2018 FAMILY UPDATE SCHEDULE*
LOUISVILLE, KY MAY 19TH • ARLINGTON, VA (ANNUAL KCW MEETING) AUGUST 9TH - 10TH
PHILADELPHIA, PA SEPTEMBER 8TH • RALEIGH, NC NOVEMBER 17TH

Attention Members
We are looking for a new editor for our newsletter.
We are also looking to increase our board membership. If interested please email us at imandra@optonline.net

Contact your Congressional Reps through the
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OVER THE YEARS CHARLOTTE BUSCH MITNIK

My family’s paper chase started in the 50s with my father. I know little more now than he did back then. It isn’t easy to find the words to express what has been in the hearts and minds of my family and the families of thousands of POW’s and MIA’s of the Korean and Cold Wars. For more than 60 years we have worried about our loved ones, wondered if they were alive, if they were well, or if they were ever coming home. Time after time we have asked the government to help us with our search for the truth, and all that we have ever received were lies, half-truths and misinformation. All that we have ever wanted, was to know the fate of our loved ones.

In August of 1944 one of my brothers, at age 21, was killed on the battlefield in France; he is now buried in Beverly National Cemetery in New Jersey. Upon hearing of his death my family was devastated, but there was no uncertainty about his fate. He was dead, and we mourned him, and that is the normal response. How can you mourn a POW/MIA? You can’t. You don’t. What you do is pray, unite with others, you question, you become assertive, aggressive, and obnoxious. You push your Senator, your Congressman, and investigative reporters. And then when we, the family members start making progress in our search for an accounting there is always someone or something that stands in the way trying to prevent us from getting that accounting.

Why is the government afraid to tell the world what really happened in the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s? Why, after all this time, is the information on our POW’s and MIA’s from the Korean and Cold Wars still classified? WHEN Mrs. Patricia Dickinson inquired about the censorship, she was told “concerning your question about documents remaining classified from the Korean and Cold War eras, any intelligence and operational reports that indicate Intelligent sources and matters that remain sensitive today will continue to have that kind of information protected.”

The questions I put forth to you regarding the above are: What could be so sensitive after ALL THESE years? Why are the Korean/Cold War families being sent on such a paper chase? Still! Why are the families being given the run-around? STILL? What is our government trying to hide? They say “Nothing.” It doesn’t appear that way.

At the end of the Korea/Cold War, there was a prisoner exchange Big Switch Little switch. This took place in 1993. Since that time NO live prisoners have been returned. All we have ever received were remains. There is so much we the families need to know so our hearts and minds can be put at ease after all this time. We need to have an accounting of our loved ones’ lives, so that we, and they can rest in peace.
Dear Members,
This will be the first time that I’m going to write something that is not an opinion. It’s a fact. We are all getting older. Some more than others. This concerns me both for our own organization and for the men and women in government who are trying to find and bring our loved ones home. It seems hard to believe that our very dear friends Norm Kass, Phil O’Brien, and Herb Artolla been retired from DPMO almost six years ago! We are so lucky that Phil and Herb volunteer each year to come back to help the new DPAA during our annual meeting! I don’t know what we or DPAA would do without them! I remember when Dan Baughman and Bill Woodier were young strapping Army and Air Force lieutenant colonels and Danz Blasser was a young Air Force master sergeant. Heck, you know things are bad when the ageless wonder Jim Connell starts to show his age. What concerns me the most is who are the men and women that are going to replace these experts with all their knowledge of the issue and who know all our cases. I hate to say I don’t trust the younger folks today because I have wonderful and dear grandchildren but, let’s face it, anyone younger than 40 today seems more interested in texting on their phones than anything else. Am I right? Sorry if I offended anyone! So I just want to remind folks to be thankful and appreciative of those who are getting older and may be slowing down. I hope the leadership of DPAA has experts like Dan, Bill, Danz, and Jim to fill in when they retire because I don’t know what the Agency and the families will do without them. I also want to say that I hope the men and women who make up our own organization are ready to carry on the torch of this organization as it takes a lot of work to keep it going.
DPAA DIRECTOR SELECTED: On September 5th, the Department of Defense (DoD) announced the long-overdue, welcome selection of Kelly K. McKeague as Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). This critical position had been vacant for over a year. Major General McKeague was the last Commander, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, (JPAC) and the first DPAA Deputy Director, a brief assignment just prior to his military retirement. During his last year on active duty, he was honored Chairman’s Comment: DoD could not have selected a finer, more qualified man for the job.

