

## THE FRONT PAGE

KOREA-COLD WAR  
FAMILIES OF THE MISSING  
PO BOX 454  
FARMINGDALE, NY 11735



<http://www.koreacoldwar.org>

**May 2013      Issue #40**  
**POW-MIA WE Remember!**

**SEND TO:**

## 2013 FAMILY UPDATE SCHEDULE

July 13, 2013 - Salt Lake City, UT / August 8-9, 2013 - Korean and Cold War Annual Government Briefing, Washington, D.C. / September 7, 2013 - Denver, CO

We are sorry for the delay in getting this newsletter to you.

We were waiting for DPMO to finalize the plans for the Korean Cold War Annual Government Briefing in Washington, D.C. The briefing will be on August 8-9, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Va. You will be receiving information from your casualty offices shortly.

Contact your Congressional Reps through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard - 1-202-224-3121 or House Cloak Room at 1-202-225-7350 (R) and 1-202-225-7330 (D)

### **Congressional Contacts:**

<http://congress.org/congressorg/home/>

US Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/>

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White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov>

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## IN MY OPINION

by Irene Mandra

Dear Members,

We are happy to advise you that President Barack Obama awarded the Medal of Honor to an Army chaplain from Kansas who risked his life dodging gunfire to provide medical and spiritual aid to wounded soldiers before dying in captivity more than 60 years ago during the Korean War.

"I can't imagine a better example for all of us, whether in uniform or not in uniform, a better example to follow," Obama said after presenting the nation's highest military award for valor to a nephew of Capt. Emil Kapaun in the White House East Room.

The Roman Catholic priest was recognized for helping to carry an injured American for miles as Chinese captors led them on a death march, and for risking his life to drag the wounded to safety while dodging explosions and gunfire.

In November 1950, after Chinese soldiers overran U.S. troops near Unsan, Kapaun defied orders to evacuate, knowing it meant he would most certainly be captured. He pleaded with an injured Chinese officer to call out to his fellow Chinese to stop shooting, an act that spared the lives of wounded Americans.

As Kapaun was being led away, he came across another wounded American in a ditch and an enemy soldier standing over Sgt. Herbert Miller, ready to shoot. Kapaun pushed the enemy aside and helped Miller as they were taken captive. They arrived days later, by foot, at the village in Pyoktong, where a POW camp eventually was established.

"This is the valor we honor today - an American soldier who didn't fire a gun, but who wielded the mightiest weapon of all, a love for his brothers so pure that he was willing to die so that they might live," Obama said.

At the camp, Kapaun cleaned others' wounds, convinced them to share scarce food, offered them his own clothes and provided spiritual aid and comfort. On Easter in 1951, he defied his communist captors by conducting Mass with a makeshift crucifix. He died on May 23, 1951, at age 35, after six months in captivity.

The president said Kapaun showed that a touch of the divine exists even in hellish situations. "Father Kapaun's life, I think, is a testimony to the human spirit, the power of faith, and reminds us of the good that we can do each and every day regardless of the most difficult of circumstances," Obama said.

The Chaplain's nephew, Ray Kapaun, his face flush with emotion, accepted the medal from Obama on his uncle's behalf. Emil Kapaun's parents and his only sibling a

brother, are deceased.

"I don't think the enormity of what occurred today will actually hit me until my wife and I are heading home from this experience," Ray Kapaun, 56, said afterward. "A country boy from a small town in Kansas just received the nation's highest award for valor. That boy was my uncle." He gave credit to fellow POWs who spent years lobbying for the Medal of Honor for the uncle he came to know only through stories others told.

"I didn't know him. We never met," Ray Kapaun said. "If not for these men I may have not had such a lifelong personal relationship with my uncle." He said the medal would be given to Pilsen, Kansas, where Emil Kapaun's former parish is located. A separate effort also is underway seeking another honor for Kapaun: sainthood.

