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POW/MIA Recognition Day, 06/12/1981

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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name BLACKWELL, MORTON: FILES

Withdrawer

RBW 7/14/2011

File Folder POW/MIA: NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY,
06/12/1981

FOIA

F06-0055/07

Box Number 45

POTTER, CLAIRE

56

DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
1	FORM	REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS [W/NOTATIONS]	1	6/11/1981	B6
2	FORM	REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS [W/NOTATIONS]	1	6/11/1981	B6

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

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/9/81 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/11/81

SUBJECT: S.J. Res. 50 - NATIONAL POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAMES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOFZIGER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILLIAMSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WEIDENBAUM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ALLEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CANZERI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ANDERSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FULLER (<i>For Cabinet</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HICKEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HODSOLL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MC COY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRIEDERSDORF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CEQ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GARRICK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OSTP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GERGEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	USTR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HARPER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Remarks:

Richard G. Darman
 Deputy Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 (x-2702)



GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

June 4, 1981

Honorable David A. Stockman
Director, Office of Management
and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Stockman:

Reference is made to your request for the views of the Department of Defense regarding the enrolled enactment of S.J. Res. 50, 97th Congress, "Designating July 17, 1981, as 'National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day.'"

The purpose of S.J. Res. 50 is to call national attention to Americans who, in the pursuit of their duty as citizens, suffered the hardships of prisoner of war life and to remember those unresolved casualties of war who remain unaccounted for. The sacrifices they made ought not to go unrecognized.

The Department of Defense recommends Presidential approval of S.J. Res. 50. Draft of a proposed proclamation is attached.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William H. Taft, IV", is written over the typed name.

William H. Taft, IV

Enclosure

PROCLAMATION

National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day, 1981

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout American history our prisoners of war have been called upon to make uncommon sacrifices. In fulfilling their duty as citizens of the United States they embraced the unique responsibility of defending American ideals while suffering unimaginable indignities under the absolute control of the enemy. This responsibility to remain steadfast is all the more demanding when, in the course of incarceration, their treatment contravened considerations of ordinary compassion, fundamental moral standards, and basic international obligations.

The Congress has by Joint Resolution designated July 17, 1981 as "National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day."

All Americans ought to recognize the special debt we owe to our fellow citizens who, in the act of serving our Nation, relinquished their freedom that we might enjoy the blessings of peace and liberty. Likewise, we must remember the unresolved casualties of war--our soldiers who are still missing. The pain and bitterness of war endures for their families, relatives, and friends.

Our Nation will continue to seek answers to the many questions that remain about their fate.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Friday, July 17, 1981 as National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day, a day dedicated to all former American prisoners of war, to those still missing, and to their families. I call on all Americans to join in honoring those who made the uncommon sacrifice of being held captive in war, and their loved ones.

And I call on State and local officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this _____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifth.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 11, 1981

MEETING WITH National POW/MIA Recognition Day Supporters
DATE: June 12
LOCATION: Rose Garden; back up Roosevelt Room
TIME: 3:00 PM - 3:10 PM
FROM: Elizabeth Dole

*Flags
Section
Table -*

Cabinet Room

I. PURPOSE

Signing ceremony both for bill and Proclamation of National POW/MIA Recognition Day

II. BACKGROUND

Annually the Congress authorizes proclamations by the President for National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Although there is no hard evidence that any Americans remain in captivity in Indochina, you have repeatedly said that you share the concern of the POW/MIA families and will track down every lead which might give more information regarding prisoners of war and U.S. personnel still missing in action.

Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Carter all met with the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in South East Asia. This signing ceremony is your first meeting with this group.

Also present are former POW, Senator Jeremiah Denton and other Congressional supporters of the POW/MIA families.

III. PARTICIPANTS

See attached sheets

Plus from White House staff - Richard Allen, Elizabeth Dole, and Morton Blackwell

IV. PRESS PLAN

Full press coverage

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- 3:00 PM - You are introduced at Rose Garden by Elizabeth Dole
- 3:02 PM - You welcome guests and make brief remarks
- 3:07 PM - You sign both the bill and Proclamation
- 3:08 PM - You pose with guests for photographer
- 3:10 PM - You depart Rose Garden

ATTACHMENTS: Talking points and list of participants.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Major Bob Keimitt
395-4970
National
Security
Council*

Signing Ceremony
Bill and Proclamation Designating
July 17, 1981
National POW/MIA Recognition Day

- I am pleased and honored to sign both this Bill and this Proclamation designating July 17, 1981, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.
- All brave men and women who fought for our Country deserve sincere and lasting respect, but it is fitting to pay particular homage to those who endured the hardships of enemy captivity.
- I am pleased that we are joined today by representatives of the National League of Families and by former Vietnam POW Senator Jerry Denton and his wife.
- Eight years after the end of the Vietnam War, we still have not achieved a full accounting for our missing servicemen from that conflict.
- Recently, there have been reports that Americans still are being held captive in Indochina. While none of these reports has been substantiated, priority effort will continue until we have achieved the fullest possible accounting from the governments involved.

