

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

---

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

---

**Collection:** Blackwell, Morton: Files  
**Folder Title:** POW/MIA: Correspondence  
(2 of 2)  
**Box:** 45

---

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: [reagan.library@nara.gov](mailto:reagan.library@nara.gov)

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

12/8/81

Tricia -

Congressman Lent is writing again about the POW/MIA issue and of the erroer he felt was made in sending Mr. Hagel of the VA to the recent POW/MIA Rally held here which he feels can be offset by the President or a high ranking senior WH Official meeting with Mr. Thomas E. Kaiser of the Natl League of Families and other representatives of the grups which held the rally here in Nov.

Prvious files are attached.

Mary

*Netta  
see me  
TK  
12/11*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

12/14/81

TR:

According to NSC Secretariat's file, a direct reply was recommended. They have sent to the State Dept. and are waiting for reply back.

Will send us the information when they receive.

ND

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

2/26/82

FRED:

You might want to look thru this package. Tricia has had me working on getting the recommendation from NSC Secretariat for some time.

They are so hard to reach and get an answer. You will note I have finally gotten the best answer I could from them.

ND

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Dick Childress - 3576*

Netta -

When you can, will you pls call NSC Secretariat about this - note there are several other letters from Congressman which have come in in the meantime on the POW/MIA matter.

Thanks

Mary

*Bob  
Kimmitt*

*4970  
Be back Feb. 16th*

2/16/82

Per Bob Kimmitt  
NSC Secretariat:

The National League of Families is the most responsible of the MIA/POW groups.

The best time the President could meet with them would be in connection with the signing of proclamation for POW/MIA Day usually in April. Also there is something going on in July that would be good for the President to do.

April event and July event would be the best times the President could do something with POW/MIA's.

Mr. Kimmitt told me to also check with Dick Childress who is now responsible for POW/MIA. (3576)

Dick Childress also agrees with the above recommendation. He also said that Morton Blackwell's office was working on the POW/MIA Day for April.

ND



December 2, 1981

Dear Norm:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter to the President of November 20, in which you underscored your continued concern with respect to the MIA/POW issue and the Administration's efforts to seek a full account from the governments involved.

We appreciate your serious interest in this important issue; and I have taken the liberty of sharing with the appropriate offices your recommendation that the President, or a high-ranking White House official involved in the MIA/POW issue, meet with Mr. Thomas Kaiser and other representatives of the groups which held the recent rally here in Washington. You may be assured that the concerns you have expressed will be afforded close and careful consideration.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf  
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Norman F. Lent  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

MLF:CMF:asr

cc: w/copy of inc, NSC Secretariat - for appropriate action.

cc: w/copy of inc, Greg Newell - for appropriate action.

WH RECORDS MGMT WILL RETAIN ORIGINAL INCOMING.



Dg.

ID # 050037  
VA

### WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING  
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 8/11/25

Name of Correspondent: Norman F. Lent

MI Mail Report      User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Request that the President, or a high ranking senior White House official involved in the MIA-POW issue, meet with Mr. Thomas Kaiser and other representatives of the MIA-POW group.

ROUTE TO: Office/Agency (Staff Name)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>LA Frie</u>	ORIGINATOR <sup>CH</sup>	<u>8/11/25</u>	<u>MF</u>	<u>A 8/12/01</u> <sup>CH</sup>
<u>NS SECRETARIAT</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>8/12/02</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>SC NEWE</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>8/12/02</u>		<u>1 1</u>
		<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
		<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>

**ACTION CODES:**

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

**DISPOSITION CODES:**

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

**FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.  
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).  
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.  
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.



**NORMAN F. LENT**  
4TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2228 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-7896

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
BALDWIN PLAZA BUILDING  
ROOM 300, 2280 GRAND AVENUE  
BALDWIN, NEW YORK 11510  
TELEPHONE: (516) 223-1616

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

November 20, 1981

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
AND COMMERCE**  
**SUBCOMMITTEES:**  
**COMMERCE, TRANSPORTATION,  
AND TOURISM**  
**OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS**  
**COMMITTEE ON  
MERCHANT MARINE AND  
FISHERIES**  
**SUBCOMMITTEES:**  
**PANAMA CANAL AND OUTER  
CONTINENTAL SHELF**  
**COAST GUARD AND NAVIGATION**

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20002

050037

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you directly because I feel strongly that you should be personally aware of what I regard as a serious lack of understanding on the part of some of your subordinates on a major issue of public concern. A lack of understanding which is causing a serious erosion of trust and confidence in your Administration among American veterans.

On the first of this month, several thousand veterans gathered in a rally in Washington in support of the more than two thousand American servicemen still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia. I, and several other Members of the Congress, had requested that the leaders of the group meet with you, or with one of your assistants involved in the efforts to get the communist regimes in Southeast Asia to account for these missing men. We asked that the meeting be held in the White House to demonstrate to the assembled veterans the serious concern of the Reagan Administration in this issue.

Unfortunately, the White House appointments official in charge totally misunderstood the nature of the rally. The official dispatched Mr. Charles Hagel, Deputy Administrator of Veterans Affairs for the Veterans Administration. Mr. Hagel spoke to the group and made a most able effort to convey to them your interest and concern in this issue.

The problem was that just about everyone attending the rally was fully aware that the Veterans Administration has no direct involvement whatsoever in the MIA/POW issue. There was audible muttering and grumbling among the crowd despite Mr. Hagel's efforts to reassure the veterans present. I believe it was a serious error to dispatch Mr. Hagel to this rally.

However, I feel that the adverse reaction which was produced by this error can be countered, if your Administration would agree to a meeting with the leaders of this rally. One of them, a good friend and fellow Long Islander, Mr. Thomas Kaiser, had previously sought a meeting with you on this matter. I believe it would be in the best interests of your Administration if you, or a high ranking senior White House official involved in the MIA/POW issue would meet with Mr. Kaiser and other representatives of the groups which held the rally earlier this month.

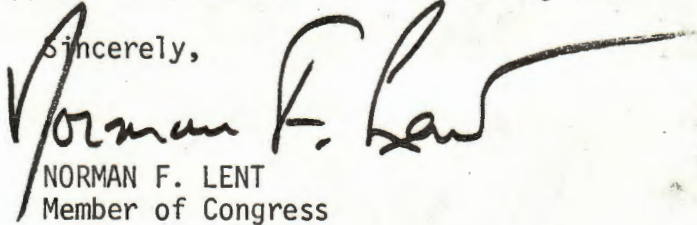
It would go a long way toward reassuring these leaders that the Reagan Administration is reversing the do-nothing attitude of the Carter Administration,

The President  
November 20, 1981  
Page 2

and is actively pursuing avenues to bring to the families of the missing Americans some definite word as to their fate.

Please believe that this intrusion upon your crowded schedule is offered in the hope of adding to the strength of support of your Administration, which I firmly believe is forging a bright, new future for our great Nation. You can be assured of my continued support for your efforts in this regard.

