

THE FRONT PAGE
KOREA-COLD WAR
FAMILIES OF THE MISSING
PO Box 454
FARMINGDALE, NY 11735



<http://www.koreacoldwar.org/>

SEND TO:

AUGUST 2009 ISSUE #25
POW-MIA WE REMEMBER!

2009 FAMILY UPDATE LOCATIONS 2009

City selections are based on past update schedules and demographic mapping of family members' home locations.

- **2009 Family Updates and Annual Briefings 2009** •
- **July 23-25, 2009 Washington, DC** •
- **August 29, 2009 Minneapolis, MN • October Oct 23-24 , 2009 St. Louis, MO **** •
- **November 21, 2009 Jackson, MS** •

**** Korea - Cold War Family Conference & Briefing**

St. Louis, Missouri
St. Louis Hilton Frontenac
1335 South Lindberg Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63131
Phone: 1-314-993-1100

• **REMINDER • REMINDER • REMINDER •**

Treasurer's Corner by Gail Stallone

We wish to thank New York State Senator, Charles Fuschillo, for submitting Korea/Cold War Families for a New York Grant. We have received the grant (a new computer) and we can't thank the good senator enough for remembering us.

This is the last reminder of our annual dinner (PG. 3) If you wish to come, all are welcome, please send your check to:

Korea/Cold War Families of the Missing
P.O. Box 454, Farmingdale, NY 11735

Contact your Congressional Rep 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/>
House : <http://www.house.gov/>
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IN MY OPINION
by IRENE L. MANDRA

Dear Members,

One of the greatest problems we face is the issue of timely identifications and research into the vast number of Unknowns interred at the Punchbowl. A great researcher, Ron Broward, has spent the past

decade researching and finding answers in this area - for free. Yes, for free. Let me expand on this a little - free in this case means - He spends every day working on cases, for free; He travels from the mainland US to Hawai'i several times a year on his own dime, so for free; He travels to Washington, DC and other places to search and work, at his own expense, so for free; He spends endless hours sifting through Archives, for free.

His work has produced evidence that will identify numerous cases from the Punchbowl.

And how does JPAC acknowledge this remarkable man? They have banned him from continuing his work at JPAC and having access to continue his critical research.

We are outraged. As if we do not have enough problems with JPAC and Commander Crisp and Mr. Webb, we have this travesty. While we are working to have Ron reinstated, or at the very least have his work continued by a JPAC 'authorized' individual, we have written to the new Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, who is responsible for JPAC. Please see our letter below. We will keep our members updated on the situation.

May 24, 2009
Secretary of the Navy
The Honorable Ray Mabus
100 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Mabus,

On behalf of Korean-Cold War Families of Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, may I congratulate you on your new position.

We sincerely wish you much success, good health and years of continued selfless service to our Nation and our men and women in uniform. Your past service is deeply respected and appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and my organization; I am Irene Mandra, National Chair of Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing.

We are the largest, most active Korean War - Cold War POW-MIA family organization in America. We represent family members who represent our men unaccounted-for from what we know as The Forgotten War. I am a family member, with a brother missing in the Korean War.

I wish that our warm wishes and an introduction were the only reason that I write to you today. Unfortunately, circumstances demand that I write immediately.

The Korean War is not called the Forgotten War for no reason... over the years, over the decades, we have been the stepchildren of the POW-MIA issue. Last War First put other conflicts ahead of Korea and Cold War for Joint Field Activities; Funding was disproportionately doled out; limited access to a belligerent nation such as North Korea and the incertitude of cooperation and truthfulness with respect to the former Soviet Union and China; lack of Defense personnel; and an endless litany of problems inherent in the accounting process that have plagued us for these past 50 years.

One bright ray of light is a gentleman by the name of Ron Broward. Mr. Broward a Korea war marine is a generous, sensitive advocate for truth and answers. He has spent years privately researching Korean War cases, traveling, at his own expense, from the mainland to Hawaii and halfway around the world, spending untold hours sifting through materials in Archives, and working tirelessly to find answers to decades old questions.

I cannot begin to impress upon you the importance of this man - not because of his personal sacrifice or commitment - but because of the invaluable work he has done over the years. As of this writing, he has been working closely at JPAC for 10 years. It is remarkable that a private individual would take on such a task, but Mr. Broward has. And he has produced.

Let me be clear, Mr. Broward is not some good-hearted volunteer. He is a respected, qualified and certified researcher who had to pass the same examinations that paid researchers/historians are required to pass in order to be employed in the JPAC/CIL facility. His primary focus has been on the Korean War Punchbowl Unknowns - 853 souls whose remains were interred in the National Cemetery of the Pacific as unidentified. Of these nearly 900 Unknowns, 400 may have the potential for identification based on technological advances. Most importantly, however, Mr. Broward's work shows that 24 cases are 'rock solid' for exhumation and identification.

Mr. Broward's work is critical for Korean War families. We understand all too clearly that we will never have 100% accounting. We have waited decades for answers and over the past few years we have created opportunities to advance the ability to account for more Korean War and Cold War personnel.

Over the years we have had a very good relationship with DPMO, JPAC, US-Russia Joint Commission, and the previous incarnations of the above. We have worked hard to establish and keep open communications with numerous individuals and entities tasked with accounting for our loved ones.

CONTINUED

Let there be no misunderstanding, there are times when our good relations soured and we have certainly been vocal in our displeasure with certain actions, and inactions, of those vested with accounting, recovery and identification over the years.

Most importantly though, when someone breaks faith with the families, they break faith with our POWs, MIAs and every man and woman in uniform.

Sadly that is now the case with JPAC's Commander Donna Crisp and Mr. Johnie Webb.

On Thursday, April 2nd, 2009, Mr. Broward was invited, along with other individuals both private and governmental, to offer testimony before the Military Personnel Subcommittee - Accounting & Recovery Hearing. His statement and enclosures continued to highlight drastic shortcomings in the accounting mission and the inability, as of this writing, to successfully pursue the Punchbowl Unknowns with the limited resources and personnel currently available.

Mr. Broward also supports the position of some family members that the accounting process would be better served if it were moved to the mainland rather than left on Oahu. A position that is extremely unpopular with DPMO and certain parties at JPAC. Nonetheless, it is a position that many of us stand by in the belief that the accounting process would be streamlined and human resources would be more readily available.

The result of Mr. Broward's submission and testimony before the Committee was to be barred from further access and work in the JPAC lab by Commander Crisp. As if this were not enough of a blow to us, Commander Crisp promised to send personnel to speak with Mr. Broward so that his work could be picked up and continued. To date this has not happened. According to the Commander, she is in the process of hiring 2 historians to take up this critical work. Once they have been hired, they will then interview Mr. Broward about his work. Whether or not they will ever eventually get around to continuing his work remains to be seen (if and when they are hired)... and even if they do intend to continue, it will be many, many months, if not years before they are able to pick up where Mr. Broward ended.

This is inane.

Why would the United States Government, in the middle of the most critical financial crisis in 70 years, fire, for lack of a better term, a man who worked for FREE and who is without question THE authority on this aspect of the POW-MIA issue. A man who traveled to and from JPAC and Hawaii at his own expense, who fed and sheltered himself at his own expense. And, whose work will bring about the identification of dozens if not ultimately hundreds of unidentified Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marine..

Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing requests your immediate intervention in this situation. We request that your good offices investigate this travesty and that Mr. Broward be reinstated and allowed to continue his work seeking and finding answers that so few over the years have been able to provide.

We invite you contact Mr. Ron Broward and myself directly so that we may fully and freely provide you with the information you need to resolve this situation. We will be willing to provide statements and in-depth information to help you in this effort.

JPAC's motto is "Until They Are Home".

Our response to that is "they" will never come home, or be brought home, as long as individuals continue to inhibit and interfere with the work that is required to Bring Them Home.

I look forward to speaking with your representatives in the very near future.

Very Truly Yours,
Irene L. Mandra, National Chair
Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing

Attention

**Korea Cold War Families of the Missing
Will have their annual dinner at**

**Hilton St. Louis Frontenac
1335 South Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63131**

**The same hotel where the family update
is taking place on
Friday, October 23, 2009 at 7 PM**

**All are welcome, if you wish to attend
please send your Check for \$35.00 per person to
the following address**

**Korea/Cold War Families
PO Box 454
Farmingdale, NY 11735
Please mark your check for dinner, chicken or fish**

**This year we are honoring Norman Kass
Senior Director Joint Commission Support
For his many years of working with families**

**MENU
SALAD**

**Field Greens with Cucumber Slices, Tomato Wedge,
Shredded Cheese & Peppercorn Ranch Dressing**

ENTRÉE CHOICES

**Grilled Chicken Breast with Pesto Cream Sauce
Garlic Yukon Gold mashed Potatoes
Vegetable Medley**

or

**Grilled Salmon with Lemon Caper Sauce
Rice Pilaf
Green Beans Almondine**

**DESSERT (please choose one)
New York Style Cheesecake
Apple Strudel**

On The Hill - by Frank Metersky, Washington, DC Liaison

The President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the our MIA's from the Korean War and their families I respectfully request that you allow DPMO to reengage North Korea to restart the highly successful " Recovery of Remains " operations that were shut down on May 25 TH 2005 by the Bush admin. for bogus political reasons. From 1996 until 2005 these operations were an expanding and positive relationship between the US and North Korea and were viewed as a win-win for both sides. (229 US remains have been recovered)

In the last 60 days the North Korean representative Kim Myong Gil indicated to me on 3 separate occasions by phone that the North would be receptive to contact on this issue. Your NSC and State Dept. representatives at East Asia and Pacific Affairs have also indicated they support this issue. Both also mentioned that the White House fully supports the ongoing POW/MIA efforts by our government leading to the fullest possible accountings for all Wars.

Mr. President it took me 8 years the first time to convince the US and North Korea to engage on the Mia issue. Working with NSC Tony Lake, Sandi Kristof , Jack Pritchard , State Dept Winston Lord , Stan Roth, Charles "Chuck " Kartman and Ken Quinones and the full support of President Clinton it happened. They all saw the benefits of having this issue as an additional point of contact with North Korea away from the serious political issues of the day.

The Korean War has long been Known as the " Forgotten War ", our honored dead and their families deserve better as over 5500 MIA's still remain in the cold desolate ground of North Korea.

Respectfully,
Frank Metersky

Liaison to Washington for the Korea Cold War Families of the Missing

Chit Chat News by Irene L. Mandra August 2009

If you are going to make the family outreach in ST. Louis in October and you are traveling alone and would like to share your room with another person of the same sex please let me know. We have members who are interested in sharing their room. Please contact me at imandra@optonline.net or write to our headquarters

PO Box 454 Farmingdale, NY 11735.

Please note we are having a dinner this year in ST Louis, information is on page 3 of this newsletter.

The October Conference is certain to be a significant briefing - issues with China, North Korea, the ID Lab at JPAC, the Punchbowl, Cold War Missing and where we go from here... ALL must be discussed during this 2 day period. Please join us if you can.

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The Last Stand of Fox Company: A True Story of U.S. Marines in Combat

by Robert Drury and Tom Clavin - January 2009

The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War by David Halberstam

Soviet MiG-15 Aces of the Korean War (Aircraft of the Aces) by Leonid Krylov and Yuriy Tepsurkaev

F4U Corsair Units of the Korean War (Combat Aircraft) by Warren Thompson and Mark Styling

MacArthur (Great Generals) by Richard B. Frank and Wesley K. Clark

Operation Broken Reed: Truman's Secret North Korean Spy Mission That Averted World War III by Arthur L. Boyd

Truman and MacArthur: Policy, Politics, and the Hunger for Honor and Renown by Michael D. Pearlman

Haunting the Korean Diaspora: Shame, Secrecy, and the Forgotten War by Grace M. Cho

America, Russia and the Cold War 1945-2006 by Walter LaFeber

Russia, America and the Cold War: 1949-1991 (Revised 2nd Edition) (2nd Edition) (Seminar Studies in History Series) by Martin McCauley

