

COALITION OF FAMILIES OF KOREAN & COLD WAR POW/MIAS



FALL “We will find our own missing loved one by searching for them all, together.” 2021

The 2021 Annual Korean & Cold War Family Briefing

The DPAA held its annual family update the first week in August. At the last minute, a Covid DC outbreak forced the briefing to be held online. The hotel’s ballroom was unable to provide the spacing between family members that was mandated by DoD Covid emergency regulations. The government then withdrew ‘coin assist’ funding which voided airfares. Soon, all of Washington began closing up like the air going out of a balloon.

So, DPAA’s presentations were watched separately from family members’ homes instead of together in a hotel ballroom. Overall, the info was presented nicely (See page 4). Technical glitches led to awkward delays at times. Presenters waited uncomfortably on camera for the

problems to be resolved. Inquiries came through chat functions, which created delays while family members wrote out their thoughts. Questions were sometimes missed or delayed. These presentations aren’t meant to be Hollywood productions but cleaning up a few technical aspects would provide a more effective briefing.

One aspect of the mission stands out about these gatherings – live or in person. They are very good for sharing information on DNA, remains recovery, disinterments, etc. The families want and need that info. We also need in-

sights on policy; the decisions that drive the mission. Questions relating to policy however only bring vague responses at the briefings. While DPAA does great work carrying out policy, the policies themselves are made high up the political ladder. These officials are sometimes brought in to share their insights. Sometimes they are informed on POW/MIA issues. Too often, they are not.. Words are spoken but nothing relevant is said.

This year’s invited speaker, was Dr. Jung Pak, State Department Deputy Special Representative for the DPRK/North Korea. The hope was that she would share the new administration’s policies to kick-start the recovery mission. She began and ended her talk with meaningful references to ‘no man

left behind’ etc. but then made them hollow by saying absolutely nothing relevant in between. Her presentation was disrespectful in its lack of meaningful content.

The families attend these briefings to honor their missing loved one. We are also looking for information, insights on what is being done to find him, and to interact with one another. We got one out of the three this year. Hopefully, next year will bring the families together again. Between now and then, a lot can be done to be sure there is lots to share.



“While DPAA does great work carrying out policy, the policies themselves are made high up the political ladder.”

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President's Corner

The Need for a Champion

Every cause needs advocates ... people and organizations who will bark, bother, pester and guide other organizations and political offices to determine how and when their cause moves forward. They are champions for the mission. The POW/MIA accounting mission has its champions. Congress is a leading advocate for the missing men and their families. *DPAA* is a champion identifying the missing. NGOs work on the mission's behalf. The *Coalition* advocates for the whole shebang.



K55 Return Ceremony

The accounting mission is still searching for a champion where it matters most – the White House. The President, national security advisors, and the State Dept. determine the government's policies on negotiations with North Korea, Russia and China. This is where the heart of progress beats. We are still looking for a champion in the heart of the White House.

Many administrations have come and gone without a true POW/MIA advocate. The last Administration had a moment in the sun when fifty-five boxes of remains came home from North Korea. The moment turned out to be only a glimpse at what could have been, however. The window quickly closed. The U.S. imposed more sanctions than the Administration went silent on the issue.

This silence hurts. How long has it been since a U.S.

President spoke at length about men missing in action? We can't count Veterans Day, Memorial Day, POW/MIA Recognition Day speeches. 'Leave No Man Behind' and 'Until They are Home' are meaningful phrases that lose their meaning when there is no follow up after leaving the podium. Promises like these are calls for action! Without that action they become hollow platitudes.

There are subtle signs of hope with the new Administration. A State Dept. official recently mentioned the Korean War missing in a public interview. It was a causal mention, but like children starved for affection, the slightest gesture becomes meaningful to the families.

When built upon, these words can become policy. Other countries will listen and act upon them. These are words that can have influence, especially when they are spoken by people who have influence. Champions. We need to connect with these people and help them know all that needs to be known so that they can do what needs to be done.