Sincerely,



NORMAN F. LENT  
Member of Congress

NFL/cr



"Copy"

ID # 030172

PROOF

WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 8106124

Name of Correspondent: Norman F. Lent

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: writes on behalf of Mr. Thomas E. Kaiser, a leader in the cause of the American service men still unaccounted for in South East Asia, requesting an appointment with the President.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>LA Frie</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>8106124</u>	<u>Inf</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>810709</u>
<u>SCNEWENwell</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>810715</u>	<u>es</u>	<u>SN</u>	<u>810825</u>
_____	_____	<u>1 1</u>	_____	_____	<u>1 1</u>
_____	_____	<u>1 1</u>	_____	_____	<u>1 1</u>
_____	_____	<u>1 1</u>	_____	_____	<u>1 1</u>

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.  
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOP).  
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.  
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.



August 25, 1981

Dear Mr. Lent:

Max Friedersdorf has recently brought to my attention your continued interest in a meeting between the President and Mr. Thomas E. Kaiser of the National League of Families.

I wish that I could be more encouraging, but due to the President's heavy fall schedule, I simply do not foresee an opportunity for the President to personally meet with representatives of the National League of Families.

Nonetheless, we will continue to hold your letter and then get back with you should an opportunity arise when he could comply with your request.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Newell  
Special Assistant  
to the President

The Honorable Norman F. Lent  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: Max Friedersdorf  
GJN:emb-32b



July 9, 1981

Dear Norm:

I would like to thank you for your June 22 letter requesting a meeting with President Reagan for your constituent, Mr. Thomas B. Kaiser, and other representatives of the National League of Families.

Please be assured that I have directed your correspondence to the attention of the President's Scheduling Office for every consideration. I am sure you will be notified as soon as a decision can be made.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf  
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Norman F. Lent  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

MLF:CMP:MDB

cc: w/copy of incoming to Greg Newell - for further action

CENTRAL FILES: PLEASE RETAIN ORIGINAL INCOMING



NORMAN F. LENT  
4TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE  
AND FOREIGN COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE:  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

COMMITTEE ON  
MERCHANT MARINE AND  
FISHERIES

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
OCEANOGRAPHY  
COAST GUARD AND NAVIGATION

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

DISTRICT OFFICE  
BALDWIN PLAZA BUILDING  
ROOM 300, 2280 GRAND AVENUE  
BALDWIN, NEW YORK 11510  
TELEPHONE: AREA 516-223-1616

ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2228 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
TELEPHONE: AREA 202-225-7896

June 22, 1981

REGRET

DATE / Aug 81  
MPC

030172

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

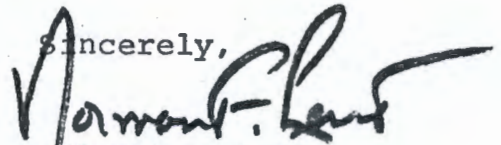
Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you again in an effort to arrange an appointment with you for a constituent of mine, Mr. Thomas E. Kaiser. Mr. Kaiser is a nationally-known leader in the cause of the American servicemen still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

Following an earlier request<sup>\*</sup>, I was informed that a meeting at that time was not possible, because your schedule was filled. In the intervening time, it is my hope that you may now, having resumed your full work schedule, be able to find a few minutes to meet with Mr. Kaiser and other representatives of the National League of Families and the United Veterans Organization which he is so active in supporting.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



NORMAN F. LENT  
Member of Congress

NFL/omr

*X see file reached*



*John*

"Copy"

March 13, 1981

013063  
1240

MG: PR007  
ND016  
CO. 172  
FG006-12  
ND007-01

Dear Mr. Lent:

*quest for*

Thank you for your letter expressing an interest in a meeting between the President and a <sup>X</sup>Coalition of Veterans working with the National League of Families of MIAs and <sup>X</sup>POWS.

Very regrettably, due to heavy demands on the President's schedule we will not be able to arrange a meeting at this time. However, particular notation is being made of the request and if an opportunity arises we will get back to you.

Respectfully,

Gregory J. Newell  
Special Assistant  
to the President

X

The Honorable Norman F. Lent  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

GJN:SAP:ds--

cc: Dick Allen ✓

9

NSA # 8116587



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

0587  
*Allen*

February 27, 1981

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: GREGORY J. NEWELL  
FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN *RVA*  
SUBJECT: Scheduling Request by Congressman Lent

I recommend that you regret Congressman Lent's scheduling request on behalf of "a Coalition of Veterans working with the National League of Families of the MIA/POWs" (Tab A). We understand from the League of Families that its Board of Directors intends to request a late-April meeting with the President, and I believe it better for the President to deal directly with the League's leadership and not ancillary groups.

Attachment



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

FEBRUARY 17, 1981

TO: RICHARD V. ALLEN ✓  
MAX FRIEDERSDORF  
FROM: GREGORY J. NEWELL  
VIA: PATRICIA A.E. RODGERS  
SUBJ: SCHEDULING REQUEST

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION AND COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Event: MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF THE MIAS/POWS,

Date: OPEN

Location: THE WHITE HOUSE

Background: CONGRESSMAN LENT OF NEW YORK HAS ASKED THAT THE PRESIDENT MEET WITH THIS LEAGUE TO DISCUSS THEIR SITUATION AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO CORRECT IT.

SEE ATTACHED CORRESPONDENCE.

NOTE: RETURN REQUESTED BY FEBRUARY 20, 1981

RECOMMEND ACCEPT

RECOMMEND REGRET

COMMENTS:



MEMORANDUM

0587 *af*

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

February 19, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: RICHARD V. ALLEN  
FROM: ROBERT M. KIMMITT *Bob*  
SUBJECT: Scheduling Request by Congressman Lent

Congressman Lent of New York requests that the President meet with a "Coalition of Veterans working with the National League of Families of the MIA/POWs" (Tab A). I recommend against such a meeting.

As you are aware from the briefing we received, now is a particularly inauspicious time to generate national publicity on this issue. Further, Ann Griffiths, Deputy Director of the League of Families, told me yesterday that she does not believe a meeting with the President would be productive at this point, but that the League's Board of Directors may request time with the President during their annual meeting in late April. Also, there apparently is some strain in the relationship between the League of Families and the Coalition of Veterans, and I believe it better to deal directly with the League and not ancillary groups.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum at Tab I, which recommends against scheduling the meeting requested by Congressman Lent.

