

# *Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs*

## *Forgotten Men from the Forgotten War*

*Forgotten Men from the Forgotten War* is an episodic documentary series developed to touch people's hearts with personal stories of unresolved loss. These tales are the mysteries of men missing from the Korean War. *Forgotten Men from the Forgotten War* will investigate the mysteries, chronicle the long-term impact they have had on the men's families and then pursue their final chapter in order to achieve some definition of closure.

The Korean War has long been referred to as the forgotten war, a conflict temporarily settled by an armistice; a place holder in history to be returned to at a later point in time. When the shooting stopped, and the numbers were tallied, however, 8000 husbands, fathers, brothers and sons remained missing. Their government demanded answers, but the cold shoulder of the Cold War only produced blanket denials. The missing men were ultimately pronounced casualties of war, and the place holder grew worn and faded, slipping down between the pages.

Forgetting an historical event is one thing. Students do it quite easily on exams. Forgetting a loved one lost to unknown circumstances is another matter. The uncertainty proved to be an emotional wound that never healed. Once the Berlin Wall came down, the Iron Curtain became transparent. The families of the Korean War's missing men called upon their government's promise to account for their loved ones. The time came to remember the *Forgotten War* and bring home the *forgotten men*.

The central characters in these stories are the men themselves, who they were and their hopes for a future that took very different direction. The men's wives, siblings, and children are just as much a part of these stories. The families have lived with the mysteries and the doubt surrounding their loved one's loss for, in many cases, a lifetime; wondering if their loved one might come home at any time, and now, want to learn why he didn't. The settings are the battlefields that created the mysteries and the home fronts the men left behind. Underlying these storylines is the intrigue of the Cold War, documented reports of men kept behind in enemy hands, six decades of still classified files, and multinational government efforts dedicated to learning the men's fate; peak and valley efforts, subject to policy dilemmas that too often challenge humanitarian priorities.

2013 will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the armistice in the Korean War. The promise to bring home its missing soldiers is the same one made to today's servicemen and women and their families. If this promise is to hold credibility for the nation's present day armed forces and their families, it should be honored to completion for those who served before them. *Forgotten Men from the Forgotten War* will explore these men's stories, seek closure for their families, and play its role in the nation's promise to bring them home.