US-RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION (USRJC) ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS MET FOR 21ST PLENUM:
On November 8th, the 21st Plenum of the USRJC met in Moscow, led by US Co-Chairman General Robert Foglesong, USAF (Ret), and Russian Co-Chairman General Colonel Valery Vostrotin. This was DPAA Director McKeagures first participation as a US Commissioner. He was joined on this occasion by two other US Commissioners, Mr. Tim Shea, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and Dr. Tim Nenninger, National Archives & Records Administration (NARA). Invited to participate as observers were VFW Executive Director Bob Wallace and League Chairman of the Board Ann Mills-Griffiths.

DPAA European-Mediterranean Regional Director Colonel Chris Forbes, USA, and members of his Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD) staff also attended and put in long, arduous hours in preparation, as did Mr. Maxim Alexeyev, now former Chief of the Russian Commission Support Office, Russian Embassy in Washington, DC. (Unfortunately, he was one of the 60 Russians recently expelled due to ongoing tensions between the US and Russia.) This US Delegation was a follow-on to earlier USRJC plenary sessions and the Russian Commission’s participation in the League’s 48th Annual Meeting in June, as well as the August DPAA-hosted Korean War/Cold War Annual Government Briefings, both held in the DC area.

RES. 129 PASSES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: On February 12th, this important resolution passed the US House of Representatives by a vote of 411 sending a unified message to the American people including our Armed Forces serving today and our veterans, as well as foreign nations. Introduced by Representative Sam Johnson (R-TX), a returned POW from the Vietnam War, his strong message on the Floor of the House occurred almost precisely 45 years after he and Americans other returned POWs were released from many years of captivity in Vietnam. Passage of this resolution reflects true bipartisan, non-political support for the humanitarian accounting mission. It is now past time that the US Senate acts. The identical measure was simultaneously introduced in the US Senate by Senator John S. McCain (R-AZ) as S. RES. 61. Non-partisan, non-political passage by the US Senate would further reinforce our country’s support for achieving the fullest possible accounting for those who serve our nation past, present and future.

CONTACT YOUR TWO SENATORS TO URGE IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF S. RES. 61.
RECENT RECOVERIES

"Below is information on the men who have been accounted for since November and whose families have been briefed on the loss. If you would like more details on each of these men, DPAA publishes their news releases at this link: http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/"

Army Sgt. Ollie E. Shepard, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In late November, 1950, Shepard was a member of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Harry E. Harkness, captured during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. On November 1950, Harkness was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, participating in combat actions against the Chinese People’s Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in the vicinity of Unsan, North Korea.

Army Cpl. Thomas W. Reagan, missing from the Korean War, was accounted for on March 30, 2018. In August 1950, Reagan was assigned to Company A, 14th Engineer Combat Battalion, 24th Infantry Division.

Army Cpl. Thomas W. Reagan, missing from the Korean War, was accounted for on March 30, 2018. In August 1950, Reagan was assigned to Company A, 14th Engineer Combat Battalion, 24th Infantry Division.

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Donald E. Eichschlag, killed during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In late November 1950, Eichschlag was a member of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force fighting against repeated Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) assaults in the area surrounding Yudam-ni, North Korea. Eichschlag was reported to be killed in action on Nov. 28, 1950 during the fight over Hill 1250.

Army Cpl. Thomas W. Reagan, missing from the Korean War, was accounted for on March 30, 2018. In August 1950, Reagan was assigned to Company A, 14th Engineer Combat Battalion, 24th Infantry Division.

Army Cpl. Thomas W. Reagan, missing from the Korean War, was accounted for on March 30, 2018. In August 1950, Reagan was assigned to Company A, 14th Engineer Combat Battalion, 24th Infantry Division.