SIGNED  
2/22/81

Attachment

cc: Jim Lilley



NORMAN F. LENT  
4th DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE  
AND FOREIGN COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE:  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

COMMITTEE ON  
MERCHANT MARINE AND  
FISHERIES

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
OCEANOGRAPHY  
COAST GUARD AND NAVIGATION

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

February 11, 1981

DISTRICT OFFICE  
BALDWIN PLAZA BUILDING  
ROOM 300, 2280 GRAND AVENUE  
BALDWIN, NEW YORK 11510  
TELEPHONE: AREA 516-223-1616

ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
WASHINGTON OFFICE  
2228 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
TELEPHONE: AREA 202-225-7896

013063

The President

Attn: Mr. Gregory Newell, Special

Assistant to the President for Scheduling

The White House

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

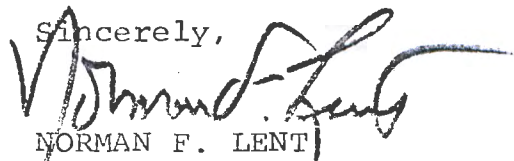
It is difficult for me to seek to add to the heavy demands on your time as you get your new policies and programs under way. But I feel that the matter I bring to your attention is of sufficient importance to you and to the success of your Administration to make this request necessary.

In the midst of the joyous homecoming for the 52 Americans who had been held hostage in Iran, there seemed to be little thought given to the more than 2,000 American servicemen who have been Missing in Action or Prisoners of War for years in Southeast Asia, with their fate still unknown. They, and their long-suffering families, are, in truth, still being held hostage by the communist government of Vietnam.

A Coalition of Veterans working with the National League of Families of the MIA/POWs would like to meet with you to discuss this deplorable situation and what can be done to correct it. I am acquainted with the Chairman of this group, Mr. Thomas E. Kaiser, the National Coordinator. He resides on my native Long Island, and I have worked with him for a number of years to resolve this problem. A meeting with the officials of this Coalition, would, I believe be most helpful to you and to your Administration in furthering a better understanding of your policies and plans in this area.

Your favorable consideration of this meeting is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,



NORMAN F. LENT

RECEIVED 18 FEB 81 16

TO PRES

FROM LENT, NORMAN F

DOC DATE 11 FEB 81

KEYWORDS: POWS  
MIAS

AP

KAISER, THOMAS E

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPT W/ PRES FOR NATL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF MIA/POWS

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FM ALLEN TO NEWEL DUE: 21 FEB 81 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

KIMMITT

LILLEY

JOHNSON

FARRAR

*MF*

COMMENTS

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

( L / )

ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

*Allen*

*X 9/a*  
*C 2/27*

*for signature*  
*RVA ml memo*

*W/ky CF -*  
*REC'D INDEX*

DISPATCH

*MB 2/27*

*8:00p*

W ATTCH

FILE

*WH (C) MB*



"Copy"

3

August 25, 1981

Dear Mrs. Lippert:

I wish to thank you for your letter on behalf of the National League of Families.

Although the President would like to have the opportunity to meet with your Executive Director, Mr. Kaiser, due to prior commitments and the additional heavy demands on his schedule for the remainder of this year, he will be unable to comply with your request.

We have, however, been corresponding with Congressman Norman F. Lent, in this regard and have told him that should an opportunity arise for such a meeting we will certainly let both of you know.

We appreciate your interest and concern.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Newell  
Special Assistant  
to the President

X  
Mrs. Dorothy Lippert  
Rural Route 1, Box 142A  
Moweaqua, IL 62550


cc: Morton Blackwell (OEOB)  
GJN:emb-32b

9

5

600-6  
cc M. ...

# We are alive! ... don't forget us!



National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in S. E. Asia - Illinois Chapter  
Dorothy Bodden, Coordinator - 5767 Walnut Ave. - Downers Grove, Ill. - 60515 - (312) 739-7711, ext. 3701  
Even. (312) 968-9392

Scheduling  
President Ronald Reagan  
President of the United States  
Washington D.C.

August 3, 1981

Dear Mr. President:

My congratulations on your courage, skill and wisdom to endeavor to make this Country again a free and strong land! I appreciate your untiring efforts on behalf of all of us. You and your Administration are daily in our prayers.

Thank you for the DOD National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony at the Pentagon on July 17, 1981. The whole group of the Families of the National League POW/MIA were greatly disappointed, though, that you were unable to attend the Pentagon Ceremony or the ensuing Meeting of the National League to signal Hanoi that at last we stood behind our brave men who had fought and given their lives for their Country, and for some who yet were alive and held in slavery by Vietnam.

Through all the Presidents - Johnson through Carter - there has not been an Executive Policy from the "top" to ensure that every effort be used to rescue and account for Americans left behind (and still living) at the end of the Vietnam War. It cannot be stressed enough that live sightings and intelligence data show these men alive but dying from the years of inhumane treatment. We don't need another Liberal Committee or Congressional Junket to report Hanoi's lies that all the Americans have been returned to the U.S. Won't you be the President to rightfully finish the task with swift rescue of these men? It would go so far toward your goal of our Nation again being a strong and righteous Nation!

Please, with all respect for my U.S. Government, do not depend on Departments of State or such for an answer. Their excuses and "line" have been the same for over 14 years since my son, a USMC Sergeant, was shot down in 1967! He was declared dead by President Carter without proof in 1980! At the National League of Families Meeting, I heard the same meaningless phrases from the State Dept. as I did on my first Washington trip in 1969!

With all my heart, I request on behalf of my fellow mothers, fathers, wives and children, that you make this a PRIORITY TASK to bring these so-long forgotten Americans home. For further update, will you kindly meet with the Executive Director or Board of Directors of the National League of Families (in Washington D.C.) at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

*Dorothy Lippert*  
Mrs. Dorothy (Bodden) Lippert  
R. R. #1, Box 142A, Moweaqua, IL 62550  
Former, ILL Coordinator for National League  
of Families POW/MIA

Enclosure





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

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

*file*  
←

*Sent to  
Tony Dolan  
for use in  
speech*

December 2, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell  
Office of Public Liaison  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Morton:

A suggestion has been made by several individuals concerning dedication of the 1981 National Christmas Tree to those still missing from the Vietnam War.

In discussing the subject with Kathy Christiansen, she mentioned that several calls had been received requesting that red ribbons honoring those still missing be used in decorating the tree, and suggested that I draft a statement for consideration. The statement follows:

"This time last year, the nation's Christmas tree was dedicated to the Americans being held hostage in Iran. I know I express the sentiments of all in being thankful for their release in January, 1981.

This year, we are dedicating our beautiful living Christmas tree to all American servicemen and civilians whose fate remains unknown as a result of the war in Southeast Asia. Nearly 2,500 Americans are still missing as a result of that tragic conflict.

I pledge to their families and friends and to all citizens of our country that this Administration will devote maximum effort to obtaining the release of any Americans still held captive and assign high priority to achieving the fullest possible accounting for those still missing."

Whether red ribbons are utilized in decorating is another question, particularly since numerous colors are currently in use to honor POW/MIAs. We appreciate your willingness to consider this request.

Sincerely,

Ann Mills Griffiths  
Executive Director

Rec'd 11/25

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TO:

*Greg Nevel*

FROM:

MICHAEL K. DEAVER  
Assistant to the President  
Deputy Chief of Staff

Information

Action





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

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

REGRET  
DATE 11/27  
TR

November 24, 1981

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President

On Sunday, December 13, the National League of Families, with the assistance of the Military District of Washington, will host a Christmas candlelight service in honor of American servicemen and civilians who remain missing in Indochina.