### **UPDATE FROM DPMO**

**Tuesday April 9, 2013 was National Former POW Recognition Day. The President made a formal proclamation that stated:**

"Today, we pay tribute to former prisoners of war who made that profound sacrifice. Caught behind enemy lines and stripped of their rights, these service members endured trials few of us can imagine. Many lost their lives. But in reflecting on the tragic price they paid, we also remember how their courage lit up even the darkest night. Where others might have given up or broken down, they dug in. They summoned an iron will. In their strength, we see the measure of their character; in their sacrifice, we see the spirit of a Nation. As we express our gratitude to heroes who gave so much for their country, we remain mindful that no one gesture is enough to truly honor their service. For that, we must recommit to serving our veterans as well as they served us -- not just today, but every day. We must pursue a full accounting of those who are still missing. And for service members who have come home, we must never stop fighting to give them the stability and the support they have earned. That is the promise we renew today -- for former prisoners of war, for their families, and for every American who has sworn an oath to protect and defend." The full proclamation can be viewed at :

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/04/08/presidential-proclamation-national-former-prisoner-war-recognition-day> .

#### **US Russia Joint Commission Co-Chair Visit:**

General (ret.) Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAF, U.S. Co-Chair of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs, visited Washington on April 3-5, 2013. He met with DPMO leadership, Veterans Service Organizations, and several Commissioners, including Deputy Secretary of State Dan Russell, responsible for relations with Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus and for international security and arms control issues in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs (EUR). Discussions centered on on-going efforts to formalize a charter for the USRJC and the prospects for a new Russian Co-Chair for the USRJC. General Foglesong was accompanied by DPMO's Dr. James G. Connell, Acting Executive Secretary of the USRJC.

## Thomas D. Holland, PhD, DABFA

This year, at our annual dinner, we will be honoring Thomas D. Holland, PhD, DABFA, Deputy to the Commander, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and Scientific Director, JPAC Central Identification Laboratory.

Dr. Holland is dual-hatted as the Deputy to the Commander, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and the Scientific Director of the JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dr. Holland began federal service as a Forensic Anthropologist with the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI) in June 1992. In early 1994, Dr. Holland was named Acting Scientific Director of the CILHI and became the permanent director in early 1995. In 2003, the U.S. Army CILHI was deactivated and reemerged as the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, a sub-unified command under the Pacific Command. In 2004, he became the Deputy to the Commander at JPAC. His primary duties include sole responsibility for two major aspects of the JPAC mission: (a) Establishment of identifications of U.S. personnel lost or unaccounted for from past military conflicts; and (b) direction, supervision, and operational accountability of the CIL for all scientific, technical, and policy activities.

Under his tenure as Scientific Director, the CIL became the first (and to date, only) skeletal forensic laboratory in the world to be accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors-Laboratory Accreditation Board. In 2012, the CIL expanded to become a laboratory system when it opened a second laboratory at Offutt AFB in Omaha, Nebraska.

Dr. Holland has led CILHI and JPAC recovery missions to numerous countries including North and South Korea, China, Iraq, Kuwait, and Cambodia.

Dr. Holland graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia (UMC) in 1979 (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Fine Art. In 1985, he earned a Masters Degree in Anthropology from UMC, followed in 1991 with a PhD in Anthropology from the same institution. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and is one of fewer than 100 Diplomates of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology. He also is a member of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors and is on the Register of Professional Archaeologists. He sits on numerous committees and panels including the Council of Federal Forensic Laboratory Directors and the Department of Defense Forensic Sciences Board. Dr. Holland serves as a Forensic Consultant to the New York State Police and the International Committee of the Red Cross in Switzerland.

Dr. Holland has authored numerous scientific articles in books and peer-reviewed journals, including the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, *Current Anthropology*, and *American Antiquity*, and is the author of the novels *One Drop of Blood* and *KIA*. He also serves on the graduate faculty at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, is an instructor at the University of Hawaii-West Oahu, and holds an adjunct faculty appointment at Chaminade University.