H. Res. 111 COSPONSORS- Alphabetical s of June 26th, 2009 (177 CoSponsors) D=92 (51.9%) R=84 (47.1%)

Rep Ackerman, Gary L. [NY-5] - 2/3/2009
Rep Aderholt, Robert B. [AL-4] - 2/10/2009
Rep Adler, John H. [NJ-3] - 6/4/2009
Rep Akin, W. Todd [MO-2] - 6/2/2009
Rep Altmire, Jason [PA-4] - 3/25/2009
Rep Andrews, Robert E. [NJ-1] - 5/18/2009
Rep Arcuri, Michael A. [NY-24] - 3/11/2009
Rep Bachmann, Michele [MN-6] - 2/3/2009
Rep Baldwin, Tammy [WI-2] - 5/20/2009
Rep Bartlett, Roscoe G. [MD-6] - 5/20/2009
Rep Billbray, Brian P. [CA-50] - 6/23/2009
Rep Bishop, Timothy H. [NY-1] - 2/24/2009
Rep Blackburn, Marsha [TN-7] - 2/3/2009
Rep Bono Mack, Mary [CA-45] - 2/3/2009
Rep Boozman, John [AR-3] - 2/3/2009
Rep Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [GU] - 3/3/2009
Rep Boren, Dan [OK-2] - 6/2/2009
Rep Boswell, Leonard L. [IA-3] - 2/3/2009
Rep Boustany, Charles W., Jr. [LA-7] - 6/23/2009
Rep Brady, Robert A. [PA-1] - 2/3/2009
Rep Brown, Henry E., Jr. [SC-1] - 3/11/2009
Rep Brown-Waite, Ginny [FL-5] - 2/3/2009
Rep Buchanan, Vern [FL-13] - 2/3/2009
Rep Burgess, Michael C. [TX-26] - 2/3/2009
Rep Burton, Dan [IN-5] - 2/3/2009
Rep Butterfield, G. K. [NC-1] - 2/3/2009
Rep Calvert, Ken [CA-44] - 6/9/2009
Rep Cao, Anh "Joseph" [LA-2] - 6/24/2009
Rep Capito, Shelley Moore [WV-2] - 6/23/2009
Rep Capps, Lois [CA-23] - 2/24/2009
Rep Cardoza, Dennis A. [CA-18] - 2/24/2009
Rep Carney, Christopher P. [PA-10] - 6/23/2009
Rep Chandler, Ben [KY-6] - 5/5/2009
Rep Christensen, Donna M. [VI] - 2/3/2009
Rep Clarke, Yvette D. [NY-11] - 6/23/2009
Rep Coble, Howard [NC-6] - 2/3/2009
Rep Cohen, Steve [TN-9] - 2/3/2009
Rep Connolly, Gerald E. "Gerry" [VA-11] - 6/23/2009
Rep Costello, Jerry F. [IL-12] - 2/3/2009
Rep Crowley, Joseph [NY-7] - 2/3/2009
Rep Cummings, Elijah E. [MD-7] - 6/24/2009
Rep Dahlkemper, Kathleen A. [PA-3] - 5/20/2009
Rep Davis, Geoff [KY-4] - 2/3/2009
Rep Davis, Lincoln [TN-4] - 2/3/2009
Rep DeFazio, Peter A. [OR-4] - 4/21/2009
Rep Diaz-Balart, Lincoln [FL-21] - 3/25/2009
Rep Donnelly, Joe [IN-2] - 6/24/2009
Rep Edwards, Donna F. [MD-4] - 5/20/2009
Rep Ellison, Keith [MN-5] - 2/24/2009
Rep Emerson, Jo Ann [MO-8] - 5/6/2009
Rep Fattah, Chaka [PA-2] - 5/18/2009
Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] - 6/26/2009
Rep Fleming, John [LA-4] - 4/23/2009
Rep Forbes, J. Randy [VA-4] - 2/3/2009
Rep Foster, Bill [IL-14] - 4/2/2009
Rep Foxx, Virginia [NC-5] - 2/10/2009
Rep Frelinghuysen, Rodney P. [NJ-11] - 2/3/2009
Rep Gallegly, Elton [CA-24] - 6/23/2009
Rep Garrett, Scott [NJ-5] - 2/26/2009
Rep Gerlach, Jim [PA-6] - 6/24/2009
Rep Gohmert, Louie [TX-1] - 2/3/2009
Rep Gordon, Bart [TN-6] - 2/10/2009
Rep Granger, Kay [TX-12] - 6/26/2009
Rep Griffith, Parker [AL-5] - 4/23/2009
Rep Guthrie, Brett [KY-2] - 5/6/2009
Rep Gutierrez, Luis V. [IL-4] - 5/6/2009
Rep Hall, Ralph M. [TX-4] - 6/23/2009
Rep Harman, Jane [CA-36] - 2/3/2009
Rep Heller, Dean [NV-2] - 2/3/2009
Rep Herseth Sandlin, Stephanie [SD] - 6/4/2009
Rep Hodes, Paul W. [NH-2] - 5/21/2009
Rep Hoekstra, Peter [MI-2] - 6/16/2009
Rep Holden, Tim [PA-17] - 2/3/2009
Rep Holt, Rush D. [NJ-12] - 2/24/2009
Rep Inglis, Bob [SC-4] - 3/30/2009
Rep Israel, Steve [NY-2] - 3/25/2009
Rep Issa, Darrell E. [CA-49] - 2/3/2009
Rep Johnson, Sam [TX-3] - 5/18/2009
Rep Johnson, Timothy V. [IL-15] - 5/4/2009
Rep Jordan, Jim [OH-4] - 3/25/2009
Rep Kagen, Steve [WI-8] - 6/26/2009
Rep Kaptur, Marcy [OH-9] - 2/3/2009
Rep Kildee, Dale E. [MI-5] - 2/3/2009
Rep Kissell, Larry [NC-8] - 4/23/2
Rep Klein, Ron [FL-22] - 3/6/2009
Rep Kline, John [MN-2] - 3/11/2009
Rep Kosmas, Suzanne M. [FL-24] - 6/23/2009
Rep Lance, Leonard [NJ-7] - 3/11/2009
Rep Langevin, James R. [RI-2] - 3/3/2009

Rep Larson, John B. [CT-1] - 6/9/2009009
Rep LaTourette, Steven C. [OH-14] - 4/21/2009
Rep Latta, Robert E. [OH-5] - 4/23/2009
Rep Linder, John [GA-7] - 2/3/2009
Rep LoBiondo, Frank A. [NJ-2] - 2/3/2009
Rep Loebsack, David [IA-2] - 5/21/2009
Rep Lowey, Nita M. [NY-18] - 6/23/2009
Rep Lummis, Cynthia M. [WY] - 5/18/2009
Rep Lungren, Daniel E. [CA-3] - 2/3/2009
Rep Mack, Connie [FL-14] - 2/3/2009
Rep Maloney, Carolyn B. [NY-14] - 2/26/2009
Rep Manzullo, Donald A. [IL-16] - 2/3/2009
Rep Marchant, Kenny [TX-24] - 5/18/2009
Rep McCarthy, Carolyn [NY-4] - 3/18/2009
Rep McCaul, Michael T. [TX-10] - 2/3/2009
Rep McClintock, Tom [CA-4] - 6/23/2009
Rep McCollum, Betty [MN-4] - 3/18/2009
Rep McCotter, Thaddeus G. [MI-11] - 3/18/2009
Rep McHenry, Patrick T. [NC-10] - 2/3/2009
Rep McNerney, Jerry [CA-11] - 6/26/2009
Rep Meek, Kendrick B. [FL-17] - 4/21/2009
Rep Michaud, Michael H. [ME-2] - 5/18/2009
Rep Miller, Brad [NC-13] - 4/23/2009
Rep Miller, Jeff [FL-1] - 6/23/2009
Rep Mitchell, Harry E. [AZ-5] - 2/24/2009
Rep Moore, Dennis [KS-3] - 2/26/2009
Rep Moran, James P. [VA-8] - 2/3/2009
Rep Moran, Jerry [KS-1] - 5/6/2009
Rep Murphy, Christopher S. [CT-5] - 2/3/2009
Rep Murphy, Patrick J. [PA-8] - 6/23/2009
Rep Murphy, Tim [PA-18] - 4/21/2009
Rep Murtha, John P. [PA-12] - 2/24/2009
Rep Myrick, Sue Wilkins [NC-9] - 2/3/2009
Rep Neugebauer, Randy [TX-19] - 3/25/2009
Rep Oberstar, James L. [MN-8] - 3/3/2009
Rep Olson, Pete [TX-22] - 3/3/2009
Rep Pallone, Frank, Jr. [NJ-6] - 5/4/2009
Rep Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [NJ-8] - 6/2/2009
Rep Paul, Ron [TX-14] - 2/3/2009
Rep Paulsen, Erik [MN-3] - 2/24/2009
Rep Payne, Donald M. [NJ-10] - 5/18/2009
Rep Perlmutter, Ed [CO-7] - 4/29/2009
Rep Peterson, Collin C. [MN-7] - 3/3/2009
Rep Pingree, Chellie [ME-1] - 6/2/2009
Rep Platts, Todd Russell [PA-19] - 5/18/2009
Rep Poe, Ted [TX-2] - 2/3/2009
Rep Posey, Bill [FL-15] - 3/6/2009
Rep Price, Tom [GA-6] - 2/3/2009
Rep Putnam, Adam H. [FL-12] - 3/30/2009
Rep Rangel, Charles B. [NY-15] - 5/13/2009
Rep Rehberg, Denny [MT] - 6/4/2009
Rep Roe, David P. [TN-1] - 2/26/2009
Rep Rogers, Harold [KY-5] - 2/3/2009
Rep Rohrabacher, Dana [CA-46] - 2/3/2009
Rep Rooney, Thomas J. [FL-16] - 4/29/2009
Rep Ross, Mike [AR-4] - 2/24/2009
Rep Rothman, Steven R. [NJ-9] - 2/4/2009
Rep Rush, Bobby L. [IL-1] - 5/20/2009
Rep Ryan, Tim [OH-17] - 3/11/2009
Rep Sarbanes, John P. [MD-3] - 3/25/2009
Rep Schiff, Adam B. [CA-29] - 2/3/2009
Rep Schmidt, Jean [OH-2] - 4/29/2009
Rep Schwartz, Allyson Y. [PA-13] - 6/4/2009
Rep Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [VA-3] - 2/3/2009
Rep Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr. [WI-5] - 2/3/2009
Rep Sessions, Pete [TX-32] - 2/26/2009
Rep Shea-Porter, Carol [NH-1] - 5/20/2009
Rep Shimkus, John [IL-19] - 4/29/2009
Rep Sires, Albio [NJ-13] - 5/21/2009
Rep Smith, Christopher H. [NJ-4] - 2/3/2009
Rep Souder, Mark E. [IN-3] - 2/3/2009
Rep Space, Zachary T. [OH-18] - 5/4/2009
Rep Stearns, Cliff [FL-6] - 4/23/2009
Rep Tanner, John S. [TN-8] - 3/11/2009
Rep Tauscher, Ellen O. [CA-10] - 2/24/2009
Rep Teague, Harry [NM-2] - 5/18/2009
Rep Terry, Lee [NE-2] - 2/3/2009
Rep Tiahrt, Todd [KS-4] - 3/11/2009
Rep Walz, Timothy J. [MN-1] - 3/11/2009
Rep Wamp, Zach [TN-3] - 3/3/2009
Rep Weiner, Anthony D. [NY-9] - 6/12/2009
Rep Whitfield, Ed [KY-1] - 5/5/2009
Rep Wilson, Joe [SC-2] - 5/13/2009
Rep Wittman, Robert J. [VA-1] - 2/3/2009
Rep Wolf, Frank R. [VA-10] - 2/3/2009
Rep Wu, David [OR-1] - 2/3/2009
Rep Yarmuth, John A. [KY-3] - 4/29/2009
Rep Young, Don [AK] - 2/3/2009
Rep Deal, Nathan [GA-9] - 3/25/2009(withdrawn - 3/30/2009)