We would be honored to have you and Mrs. Reagan join the POW/MIA families from the greater Washington, D. C., area at the four o'clock p.m. service at Ft. Myer Post Chapel.

I hope you will be able to be with us and look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

Ann Mills Griffiths  
Executive Director

①

December 4, 1981

Dear Mrs. Griffiths:

This is with reference to the letter you addressed to the President, dated November 24th and sent to him through Mr. Deaver, inviting him and Mrs. Reagan to join the POW/MIA families from the greater Washington, D.C., area at the Christmas candlelight service on Sunday afternoon, December 13, at Ft. Myer Post Chapel honoring American servicemen and civilians who remain missing in Indochina.

Most regrettably, a previous schedule commitment will not make it possible for the President and the First Lady to be with you for this special service. They do want you and all those in whose behalf you wrote to know, though, they appreciate your thoughtfulness and send you their very best wishes.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Newell  
Special Assistant  
to the President

+

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

Inf. copy to Mr. Deaver

Inf. copy to Nina Wormser

GJN:MHR:ds--

7





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

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

November 24, 1981

Mrs. Kathy Christiansen  
134 Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Kathy

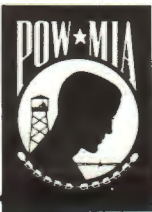
On Sunday, December 13, the National League of Families, with the assistance of the Military District of Washington, will host a Christmas candlelight service in honor of American servicemen and civilians who remain missing in Indochina.

We would be honored to have you join the POW/MIA families from the greater Washington, D. C., area at the four o'clock service at Ft. Myer Post Chapel.

I hope you will be able to be with us and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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 (202) 223-6846

November 24, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell  
134 Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20500

*regret*  
*called*  
*Dec. 13*

Dear Morton

On Sunday, December 13, the National League of Families, with the assistance of the Military District of Washington, will host a Christmas candlelight service in honor of American servicemen and civilians who remain missing in Indochina.

We would be honored to have you and Mrs. Blackwell join the POW/MIA families from the greater Washington, D. C., area at the four o'clock p.m. service at Ft. Myer Post Chapel.

I hope you will be able to be with us and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ann Mills Griffiths  
Executive Director



Filed 10/13/81

# "NEVER ASKED"

The Theme for the POWs and MIAs  
A Thank You for All Veterans

There are over 2500 Americans still missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia at this time. Recent testimony before Congress has alerted our Country to this terrible tragedy.

On July 17th there will be ceremonies for POW's, MIA's and their families in Washington, D.C. so that the on-going effort by the National League of Families can get needed Government support for getting our soldiers back home.

"Never Asked", a song written by Fred Travalena and Sandy Shire, was performed in Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. for the returned Hostages from Iran, the 2500 still held prisoner, and a long over-due thank you for all those Americans who served in Vietnam and all wars that were Never Asked.

This song was later performed by Travalena on such national television shows as the John Davidson Show and The Easter Seal Telethon. Over the Memorial Day weekend this year, thirty-five radio stations across the country played "Never Asked" to help this cause. As a result, this record has been pressed and I hope that you will play this song and read these facts on your show between now and July 17th, all patriotic holidays, or whenever you want so that more people can be aware of this enormous problem.

SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE INCLUDES:  
FROM:

- Over 300 live sitings
- The Boat People
- Marine Sergeant Garwood
- Raid into Laos
- Satelite Photos
- Conversations from Vietnam Leaders
- Private negotiations for release of prisoners.

TRAVLO PRODUCTIONS, INC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE POW's and MIA's CONTACT:

X  
Ann Mills Griffith  
X National League of Families of  
American Prisoners & Missing in Southeast Asia  
1608 K Street N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 30006  
(202) 223-6846

Enclosures filed in  
Overleaf Attachments #

2239





*POW/MIA*

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

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

October 29, 1981

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

This Sunday, November 1st, a group of some 1,000 patriotic Americans, primarily members of several national veterans organizations, will be holding a march and rally in support of your efforts to resolve the fate of the 2,500 servicemen and civilians who remain missing in Indochina. The National League of POW/MIA Families supports this event as a means to draw public attention to this important issue.

It is our hope that you or your personal representative will meet briefly with the group at their 1:00 p.m. rally in Lafayette Park. We appreciate your personal commitment to securing a return of any living POWs and an accounting for the missing and feel the rally would provide an appropriate opportunity for you to publicly reiterate that commitment.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Respectfully,

Ann Mills Griffiths  
Executive Director

AMG/cb

*Chuck Hagel  
will represent the Administration.  
Melanie - 7500 - Leg. Affairs -  
is calling Congressmen*



COMMITTEES:  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
POSTAL PERSONNEL AND  
MODERNIZATION  
HUMAN RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY  
AND TRADE  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

USMA BOARD OF VISITORS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
NARCOTICS ABUSE AND  
CONTROL

October 21, 1981

*MF*

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

045176

Dear President Reagan:

On November 1, a dedicated group of Americans are planning a rally at Lafayette Park across from the White House to call attention to the issue of Americans still missing in action. Many of my constituents will be travelling to Washington to attend this rally, and express their concern about the fate of the 2500 Americans who never returned from Vietnam.

I hope that you consider attending this rally, or sending a high level representative from the White House to meet with the people who have worked hard to secure the release of Americans from Southeast Asia. Many of them have collected signatures on petitions which could be presented to Members of the Administration at that time--- a gesture which would be deeply appreciated.

The marchers should arrive at Lafayette Park at about 1 p.m. and I am certain that representation by the White House would be deeply welcomed.

I look forward to your response.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN  
Member of Congress

BAG:cmh

*2657  
M. Blackwell*

*5-3776  
Katharine Harnett*

PLEASE REPLY TO:

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2160 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3778

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
44 EAST AVENUE  
MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK 10940  
TELEPHONE: (914) 343-6666

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
NEWBURGH, NEW YORK 12550  
TELEPHONE: (914) 565-6400

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
223 ROUTE 59  
MONSEY, NEW YORK 10952  
TELEPHONE: (914) 357-9000

We are here  
God took the rest of

**We Want to Live!!!**



100 to 200,000  
Drowned or  
Killed in  
Gulf of

**HELP BOAT PEOPLE!**

at the Italian food  
market, during Campaign

Pres. Jimmy Carter said to  
me in Phila "in fact, there  
still may be some out there"  
M.A.S. POWs.



file  
MIA

J. M. J.

Personal

Mr. Morton Blackwell  
White House Public Liaison Office  
Dear Mr. Blackwell.

You was a real booster  
to our M.I.A. Cause. I really enjoyed  
meeting you and having you write  
such a nice note concerning your  
close relationship with Bob Dornay  
and the League of Families - I would  
appreciate any information on our  
Missing in Action and Prisoners of  
War

I wish I could receive either  
a picture of the Pres & Mother Theresa  
or a news clipping from the White House

We were fortunate to have  
Father Patrick Peyton of Family Theatre  
at our home and he will be with  
Mother Theresa and Parolitto.

