high incidence of positive identification of Americans whose remains had been recovered from Vietnam. Consequently, it has not been possible to select an Unknown and the marble cover over the crypt was removed to prevent speculation that an Unknown actually was buried there.

The World War I Unknown Soldier was buried Nov. 11, 1921, then observed as Armistice Day, at Arlington, with President Warren G. Harding officiating. The body was selected at random from four taken from American cemeteries in France. Choice was made by a VFW member, Sgt. Edward E. Younger.

The World War II and Korean War Unknowns were buried at Arlington on Memorial Day, May 30, 1958.

Under a 1946 law the bodies of 13 unknown Americans were exhumed from American cemeteries in Europe and Africa and shipped in identical caskets to Epinal, France, early in 1958. One was chosen and designated the Trans-Atlantic Candidate Unknown and taken to the USS Canberra. The others were reburied. Two bodies of unknown Americans were disinterred from the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii and four from the Fort McKinley Cemetery and Memorial in the Philippines. From the six, one was selected at Hickam Air Force Base and then transported to the Canberra off the Virginia Cape in late May 1958. Hospitalman First Class William R. Charette, then the Navy's only active enlisted holder of the Medal of Honor, selected one of the two caskets. The remaining one was given a sailor's solemn burial at sea.

The Korean War Unknown was chosen on May 15, 1958, by M. Sgt. Ned Lyle from the remains of four Americans buried in the National Cemetery of the Pacific. Then it was taken to the Canberra to join the Unknown of World War II. The two Unknowns then were transferred to the USS Blandy which took them to Washington. There, they rested in state from May 28 to May 30 in the Capitol Rotunda. Then they were taken to the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington. President Dwight D. Eisenhower awarded each the Medal of Honor. Afterward, they were borne to the Plaza, religious ceremonies were held, three volleys were fired and "Taps" played. The identical marble caps bear the inscriptions, 1941-1945 and 1950-53.



These members of the MIA POW Committee of Post 7336, Glendale, N.Y., show the sign they carried in a demonstration in Lafayette Park across from the White House.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*Childress*  
1156  
*File (Pow/MIA)*

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

February 18, 1983

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

FROM: RICHARD CHILDRESS *R*

SUBJECT: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Attached is the latest exchange on the subject. The one set of remains that is remotely qualified will be raised as a case folder with the Vietnamese in March.

We still are in no position to make any commitments. I'm pushing for the erection of a plaque soon, so some of the push for interment will be defused, as we may never have a qualified set of remains.

Attachment

- Tab I Goodling Letter to Weinberger dated 2/4/83
- Tab II Weinberger Letter to Goodling dated 2/10/83

DECLASSIFIED

NLS M98-001 # 11

BY smf, NARA, DATE 7/25/00

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BILL GOODLING  
19<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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AFRICA.  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

February 4, 1983

Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger  
Secretary of Defense  
Department of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

After meeting with Commodore Stu Ring, Al Barry and Dick Childris in my office yesterday, as well as representatives from the Veterans organizations, I would like to reiterate my desires:

- 1) That a plaque be put in place at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, indicating why an interment of a soldier of the Vietnam War has not been made so that we can celebrate it this Memorial Day.
- 2) That the folder relating to the partial remains be presented to the Vietnamese at the March meeting, requesting a response for the June meeting so that by Veterans Day of 1983 we can, in fact, have an interment ceremony.

I would like a response to this in writing promptly since we have been involved in this issue and have gone over the same ground many times in the last three years. Promises have been made, but not carried out.

Your prompt attention in response to these requests will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Bill".

BILL GOODLING  
Member of Congress

BG/dlc

cc: Mike Wherley



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SECRET  
NO. 17

10 FEB 1983

Honorable William F. Goodling  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman:

Thank you for your letter of February 4, 1983, expressing your desires relative to a plaque at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the designation of a Vietnam Unknown.

There have been some recent developments regarding the possible candidates for the Vietnam Unknown. I understand you are generally aware of the situation. We want to conduct further investigations and feel it would be premature to take any specific actions at this time pending the outcome of these investigations.

We will communicate with you further on this subject in the near future.