This won't be easy. Policy folks are quite shy; not often accessible to the public. When we do connect with someone, we will have our champion, where a champion is needed most. Then maybe there will be real action; where 'Leave No Man Behind' has true meaning and 'Until They Are Home' will be words we can count on.

Rick Downes, President

(Lt. Hal Downes, father - MIA 1952)

Coming Soon...

A special edition of *Update & Review* will feature Donna Knox's next article in her series on American Korean War P.O.W.s transferred to the former Soviet Union, '**No Credible Evidence??**'.

Donna delves into two editions of the USRJC Support Directorate's cumulative *Gulag Study*; research and investigation relative to the *Transfer Issue*. Insights include

- * Reasons the Soviets wanted American P.O.W.s
- * The means by which they accomplished their objectives
- * The Soviet agencies involved.

The article further explores the all important questions: Who were these Americans and what happened to them?

This Special Edition is coming soon. Stay tuned.

The Coalition's Board of Directors

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The White House

The White House has shown subtle signs of renewing contact with North Korea; including talk of the recovery mission. First though, a few words about North Korea.



‘North Korea has said it sees no sign of policy changes from the United States, citing issues such as sanctions as well as joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises, which it says are preparations for war against it.’ (Reuters, Sept. 13, 2021)

Now, the U.S. - the same day

"The United States has no hostile intent towards the DPRK ..."

"We hope that the DPRK will respond positively to our multiple offers to meet without preconditions." Sung Kim, U.S. envoy for North Korea. (Reuters, Sept. 13, 2021)

Later in the Month

"U.S. wants to meet with N. Korea to discuss their concerns, intentions ..."

"We have reached out directly to Pyongyang to initiate dialogue and stand ready to meet without preconditions,"

"... and we hope to resume cooperation in recovering the remains of US servicemen still missing from the Korean War."

Mr. Kin Moy, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific affairs.

(Yonhap, Sept. 28, 2021)

Congress

Congressional offices are among the most consistent supporters of the recovery mission. This being said, there is little to report on the issues at hand.

* *The Bring Our Heroes Home Act* (declassification legislation) is waiting in the Senate’s Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee (HSGAC) for the new Republican minority party input. The Democratic majority signed off on the bill in the last Congress.



If enacted, the *BOHHA* will be the first comprehensive legislation to mandate widespread declassification of documents related to missing U.S. service personnel dating back to WWII.

* *The Enhancing North Korea Humanitarian Assistance Act* calls for exemptions for nongovernmental

organizations involved in humanitarian work with North Korea, including the Korean War POW/MIA accounting mission. There has been very little movement.

* *DNA Laboratory Funding* – The past conflicts lab of the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (*AFDIL*) processes DPAA’s DNA submissions for Korean War unknowns. The lab is funded through a separate DoD budget that doesn’t account for increased DPAA submissions. Annual supplemental funding is needed for *AFDIL* to keep pace.

Last year, NH Rep. Chris Pappas’ office secured \$4 million in supplemental funding for *AFDIL*’s lab. The challenge for this new Congress is to establish the additional funding as an annual “baseline” item. Rep. Pappas will address the issue when the Defense appropriations bill reaches the House floor.

Current Issues

The Korean and Cold War accounting missions are best characterized by their diverse issues. Each of these concerns is being pursued independently, while keeping a sharp eye on the overall picture.

* *U.S. Servicemen’s Remains Recovery and Identification*

* *Air Losses Over North Korea*

* *Last Seen Alive Reports / P.O.W. Transfers*

* *Cold War losses / Purple Hearts*

* *Declassification*

We call upon the governments involved to pursue these issues until the missing men are accounted for in the present frame of time, not a point to come in an unending future.

Department of Defense

* *DPAA's Annual Family Briefing* (Aug 5-6, 2021)

This year's annual update was held online due to a sudden Covid flare-up that took over Washington, DC. (See the cover article). The following are notes from the two-day meeting. (Some numbers have been updated.)