I hope that the petitions  
arrive at the white House - It  
means so much to all of those  
who worked so hard -

May God Bless you  
John & Rose Hurchalla  
Family

ask for  
photo  
& send  
it. ↑  
OK  
9/14

Please  
answer -

John & Rose Hurchalla  
112 Garfield Ave  
Woodlyn, Pa. 19094



August 25, 1981

Dear Mrs. Lippert:

I wish to thank you for your letter on behalf of the National League of Families.

Although the President would like to have the opportunity to meet with your Executive Director, Mr. Kaiser, due to prior commitments and the additional heavy demands on his schedule for the remainder of this year, he will be unable to comply with your request.

We have, however, been corresponding with Congressman Norman F. Lent, in this regard and have told him that should an opportunity arise for such a meeting we will certainly let both of you know.

We appreciate your interest and concern.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Newell  
Special Assistant  
to the President

X  
Mrs. Dorothy Lippert  
Rural Route 1, Box 142A  
Moweaqua, IL 62550

cc: Morton Blackwell (OEOB)  
GJN:emb-32b

9



## THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES

Incorporated in the District of Columbia on May 28, 1970, the National League of Families is comprised of the wives, children, parents and other close relatives of American prisoners of war and missing in action and returned Vietnam POWs. Located in The American Legion building, the League is a non-profit, non-political, tax-exempt organization, financed by the families themselves and by contributions from concerned citizens. The organization's objectives are to obtain the release of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for the MIAs, and the return of remains of those who died serving their country.

### YOU CAN HELP

The families of those unaccounted for have waited for many years, most for more than a decade, to receive word on their missing loved ones. The unified support of a concerned America may be the catalyst necessary to help end that uncertainty.

You can assist by contacting your elected representatives, the President and the Secretaries of State and Defense, expressing your concern over the fate of Americans missing as a result of the war in Indochina. Your help is urgently needed!

---

### ORDER FORM

I want to help the League's efforts to return the men still held captive in Indochina and gain an accounting for those missing. Enclosed is my donation for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ League logo pins at \$3.00 each (two for \$5.00).

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ POW/MIA bracelets at \$2.50 each.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ bumper stickers at 50 cents each.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

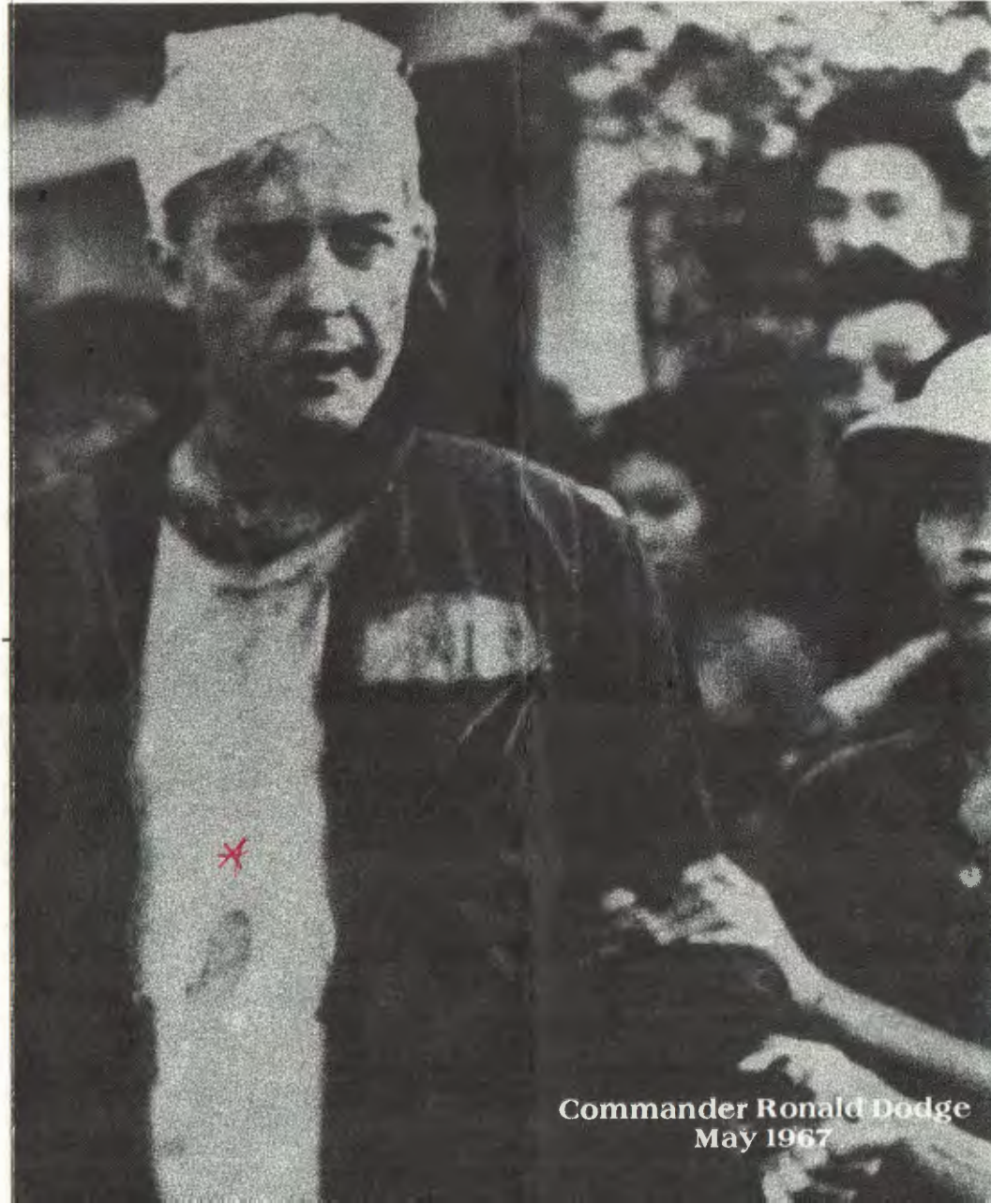
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**The National League of POW/MIA Families**