Army Sgt. Donald L. Baker, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In September 1950, Baker was a member of Company H, 2nd Battalion, 25th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division.

Army Sgt. Julius E. McKinney, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In late November 1950, McKinney was a member of Heavy Mortar Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division.

Army Cpl. James I. Jubb, killed during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In August 1950, Jubb was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division.

Army Cpl. Leonard V. Purkapile, killed during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In late November 1950, Purkapile was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division.

David Baker, captured during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In late November 1950, Baker was a member of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division.

Army Pfc. Albert E. Quintero, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In late November 1950, Quintero was a member of Battery D, 15th Anti-aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Self-propelled Battalion, 7th Infantry Division.

Army Pfc. Albert E. Quintero, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In late November 1950, Quintero was a member of Battery D, 15th Anti-aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons

Army Sgt. 1st Class Milton M. Beed, captured during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In February 1951, Beed was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry.

Army Sgt. Ollie E. Shepard, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In late November, 1950, Shepard was a member of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division.
Army Sgt. 1st Class Harry E. Harkness, captured during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. On November 1950, Harkness was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, participating in combat actions against the Chinese People’s Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in the vicinity of Unsan, North Korea. Harkness was reported missing in action as of Nov. 2, 1950 when he could not be accounted for by his unit.

Following the war, during an operation known as “Operation Big Switch,” when prisoners of war were returned, returning Americans from Pyoktong Camp 5 reported that Harkness had been captured and died while at POW Camp 5 sometime between January and April 1951.

On Dec. 21, 1993, North Korea unilaterally turned over 34 boxes containing remains reportedly to be unaccounted-for U.S. servicemen from the Korean War. One set of remains came from Tongju-ri, Pyokdong County, North Pyongan Province, North Korea, which corresponds to the known location of POW Camp 5, where Harkness was believed to have died. To identify Harkness’ remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial (mtDNA) and autosomal (auSTR) DNA analysis, which matched his family, as well as anthropological analysis which matched his records; and circumstantial evidence. Today, 7,709 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously returned by North Korean officials or recovered from North Korea by American recovery teams. Harkness’ name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with the other MIAs from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

For additional information on the Defense Department’s mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or call (703) 699-1420.
Captain Moore was the pilot of an F-51D Mustang fighter with the 67th Fighter bomber Squadron, 18th fighter Bomber Group. He was shot down and MIA while participating in aerial support off the coast of North Korea near Dangdon, China. He was presumed dead on December 31, 1953.

Harry enlisted in the Army Air Corps in June of 1942 and graduated as a fighter pilot and received his commission as a First Lieutenant. He was sent to the China, Burma theater and flew P-40 fighters. In 1944 his plane was shot down and he bailed out and ran into the mountains. He eluded the Japanese search parties and walked for 51 days finally reuniting with his group and continued fighting.

After the war he returned home and subsequently reenlisted. He married his childhood sweetheart Lois Gehringer at Hamilton Field, Ca. in 1948. Lois and Harry went to Clark Field in the Philippines where Lt. Moore flew F-51 fighters. When the Korean War started in 1950 Harry was sent to Japan and flew sorties in South Korea strafing and bombing the North Korean Army. When airfields were available in South Korea his squadron was moved to Korea. Harry and Lois were soon blessed with a daughter Jana. When Jana was 2 weeks old Lois was notified that he had been killed. Fortunately 2 weeks later after spending 2 weeks grieving and uncertain of their future, the Air Force notified Lois that they had made a mistake, Lt. Moore was not killed, he had not flown that day.

Lt. Moore was promoted to Captain and continued flying missions, sometimes several each day. Once he had completed his tour it was extended as pilots were badly needed. On his second mission Captain Moore was shot down over the Yellow Sea near Dangdon, China. He was listed as MIA and one year later was declared KIA.

Lois was left in the Philippines with daughter Jana. She decided to return to West Virginia. After returning home Lois went back to her former job as a secretary. Life in West Virginia was not satisfying and Lois, her brother Jack and Jana moved to Los Angeles to start a new experience. Some 4 years after Captain Moore was presumed killed Lois married Captain Moore’s younger brother Robert. Lois, Bob and Jana moved to Hayward, CA. and, along with other daughter Nancy, established a successful business inventing, manufacturing and marketing medical equipment and supplies.