Sincerely,

*I think your suggestion is a very practical & interesting one & I appreciate your sending it to me.*

ag 11/1/82

### Will the Pope Oust Glemp?

A source close to Polish Vatican officials is predicting that Pope John Paul II will move aside Polish Archbishop Jozef Glemp within the next few weeks. According to this source, Glemp would retain his title but be transferred to a post outside Poland. Glemp's conciliatory approach to the Polish military government has disappointed some Vatican officials and many of his own clergymen. A likely candidate to assume Polish church leadership: Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, an old friend of the pope's who has been more willing to speak out against the Polish regime.

### Britain's Spy Case: Damage Control

Geoffrey Arthur Prime, suspected of being a "mole" inside British intelligence, may not have done as much damage to Western espionage operations as first feared. Prime worked as a Russian translator at Britain's Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham, one of the West's most important sources of covert information about the Soviet Union. But according to U.S. officials familiar with the case, Prime translated only intercepted plain-language communications. Because he did not handle decoded material, he would not have been able to tell Moscow which Soviet codes had been broken. He also could not have passed along keys to U.S. or NATO codes, because the encoding staff is strictly separated from other operations. In addition, U.S. sources say that Prime had a relatively low security clearance. Prime's principal value to Moscow probably would have been his ability to report which un-coded communications were being picked up. Moscow then would have been able to encode them, send them by different means or use them to transmit misleading information.

### Burying Vietnam's Unknown Soldier

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has assured veterans' group leaders that a soldier killed in the Vietnam War will soon be buried at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. The sophisticated medical procedures and equipment used in Vietnam combined with advances in identification techniques virtually eliminated unidentifiable corpses. But the Pentagon has now accumulated four sets of remains that it probably will not be able to identify. One of the four will be given a ceremonial burial at the shrine in Arlington, perhaps as early as May of next year.

### Turkey's Tougher Soviet Border Watch

Turkey has ordered the troops who patrol its 380-mile border with the Soviet Union to shoot without warning any Soviet soldiers who enter Turkish territory, according to military officials in the border region. The shoot-on-sight order is a direct response to the August deaths of two Turkish soldiers who were shot after inadvertently crossing the border. Turkish military officials say that in the past, Soviet soldiers who made similar mistakes in the rough border terrain were merely warned off.

### Campaign Leaks in Texas

British intelligence isn't the only field where moles are found. Throughout the Texas gubernatorial campaign, Republican incumbent William P. Clements Jr. was one step ahead of his opponent, Attorney General Mark White. Clements was able to zero in

on White's weaknesses and counter his campaign strategy. But it may not have been political genius: sources close to Clements's campaign say that several conservatives in the state Democratic Party—sympathetic to Clements—hedged their political bets by passing inside information to the governor's staff.

### Begin's White House Worries

The White House may turn out to be an important stop on the Israeli campaign trail. Prime Minister Menachem Begin will spend eight November days in New York, Los Angeles, Dallas and Washington trying to win back the support of those Americans angered by the Lebanon invasion. Begin aides are concerned about the prime minister's White House welcome, especially since the White House has made friendly overtures to dovish Israeli President Yitzhak Navon, a potential Begin rival. President Reagan will meet with Navon on Nov. 23, shortly after Begin leaves town. The White House has upgraded the session from a "courtesy call" to a "working visit." Begin aides have taken that as a warning to Begin to avoid harsh criticism of Reagan or his Mideast peace plan while he is here.

### Volcker and the Appearance of Virtue

Federal Reserve Board chairman Paul Volcker resisted a further loosening of monetary restraints last week because he did not want to be accused of playing politics with the economy. Wall Street had expected Volcker to lower the Fed's discount rate (the interest charged on loans to financial institutions) by as much as half a point; when no markdown came, Wall Street rang up its largest one-day loss since the Great Depression. Volcker has told friends on Capitol Hill that although the dubious economic outlook may have warranted a drop in the discount rate, he decided that it was more important to avoid the appearance of stimulating the economy to influence the elections.

### Shultz Has a Fiscal Franchise

Secretary of State George Shultz has done what his predecessor, Alexander Haig, longed to do but couldn't: expanded his turf. Shultz has emerged as the president's leading economic adviser. The president's official economic advisers, Donald Regan, David Stockman and Martin Feldstein, all concede that Shultz has more influence with Reagan than they do on economic matters. And Shultz is about to take his fiscal show on the road. In the belief that the United States can't prosper long without a worldwide recovery the secretary of state will urge European and Japanese leaders to initiate economic expansions of their own by reducing budget deficits and easing monetary restraints.