1608 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

# American POWs are Alive in Indochina



Commander Ronald Dodge  
May 1967

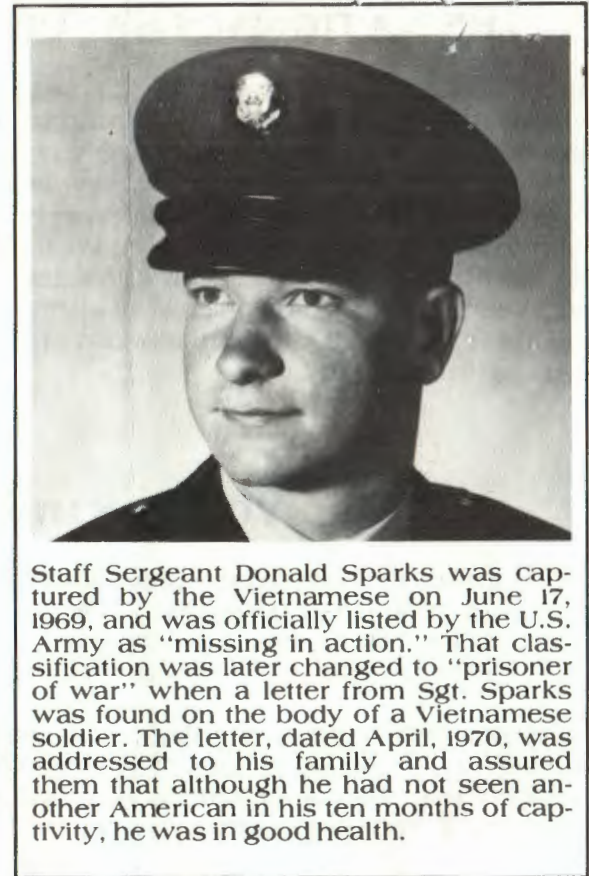


# Hanoi Withholds POW/MIA Information

Over eight years ago, at the end of formal U.S. military involvement in Southeast Asia, over 1,400 American servicemen and civilians remained officially listed as prisoners of war (POW) or missing in action (MIA), with some 1,200 listed as killed in action, body not recovered. Since that time, due primarily to the determination of the families and a nucleus of concerned citizens and dedicated Congressmen, the Vietnamese have been persuaded to provide information on about 75 of these men. Some 2,500 remain unaccounted for and the communist governments of Indochina have steadfastly denied holding additional American prisoners and have refused to provide information on those whose fate remains unknown.

The families of the missing are not so unrealistic as to believe that all the men are alive or that information is available on each individual, but neither are they so naive as to believe that an accounting can not be made for a substantial number of the missing. Department of Defense statistical data indicates an accounting is possible for more than half of the missing men. In numerous cases, pilots were known to have successfully ejected from their planes and to have landed in populated areas. In other instances, the communists announced the capture of men who were never released.

Vietnam claims to be searching for information on the missing; however, the sincerity of their claim is dubious since recent substantiated intelligence information indicates they are secretly holding, in Hanoi, the remains of over 400 Americans.



Staff Sergeant Donald Sparks was captured by the Vietnamese on June 17, 1969, and was officially listed by the U.S. Army as "missing in action." That classification was later changed to "prisoner of war" when a letter from Sgt. Sparks was found on the body of a Vietnamese soldier. The letter, dated April, 1970, was addressed to his family and assured them that although he had not seen another American in his ten months of captivity, he was in good health.



Air Force Colonel David Hrdlicka's plane went down in Northern Laos on May 18, 1965. Peking's New China News Agency broadcast a report quoting a Pathet Lao spokesman announcing the capture of Col. Hrdlicka. The following year, the Pathet Lao broadcast a letter which was attributed to Hrdlicka, wherein he discussed the war and his eagerness to see his wife and children. Several months later, in August 1966, the Moscow daily newspaper, Pravda, ran this photo of David Hrdlicka.

*\* The remains of Commander Dodge, were sent back recently - Unidentified. The family will never know how or when he died - 1967 or 1981 - But Hanoi knows and used this cruel method to taunt his family!*

## Evidence of Live Americans

The influx of Indochinese refugees into this country over the past few years has brought convincing new evidence that the Vietnamese and Lao continue to hold Americans in captivity. The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) is currently investigating over 325 first hand reports pertaining to men still held captive; some sightings are as recent as last year.

As a result, U.S. government policies and attitudes are changing. Where for many years official statements claimed a lack of credible evidence that men were still alive, new government policy reflects the increasing reports indicating some Americans are still in captivity. According to the Director of DIA, all of the intelligence collection disciplines are now being brought to bear on locating POWs. Reconnaissance photography reportedly shows POWs held in various locations throughout Indochina.

One sighting report received by the League of Families includes information that in 1978, some 30 American POWs were held in three closely separated camps in Thanh Hoa, Vietnam. The source stated, "The POWs I saw were very thin and were covered with scabies. They were just skin and bones. The Americans were forced to carry wood from the forests and they often fell down. Sometimes they were beaten by the guards."

Another refugee provided detailed physical descriptions of five men whom he was told were American pilots. These men were held in a cave near Vienxay, Laos. The source of the report was kept tied up near the cave for over a month, in 1976, and was able to observe the captive servicemen.





# We are alive! ... don't forget us!

600-6  
cc Martin Blasing

National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in S. E. Asia - Illinois Chapter  
Dorothy Bodden, Coordinator - 5707 Walnut Ave. - Downers Grove, Ill. - 60515 - (312) 739-7711, ext. 3701  
Even. (312) 968-9302

Scheduling

President Ronald Reagan  
President of the United States  
Washington D.C.

August 3, 1981

Dear Mr. President:

My congratulations on your courage, skill and wisdom to endeavor to make this Country again a free and strong land! I appreciate your untiring efforts on behalf of all of us. You and your Administration are daily in our prayers.

Thank you for the DOD National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony at the Pentagon on July 17, 1981. The whole group of the Families of the National League POW/MIA were greatly disappointed, though, that you were unable to attend the Pentagon Ceremony or the ensuing Meeting of the National League to signal Hanoi that at last we stood behind our brave men who had fought and given their lives for their Country, and for some who yet were alive and held in slavery by Vietnam.

Through all the Presidents - Johnson through Carter - there has not been an Executive Policy from the "top" to ensure that every effort be used to rescue and account for Americans left behind (and still living) at the end of the Vietnam War. It cannot be stressed enough that live sightings and intelligence data show these men alive but dying from the years of inhumane treatment. We don't need another Liberal Committee or Congressional Junket to report Hanoi's lies that all the Americans have been returned to the U.S. Won't you be the President to rightfully finish the task with swift rescue of these men? It would go so far toward your goal of our Nation again being a strong and righteous Nation!

Please, with all respect for my U.S. Government, do not depend on Departments of State or such for an answer. Their excuses and "line" have been the same for over 14 years since my son, a USMC Sergeant, was shot down in 1967! He was declared dead by President Carter without proof in 1980! At the National League of Families Meeting, I heard the same meaningless phrases from the State Dept. as I did on my first Washington trip in 1969!

With all my heart, I request on behalf of my fellow mothers, fathers, wives and children, that you make this a PRIORITY TASK to bring these so-long forgotten Americans home. For further update, will you kindly meet with the Executive Director or Board of Directors of the National League of Families (in Washington, D.C.) at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,  
*Dorothy Lippert*  
Mrs. Dorothy (Bodden) Lippert  
R. R. #1, Box 142A, Moweaqua, IL 62550  
Former, ILL Coordinator for National League  
of Families POW/MIA

Enclosure



... don't forget us!  
We are alive!