**If your Representative's name is NOT on the above list - Call, Fax, Email, Write and get them to sign on.
We were so close last time, let's make 2009 the year this Bill passes.**

Finding Fallen Soldiers - 21 May, 2009
Countries team up to find fallen soldiers in South Korea
By Jon Rabihoff, Stars and Stripes, Mideast edition

HWACHEON COUNTY, South Korea - U.S. military excavators are hoping the discovery of human remains and a pen in this remote farming village can help them write the final chapter in the lives of as many as five American soldiers lost during the Korean War.

After only a few days of digging into a "burial mound" found along a route believed to be used for prisoner-of-war marches during the conflict, the team from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command has turned up finger bone fragments, bullets and casings, buttons, a boot eyelet and a Parker pen.

"Of course, in the '40s and '50s, a lot of soldiers carried fountain pens with them - and that was their main means of communicating with their family," said Jay Silverstein, a JPAC anthropologist overseeing the dig about eight miles from the border with North Korea. "So, it is very common to find a fountain pen with American soldiers from World War II and the Korean War."

Since it was formed in 2005, JPAC - which is based at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii - has found and identified the remains of more than 90 servicemembers originally listed as missing or unaccounted for after the Korean War, which ran from 1950 to 1953.

JPAC's 12-member excavation team came to Hwacheon this month because a preliminary investigation a year ago determined there was a strong likelihood that American soldiers might have been buried here.

Lt. Col. Wayne Perry, a JPAC spokesman, said the discovery of the "traditional Korean burial mound," the role the area played during the war and the recollections of local residents convinced the agency to send in an excavation team.

Officials on site stressed Monday that it was still early in the dig, and anything exhumed will first have to be carefully examined to determine how many - if any - remains of U.S. soldiers are ultimately found on the site.

That said, Perry said the mound is "related to what we believe to be a burial site of four or five individuals who were on what we call a POW march trail."

During the war, the Hwacheon region was occupied by North Korean forces, Perry said.

"When they captured [South] Korean and U.S. forces, they would march them back north to the prison camps in the area that is now North Korea," he said.

"In some cases, there would be several days of walking, up to a couple of weeks, and that's why some of [the POWs] died along the way, from disease or their injuries."

Perry said officials suspect that after a march, or after the war was over, local residents "gathered up" the bodies and gave them a formal burial.

"Korean culture is very respectful of death, and I think they wanted to give them the right burial," he said. "That's why this is a typical Korean burial mound versus a hole in the ground, if you will. They were buried traditionally. In their culture, that would be the proper thing to do."

Kim Chu-yul, who lives near the site, said through an interpreter that local residents have long suspected soldiers of some kind were buried in the mound due to the discovery of "military items" in the vicinity. He said he was "very impressed" by the work done a year ago on site by JPAC investigators. C O N T I N U E D

The Hwacheon dig is being hailed by U.S. and South Korean military officials as an example of teamwork and cooperation, as a team of Korean soldiers has been brought in to assist JPAC in excavating the site. More than 30 Korean journalists were brought to the site on Monday to see Americans and Koreans working elbow-to-elbow digging up the site, filling buckets and handing them up to a team of sifters, who meticulously inspected each load for anything of interest as they forced the dirt through screens.

More than 8,000 U.S. servicemembers remain missing in action or unaccounted for from the Korean War, with about 2,000 of those believed to be buried in South Korea. The United States has been barred since 2005 from looking for remains in North Korea, a source of frustration for Silverstein, who was involved in a dig north of the border before they were no longer allowed.

"I am always disappointed when politics interfere with human rights and bringing closure to families whose relatives died in Korea so long ago," he said, adding that he hopes to someday return to North Korea in search of the remains of U.S. servicemembers.

"I found the North Koreans very pleasant to work with," Silverstein said. "My experience was very positive. It gave me a lot of hope for the future - that relations between the North and the South and the West and the rest of Asia will someday be improved.

"I found [the North Koreans] to be very reasonable people. Very friendly. We could sit down and have a beer, or smoke a cigar, and talk. It was quite pleasant."

Perry said despite all the years that have passed since the Korean War, the finding of remains continues to be important, and for more than just the promise the U.S. military makes to those in its ranks that, "If you're lost, we're going to bring you home."

To the families of the dead, there is nothing more important than to know about the final chapter of their loved ones' lives, he said.

"It's hard to explain - it's so important," Perry said. "Hopefully we can capture the circumstances of the loss and people can see what [the deceased] did and how they were lost, and it brings closure to them. It's important to people."

US names new ambassador to Zimbabwe
Appointment...Ambassador Ray

UNITED States President Barack Obama has nominated a retired army major to be the new US Ambassador to Zimbabwe.

Obama said Charles Aaron Ray is a "talented and dedicated individual" and looked forward to working with him "to strengthen our relationships in the global community and our standing in the world".

He replaces fellow African American James McGee who leaves Zimbabwe next week.