### The CIA's Videotaped Evidence

The Central Intelligence Agency has demonstrated that it can learn from its mistakes. Last year a Nicaraguan captured in El Salvador said that he had been sent by Nicaragua to fight with the antigovernment guerrillas in El Salvador. But when the U.S. State Department presented him to reporters last March, he recanted, saying his admissions were coerced. Recently Honduras captured five Salvadoran guerrillas—at a secret base in Honduras—who said that they had been trained in Cuba. To avoid a replay of last year's embarrassment, the CIA videotaped their confessions.

ERIC GELMAN with bureau reports

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

23 AUG 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Selection of a Vietnam Unknown

The 1973 statute, PL 93-43, authorizes and directs the Secretary of Defense to cause the burial of a Vietnam Unknown remains in the National Cemetery at Arlington. Attached is a copy of a memorandum from the Army General Counsel on the subject. The four legal criteria stipulated by the statute are, in addition to being an unknown, (1) be an American, (2) a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, (3) served in Southeast Asia, and (4) died during the Vietnam era (1964-75). No other criterion applies. I tasked the Department of the Army to provide me with appropriate recommendations.

During the past year I have closely monitored the initiative to inter an appropriate remains as the Vietnam Unknown. I have reached the point, however, where it might be prudent to proceed in the direction I will describe below. First, I would like to give you a short assessment of where we are on this initiative.

Although the Army's Central Identification Lab, Hawaii, has an excellent record of identifying remains from Southeast Asia, we still have four remains from the Vietnam era which have not been identified. We have progressed to a point where two of the four remains are eliminated from further Unknown consideration, with the remaining two candidates considered as the most qualified. Of the two most qualified, one has been, after ten years of exhaustive efforts, certified by the Lab as "unidentifiable." Although ten years of effort has also gone into trying to identify the second most qualified remains, the Lab has been asked to make another complete review to, hopefully, identify the remains or certify as unidentifiable. The review is expected to be completed by this December. Consequently, it appears that, if the decision is made to proceed, Memorial Day, 1983, is our best date to consider interment.

1982 AUG 23 PM 2:49



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

23 AUG 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS

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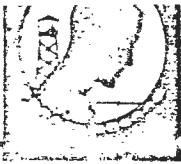
Discussions with key Congressional leaders and the leadership of prominent Veterans' organizations indicate a supportive attitude with a general comment that Defense should proceed with the Unknown initiative as soon as practical. Opposition has been expressed by the National League of Families, and recently members of your staff have expressed some interest in the subject.

Before final decisions are made, I believe it would be desirable to ascertain the President's views on the Unknown interment, knowing his very personal interest in our missing servicemen beginning when he was Governor of California. You may recall that he and Mrs. Reagan were among the first to welcome the returning POWs from Vietnam.

Perhaps you and I should discuss this matter at an early date.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. G. ...". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.





OFFICE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

*Draft - draft to send,  
Rich requests I meet w/  
Jack and Weinberger in  
August 11, 1982  
last attempt to avoid  
controversy. PJ 9/10*

Honorable John O. Marsh  
Secretary of the Army  
Pentagon, 3E718  
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am extremely concerned about the manner in which the USA is handling the "unknown" situation, a concern which multiplied after meeting with BG Jim Thompson last Friday. It is his intention, apparently at your request, to brief members of Congress on what he terms the "Catch 22" which surrounds this issue. He also plans to contact national veterans groups.

It was my understanding from our discussions that you preferred to avoid controversy on this matter to ensure that if interment took place, this nation would be unified in honoring Vietnam veterans. Your misleading and inaccurate memo to the Secretary of Defense, dated June 16th, has been distributed to selected individuals and organizations. Such an attempt to obtain public support is hardly in keeping with your stated objective.

I was dismayed to learn that Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) personnel had been instructed to shred existing research documents on all four remains now in U.S. possession, sign a document to that effect and hand carry the sole copy of the records to the Army Adjutant General. Such instructions to the CIL to destroy working records are reprehensible. It strongly suggests a conscious effort to obscure or eliminate identification data to meet political objectives.

According to General Thompson, two of the four remains have now been certified as unidentifiable by CIL and are therefore candidates for the "unknown" from the Vietnam era. Partial remains of one "candidate" includes full upper dental structure, making identification highly probable if additional dental records are obtained via the services. On both candidate sets of remains sufficient information is already available to narrow the identification process to a small number of individuals.