~ *The Korean War Unknowns Phased Disinterment Program.* This seven phase plan will disinter the remains of American servicemen buried as Unknowns in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific/

Punch Bowl, Hawaii following the War.

Phases 1-3 have been completed. Disinterments are set to begin on Phase 4 in January, 2022. The first part of this phase will include losses known to have come from the Chosin Reservoir battle area. The remainder of Phase 4 will disinter losses believed to be from battles in the Taegu area of the Pusan Perimeter.

To date, Phases 1-2 have yielded fourteen identifications. There have not been any yet from the just completed Phase 3. 121 disinterments were conducted in the 2021 fiscal year (Oct to Oct). Two additional Korean War identifications have been made to begin fiscal year 2022.

~ *K-55 boxes.* Following the 2018 Singapore Summit agreement between the U.S. and the DPRK, North Korea unilaterally returned 55 boxes of remains to the U.S. To date, DPAA's laboratory, with DNA assistance from AFD-IL's past conflicts lab, has identified 78 American service

men from the return. Over 80 U.S. servicemen may still be represented.

~ *South Korea.* MAKRI (South Korea's complement to DPAA) will expand its operations inside the DMZ to the White Horse Hill battle area.

~ *Featured Speaker* Dr. Jung Pak, the U.S. Deputy Special Representative for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). Dr. Pak spoke of the nuclear issues between the U.S. and North Korea. She said little about the POW/MIA mission; nothing about any Administration policies to move issues forward.

~ *Wall of Remembrance.* A special presentation shared information about this addition to the *Korean War Memorial*. The names of those who lost their lives, plus those of the missing men, will be included. The dedication will be July 27, 2022. (See page 6 for more information.)

~ *View.* 524 families participated in the briefing, which was viewed over 4000 times online. The full two day briefing can be seen at DPAA's website: <https://www.dpaa.mil/Livestreams/>

* *U.S./South Korea Remains Exchange* (Sept. 2021). In a moving Hawaii ceremony, the U.S. returned 68 sets of remains that they believe to be Korean to the Republic of Korea. South Korea in turn returned 5 sets of remains they believe to be American. These remains were found near the North/South Korea DMZ area and farther south.

The Cold War

One hundred forty-seven Americans went missing while flying intelligence missions during the Cold War. They were lost during thirty-nine U.S. military and civilian air losses along the periphery of the former Soviet Union and China. Over the years, there have been 21 identifications. 126 remain missing.

The U.S. Russia Joint Commission (USRJC), led by DPAA's Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD), investigates air losses between 1950 and 1965. Since 1992, U.S. analysts have worked with Soviet-era veterans, Russian government officials, and archival researchers to gather data on fourteen separate incidents. The USRJC is still planning for a previously postponed recovery mission at a cemetery near Vladivostok, Russia. The site may correlate to a 1951 U.S. Navy aircraft Cold War loss. A 1950 Navy air loss over the Baltic Sea is being investigated with a Swedish partner team. China investigated a Cold War case and shared their findings with DPAA in January. DPAA did not say what those findings were.



Some Cold War losses occurred during the Korean War. These losses, mostly over water, have largely gone unacknowledged by the U.S. government. While answers to the missing men's fate may be difficult to determine, family members would like their loved one's sacrifice, and their loss, to be officially acknowledged by with the purple heart. If your loved one is among these Cold War missing, and you would like to join in the effort, please contact the *Coalition*. We would like to work with you. (coalitionoffamilies@gmail.com)

Our Collective Voice
The Coalition's News

The *Coalition's* role in the accounting mission involves work in advocacy, outreach and research. Together and separately, these efforts are pathways to answers we look forward to finding. Each day offers new hope that the search for our missing loved ones will find these answers. We look forward to working with you to turn this hope into reality.

*** Capitol Hill Meetings**

Each August, the *Coalition's* leadership arrives in DC a few days prior to the government's annual Korean/Cold War family briefing. We meet with Congressional offices and supportive NGOs to discuss MIA issues. This year, we reached out to family members who might like to join us in this advocacy work.