Then in a sudden turn of events, Lois was notified by the Air Force in 2002 that documents had been found in the Russian archives indicating that Captain Moore was probably not killed but was captured and sent to Russia as a prisoner. So began an exhausting search for answers as to what happened. They even produced a documentary telling the story of Captain Moore and their lives.*

After years working with the DPMO and DPAA the Moores felt that they would never get answers from the US or Russian governments. They noted the irony in the disparagement of the Russians by the DPAA and the US government for not releasing files relating to US POW/MIsAs, such as those said to be in closed KGB archives, when in fact the US government continues to retain large numbers of classified files in the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency and elsewhere relating to missing American heroes. These files have been withheld from the families and the American public for up to 63 years, when the law states that in other than exceptional cases, these files must be released after 50 years.

Consequently, in April of 2017 the Moores hired a legal firm in Washington D.C. which specializes in suing US agencies. In a lawsuit filed on behalf of all families who have loved ones unaccounted for, they are demanding release of such classified information. The litigation is ongoing as of this writing.

* The documentary is available on Youtube titled “Keeping the Promise Alive”
CIA Director Pompeo met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un over Easter weekend

CIA Director Mike Pompeo made a top-secret visit to North Korea as an envoy for President Trump to meet with Kim Jong Un, and plans for a possible summit between the two leaders are underway, Trump confirmed Wednesday.

The extraordinary meeting between one of Trump’s most trusted emissaries and the authoritarian head of a rogue state was part of an effort to lay the groundwork for direct talks between Trump and Kim about North Korea’s nuclear weapons program.

The clandestine mission came late last month, soon after Pompeo was nominated to be secretary of state. The Pompeo mission was first reported Tuesday by The Washington Post, citing two people with direct knowledge of the trip.

On Wednesday, Trump acknowledged the outreach and said “a good relationship was formed” that could lead to a landmark meeting between the president and Kim.

“Mike Pompeo met with Kim Jong Un in North Korea last week,” Trump tweeted. “Meeting went very smoothly and a good relationship was formed. Details of Summit are being worked out now. Denuclearization will be a great thing for World, but also for North Korea!” Trump did not give further details of the talks, which took place over Easter weekend, according to the two people who first described the Pompeo trip to The Post. It was unclear why Trump referred to “last week” in his tweet. “I’m optimistic that the United States government can set the conditions for that appropriately so that the president and the North Korean leader can have that conversation [that] will set us down the course of achieving a diplomatic outcome that America so desperately — America and the world so desperately need,” Pompeo told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week during his confirmation hearing.

Speaking at his Mar-a-Lago resort on Tuesday, Trump appeared to allude to the extraordinary face-to-face meeting between Kim and Pompeo when he said the United States has had direct talks with North Korea “at very high levels.” The president didn’t elaborate at the time.

Trump said that he would sit down with Kim probably in early June, if not sooner.

Pompeo has taken the lead on the administration’s negotiations with Pyongyang. His meeting with Kim marks the highest-level contact between the two countries since 2000, when then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met with Kim Jong Il, the current leader’s late father, to discuss strategic issues. Then-Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper Jr. visited the country in 2014 to secure the release of two American captives and met with a lower-level intelligence official. The CIA declined to comment. Diplomats at the North Korean mission to the United Nations in New York, which is the main conduit for messages between Washington and Pyongyang, declined to comment.

About a week after Pompeo’s trip to North Korea, U.S. officials said that officials there had directly confirmed that Kim was willing to negotiate about potential denuclearization, according to administration officials, a sign that both sides had opened a new communications channel ahead of the summit meeting and that the administration believed North Korea was serious about holding a summit.

“We have had direct talks at very high levels, extremely high levels with North Korea,” Trump said Tuesday during a bilateral meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla.

The United States has no diplomatic relations with North Korea, but U.S. diplomats have visited and Washington has used several quiet channels to communicate with Pyongyang.