Records on the two sets of remains which have been ruled out of consideration should immediately be returned to CIL technicians. Further, there should be no effort spared to obtain records necessary for correlation on both these cases as well as the one

"candidate" set of remains. To do otherwise will seriously undermine the integrity of the USA, CIL and the stated commitment of the Reagan Administration that accounting for missing Americans "is in fact a matter of the highest national priority."

The rationale for such increased emphasis on interment of an unknown from the Vietnam era can only be labeled political. The sole logic for proceeding at this time lies in finding a means to satisfy those Vietnam veterans who feel slighted. There is no organization which is more directly affected by this problem than the League - these are our relatives which you are attempting to inter.

*see Ann's  
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The Army's handling of this issue has left me no alternative but to inform the families at the earliest opportunity, knowing that by so doing, years of faith in CIL will be badly shaken and confidence in the Reagan Administration will be seriously called into question. I deeply regret the necessity to take this action and hold the U.S. Army responsible for failure to recognize the basic importance and sensitivity of this issue.

Sincerely,

Ann Mills Griffiths  
Executive Director

cc: Secretary of Defense  
PW/MIA Interagency Group

The suggestion to bury at sea those remains not selected as the unknown, while based on precedent from World War II and Korea, would eliminate eventual identification, something which CIL has stated is certainly possible. Throughout the years, CIL has maintained great credibility with the families. Under-  
mining their purpose and capability would serve only to raise questions concerning USG commitment to the accounting process.

Currently, there are fragmentary remains of only one person which might be considered "unknown." Even in this case, identification could possibly be made if the Vietnamese were requested to investigate the initial recovery site for additional remains or data.

CIL personnel have stated that one of the four remains was re-covered in Laos, is not known to be American and the identification may have been narrowed down to one of three individuals. Further, information on two of the other three remains includes dental and restoration data for which CIL has no comparison ability due to incomplete records. Minimal efforts have been made by the services but records are currently inadequate to meet the needs of those charged with identification. Currently, there are fragmentary remains of only one person which might be considered "unknown." Even in this case, identification could possibly be made if the Vietnamese were requested to investigate the initial recovery site for additional remains or data.

The subject of interring an unknown at the tomb in Arlington National Cemetery is repeatedly raised but must not be dealt with in isolation from current and relevant facts. You should know from the outset that based upon information the League has received, we are opposed to the interment of any remains now held.

SUBJECT: Proposed Interment of an Unknown from the Vietnam Era

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

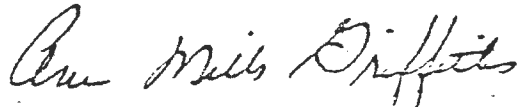
IDENTICAL MEMO TO

INTERAGENCY GROUP - 22 84 82

July 26, 1982

Perhaps the Army should respond to Congressional inquiries with appreciation for good intentions and a clear statement that qualified remains are not available and may never be due to technical expertise attained. DA should not seek to eliminate the self-inflicted problem by interring an individual who may be identified at some point in the future, particularly if the lack of ability to identify lies, at least in part, with inadequacy of U.S. records.

I do hope that this proposal will not meet with your approval. Interment of an unknown should be a unifying effort to honor all Vietnam era veterans. Controversy over qualifications involved would nullify the purpose. Knowing that CIL, supported by the Joint Casualty Resolution Center, also opposes premature interment, the League cannot support the initiative at this time but would be willing to reconsider our position at any time circumstances change.



Ann Mills Griffiths  
Executive Director

## Public Law 93-43

## AN ACT

June 18, 1973  
[S. 49]

To amend title 38 of the United States Code in order to establish a National Cemetery System within the Veterans' Administration, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "National Cemeteries Act of 1973".*

National Ceme-  
teries Act of 1973.

SEC. 2. (a) Part II of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new chapter:

72 Stat. 1117.  
38 USC 301.**"Chapter 24—NATIONAL CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS**

"Sec.

"1000. Establishment of National Cemetery System; composition of such system; appointment of director.

"1001. Advisory committee on cemeteries and memorials.

"1002. Persons eligible for interment in national cemeteries.

"1003. Memorial areas.

"1004. Administration.

"1005. Disposition of inactive cemeteries.

"1006. Acquisition of lands.

"1007. Authority to accept and maintain suitable memorials.

**"§ 1000. Establishment of National Cemetery System; composition of such system; appointment of director**

"(a) There shall be within the Veterans' Administration a National Cemetery System for the interment of deceased servicemen and veterans. To assist him in carrying out his responsibilities in administering the cemeteries within the System, the Administrator may appoint a Director, National Cemetery System, who shall perform such functions as may be assigned by the Administrator.