We were thrilled that a number of members responded. We came together virtually beforehand to discuss basics - like getting around inside the Congressional office buildings, scheduling meetings, which issues to cover, and more.

Then a new wave of Covid rolled into Washington. Congressional staffers moved meetings to the internet or by telephone. DPAA cancelled the in-person aspect of the family briefing. Coin-assisted airfares were cancelled, as well. Rather than conducting meetings face-to-face on Capitol Hill, we were on the internet or telephone from home.

It went well under the circumstances. The firsthand experience will come. We thank those members who joined us and look forward to picking up where we left off.

*** Email**

Please let us know when changing your email address. Otherwise, messages bounce back and we lose contact. Keep us in mind. We would like to stay in touch.

*** Art / Donations**

Versatile artist, and *Coalition* member, Pam Brekas recently gifted some of her paintings to her patrons in return for donations to the *Coalition*. She asked only that these donations be done in the name of her uncle, Wayne Barton Gill, Jr. who is among the missing. It was a unique way to support her uncle's memory and the *Coalition*.



*** Amazon Smile**

Thank you to those who make the *Coalition* their non-profit of choice on *Amazon Smile*. Your purchases help support our efforts to learn what happened to the missing men. This option is available to all who shop on Amazon. Please consider making the *Coalition* your organization of choice.

*** Memberships**

The recent quarterly renewal reminder was welcomed by many. The response has been inspiring. Thank you all for your continuing support.

For those of you interested in membership or whose renewals are coming up, a form can be found on page 9. Payments can also be made using the 'Support Us' button on the *Coalition's* website.: www.coalitionoffamilies.org/.

Feel free to add to your donation. We won't mind.

*** Passings ***

The loss of any family member who passes without learning the fate of their missing loved one is extra difficult to handle. Two longtime *Coalition* supporters passed this year. They represent the varied relationships we have with members.

Lois Moore, along with her husband Bob and their family, was always front and center at government briefings. Together, they produced a movie about the pursuit of answers to the fate of their missing loved one, Harry. We learned of Lois' passing through email and social media announcements from the family. Lois' warm, welcoming presence will be missed.



Marcella Finch has also passed. Marcella has long been on a list of members without a computer. We print and mail their newsletters. Year-after-year, Marcella returned her membership renewal without the form, no note. Just a check and her unspoken dedication to learn what happened to her brother, Franklin.

We learned of Marcella's passing through the mail, as well. The last newsletter came back - *Return to Sender/Deceased*.

Marcella and Lois inspire us work harder to learn answers for those who have passed and those who still wait to find the answers we all hope for.

Wall of Remembrance - Korean War Memorial

The Wall of Remembrance, which will list the names of all fallen heroes from the Korean War, is currently being constructed as an addition to the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington DC.



The dedication ceremony is scheduled for July 27th, 2022. A video of the construction's progress can be seen at -

<https://koreanwarvetsememorial.org/wall-of-remembrance/>



The government's annual Korea/Cold War Family Briefing for 2022 is now scheduled to coincide with the ceremony dedicating the Wall of Remembrance.

Wall of Remembrance - Cold War

A second war was fought alongside the Korean War - The Cold War. At times, U.S. airmen crossed over for intelligence missions along the Soviet/Chinese coastlines. Those who were lost on these missions will not be acknowledged on the Wall of Remembrance, despite fighting in both wars. One family is doing its best to have their missing loved one included among the names of his fellow Korean War honorees.

“The Navy Casualty Office completed a thorough review on the case of Petty Officer Lloyd Smith Jr. The results of the review confirmed that Petty Officer Smith did not die in the defined territorial limits of Korea established for the Korean Conflict as set forth in the Defense Directive Type Memo (DIM) 21-006 that will allow for name inscription on the Korean War Memorial Wall.” U.S. Department of the Navy.

To Whom it May Concern:

My grandfather joined the Navy to fight in the Korean War. He was attached to patrol squadron 22 flying reconnaissance missions over Korea and China. They would take reconnaissance pictures based off what the US Govt. wanted to see.