Trump also said he has given his “blessing” to planned discussions between South Korea and North Korea about bringing a formal end to the Korean War, as fast-moving diplomatic developments surrounding nuclear-armed North Korea came into view. Opening a two-day summit with Abe, Trump took some credit for the rapid developments related to North Korea, whose nuclear and ballistic missile tests his administration has considered the gravest national security threat to the United States.

Trump said that South Korean officials have “been very generous that without us, and without me in particular, I guess, they wouldn’t be discussing anything and the Olympics would have been a failure.” Seoul used the Winter Games, held in PyeongChang in February, as a vehicle to reopen diplomatic talks with Pyongyang.

North Korea sent athletes and a high-level delegation to the event in a major sign of warming relations with South Korea, a U.S. ally. That has led to a flurry of high-stakes diplomacy in East Asia, in which Trump has seized a leading role.

“There’s a great chance to solve a world problem,” Trump said. “This is not a problem for the United States. This is not a problem for Japan or any other country. This is a problem for the world.” Hostilities in the Korean War, which involved the United States, ended 65 years ago, but a peace treaty was never signed. A top South Korean official was quoted Tuesday as saying that a formal end to hostilities was on the agenda for the summit between Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in next week in the demilitarized zone between the countries.
“They do have my blessing to discuss the end of the war,” Trump said.
Yet such a deal would be complicated and would require direct U.S. participation and agreement. The United States signed the armistice agreement on South Korea's behalf, and any peace treaty would have to be between the United States and North Korea.
A big part of the reason a peace treaty has never been signed is because Pyongyang has long insisted that if one were attained, U.S. troops would no longer be required in South Korea, a demand the United States has rejected. Trump's planned session with Kim, the dynastic leader Trump has mocked as “Little Rocket Man,” comes after the two traded insults and threats last year. Trump vowed to “totally destroy” North Korea if it menaced the United States or its allies, and Kim called Trump senile.
On Tuesday, Trump said the summit with Kim is likely to happen by early June if all goes well. He added a caveat: “It’s possible things won’t go well and we won’t have the meetings, and we’ll just continue to go on this very strong path we have taken.”
Trump later said that five locations are under consideration to host the summit and that a decision would come soon. None of the locations was in the United States, Trump said later, in response to a question from a reporter. Administration officials are said to be looking at potential sites in Asia outside the Korean Peninsula, including Southeast Asia, and in Europe. Abe appeared delighted with the progress he made with Trump, including a pledge from the U.S. president to raise with Kim the issue of the unresolved cases of at least 13 Japanese citizens abducted by North Korean agents in the 1970s and 1980s — an important domestic issue for Abe.
Trump met with several families of the abductees during a visit to Tokyo in November, and the president was outraged by the death last summer of Otto Warmbier, an American college student who died shortly after being released in a coma from 17 months in captivity in the North. Three Americans remain in captivity, and U.S. officials suggested that their release is likely to be part of talks with Pyongyang.
“This reflects your deep understanding for how Japan cares about this abduction issue. I am very grateful for your commitment,” said Abe, who also pressed Trump to maintain “maximum pressure” on Pyongyang. Trump and Abe entered their summit hoping to repair a relationship that has been strained by Trump’s decision to meet with Kim, which has alarmed Tokyo, and his move to enact steel and aluminum tariffs without granting Japan a waiver.
In a sign that the two leaders were aiming to re-create their early chemistry, Trump said the two would sneak out for a round of golf Wednesday ahead of additional meetings. The president referred, as he has before, to Mar-a-Lago as the “winter White House.”
Trump aides acknowledged that they are probing the possibility of the United States reentering the 11-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership but emphasized that such a move is premature.
Larry Kudlow, Trump’s chief economic adviser, played down a rift with Japan on trade and said the administration's tariffs were aimed at punishing China, which he accused of “acting like a Third World economy.” Kudlow declared that a global coalition stands behind the Trump administration’s strategy.
“This trade coalition of the willing that I’ve been talking about, that others have been talking about, is really aimed at China,” he said. “China is a First World economy behaving like a Third World economy. And with respect to technology and other matters, they have to start playing by the rules.”
[In new sign of trade battle, China slaps U.S. sorghum producers with 179 percent deposit]
The United States does not need the TPP to confront Chinese bad behavior, Kudlow said. He touted a strong U.S. economy as leverage for American ideas on trade around the world and said Trump’s tougher stance on Chinese trade has won wide international backing.
“The rest of the world is with us. The president hasn’t consciously sought this, but it’s happening, and it’s a good thing,” Kudlow said. “So I hope China reads that carefully and responds positively.”
China on Tuesday announced temporary anti-dumping measures targeting U.S. sorghum, potentially hitting growers in states such as Kansas and Texas that Trump won in the 2016 election. The move discouraging imports of U.S. sorghum widens the brewing trade war between Beijing and Washington. On Monday, the United States banned U.S. firms from selling parts to Chinese phone maker ZTE for seven years, as the world’s two largest economies continue to exchange threats of tariffs worth billions of dollars.
But Trump sought to balance his aides’ criticism of Beijing with praise for Chinese President Xi Jinping, whom Trump has pressed to enact economic sanctions on North Korea.
“He’s been incredibly generous,” Trump said. “President Xi has been very strong on the border, much stronger than anyone thought they would be. I’d like them to be stronger on the border, but he’s been at a level nobody ever expected. The goods coming into North Korea have been cut down very substantially.”
DPAA Deputy Director, RDML Jon Kreitz, participated in a November 21, 2017 Repatriation Ceremony for remains disinterred from the UN Cemetery in Pusan, South Korea. These remains were buried as a British Unknown because of an associated dog tag. At the time, DNA capabilities were not able to identify the remains; however, with improved technology and an increase in family reference sample collection, DPAA scientists discovered the Unknown is in fact American. After coordinating with the UN Cemetery Commission-Korea, disinterment was approved and the UN Command Commander, GEN Vincent Brooks, presided at the Yongsan Army Garrison ceremony.

Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification (South Korea) Visit Members of MAKRI visited DPAA in mid-November to build upon an already strong relationship and to discuss ways to further collaborate. Col Lee Hak-Ki, MAKRI Commander, and the DPAA leadership in Hawaii, reviewed the current status of joint operations in South Korea and the laboratory’s ongoing Korean War Project.

Congressional Dedication: Commemorative Chair Honoring POW/MIA Lawmakers celebrated the addition of a new chair to the U.S. Capitol, honoring American POWs and the thousands of service members missing in action. The commemorative chair, which sits in Emancipation Hall at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, was unveiled during a ceremony on November 8, 2017. Lawmakers stated the empty chair will serve as a reminder to visitors as well as Members of Congress, of those who served, but have not yet returned home. The chair was made possible by the National POW/MIA Remembrance Act, at the urging of veterans group Rolling Thunder, which also raised funds to place the chair at the U.S. Capitol and worked with the architect of the Capitol on its design. Video of the ceremony can be seen here:

Army Cpl. Leonard V. Purkapile, killed during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In late November 1950, Purkapile was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against the Chinese People’s Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in the vicinity of Unsan, while withdrawing southeast to Yongbyon, North Korea. Following the battle, Purkapile could not be accounted for and he was reported as missing in action on Nov. 28, 1950. By the end of the war, his status was changed to deceased and his remains deemed non-recoverable.

Army Pfc. David Baker, captured during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In late November 1950, Baker was a member of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, positioned in the vicinity of Yongbyong, North Korea. Baker’s battalion moved north and lost contact with two other regiments. On Nov. 25, 1950, 3rd BN met with enemy resistance and was attacked by Chinese People’s Volunteer Force. The battalion suffered heavy casualties and Baker was declared missing in action as of Nov. 28, 1950, when he could not be accounted for by his unit. Later reports indicate that Baker was likely captured by the enemy during battle.
SERVICE CASUALTY OFFICES
Service Casualty Offices serve family members. Each Military Department maintains a service casualty office. The Department of State does the same for civilians. The officials in these offices serve as the primary liaisons for families concerning personnel recovery and accounting. Full-time civilians who have worked this issue for many years and are experienced and knowledgeable help answer family member questions. Military officials also assist to help explain the methods used to account for families' missing loved ones.

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*Date and Area of loss: ___________________________________________

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