**KOREA/COLD WAR FAMILIES OF THE MISSING DINNER**

**Honoring Dr. Tom Holland**

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## Japan Presses Issue of Kidnapped Citizens - Todd Crowell

### *Time runs out as a recalcitrant North Korea refuses to come clean on missing*

The new conservative government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is making a new push to try and resolve the decades-long dispute with North Korea over the fate of a dozen Japanese it claims were abducted by North Korean operatives in the 1970s and 1980s and may be alive.

The issue was not pressed very hard by the previous Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) government until the last months of its four-year government, but it has been raised anew by the more conservative Abe administration.

Japan has a cabinet-level ministry devoted entirely to the abduction issue. The current state minister, Keiji Furuya, recently said that Tokyo would not lift bilateral sanctions against No. Korea or resume aid until the issue was resolved, even if the North should agree to abandon its nuclear weapons program. Furuya was in the U.S. recently trying to raise awareness of the matter among Americans at symposiums held in Washington and New York. With him were several relatives of those kidnapped by the North to tell their stories.

It may be a good time to be raising the issue, Tokyo thinks, as public attention in the U.S. and elsewhere has been drawn to North Korea as a result of its earlier nuclear bomb test and extreme bellicose threats to launch missiles at everyone. Moreover, the North recently condemned an American citizen of Korea extraction to fifteen years in prison.

The issue involves the fate of more than a dozen Japanese citizens who were snatched by North Korean agents and spirited away to the North, ostensibly to train more agents in Japanese language and manners for future espionage. Most of these disappearances

took place in the late 1970s and early 1980s, but it wasn't until North Korean defectors began appearing in the late 1990s that Tokyo became aware of their true fate.

In 2002 former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi flew to Pyongyang for a summit meeting with Kim Jong-il. At that meeting Kim admitted that North Korea had kidnapped Japanese and apologized for it. Leader Kim said that 12 people were kidnapped. Of these, five were returned to Japan; the other eight died. Case closed.

Tokyo disputes this. It claims 17 people were kidnapped (including the five that Pyongyang says never entered the country), 5 were returned, and 12 remain as unaccounted. It's skeptical of Pyongyang's assertions that they died in mysterious "traffic accidents" or committed suicide.

The families of the abductees have become celebrities. The parents of Megumi Yokota, who was snatched in 1977 when she was only 13, appear on television, at press conferences and are interviewed for their opinions on politics, nuclear weapons and North Korea. Many conservative politicians, including Shinzo Abe wears the little blue ribbon in their lapel to show solidarity, as Americans used to wear bracelets for POWs.

It was Abe who created the cabinet post for the abduction issue during his first term as prime minister from 2006 - 2007. The post languished after him. His successor Yasuo Fukuda showed little interest in the matter, as did the first two DPJ premiers. During their government, seven individuals held the abductee portfolio. Interest in the issue. Yoshihiko Noda met with the families and indicated a willingness to fly to Pyongyang if necessary to move things along. He wore the little blue lapel ribbon. However, the momentum for the DPJ was lost in its big electoral debacle.

Minister Furuya is making preparations to meet with North Korean counterparts in Mongolia's capital, which is a neutral place as Mongolia is not a party to the six-party talks aimed at ending the impasse. Pyongyang is reluctant to reopen the issue as it assumed that the elder Kim's confession and apology more than a decade ago was sufficient.

In another recent development, it was reported that a senior advisor to the prime minister, Isao Ijima, had flown to Pyongyang on a still undisclosed mission. He was a top aide to Junichiro Koizumi when he made his famous 2002 visit to Pyongyang and summit meeting with the late Kim Jong-il.

It is no exaggeration to say that resolution of the kidnappings has become the most important foreign policy issue for Japan and the main obstacle to normalization of relations with North Korea. Over the years Tokyo has cut off all contacts and even minimal trade in such things as clams plus cracking down on remittances from Koreans living in Japan.

The abductions are a touchy matter for Washington, which would really like to see it disappear as it complicates the united front on what it considers the much larger question of disarming the North of its nuclear weapons armory. Former President George W. Bush found this out the hard way when he first met with the family of Megumi in the White House and then removed North Korea from the list of nations sponsoring terrorism, which many Japanese considered a betrayal. It complicates negotiations over North Korea's nuclear program. In the past Tokyo has refused to pay its share of heavy oil shipments, claiming that Pyongyang is dragging its feet on resolving the kidnappings. That in turn gave the North an excuse to claim that parties to the six-party talks were reneging on their commitments.