Ray's appointment comes at a watershed moment for Zimbabwe following the first government-to-government talks between the two countries after almost a decade of frosty relations.

Ray, a member of the Foreign Service since 1983, has been the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Prisoners of War/Missing Personnel Affairs and Director of the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office since 2006.

Miracles DO Happen

The POW Priest US Army Chaplain on Road to Sainthood - July 1st, 2009

Fr Emil Kapaun, Wichita, Kansas, cause for sainthood

The cause of an American army chaplain who died in a North Korean prison camp in 1951, has come a step closer as the Vatican has begun to investigate a number of possible miracles.

Fr Emil Kapaun, a priest from Wichita, Kansas, was born in 1916. His family was of Bohemian extraction. He volunteered for Army chaplain duty in the Korean War.

He was assigned to the US Army's Eighth Cavalry regiment, which was surrounded and overrun by the Chinese army in North Korea in October and November 1950. He stayed behind with the wounded when the Army retreated. He constantly administered to the dead and dying while performing baptisms, hearing Confessions, offering Holy Communion and celebrating Mass from an improvised altar set up on the front end of an army jeep.

Fr Kapaun often lost his Mass Kit, jeep and trailer to enemy fire. He told how he was thoroughly convinced that the prayers of many others were what had saved him so many times. He was captured in November, 1950 and then risked death by preventing Chinese executions of wounded Americans too injured to walk. Several soldiers say the Chinese prison camp guards deliberately starved him to death to stop the religious services he conducted in defiance of camp rules.

He died in a POW camp on May 23, 1951 aged 35, and was buried in a mass grave near the Yalu River.

American soldiers came out of prisoner-of-war camps in 1953 with incredible stories about Kapaun's heroism and faith. They said that in the fierce winter of 1950 and 1951, when 1,200 out of 3,000 American prisoners starved to death or died of illness in Camp 5 along the Yalu River, Kapaun kept hundreds alive by stealing food and by force of will.

On 29 June 2008, the Opening Ceremony for the Cause for Sainthood for Fr Emil Kapaun took place at St John Nepomucene Catholic Church in Pilsen, Kansas.

Last Friday, June 26, Dr Andrea Ambrosi, the Roman Postulator for Father Kapaun's cause for canonization arrived in Wichita in order to interview doctors about some alleged miraculous events. Among these, are the claims of 20-year-old Chase Kear who survived a severe head injury last year in part, because he and his family say, they petitioned Fr Emil Kapaun to intercede for them.

Kear, a member of the Hutchinson Community College track team, fell on his head during pole vaulting practice in October, 2008 but, it is said, was miraculously healed despite being near death.

The Rev John Hotze, the judicial vicar for the Diocese of Wichita, who is assisting the investigation said he "had never seen doctors who made such a compelling case for miracles occurring."

By extraordinary love, courage and compassion, Father Kapaun shepherded his POW flock through sickness, famine, freezing cold, torture and hopelessness. He gave his life serving his brother POWs and with his faith and love he was the miracle that kept his fellow POWs alive.

In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love.

Mother Teresa

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 348-09 - May 19, 2009

U.S. Department of Defense
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

Mabus Sworn in as New Navy Secretary

Ray Mabus, former Mississippi governor and U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, was sworn in today as the 75th Secretary of the Navy. Leading the Navy and Marine Corps, Secretary Mabus will be responsible for an annual budget in excess of \$150 billion and almost 900,000 people.

The Secretary of the Navy is responsible for conducting all the affairs of the Department of the Navy, including recruiting, organizing, supplying, equipping, training, and mobilizing. Additionally, he oversees the construction, outfitting, and repair of naval ships, equipment and facilities, and is responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies and programs that are consistent with the national security policies and objectives established by the president and the secretary of defense.

Prior to joining the administration of President Barack Obama, Mabus served in a variety of top posts in government and the private sector. In 1988, Mabus was elected governor of Mississippi where he stressed education and job creation. In 1994, he was appointed ambassador to Saudi Arabia, where during his tenure, the Kingdom officially abandoned the boycott of U.S. businesses that trade with Israel. Mabus also was chairman and chief executive officer of Foamex, a large manufacturing company, and also served as a Navy surface warfare officer aboard the cruiser USS Little Rock.

Secretary Mabus is a native of Ackerman, Miss., and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi, a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University, and a law degree from Harvard Law School.

Korea, US Join Hands to Excavate War Remains By Jung Sung-ki - Staff Reporter

A team of South Korean and U.S. officials has been working together to excavate the remains of American soldiers killed in action during the 1950-53 Korean War, the Ministry of National Defense said Tuesday.

It is the first time that officials of the two countries have conducted a joint recovery of war remains of fallen U.S. soldiers since Korea's Agency for Killed in Action Recovery and Identification (MAKRI) and the U.S. Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action and Accounting Command (JPAC) signed a memorandum of understanding on joint missions last August, the ministry said in a news release.

The recovery work began May 14 in Hwacheon, Gangwon Province. It will continue in nearby Cheolwon and Yeoncheon, according to the release.

In Hwacheon, there was a bloody battle in June 1951 between U.S. forces of the 7th and 24th army divisions of the U.S. 9th Corps and Chinese troops backing North Korea, it said.

The joint recovery team has found a collection of bone fragments and belongings in its latest work, it said.

It will take at least six months to fully identify the bones, said Jay Silverstein, an archaeologist working with the Hawaii-based JPAC.

About 8,100 U.S. soldiers remain unaccounted for from the Korean War that ended in a truce rather than a peace treaty.

The Korean Army launched operations to recover the remains of war dead in 2000 and the mission was transferred to MAKRI in 2003.

The Korea Times

(258) Prisoners of Korean War By Andrei Lankov

Perhaps no problem generated by the Korean War caused so much argument, and excitement as the "prisoners' question." The plight of Westerners who found themselves guests of the Communists remained a much discussed topic for years after the war was over.

How many prisoners were held by the North? We will probably never know the correct answer, especially as far as South Koreans are concerned. It was difficult to hide Americans or other Westerners in Korea, and everyone missing in action was known by name to the U.N. command. This was not the case for the South Koreans whose life costs little both to their captors and, alas, to Seoul officialdom.

Initially, North Korean propaganda boasted of 65,000 prisoners taken during the first months of the war. The U.N. had approximately 100,000 soldiers unaccounted for. Of course, only a part of these MIAs could possibly be prisoners: most were killed in action but their bodies were never found and/or identified. However, in late 1951 the Communist side admitted to having merely 11,559 prisoners. When asked about their earlier statements, they said the remaining 54,000 had been released after screening. Most likely, the 65,000 prisoners were a propaganda invention, but the number of POWs almost certainly exceeded the officially declared 11,559. The "missing people" were either shot during the chaotic retreat of October and November, or for some reason earmarked as unsuitable for repatriation after the war. Most of the latter were South Koreans, but it is possible that some Americans were secretly transferred to the USSR and China, never to return.

The 11,559 total included 7,142 ROK soldiers and 4,417 U.N. personnel. The latter included 3,198 Americans, 919 British, 234 Turks and a handful of people from other nations taking part in the conflict.

By mid-1951, operations were deadlocked, and the ensuing trench warfare did not produce many prisoners for either side. Only occasionally were some ambushed on patrol, or pilots shot down over enemy territory. Thus, by the end of hostilities the number of captured Americans increased slightly to 4,439.