My grandfather received an award for the missions over Korea. It just happens that the day he was shot-down they were taking pictures near the Formosa straits, a mission given to them by the US Govt. At the time the US Govt didn't want to admit that they were flying missions in that area. Here we are 68 yrs. later still denying it.

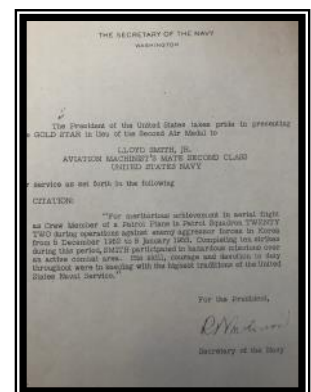
I am in contact with another family who's loved one was on that same flight, and they are also requesting that this crew be added to the Wall of Remembrance. These men fought for this country and died for it. My grandfather was taken POW and listed that way by the US Govt, a Prisoner of War.

Jan 18, 1953 should not be forgotten and, what transpired that day in a War that is known as The Forgotten War should be the reason these brave men are memorialized on the Korean War Wall of Remembrance.

I am enclosing his award he received that shows they were flying missions over Korea as well. I respectfully ask that my grandfather's case, and those of the other men on that plane, be relooked at and classified as they should be; losses of the Korean War.

Terri Mumley

On behalf of Aviation Machinist Mate 1st Class Lloyd Smith Jr. MIA/POW Jan. 18, 1953 – my grandfather.



Australia's Missing in Action

The *Coalition* has connected with another Korean War MIA family group ... down-under. Many nations fought under the United Nations flag. Over 17,000 Australians served during the War, of which 340 were killed and over 1,216 were wounded. Forty-three Australians remain MIA.

Julie Dorrington's uncle is among the missing. The next two pages are Julie's contribution to the *Coalition's* newsletter.

Australia's Korean War MIA Working Group

Following numerous representations by the families of those missing to the Australian government and Defence, that not enough was being done to locate and identify our Korean War MIAs, the Korean War MIA Working Group (the Working Group) was formed in December 2015 as an adjunct to the existing Korean War Project of the Unrecovered War Casualty Unit Army (UWCA), and now comprises senior officers of the Australian Army, Air Force and Navy, along with volunteer representatives of Korean War Veterans' associations, both nationally and from each of our forces, and 4 volunteer family representatives.

The purpose of the Working Group is to provide a forum for open dialogue in a face-to-face environment and to improve engagement by the Defence community with key stakeholders representing Australia's Korean War MIAs.

As family representatives our aim is to advocate for all possible steps to be taken towards the realisation of the shared goal of location and recovery of the remains of our MIAs.

To date, the key achievements of the Working Group have resulted in the establishment of formal Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), firstly between the Australian Department of Defence (as represented by UWCA) and the United States Department of Defense as presented by DPAA, and secondly between the Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Korea and the Australian Department of Defence. These provide a formal framework to support and facilitate the (previously informal) co-operation, exchange of information and joint field activities between the relevant agencies, toward the shared goal of location and identification of missing Korean War personnel.

Pursuant to the MOU with DPAA, information regarding Australian MIAs last known locations, dental and other



'It is possible that some Australian MIAs may be among the unknowns buried at the Punchbowl ...'

official records have been provided and the families of Australia's MIAs have provided DNA reference samples for comparison in DPAA's identification work. In May 2019, Working Group representatives were privileged to attend DPAA's facilities in Hawaii, to learn more about DPAA's Korean War Disinterment Project and the various scientific processes involved in identification of remains. It

is possible that some Australian MIAs may be among the unknowns buried at the Punchbowl, and the Working Group continues to follow closely the progress of DPAA's project.

Another key area of focus for the Working Group is the operations being undertaken in the DMZ to de-mine and excavate in the search for missing personnel, particularly once those operations approach the area of Hills 317 and 355.