But for the Japanese it is more than just an abstract geopolitical issue. It tugs at the heart strings. Who cannot feel the indignity of 13-year school girl old kidnapped on a public street while returning home from school badminton practice or the years in which her parents were totally ignorant of her true fate. "It was like she disappeared in a puff of smoke," her mother once said.

And there is a new urgency as the abductees that are still living are obviously not getting any younger. The oldest, Yutaka Kume, taken in 1977 when he was 51, would now be approaching 90. The youngest, Megumi would be 50 if she were still living (Pyongyang says she committed suicide when she was about 30). Time is running out.

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***Stories of American Heroes - Brought to you from the "Home of Heroes" - Pueblo, Colorado***

Only one flag besides the Stars and Stripes that represents the United States has ever flown over the White House in Washington, DC. Only one flag is ever displayed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. That flag is not one that represents an individual state, branch of service, or other select group. It is the POW/MIA (Prisoners of War/Missing In Action) Flag. It calls to mind the sacrifice and plight of those Americans who have sacrificed their own freedom, to preserve liberty for all of us. It's presence serves to remind us that, while we enjoy the privileges of freedom, somewhere there are soldiers who have not been accounted for and may, in fact, be held against their will by the enemies of Freedom.

## **ARMY PFC ROSEVELT CLARK**

Army Pfc. Roosevelt Clark, 18, of Arvin, Calif., was buried March 1, in Bakersfield, Calif. In late November 1950, units of the 35th Infantry Regiment and allied forces were deployed in a defensive line along the Kuryong and Ch'ongch'on River in North Korea, when Chinese People's Volunteer Forces attacked their position. American units sustained heavy losses as they withdrew south towards the town of Unsan. Clark was listed as missing in action on Nov. 28, 1950.

Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea gave the United States 208 boxes of human remains believed to contain the remains of 200-400 U.S. servicemen. North Korean documents, turned over with some of the boxes, indicated that some of the remains were recovered from the area where Clark was believed missing in 1950, near the Kuryong River. To identify the remains, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial evidence, and forensic identification tools such as dental comparisons which matched Clark's records. They also used mitochondrial DNA – which matched Clark's aunt and uncle.

## **ARMY SGT. RAYMOND B. WELLBROCK**

Army Sgt. Raymond B. Wellbrock, 20, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was buried March 9, in his hometown. In late November 1950, Wellbrock and elements of the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT) were deployed along the eastern banks of the Chosin reservoir near Sinhung-ri, South Hamgyong Province, in North Korea. On Nov. 29, 1950, remnants of the 31st RCT, known historically as Task Force Faith, began a fighting withdrawal to a more defensible position near the Hangaru-ri, south of the reservoir. Wellbrock was reported missing Dec. 12, 1950.

In August 1953, during part of a prisoner exchange between U.S. and communist forces, a returning U.S. soldier told government officials that Wellbrock was captured by enemy forces and died shortly afterward from battlefield wounds and lack of medical treatment. His remains were not among those returned by communist forces during Operation Glory in 1954. Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea gave the United States 208 boxes of remains believed to contain the remains of 200-400 U.S. service members. No. Korean documents, turned over with the boxes, indicated that some of the human remains were recovered from the area Wellbrock was last seen.

In the identification of the remains, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence, compiled by DPMO and JPAC researchers, and forensic identification tools, such as dental comparison, to identify Wellbrock. They also used mitochondrial DNA– which matched Wellbrock's brother and sister.





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**CHIT CHAT NEWS: By Irene L Mandra**

I attended the POW/MIA remembrance Service at St. Frances de Chantal Church in Wantagh, NY on May 11, 2013. This service is given every year by the VFW. I can't thank them enough for remembering our men that are missing from all wars. The speaker was Pat Yngstrom from Vietnam veterans and the ex-President of the Long Island coalition of veterans and concerned citizens, in which I serve as Vice President for many years. As usual, the speeches were great and the attendance was wonderful. I wish to thank all the veterans that attended.