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REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS [W/NOTATIONS]

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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS

To: Officer-in-charge
Appointments Center
Room 060, OEOB

Please admit the following appointments on June 12, 19 81

for POTUS/ELIZABETH H. DOLE of Office of Public Liaison
(NAME OF PERSON TO BE VISITED) (AGENCY)

CONGRESSMEN

O'NEILL, Thomas P. *no*
WRIGHT, James C *no*
MICHEL, Robert H. *nt*

✓ DORNAN, Robert K. *no*
GILMAN, Benajmin *no*
LAGOMARSINO, Robert J. *no*
LEBOUTILLIER, John
~~MOORE, W. Henson~~
✓ HENDON, Bill
✓ HAMMERSCHMIDT, John Paul
✓ HOLLENBECK, Harold
✓ SOLARE, Stephen
✓ LANTOS, Tom
✓ MICA, Dan *no*
✓ WOLPE, Howard *no*
~~MONTGOMERY, C.W. (Sonny)~~

SENATORS

✓ BYRD, Robert C.
BAKER, Howard
✓ DECONCINI, Dennis
SIMPSON, Alan
THURMOND, Strom
✓ DENTON, Jeremiah
✓ DOLE, Robert

MEETING LOCATION

Building White House/Rose Garden Requested by Elizabeth H. Dole
Room No. Rose Garden Room No. WH Telephone 2270
Time of Meeting 3 P.M. Date of request June 11, 1981

Additions and/or changes made by telephone should be limited to three (3) names or less.

APPOINTMENTS CENTER: SIG/OEOB -- 395-6046 or WHITE HOUSE -- 456-6742

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SENATE Sponsors of S.J. Res. 50

DeConcini
Burdick
Cranston
Eagleton
Heflin
Inouye
Ford
Sasser
Pryor
Moynihan
Levin
Cohen
Hollings
Sarbanes
Mitchell
Riegle
Baucus

Dole
D'Amato
Goldwater
Quayle
Thurmond
Murkowski
Roth
Lugar
Durenberger
Cochran
Garn
Boschwitz
Heinz
Helms
Kassebaum
Wallop

REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS

To: Officer-in-charge
Appointments Center
Room 060, OEOB

Please admit the following appointments on June 12, 1981

for POTUS/ ELIZABETH H. DOLE of Office of Public Liaison
(NAME OF PERSON TO BE VISITED) (AGENCY)

CONGRESSMEN:

Dornan, Robert K.
Le Boutillier, John
Hendon, Bill
Hammerschmidt, John Paul
Hollenbeck, Harold
Lantos, Tom

SENATORS:

De Concini, Dennis
Denton, Jeremiah and wife, Jane
Dole, Robert

MEETING LOCATION

Building White House
Room No. Rose Garden

Requested by Elizabeth Dole
Room No. WH Telephone 2270

Time of Meeting 3 PM - 3:10 PM

Date of request June 11, 1981

Additions and/or changes made by telephone should be limited to three (3) names or less.

APPOINTMENTS CENTER: SIG/OEOB - 395-6046 or WHITE HOUSE - 456-6742

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Tab A
Guest List

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing
in South East Asia - members of Board of Directors

→ Ann Griffith, *Executive Director*
Carol Bates
Charles Walker
George Brooks
Janis Dodge
Mary Foley
John Parsels
Sara Frances Shay
James Poole

Naf

Military representation:

→ [Admiral Donald Jones - Navy
Col. David Murane - Air Force]

Senators:

→ Dennis De Concini, *co-sponsor of the resolution*
Jeremiah Denton and wife, Jane
Robert Dole

Congressmen:

Robert Dornan - 13
John Le Boutillier - 14
Bill Hendon - 11
John Paul Hammerschmidt - 12
→ Harold Hollenbeck - 8
Tom Lantos - 8

Melvin Price -

10 Durney

8 - Lantos

9

11

13 Dole

Administration:

→ Elizabeth Dole
Morton Blackwell
Richard Allen
May Friedust.
(Nancy Kennedy)

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

June 10, 1981

TO: GREGORY J. NEWELL, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: A signing ceremony at the White House when the President signs the Proclamation of National POW/MIA Recognition Day - S.J. Res. 50.