Form 100-10 (Rev. 1-25-60)  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

August 2, 1981

Copy of this file sent to M. Chubb 12-8-81 *W*

President Ronald Reagan  
President of the United States  
Washington, D.C.  
Dear Mr. President:

My congratulations on your courage, skill and wisdom to endeavor to make this Country again a free and strong land. I appreciate your continuing efforts on behalf of all of us. You and your Administration are truly in our hearts.

Thank you for the T.O.P. National POW/MIA Report on the Partisan of the Partisan on July 17, 1981. The whole issue of the National League POW/MIA was greatly disappointed, though that you were unable to attend the Partisan of the Partisan meeting of the National League to stand with them that at least we stood behind and gave them the help for their lives for their Country, and for some who were alive and held in slavery by Vietnam.

Thank you for the President's decision through Carter there has not been an Executive Policy from the "top" to ensure that every effort be made to rescue and account for missing POW/MIA (and still living) at the end of the Vietnam War. It cannot be stressed enough that five millions and millions of lives show these men alive but living from the years of inhuman treatment. We don't need another Congressional or Congressional report to report that the fact that the men have been returned to the U.S. We don't need the President to tightly finish the book with all the issues of these men? It would be so far toward your goal of our Nation again being a strong and righteous Nation!

Please allow me to say for the U.S. Government, to not demand on the part of State or each for our country. Their courage and lives have been the same for over 14 years since the end of the Vietnam War. It was decided by President Carter without trial in 1971. At the National League of Families I heard the same message again from the State Dept. as I did on my first visit to Washington in 1981.

With all my heart, I request on behalf of my fellow mothers, fathers, wives and children that you make this a POW/MIA day to show these so-long forgotten American boys. For further action, will you please let the Executive Director or Board of Directors of the National League of Families in Washington, D.C. at your earliest convenience.

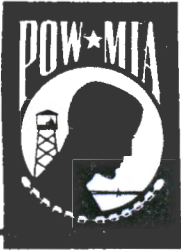
Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*

U.S. P.O. Box 1000, Chicago, IL 60680  
Former, III. Council for National League  
of Families POW/MIA

Enclosure





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

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

---

June 30, 1981

Honorable Elizabeth Dole  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Dole:

Thank you and the members of your staff for initiating action on the proclamation signing ceremony which resulted in establishing July 17 as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Kathy Christiansen did an excellent job of working quickly and efficiently. The POW/MIA families welcomed this visably supportive gesture by President Reagan.

The National League of Families will be holding its 12th Annual Meeting July 16-19, 1981, at Stouffer's National Center Hotel. A letter has been sent to the President, (copy enclosed) requesting that he either address the POW/MIA families at the annual dinner, July 18, or participate in National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies at the Pentagon July 17. Of course it is preferable that he attend the annual dinner; however, if he is unable to do so, it is hoped he would designate Vice President Bush, Secretary Haig or Secretary Weinberger. Your assistance in ensuring this request reaches the proper lever for consideration would be deeply appreciated.

In conjunction with the 12th Annual Meeting, concerned citizens and veterans organizations throughout the country have been collecting signatures on petitions, such as the one enclosed, in support of the President's efforts to effect the fullest possible accounting for the POWs and MIAs. The petitions are to be turned over to the President, or his personal representative, on National POW/MIA Recognition Day. It is our hope that you will agree to accept the petitions in his behalf.

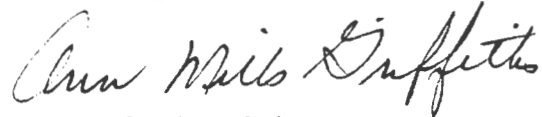
An appropriate time would be Friday, July 17, at the beginning of the State and Defense Department panel discussion, which is set for 2:00 p.m. At that time, several hundred families, concerned citizens and representatives of the major national veterans organizations will be present.

Honorable Elizabeth Dole  
June 30, 1981

Page 2

Again, thank you for your efforts on the proclamation signing ceremony. I shall look forward to hearing from you in regard to the proposed annual meeting activities.

Respectfully,



Ann Mills Griffiths  
Executive Director

AMG/cb

enclosures

✓ bcc Morton Blackwell





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

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

June 5, 1981

The President.  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The National League of Families' 12th Annual Meeting will be held July 17 - 19, 1981, at Stouffer's National Center Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

Several activities will take place in conjunction with the meeting, including ceremonies at the Pentagon to commemorate National POW/MIA Recognition Day, July 17, 1981.

It is our hope that you will honor the POW/MIA families by speaking at our annual dinner, Saturday, July 18, at 7:30 p.m. It would be our pleasure to have you and Mrs. Reagan as our guests for the evening.

In view of the critical status of this issue, it is most important that your long-standing interest in and support of our efforts be reiterated and enforced. The families have been told for over a year that the U.S. government is applying necessary resources to resolve the problem. They will be in Washington to see and hear, for themselves, the results of this past year's U.S. government efforts.

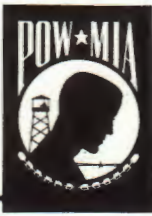
Should you be unable to attend the dinner, we would welcome your participation at any point during the meeting or the National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies at the Pentagon. This visible support would be extremely meaningful to the families who have waited so many years for high priority, objective U.S. government effort to resolve their uncertainty.

Respectfully,

*Ann Mills Griffiths*  
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 (202) 223-6846

*file  
pow/MIA*

June 15, 1981

Ms. Kathy Christiansen  
Office of Public Liaison  
134 Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Kathy:

In behalf of Ann Griffiths and the families of the prisoners and missing men, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your assistance in making Friday's signing ceremony a success. Most certainly, without your hard work and dedication, the event might never have taken place.

The members of our Board of Directors in attendance were heartened to know the President will not let the missing men be forgotten and will work toward an accounting. From the reaction we have received so far, the families around the nation are extremely pleased to see the President demonstrate his active interest and support for the POW/MIAs.

As you requested, I am enclosing a list of persons who could make use of the President's proclamation. These people include League leaders from around the country, pertinent Defense Department officials and representatives of various supportive national veteran related organizations.

Again, thank you so much for your help and cooperation. We are all most appreciative and look forward to working with you on future occasions.

Sincerely,

*Carol Bates*

Carol Bates

Director of Public Affairs



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS

27 MAY 1981

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell  
Special Assistant to The President  
OEOB, Room 134  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

It was a pleasure to meet with you yesterday to discuss National PW/MIA Recognition Day to be held next July 17.