"(b) The National Cemetery System shall consist of—

"(1) national cemeteries transferred from the Department of the Army to the Veterans' Administration by the National Cemeteries Act of 1973;

"(2) cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the Veterans' Administration on the date of enactment of this chapter; and

"(3) any other cemetery, memorial, or monument transferred to the Veterans' Administration by the National Cemeteries Act of 1973, or later acquired or developed by the Administrator.

**"§ 1001. Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials**

"There shall be appointed by the Administrator an Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials. The Administrator shall advise and consult with the Committee from time to time with respect to the administration of the cemeteries for which he is responsible, and with respect to the selection of cemetery sites, the erection of appropriate memorials, and the adequacy of Federal burial benefits. The Committee shall make periodic reports and recommendations to the Administrator and to Congress.

Reports to Ad-  
ministrator of  
Veterans' Affairs  
and Congress.**"§ 1002. Persons eligible for interment in national cemeteries**

"Under such regulations as the Administrator may prescribe and subject to the provisions of section 3505 of this title, the remains of the following persons may be buried in any open national cemetery in the National Cemetery System:

73 Stat. 453;  
85 Stat. 348.  
38 USC 3505.

"(1) Any veteran (which for the purposes of this chapter includes a person who died in the active military, naval, or air service).

"(2) Any member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces, and any member of the Army National Guard or the Air National Guard, whose death occurs under honorable conditions while he is

Repeals.

Ante, p. 82.

(60) The Act entitled "An Act to revise eligibility requirements for burial in national cemeteries, and for other purposes", approved September 14, 1959 (73 Stat. 547).

(61) The Act entitled "An Act to amend the Act of March 24, 1948, which establishes special requirements governing the selection of superintendents of national cemeteries", approved August 30, 1961 (75 Stat. 411).

(b) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to affect in any manner the functions, powers, and duties of—

(1) the Secretary of the Interior with respect to those cemeteries, memorials, or monuments under his jurisdiction on the effective date of this section, or

(2) the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, or the Secretary of the Air Force with respect to those cemeteries, memorials, or monuments under his jurisdiction to which the transfer provisions of section 6(a) of this Act do not apply.

73 Stat. 453.

SEC. 8. The first sentence of section 3505(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting immediately after the words "gratuitous benefits" where first appearing therein, the following: "(including the right to burial in a national cemetery)".

SEC. 9. (a) The Secretary of Defense is authorized and directed to cause to be brought to the United States the remains of an American, who was a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, who served in Southeast Asia who lost his life during the Vietnam era, and whose identity has not been established, for burial in the Memorial Amphitheater of the National Cemetery at Arlington, Virginia.

(b) The implementation of this section shall take place after the United States has concluded its participation in hostilities in Southeast Asia, as determined by the President or the Congress of the United States.

Appropriation.

(c) There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

Effective dates.

SEC. 10. (a) The first section and sections 2, 3, 4, and 8 of this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) Clause (1) of section 5(a) shall take effect on the first day of the second calendar month following the date of enactment of this Act.

Publication in Federal Register.

(c) Clause (2) of section 5(a) and sections 6 and 7 of this Act shall take effect September 1, 1973, or on such earlier date as the President may prescribe and publish in the Federal Register.

Approved June 18, 1973.

Public Law 93-44

AN ACT

June 18, 1973  
[S. 38]

To amend the Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970, as amended, to increase the United States share of allowable project costs under such Act, to amend the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, to prohibit certain State taxation of persons in air commerce, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Airport Development Acceleration Act of 1973".

Airport Development Acceleration Act of 1973.  
84 Stat. 220.

SEC. 2. Section 11(2) of the Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970 (49 U.S.C. 1711) is amended by inserting immediately after "Federal Aviation Act of 1958," the following: "and security equipment required of the sponsor by the Secretary by rule or regulation

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SEC. 3.

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SERVICE PRECEDENT FOR UNKNOWN

Recovered in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia.

Death occurred between August 1964 and March 1973.

Remains nearly complete.

Not commingled.

Personal effects establish that remains is military.

No possible identifying clues.

Circumstances must not lead to future identification.

Cremated remains eliminated.

DECLASSIFIED

NLS M98-001 #12

BY smf, NARA, DATE 7/25/00

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