PURPOSE: There has never been a signing ceremony for this Proclamation. The POW/MIA families and their supporters would be grateful for White House recognition.

BACKGROUND: The President made campaign statements regarding this issue. Since taking office he has not met with this group. Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Carter all met with this group. Also, in view of President Reagan's statement of April 24 dealing with increasing live-sighting reports that Americans may still be held captive in SE Asia, it is important that visible Presidential involvement be shown.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Carter

DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 12 - after 2 PM (Bill must be signed by June 13)

LOCATION: Oval Office DURATION: 10 minutes

PARTICIPANTS → *Admiral Jones*
 Lt. Col. John Fer, Department of Defense, Principal Military Advisor PW/MIA
 Ann Griffith, Executive Director of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in SE Asia and 8 members of the National Board of Directors who are in Washington for a conference on Friday, June 12 (see attached list)
 Co-sponsors of the resolution - Sen. Pete ~~Domenici~~ and Congressman Harold Hollenbeck;
 Members of the House of Representatives Task Force on American Prisoners and Missing in SE Asia (see list)

Handwritten notes:
 Jones
 691-
 2307
 223-6846

OUTLINE OF EVENT: President greets and signs the proclamation

REMARKS REQUIRED: Brief remarks

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House photographer

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth Dole; Robert Kimmitt - National Security Council; Admiral Robert Garrick, Ed Meese's office; Admiral Don Jones, Director of East Asia Bureau, Office of the Secretary of Defense; John Negroponte, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of State.

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

National League of Families of American Prisoners and
Missing in South East Asia - members of Board of Directors

Ann Griffith
Carol Bates

Charles Walker
George Brooks
Janis Dodge
Mary Foley
John Parsels
Sara Frances Shay
James Poole

Military representation:

Admiral Donald Jones - Navy
Col. David Murane - Air Force

Senators:

Dennis De Concini
Jeremiah Denton and wife, Jane
Robert Dole

Congressmen:

Robert Dornan
John LeBoutillier
W. Henson Moore
Bill Hendon
John Paul Hammerschmidt
Harold Hollenbeck
Stephen Solarz
Tom Lantos
G.V. Montgomery (Sonny)

Administration:

Elizabeth Dole
Morton Blackwell
Richard Allen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TAB A GUEST LIST

ANN GRIFFITH, Executive Director National League of Families
of American Prisoners and Missing in South East Asia

CAROL BATES
CHARLES WALKER
GEORGE BROOKS
JANIS DODGE
MARY FOLEY
JOHN PARSELS
SARA FRANCES SHAY
JAMES POOLE

Members of Board of Directors,
National League of Families of
American Prisoners and Missing
in South East Asia

ADMIRAL DONALD JONES, Navy, Director of East Asia Bureau,
Office of the Secretary of Defense

COL. DAVID MURANE, Air Force, Chief of Far East/ South Asia
Division, J5, Joint Chiefs of Staff

SENATOR DENNIS DE CONCINI, Co- Sponsor of the Resolution

CONGRESSMAN HAROLD HOLLENBECK, Co-Sponsor of the Resolution

SENATOR JEREMIAH DENTON and wife, JANE - former POW

CONGRESSMAN ROBERT DORNAN, Chairman of House of Representatives
Task Force on American Prisoners and
Missing in South East Asia

SENATOR ROBERT DOLE
CONGRESSMAN JOHN LE BOUTILLIER
CONGRESSMAN BILL HENDON
CONGRESSMAN JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT
CONGRESSMAN TOM LANTOS

Cong. Mel Price, Armed Services Committee

ELIZABETH DOLE, Assistant to the President for Public Liaison
MAX FRIEDERSDORF, Assistant to the President for Legislative
Affairs

RICHARD ALLEN, Assistant to the President for National Security
Affairs

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TAB B GUESTS IN BILL SIGNING CEREMONY