As you recall, we discussed two possible forms of Presidential participation:

1. As the principal speaker at the PW/MIA Recognition ceremony to be held at the Pentagon River Entrance at 11:00 a.m. on July 17.
2. A signing ceremony at the White House on the day President Reagan signs the Proclamation of National PW/MIA Recognition Day. I would suggest that those invited to the signing ceremony include the Administrator of the VA, yourself, members of the Senate and House as you would designate, the DOD Principal Military Advisor for PW/MIA Affairs and his Administrative Assistant, and the Executive Director of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

I am enclosing a package that was developed for the 1980 National PW/MIA Recognition Day and prepared under White House guidance. Hopefully, the Joint Congressional Resolution asking the President to proclaim National PW/MIA Recognition Day will pass very soon and we can get started on the 1981 program.

Again, thank you for your time and assistance in working with us on this important event. I look forward to meeting with you again in the near future.

Sincerely,

John Fer  
Lt Col, USAF  
Principal Military Advisor  
PW/MIA Affairs

*Mr. Blackwell -*

*The 1979 letter from Mr. Clalanch is for your info. There was no similar letter in the '80 package because of the late start we got on the planning. J.F.*



(1)

April 3, 1981

Dear Miss Griffiths:

On behalf of the President, I wish to acknowledge your request to meet with him.

Although we are unable to schedule the appointment at this time, I do want to assure you that your interest in requesting to see the President is sincerely appreciated.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Newell  
Special Assistant  
to the President

Miss 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

GJN:MHR:lrc  
GJN-6 Temporary

8

RECEIVED 30 MAR 81 11

TO PRES

FROM GRIFFITHS, ANN M

DOCDATE 26 MAR 81

KEYWORDS: POWS  
AP

MIAS

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PRES TO MEET W/ NATL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES APR 23 - 27

ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION

DUE:

STATUS C

FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

NEWELL, G

KIMMITT

LILLEY

TYSON

COMMENTS ORIG LTR RECD BY KIMMITT. IT WAS FORWARDED TO GREGORY

NEWELL FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION.

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

( C / C )

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

DISPATCH

*ed 3/30 clm*

W/ATTCH FILE

(C)

*clm*



REFERRAL

DATE: 30 MAR 81

MEMORANDUM FOR: GREGORY NEWELL

RM 188, OEOB

*Egn - Temporary*

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: PRES

FROM: GRIFFITHS, ANN M

DATE: 26 MAR 81

KEYWORDS: POWS

MIAS

AP

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR PRES TO MEET W/ NATL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES APR 22 - 27

-----  
REQUIRED ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION

DUE DATE:

COMMENTS:

*Cathy Millison*  
FOR ALLEN J LENZ

STAFF DIRECTOR

----- FOR NSC USE ONLY -----

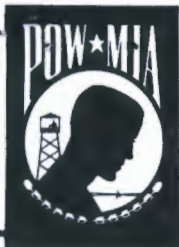
FOR INFO KIMMITT

LILLEY

TYSON

F

O CM C



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 26, 1981

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National League of Families, I would like to request that you meet with the leadership of our organization at your earliest possible convenience. I am sure you are aware that the POW/MIA situation is attracting rapidly increasing government and press attention.

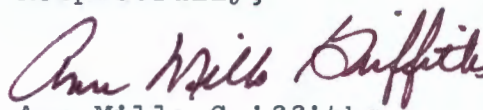
Your long-standing interest in the POW/MIA problem is well known to the families as is your commitment to resolve the uncertainty as to whether there are, in fact, Americans still held captive in Indochina.

The League's board of directors will be in session April 24 - 26th here in Washington. It is our hope that you will agree to meet with us on Friday, April 24th. If that date is unsatisfactory, arrangements can be made to either bring the board in early or delay their departure. Alternative dates include, in order of preference, Thursday, April 23rd, Wednesday, April 22nd, or Monday, April 27th.

It has been customary for Presidents of the United States to meet with representatives of the League. The present state of U.S. government priority and your personal interest should be directly conveyed to those who represent our missing servicemen and their families.

I will look forward to hearing from your staff concerning this request.

Respectfully,

  
Ann Mills Griffiths  
Executive Director



M. Anderson 1-29-72

ACTDATE = 820115  
ADDNUMB =  
CREFDATE = 820115  
DOCDATE = 811215  
DSPDATE = 820115  
NAME = KIMMITT  
RCVDATE = 820115  
RECID = 055301  
STATE = DC  
UPDATE = 820115  
ZIP = 20506

OPID TR  
DOCDATE 811215  
RECTYP ~~HBA~~  
MEDIA X  
NAME MR. BOB KIMMITT  
ORG NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
ADDR WASHINGTON DC 20506  
SUBJECT NSC 8105551  
APPOINTMENT REQUEST REGARDING POW 'S IN  
SOUTHEAST ASIA  
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN  
PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA  
GRIFFITHS, ANN MILLS  
SUBCODE ND016  
CO172 PR007  
INDCODE 4800  
ACTION RM/RSZ 820115 C 820115

END OF DOCUMENT



ACTDATE = 811211  
ADDNUMB =  
CREFDATE = 811211  
DOCDATE = 811209  
DSPDATE = 811214  
NAME = WILSON  
RCVDATE = 811211  
RECID = 052193  
STATE = DC  
UPDATE = 811215  
ZIP = 20515

OPID CH  
DOCDATE 811209  
RECTYP TBA -  
MEDIA L  
STAFF MAX FRIEDERSDORF  
LAFRIE  
NAME THE HONORABLE CHARLES WILSON  
ORG U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
ADDR WASHINGTON DC 20515  
SUBJECT ENCLOSURE A LETTER FROM MRS. NELL JOHNSTON,  
TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES,  
POW - MIA 'S IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, REQUESTING  
THAT THE PRESIDENT MEET WITH THEIR BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS TO DISCUSS THE POW - MIA ISSUE  
SUBCODE ND007-01  
ND016 CO172 PR007  
INDCODE 1230  
ACTION LAFRIE ORG 811211 MF A 811214  
SCNEWE RSA 811215

END OF DOCUMENT

ACTDATE = 811103  
ADDNUMB =  
CREFDATE = 811103  
DOCDATE = 811031  
DSPDATE = 811103  
NAME = CARMAN  
RCVDATE = 811103  
RECID = 046073  
STATE = DC  
UPDATE = 811104  
ZIP = 20515

OPID PY  
DOCDATE 811031  
RECTYP - IBA  
MEDIA L  
STAFF PRESIDENT REAGAN  
PRREAG  
NAME THE HONORABLE GREGORY W. CARMAN  
ORG U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
ADDR WASHINGTON DC 20515  
SUBJECT THE LONG ISLAND ORGANIZERS OF THE PARADE FOR  
THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF MIA 'S /  
POW 'S - SOUTHEAST ASIA REQUEST THAT YOU OR  
YOUR REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE OR  
THE STATE DEPARTMENT MEET WITH THEM TO  
DISCUSS THEIR CONCERN OVER THE MIA 'S AND  
POW 'S THAT MAY STILL BE IN VIETNAM  
SUBCODE ND016  
CO172 PR007 FG011 HU021  
INDCODE 1240  
ACTION RM RSZ 811103 HANDLED BY PHONE OCT 30 C 811103

END OF DOCUMENT