It's with sadness that I report our member Ron Broward has passed away. Ron was the first person that our organization presented our plaque of appreciation. He was the Korean War Veteran who donated his time to JPAC, every year, traveling to S. Korea looking for remains, on his own dime. He never receives a salary from JPAC, nor did he want one. This ex-Marine had a heart of gold. I hope St. Peter was waiting at the gates of heaven for our beloved member.

Lloyd W. Pate has passed away. He received full military honors. He was first Sergeant in the US Army, with foreign service in the Korean War, Vietnam and Germany. Mr Pate was a POW from 1/03/51-8/19/53. He received numerous awards and decorations including the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Clusters and combat Infantryman Badge with star.

## **Over 100 South Korean POWs Still Alive in North Korea –**

On April 29th The Chosun Ilbo reported:

A former lawmaker with the ruling party on Sunday unveiled a list of more than 100 South Korean soldiers who were captured by North Korea during the 1950-53 Korean War and are believed to be living in coal mining areas in the North.

"With the help of sources in North Korea, we investigated whether any POWs were alive in North Hamgyong Province," said Park Sun-young, now a professor at Dongguk University. "By February this year we had the names of 117 POWs who were still alive." She added they are old and in poor health due to years of laboring in coal mines and some may have died by now.

Park plans to make the list public and urge the South Korean government to try and win their return. According to the list, they live in three coal mining areas in North Hamgyong Province, the northernmost region of the isolated country.

The list contains their names, the names of the coal mines where they labored and their present addresses. The Chosun Ilbo checked them with former POWs who returned from North Korea and found that the names are genuine. The POWs on the list had been sent to the coal mines just after the armistice in 1953. They toiled there for 30 to 40 years and now live in nearby villages.

The government here estimates around 500 POWs are still alive in North Korea based on accounts by POWs who have returned. But Seoul has been reluctant to reveal its own list because it doubts the reliability of some of the accounts due to the witnesses' old age.

"North Korea violates the Geneva Convention by holding POWs," Park said. "And our government is guilty of dereliction of duty for failing to bring them back 60 years after the armistice. We need to bring back the survivors and ensure that the remains of the deceased are also returned."

A Defense Ministry spokesman here said officials will compare Park's list with theirs. Official records show 80 South Korean POWs have returned since 1990, of whom 51 are still alive.

**If South Korean soldiers, from the Korean War, survive today in North Korea we ask, Why not an American?**

## **Bachmann Wants New POW Panel; '93 Report Says No Prisoners Remain**

Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., has introduced a resolution that would investigate unresolved prisoners of war or missing-in-action cases from past wars.

Bachmann, the four-term congresswoman and one-time GOP presidential candidate, suggested that Congress get involved in a sticky issue it hadn't significantly looked into in more than a decade: POW/MIAs.

Speaking on Capitol Hill just days before the Memorial Day weekend, Bachmann told supporters she had introduced a resolution that would establish a select committee to focus on service members who became prisoners of war or went missing in action in conflicts including the Vietnam War, the Korean War, World War II, Cold War missions, the Persian Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The committee would hold hearings on the issue, investigate some 83,000 unresolved POW/MIA cases and look for other ways to identify soldiers some believe remain unaccounted for.

"It is our duty and responsibility to the heroic men and women who have given us so much to never stop fighting to bring each and every American home," Bachmann said in a statement provided to Minnesota's St. Cloud Times.

But in 1993, a Senate select committee on POW/MIA issues found that "there is, at this time, no compelling evidence that proves that any American remains alive in captivity in Southeast Asia."

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### **CASUALTY OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS**

United States Air Force - 1 (800) 531-5501

United States Army - 1 (800) 892-2490

United States Marine Corps - 1 (800) 847-1597

United States Navy - 1 (800) 443-9298

Department of State - 1 (202) 647-6769

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\*NAME AND Rank of POW-MIA: \_\_\_\_\_

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