FIRST ROW FROM STAGE LEFT TO STAGE RIGHT

ELIZABETH DOLE

SENATOR DE CONCINI

CONGRESSMAN HOLLENBECK

SENATOR DENTON

*Dorcas
Dole*

SECOND ROW FROM STAGE LEFT TO STAGE RIGHT

ANN GRIFFITH

ADMIRAL DONALD JONES

COL. DAVID MURANE

MRS. JANE DENTON

*Allen
Friedler toff*

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PARTICIPANTS:

Members of the Board of Directors,
National League of Families of American Prisoners and
Missing in South East Asia

Col. Charles Walker, Chairman of the Board,
from Utah, MIA father

Mr. George Brooks, from New York, MIA father

Mrs. Janis Dodge, from California, POW wife

Mrs. Betty Foley, from Ohio, MIA wife

Major John Parsels, from Georgia, returned POW

Mrs. Sara Frances Shay, from Maryland, MIA mother

Mrs. Marion Shelton, from California, POW wife

Mr. Jim Poole, from Georgia, MIA son

Members of the House of Representatives Task Force
on American Prisoners and Missing in South East Asia

(Cong. Robert Dornan, Chairman, R - CA

Cong. Benjamin Gilman, R - NY

Cong. Robert Lagomarfino, R - CA

Cong. John Le Boutellier, R - NY

Cong. Bill Hendon, R - NC

Cong. Steve Solarz, D - NY

Cong. Tom Lantos, D- CA

Cong. Dan Mica, D - FL

Cong. Howard Wolpe, D - MI

POW MIA families

Proclamations sent to these 6/22/81

Colonel Charles Walker, USAF, (Ret.)
1243 East 3075 North
North Ogden, Utah 84404

Mr. George L. Brooks
16 Cresthaven Drive
Newburgh, NY 12550

Mrs. Janis Dodge
10530 Rookwood Drive
San Diego, CA 92131

Mrs. Betty Foley
6515 Menlo Way
Dayton, Ohio 45424

Colonel Earl P. Hopper, AUS (Ret.)
14043 N. 64th Drive
Glendale, AZ 85306

Mr. John Parsels
1126 Oxford Road
Atlanta, GA 30306

Mrs. Sara Frances Shay
205 Hilltop Road
Linthicum, MD 21090

Mrs. Marian Shelton
8813 Harlington
San Diego, CA 92126

Mr. James Poole
c/o Creative Display
P.O. Box 5618
Augusta, GA 30906

Mrs. Ann Griffiths
4555 Metro Court
Annandale, Virginia 22003

Miss Carol Bates
7651 Tremayne Place
McLean, VA 22102

Mr. Al Chapin
308 Glenmore Drive
San Angelo, TX 76903

Mr. Joel Cook, Chairman
National Human Rights Committee
for POW/MIAs
86 Hill Street
Walden, NY 12586

Colonel David M. Murane, USAF
OJCS/J5
The Pentagon, 2E973
Washington, D. C. 20301

RADM Allan G. Paulson, USN
Defense Intelligence Agency, DC
The Pentagon, 2D921
Washington, D. C. 20301

Lt. Colonel John Fer, USAF
OSD/ISA, PW/MIA Affairs
The Pentagon, 2D322
Washington, D. C. 20301

Colonel D. Wayne Waddell, USAF
President, 'Nam POWs
HQs, 14th Air Force
Dobbins AFB, GA 30060

Mrs. F.A. Sheridan
Historian, Red River Valley Assoc.
8612 Tamarac
Wichita, KS 67206

Mr. G. Michael Schlee, Director
National Security & Foreign Relations
The American Legion
1608 K Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20006

Stanley G. Sommers
National Commander
American Ex-Prisoners of War
1410 Adler Road
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449

Miss Susan Taranto
4801 Chevy Chase Blvd.
Chevy Chase, MD 20015

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 11, 1981

MEETING WITH National POW/MIA Recognition Day Supporters
DATE: June 12
LOCATION: Rose Garden; back up Roosevelt Room
TIME: 3:00 PM - 3:10 PM
FROM: Elizabeth Dole

I. PURPOSE

Signing ceremony both for bill and Proclamation of National POW/MIA Recognition Day

II. BACKGROUND

Annually the Congress authorizes proclamations by the President for National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Although there is no hard evidence that any Americans remain in captivity in Indochina, you have repeatedly said that you share the concern of the POW/MIA families and will track down every lead which might give more information regarding prisoners of war and U.S. personnel still missing in action.

Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Carter all met with the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in South East Asia. This signing ceremony is your first meeting with this group.

Also present are former POW, Senator Jeremiah Denton and other Congressional supporters of the POW/MIA families.

III. PARTICIPANTS

See attached sheets

Plus from White House staff - Richard Allen, Elizabeth Dole, and Morton Blackwell

IV: PRESS PLAN

Full press coverage

V: SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

3:00 PM - You are introduced at Rose Garden by Elizabeth Dole
3:02 PM - You welcome guests and make brief remarks
3:07 PM - You sign both the bill and Proclamation
3:08 PM - You pose with guests for photographer
3:10 PM - You depart Rose Garden

ATTACHMENTS: Talking points and list of participants.

3:00 p.m. THE PRESIDENT departs The Oval Office and proceeds to Oval Office steps leading to Rose Garden.

Announcement (off-stage)

THE PRESIDENT proceeds to podium.

Met by:

Mrs. Elizabeth Dole, Assistant to the
President for Public Liaison

3:01 p.m. Mrs. Elizabeth Dole introduces The
President.

Reception Guests

3:02 p.m. THE PRESIDENT makes brief remarks.

3:05 p.m. THE PRESIDENT proceeds to Ceremonial Bill Signing Table
for signing of Proclamation for National POW/MIA
Recognition Day.

Bill Signing Participants

3:10 p.m. THE PRESIDENT concludes and proceeds to The Oval
Office.

6/12/81 11:00 a.m.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 12, 1981

NATIONAL P.O.W.-M.I.A. RECOGNITION DAY, 1981

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Throughout American history our prisoners of war have been called upon to make uncommon sacrifices. In fulfilling their duty as citizens of the United States they have defended American ideals while suffering unimaginable indignities under the absolute control of the enemy. They remained steadfast even while their treatment contravened international understandings and violated elementary considerations of compassion and morality.

All Americans ought to recognize the special debt we owe to our fellow citizens who, in the act of serving our Nation, relinquished their freedom that we might enjoy the blessings of peace and liberty. Likewise, we must remember the unresolved casualties of war -- our servicemen who are still missing. The pain and bitterness of war endure for their families, relatives and friends -- and for all of us. Our Nation will continue to seek answers to the many questions that remain about their fate.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, July 17, 1981, as National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day, a day dedicated to all former American prisoners of war, to those still missing, and to their families. I urge all Americans to join in honoring those who made the uncommon sacrifice of being held captive in war, and to honor as well their loved ones who have also suffered valiantly and patiently. I also call on appropriate officials of the Federal, State and local governments, as well as private organizations, to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifth.

RONALD REAGAN

#

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 12, 1981

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE NATIONAL POW/MIA
RECOGNITION DAY PROCLAMATION
SIGNING CEREMONY

The Rose Garden

3:02 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to what I think is a very important and worthwhile signing ceremony here in the Rose Garden. I am pleased that I am going to sign a joint resolution and a proclamation designating July 17th, 1981 National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Brave men and women who have fought for our country should all know that America does remember. It's grateful and we'll always be proud of their courage and honor on the battlefield. And it's fitting that we pay this special tribute to those who so heroically endured the hardships and torture of enemy captivity -- unusual in any war in our history, because it was the longest period that American fighting men have ever been held in captivity. Just the thought of the terrible pain that they suffered and endured should be seared in our memories forever. And let us remember too, that six years after American involvement in Vietnam in the war, we still don't have a full accounting of our missing service men from that conflict -- an accounting that was guaranteed in the Paris Peace Accords that brought the fighting there to an end -- an agreement which has been violated.

Recently, there have been reports that Americans are still being held captive in Indo-China. None of these reports, I'm sorry to say, have been verified, but the world should know that this administration continues to attach the highest priority to the problem of those missing in action. We intend to seek the fullest possible account from the governments involved.

I'm grateful that we have with us here today, one of America's outstanding heroes from the Vietnam war, one of the former prisoners of war and now the Senator from Alabama, Jeremiah Denton, accompanied by his lovely wife Jane. July 17th, it is just 16 years or will be to the day that he was shot down over South East Asia. Now, lest someone think that there's a little confusion there, he was shot down on July 18th, 1965, but when it was the 18th there, on this side of the dateline, it was the 17th. Jeremiah Denton. Who will ever forget on that first night in the first plane that arrived at Clark Field in the Phillipines and he was the first man we saw come down the ramp from the plane, salute our flag, ask God's blessing on America and then thank us for bringing them home.