Among the non-Korean POWs the Americans formed a clear majority. This reflected their decisive role in the conflict. They were subjected to the harshest treatment, especially in the early months of the war when prisoners were made to march northward for days on end, without any break. The weak were killed or left to die on the spot. This led to a very high mortality among prisoners: out of 7,140 Americans captured alive, 2,701 died in captivity. Meaning a death rate of 38%, - almost nine times higher than in Hitler's camps during World War II.

Incidentally, around the same time Western leftists said that Western POWs in the camps enjoyed a better diet than their families back home (of course: they were in Socialist Paradise while their families suffered in Capitalist Hell!). A number of people believed this: it was a time when a good bleeding heart progressive was supposed to love Comrade Stalin and Chairman Mao.

Most of the deaths occurred before mid-1951 when the camps (actually, most POWs were housed in villages) became grounds for intense indoctrination. The efforts were surprisingly successful - at least as far as the Americans were concerned. A very large number of prisoners cooperated with their captors and some of them even officially denounced "U.S. imperialism."

CONTINUED

Thus, the return of prisoners to the U.S. in 1953 led to an intense soul searching, and also provided an impetus to the hitherto seldom used term of "brainwashing".

The British fared much better, perhaps since they were subjected to less pressure from the captors (after all, the U.K. was seen as a minor imperialist power). The Turks were remarkably tough and uncooperative. In a sense, they behaved in the same way as the Communist prisoners in South Korea. The Turks formed strong resistance groups, and were ready to kill anybody who was seen as excessively sympathetic to their captors.

Out of all the prisoners, the fate of the fellow South Koreans was, probably, by far the worst. While dealing with the foreigners, the captors understood that these people would eventually be released and would tell their compatriots about their experiences. This was not the case with South Koreans who were completely at the whim of their captors.

Springs man, famous for POW flag design, dies Newt Heisley was 88 - May 16, 2009

The Colorado Springs man who designed the black and white POW/MIA flag flown everywhere from federal buildings to Harley-Davidson fenders died Thursday at his home.

Newt Heisley was 88.

"Newt wanted no hoopla. All he wants is a celebration," his fiancée, Donna R. Allison, said. That's what he'll get on Flag Day, June 14, from 1-4 p.m. at the American Legion Post 38 in Security. The public is invited. He will be entombed at Shrine of Remembrance next to his wife of 61 years, Margaret "Bunny", who died in 2005. The prolific image he sketched in pencil in 1971 has the silhouette of a man under a guard tower and behind barbed wire. It's a symbolic reminder that not every soldier returned from the war in Vietnam. The flag flew over the White House when President Ronald Reagan marked the first POW/MIA Recognition Day. Biker groups adopted the flag, tattooing the image on their bodies, patching it on jackets and flying it from their bumpers. Newt Heisley sported the image on his hat, lapel and license plate. "Everyone knew it was Newt's flag," Allison said. "He would personally sign them for people, that's what he would do for years." He never dreamed it would be a national icon. He was simply "the ad guy" around town.

"He was just working for an ad agency. He came up with the rendition of the flag," said his son, James Heisley. "At first he was almost embarrassed, but he got kind of used to it. It defined his life." Newt Heisley was proud of what the flag meant. He was a C-46 transport pilot in World War II in the Pacific. "It was typical to present it in black-and-white and his idea was to go back and do some color," James Heisley said. "They came and looked at it and said, 'That's it.'" Newt Heisley worked in advertising for 25 years in big Manhattan agencies before moving to Colorado Springs to start his own advertising firm. "He decided there had to be greener pastures," James Heisley said. "He almost took a job in Bermuda, but my mom was a little leery of living on an island. They said, 'Let's head West and see what we can see.' They were on the way to California and pulled into a hotel room in Colorado Springs in the dark. In the morning he saw Pikes Peak and said, 'Bunny, we aren't going any further.'" He retired from Heisley Design and Advertising in 1987. "He didn't expect to get any recognition. If he had a nickel for every time that image appeared, he and I'd be multi-multi millionaires," James Heisley said. "Newt always said it was better as public image."

He also is survived by another son, Jeffrey N., who modeled for the silhouette on the flag; daughters-in-law Susan Heisley and Deborah Heisley; and granddaughter Sara Heisley.

Man looking for families of MIA soldiers Families never contacted about 2 GIs lost in Korea

By JAKE LOWARY - The Leaf-Chronicle, May 11, 2009

Harold Davis is on the search for families of two former soldiers from Clarksville lost during the Korean War.

Davis is a one-man operation who is doing what he feels is the right thing for his former fellow brothers in arms — find the families of those 8,000 soldiers who went missing more than 50 years ago during the Korean War and have been declared dead by the U.S. government.

Davis, who lives in Wilmington, N.C., fought in Korea alongside some of the men whose families he's hoping to find. He said many families have been located, but there are thousands more that no one can find.

"I don't know why, but there was over 2,000 families they didn't reach," Davis said of government agencies like Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, which is based in Hawaii and regularly ventures around the world to old battlefields to locate lost remains.

Davis is looking for the families of Robert Judson Foster and John Lawrence Sullivan.

Foster has a date of birth of May 11, 1932, and was reported missing in action on Dec. 15, 1950, in the area of Hamhung, North Korea. He was a member of G Company, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division.

"He was caught up there when the Chinese came in," Davis said.

Sullivan has a recorded date of birth April 1, 1933, and was reported wounded on Nov. 29, 1950, and later died of those injuries on Dec. 1, 1950. His body wasn't recovered. He was listed as a member of A Company, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division.

Both soldiers listed Montgomery County as their home of record. Davis thinks they are the only soldiers still missing from Korea who called this area home.

Davis said he's found about 400 families during his search and hopes others will find their way to their relatives and get the burial they deserve.

"They never got to hold a grandchild ... they were forgotten," Davis said. "They have no family contact at all, that's how forgotten they are."

On average, JPAC identifies about six MIAs per month and has identified 1,300 to date, according to its Web site. At any given time, more than 1,000 cases are under investigation.

Lt. Col. Wayne Perry, the JPAC public affairs director, said there are still 8,044 soldiers missing from Korea. Additionally, Perry said JPAC has about 700 unidentified remains that need additional resources like DNA or documents to help identify MIAs.

Perry said Davis calls regularly and said "what Harold does helps."

Davis said Sullivan's and Foster's remains could have been found, but without a DNA comparison, no confirmation can be made.

"There are remains they can't identify because they don't have DNA," he said.

Perry said it's possible that their remains have been found, but cautioned that providing a DNA sample is not a foolproof way to find or identify a missing service member.

CONTINUED :: "We may not have even been to that site yet," he said.

'It could have been me'

Davis is not involved in the effort for any money, credit or accolades. He serves as a middle man between the government agencies like JPAC and casualty assistance officers trying to locate families and the families themselves.

"I do it because of the way I feel about it. I know the situation they were in, and it very well could have been me."

Davis joined the effort after hearing the story of another man who was in Korea and wanted to find someone who was lost. He told a story of drinking water from a ditch to survive, being on the brink of starvation and other prisoners of war being herded into train box cars before being shot to death.

"They were packed in there so tight when one died, they wouldn't fall," he said. "That's why I got started on this thing."

He also noted that he "can't answer anything officially," and only serves as an added resource.

A bit of good news is that technology and current knowledge might lead to the location of more remains.

"These bodies are up there, we know where they are," he said. "What the average person doesn't realize is these kids didn't know what they were doing over there. They got caught up and gave it all right from the start."

JPAC reports on its Web site that in addition to the 8,044 missing service members from the Korean War, more than 78,000 are still missing from World War II — only 35,000 of which are deemed "recoverable" — about 1,800 from Vietnam, 120 from the Cold War and one from the Gulf War.

If you think you might be related to Robert Judson Foster or John Lawrence Sullivan, both reported missing in action in 1950 during the Korean War, call Harold Davis at 910-791-2333 or e-mail him at hgdavis@bellsouth.net. You also can call the casualty assistance officer for the specific service your family member was in:

Army: 800-892-2490.

Marines: 800-847-1597.

Air Force: 800-531-5803.

Navy: 800-443-9298.

State Department: 202-647-6769.

Remains of missing Neb. Korean War vet buried Associated Press - May 2, 2009

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) - The remains of a Nebraska serviceman who went missing during the Korean War have been buried at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

Services were held Friday for Sgt. 1st Class Patrick J. Arthur of Broken Bow. Friends and family gathered at the cemetery for the service and on Thursday at an Arlington funeral home to pay their respects.

The Defense Department has said Arthur was captured and taken to North Korea in May 1951. He died of malnutrition and disease in July 1951 and was buried near Pyongyang.

Scientists used DNA evidence and dental records to identify some of Arthur's remains among boxes North Korea gave to the United States in the early 1990s.

Information from: Lincoln Journal Star,
<http://www.journalstar.com>

Rare POW Camp Movie

Time Limit

Directed by Karl Malden

By Alan Bacchus

The great character actor Karl Malden only directed one film: Time Limit. This 1957 military drama about a mysterious case of treason within a Korean War POW camp finally gets its DVD debut. It's the middle of the Korean War and Richard Widmark plays Col. William Edwards, a Judge Advocate (military lawyer) assigned to the case of Major Harry Cargill, a respected officer who confesses to treason. While in a POW camp, Cargill freely communicated anti-American propaganda to the Korean troops, a heinous act that threatens to have him court-martialed.

Any questions Edwards asks of Cargill are met with the same unemotional statements repeated over and over again, same as his fellow POW inmates. Something just doesn't feel right and Edwards' investigation gradually uncovers a stunning revelation about the troops. The investigation plays out with a predictable series of dramatic confessions to arrive at the shocking truth from the soldiers. While it's difficult to shock audiences these days, in 1957, Malden managed to poke some rather large holes in the foundation of the American military establishment to stir up some controversy.'

The title refers to the notion of military heroism and the unfair burden this label can be on our soldiers - themes applicable to any war, or any soldier, especially nowadays when our soldiers are supported with an often over-the-top shower of exaltation. But our soldiers, like the characters in Malden's film, are just regular people, just as vulnerable to the fears of death and dishonour. These are some grand ideas that unfortunately are stifled by some stodgy storytelling. Stepping behind the camera with this material would seem a natural for Malden, as it was originally a play adapted for the screen by the writer - an actor's movie.

Unfortunately it makes for a stogy filmed version, a visually uninspired effort, with its minimal interior locations largely undecorated on a small, claustrophobic set, though the occasional flashbacks to the POW camp do bring a dark sense of gritty realism to the picture. We only have to look a couple years later to Stanley Kubrick's anti-war classic Paths of Glory, which relays the same complex themes of cowardice and heroism, but with infinitely more cinematic chutzpah. The MGM release, like their King and Four Queens release, contains nothing but the movie - not even a menu screen. (MGM)

A Funeral for Korean War Veteran 58 Years after Death July 02, 2009

Better late than never. Nearly 60 years after his death in the Korean War, Sergeant First Class Lincoln "Cliff" May received the funeral he deserved in Plainville, Connecticut, at West Cemetery. May, then 22 years old and engaged to be married, was killed in combat in November of 1950 while serving with the First Calvary Division of the United States Army. It was not until 1993 that his unidentified remains were shipped to the U.S. It would be another 15 years before DNA samples taken from his nephew, Clifford Block, allowed Sgt. May to be identified.

Upon the revelation of May's identity, a military funeral was held to honor his service to the country. There were a number of veterans present, especially from the Korean War, who wanted to pay respects to a man they considered their brother. Members of his family expressed gratitude for the U.S. Army's efforts that brought them both closure and joy. Although he is survived by three nephews and a niece, he was predeceased by his mother, father, brother, and two sisters, near whom he was buried.

Families Get Update, Hope June Seminar gives families of POW/MIA hope

By DEAN SHALHOUP Staff Writer, Nashua Telegraph

NASHUA - Steve Uurtamo studied a large satellite photo of North Korea, one of several such aerial images and maps displayed on easels around a lobby area in the Courtyard Marriott Hotel on Saturday morning.

"That's where he probably is," Uurtamo eventually said, indicating the spot where a yellow arrow came to a point near the center. "They say there were around 700 in there, and something like 80 of them came out."

Uurtamo's father, Army Maj. Stephen J. Uurtamo, is believed to be one of hundreds of U.S. soldiers who perished in that spot, officially known as the North Korean prisoner of war holding camp Pukchin-Parigol Valley, but best recognized among Korean War veterans as the place where hell freezes over.

On Saturday, Uurtamo and his wife, Helen, who live in Amherst, were among roughly 150 people from around New England, New York and Pennsylvania who gathered at the hotel's conference center to listen and talk about the one thing they all have in common: a family member whose remains have never been found since he or she went missing while fighting one of America's wars.

The day-long event was one in a series of traveling monthly seminars called "family updates" put on by the U.S. Department of Defense's Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel division for families of POW/MIA soldiers striving for closure, sometimes for as long as 60 and 70 years.

Rich in moving, heartrending stories verbalized by missing veterans' survivors, the seminars also feature a series of presentations from scientists and government officials on how they go about scouring the globe for even the tiniest shard of soldiers' remains that may allow them to extract sufficient material evidence and DNA to make positive identification.

The seminars are geared toward families unable to travel to Washington, D.C., to pursue updates or review their case files, said Larry Greer, the Defense Department POW/MIA office's public affairs director. Hosting a family update in a relatively small community like Nashua is the exception, Greer said, but Saturday's attendance nevertheless topped that of seminars held in many large metropolitan areas.

Merrimack resident Beatrice Lampen was just 12 the fall day in 1950 that two Army officers marched solemnly up to her family's farmhouse in rural Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

"I'm sure my parents knew what it meant," Lampen said.

Cpl. Lucien Bourque went missing three days before his 19th birthday, said Lampen, who attended her first Family Update on Saturday. "We think he was lost somewhere near Seoul... his last letters said he was in that area."

Years went by with no news about Bourque reaching the family. He was declared dead seven years after he went missing, Lampen said.

Several years ago, as a way to increase the chance her brother will someday be identified, Lampen joined a rapidly increasing group of military families who are having DNA samples taken and placed on file in the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory in Rockville, Md.

"We're bringing in remains for testing every day," Greer said, emphasizing the valuable role that DNA has begun playing in the identification process.

"We used to have to draw blood, but now we usually do mouth swabs, which is much easier and faster," Greer said.