They're joined here by leaders of the House and Senate, many of their colleagues, Cap Hollenbeck and Bob Dornan, John LeBoutillier and Bill Herndon and John Paul Hammerschmidt and Tom Lantos from the House, and Senator Dennis DeConcini and Bob Dole along with Senator Jeremiah Denton. And now, I'm going to have the happy task of signing the proclamation and the bill.

END

3:06 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

12/11/77

Pictures sent to
Ann Griffiths
Admiral Jones +
Col. Murane

rest
sent to
Waney
Kennedy
in
Mar's
office



OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

12JU 81 C2426-10A



OFFICIAL ENTERTAINMENT
WEEKLY
WASHINGTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY
HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED FOR JULY 17, 1981
SEN. DENTON WAS SHOT DOWN IN SOUTH
EAST ASIA ON JULY 18, 1965. HOWEVER,
THE NOTIFICATION WOULD HAVE REACHED
D.C. ON JULY 17, 1965.
This is 16 years later.

This info is from Ray Adams on
Sen. Denton's staff

*Morton C.
Blackwell*

*Dave Fisher's office
said to call Max's office
given to Nancy Kennedy
at 2:20*

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REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS [W/NOTATIONS]

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

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

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PARTICIPANTS:

Members of the Board of Directors,
National League of Families of American Prisoners and
Missing in South East Asia

Col. Charles Walker, Chairman of the Board,
from Utah, MIA father

Mr. George Brooks, from New York, MIA father

Mrs. Janis Dodge, from California, POW wife

Mrs. Betty Foley, from Ohio, MIA wife

Major John Parsels, from Georgia, returned POW

Mrs. Sara Frances Shay, from Maryland, MIA mother

Mrs. Marion Shelton, from California, POW wife

Mr. Jim Poole, from Georgia, MIA son

Members of the House of Representatives Task Force
on American Prisoners and Missing in South East Asia

~~Cong. Robert Dornan, Chairman, R - CA~~

~~Cong. Benjamin Gilman, R - NY~~

~~Cong. Robert Lagomartino, R - CA~~

~~Cong. John Le Boutellier, R - NY~~

~~Cong. Bill Hendon, R - NC~~

~~Cong. Steve Solarz, D - NY~~

~~Cong. Tom Lantos, D - CA~~

~~Cong. Dan Mica, D - FL~~

~~Cong. Howard Wolpe, D - MI~~

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TAB A GUEST LIST

ANN GRIFFITH, Executive Director National League of Families
of American Prisoners and Missing in South East Asia

CAROL BATES
CHARLES WALKER
GEORGE BROOKS
JANIS DODGE
MARY FOLEY
JOHN PARSELS
SARA FRANCES SHAY
JAMES POOLE



Members of Board of Directors,
National League of Families of
American Prisoners and Missing
in South East Asia

ADMIRAL DONALD JONES, Navy, Director of East Asia Bureau,
Office of the Secretary of Defense

COL. DAVID MURANE, Air Force, Chief of Far East/ South Asia
Division, J5, Joint Chiefs of Staff

SENATOR DENNIS DE CONCINI, Co- Sponsor of the Resolution

CONGRESSMAN HAROLD HOLLENBECK, Co-Sponsor of the Resolution

SENATOR JEREMIAH DENTON and wife, JANE - former POW

CONGRESSMAN ROBERT DORNAN, Chairman of House of Representatives
Task Force on American Prisoners and
Missing in South East Asia

SENATOR ROBERT DOLE
CONGRESSMAN JOHN LE BOUTILLIER
CONGRESSMAN BILL HENDON
CONGRESSMAN JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT
CONGRESSMAN TOM LANTOS

Cong. Mel Price

ELIZABETH DOLE, Assistant to the President for Public Liaison
MAX FRIEDERSDORF, Assistant to the President for Legislative
Affairs

RICHARD ALLEN, Assistant to the President for National Security
Affairs

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TAB B GUESTS IN BILL SIGNING CEREMONY

FIRST ROW FROM STAGE LEFT TO STAGE RIGHT

ELIZABETH DOLE

SENATOR DE CONCINI

CONGRESSMAN HOLLENBECK

SENATOR DENTON

SECOND ROW FROM STAGE LEFT TO STAGE RIGHT

ANN GRIFFITH

ADMIRAL DONALD JONES

COL. DAVID MURANE

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