To encourage DNA sampling and simplify the process, the military sends a DNA collection team to each Family Update, where family members can give a sample and fill out the paperwork in just minutes. A number of Saturday's attendees participated throughout the program. C O N T I N U E D

For Norma Spurling, who traveled from Bar Harbor, Maine, with her husband Leslie on Saturday, it's going on 65 years since her big brother, George, went missing after his plane was shot down in September 1944.

"I remember him lying on his bed on Dec. 7, 1941, listening to his radio about Pearl Harbor," Spurling said. "He jumped up and said he wanted to go join (the service) right then, but he was only 17 and my mother said 'absolutely not.'"

"But as soon as he turned 18 and graduated (high school), he enlisted," she said. "I look at his picture all the time and have been writing to a man who goes out and looks for plane crash wreckage, thinking maybe his remains can be found. I gave a DNA sample last year."

Saturday's seminar, meanwhile, is the third for Uurtamo, the Amherst resident whose father went missing in Korea.

"They've provided more information than we'd gotten in 60 years," he said. "It's been very important to us."

Uurtamo was just 2 years old and his sister still two days from being born when his father disappeared Dec. 1, 1950.

"My mother had very sketchy information, we didn't know much at all," Uurtamo said. But the seminars, he said, have filled in a lot of blanks.

For instance, he knows something about the enemy camp where his father presumably perished. "It's a narrow, really deep gorge, so deep the sun doesn't reach the bottom," he said. "It has sub-zero temperatures. . . . the prisoners had little food, and no wood for fires," he added, gazing again at the map, perhaps wondering how an area that looks so tame, even almost inviting, from high above can be such a hellhole in actuality.

Uurtamo shook his head.

"I learned they (North Korean forces) separated the officers my father was an officer and made them listen to propaganda," he said. "He died of pneumonia six weeks after he was captured. It's no wonder."

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 and help explain the methods used to account for families' missing loved ones. Each office dedicates for family use the following addresses and telephone numbers:

Department of the Army

(800) 892-2490 US Army Human Resources Command
Attn: AHRC-PED-F
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332-0482

Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps

(800) 847-1597 Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MRA) Personal and Family Readiness Division 3280 Russell Road Quantico, VA 22134-5103

Department of the Navy

(800) 443-9298 Navy Personnel Command Casualty Assistance and Retired Activities Branch POW/MIA Section (PERS-P665) 5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN 38055-6210

Department of the Air Force

(800) 531-5803 HQ, Air Force Mortuary Affairs 10-100 Reunion Place, Suite 260 San Antonio, TX 78108-4138

Department of State

(202) 647-6769
Office of American Citizens Services and Crisis Management
CA/OCS/ACS/EAP
2201 C Street, Northwest, Room 4811
Washington, DC 20520-4818

FOIA Requests - JPAC

If you are not the next of kin of a missing service member and would like to obtain JPAC case information, files or records, a Freedom of Information Act request is required. Please note that JPAC is not a central repository for historical information or personnel records. We, like other researchers, obtain our records from the National Archives, applicable service personnel archives, service historical resources, archived media, and other public activities. However, the historical information that we have gathered in support of a case may be requested via the Freedom of Information Act.

If your request pertains to a case that is being actively investigated or recovered, please be aware that those materials cannot be released in their entirety and are subject to exemptions from release under both Freedom of Information Act Legislation and the McCain Bill. More information about the FOIA process as it relates to the POW/MIA issue is available through the external link Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office.

To initiate a FOIA request, please contact us with your request at:

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command
Attn: Deputy to the Commander for Public Relations
and Legislative Affairs
310 Worcester Avenue, Bldg. 45
Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii 96853-5530

Requests should be as specific as possible. If you know them, include the dates, titles, authors and addresses for documents and letters you are seeking.

If you are seeking information about a missing family member, you may contact the service casualty office for the branch of service of your missing loved one.

FOIA Requests - DPMO

All FOIA requests for DPMO documents should be routed through the Department of Defense (DoD) Office of Freedom of Information. To assist you in filling out a FOIA request, an electronic handbook may be found at: <http://www.dod.mil/pubs/foi/FOIAhandbook.pdf>

FOIA requests may be submitted electronically at the following site: http://www.dod.mil/pubs/foi/submit_foiareq.html, or they can be mailed to the FOIA office listed below:

DoD Office of Freedom of Information
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155

Please note: If you are a family member of a missing service member, you may obtain U.S. Government files on your missing family member without filling a request under the FOIA. It is DPMO policy to respond directly to the family members through their respective service casualty offices, and to provide them with the greatest degree of access to information that they are entitled to under the law.

Your service casualty office is your first-line representative to ensure you receive all the information to which you are entitled. The process is simple. Just forward your request for U.S. Government files on your missing family member directly to the applicable service casualty office:

USAF Missing Persons Branch
550 C Street West, Suite 15
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4716

U.S. Army Human Resources Command
ATTN: AHRC-PER
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332-0482

Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps
Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MRC)
3280 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-5103

Navy Personnel Command
POW/MIA Branch (PERS-624)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-6210

KOREA-Cold WAR Families of the Missing, Inc.
PO Box 454
Farmingdale, NY 11735 USA

PLEASE JOIN US!

Families United in a Search for Truth, Dignity, Acknowledgment and Closure

Application for Membership - ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER AND EMAIL UPDATES ON THE ISSUE.

All projects are funded through contributions. Annual membership dues and newsletter subscriptions will greatly assist us in our endeavors. Membership and contributions are tax deductible.

Annual Membership is \$25.00. From thereon, all membership renewals will be due 1st January at \$25.00 per year.

Family Members and Friends may join/subscribe any time.

We look forward to working with Family Members and Friends as we strive to find truth, answers and closure.

STAR Fields are required. Please print or type.

*I wish to apply as a Family Member. I wish to apply as a Contributor. SELECT ONE.

*YOUR Full Name: _____

*Today's Date (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

*Address: STREET - _____

*City: _____ STATE: _____ Zip: _____

*Email Address: _____

*HOME PHONE WITH AREA CODE: _____

Work PHONE WITH AREA CODE: _____ FAX WITH AREA CODE: _____

CONTACTS/EXPERIENCE/Skills THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL:

GOVERNMENT RESEARCH OTHER: _____

FUND RAISING MILITARY/VETERANS: _____

Media COMPUTERS/TECHNOLOGICAL: _____

If you are applying for Family Membership please complete the rest of this form.

*Applicant's relationship to POW-MIA: _____

*NAME AND RANK of POW-MIA: _____

*BRANCH of SERVICE/UNIT OR GROUP: _____

*DATE AND AREA of loss: _____

REASON for joining the
KOREA-Cold WAR Families of the Missing: _____

To join the KOREA-Cold WAR Families of the Missing, Inc., please tear out this form, fill in all required areas and mail, along with check, to the following address:

KOREA-Cold WAR Families of the Missing, Inc.
PO Box 454
Farmingdale, NY 11735
USA
ATTN: MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO KOREA-Cold WAR Families of the Missing, Inc.

PLEASE EMAIL US AT
info@koreacoldwar.org OR imandra@optonline.net

All contributions are tax deductible.

PASS THIS ALONG TO FRIENDS, FAMILY MEMBERS, VETERANS AND CARING CITIZENS!