Apart from the Working Group, some MIA family members have also taken the opportunity generously offered by the ROK Government to participate in its family re-visit programs, most recently in 2018 as part of the 75th Anniversary commemorations, an unforgettable and deeply moving experience.

Whilst family representatives on the Working Group recognise that Covid and political upheaval continue to cause delay, we remain strong in our commitment to ensure that all possible avenues of enquiry are followed to resolution, in the search for and ultimate identification of our MIAs.

Lest we forget.,
Julie Dorrington

Family Representative, Korean War MIA Working Group, September 2021.

(Niece of RAAF Pilot Officer Donald Campbell Ellis, MIA 22/12/1950)

Australia's involvement in the Korean War

Australia was the second nation, behind the United States, to commit its armed forces personnel to the defence of the Korean peninsula on 28 June 1950.

Operations commenced on 1 July 1950 with two Royal Australian Navy (RAN) vessels (HMAS *Shoalhaven* and HMAS *Bataan*) escorting US troop ships from Japan to Pusan.

77 Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) flew the first ground support missions on 2 July 1950, becoming the first British Commonwealth and United Nations unit to see action in the Korean War. The RAAF contingent included 91 Composite Wing, 30 Communications Unit (flying Dakotas, later known as 36 Transport Squadron), 391 Base Squadron and 491 Maintenance Squadron. Initially flying out of Iwakuni, Japan and later from a succession of Korean bases (including Taegu, Pohang, Hamhung, Pusan and Kimpo), pilots from 77 Squadron provided air cover for the US Eighth Army and undertook numerous attack and bombing raids over North Korean targets, flying some 19,000 individual sorties, with the loss of 40 pilots killed and six taken prisoner.

The 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) commenced ground operations on 27 September 1950 as part of the 27th Commonwealth Brigade, advancing north of Pyongyang to assist the US 187th Regimental Combat Team, and later taking part in battles at Yongju, Kujin,



Chongju and Pakchon, before fighting many rear-guard actions during the subsequent retreat and being the last remaining formation out of Seoul when it fell again to the

Communists in January 1951. After suffering heavy losses at the Battle of Kapyong, the 27th Brigade was withdrawn from Korea and 3RAR joined with the 28th British Commonwealth Brigade to form the 1st Commonwealth Division. 3RAR again advanced north as part of Operation Commando, taking and holding Hills 317 and 355 (known as Maryang San) after 5 days of heavy fighting and significant losses.

In October 1951, the aircraft carrier HMAS *Sydney* arrived with three squadrons of the RAN Fleet Air Arm (805, 808 and 817), taking part in numerous patrols and flying over 2,000 sorties with the loss of 3 crew and 13 aircraft, until its return to Australia in January 1952.

The 1st Battalion RAR (1RAR) and later, 2RAR, joined 3RAR in the 28th Brigade, carrying out numerous patrols of 'no-man's land' and operations against the Chinese during the static period of the war after the Chinese re-captured Maryang San. 2RAR suffered heavy losses along with the US Marines, repelling the Chinese offensive in the Samichon Valley in the last 3 days before the Armistice was signed.

Australian forces remained in Korea as part of the multi-national peacekeeping force until 1957.

Source: *Australian War Memorial* <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/atwar/korea>

Finding the families of Australia's MIAs

After several years research and with the assistance of a private investigator he privately funded, Ian Saunders OAM identified, located and contacted the living next of kin of Australia's 43 servicemen designated as MIA during the Korean War, enlisting their support in his unwavering efforts to have the Australian Government commit greater resources to the recovery of our Korean War MIAs.

Ian's father was Private John Phillip Saunders of 3RAR, MIA 25 January 1953, while participating in a snatch patrol of 31 servicemen to capture an enemy officer. The patrol was detected by Chinese forces and had to retreat. However, a group of 13 servicemen became isolated. 7 were captured and 6 are MIA today, in the area of the North Korean DMZ immediately south of Maryang San. An interrogation record of one of his fellow servicemen, Tony Poole, POW after his recovery from a North Korean POW camp stated "Saunders was alive but unconscious when taken away". Ian was just 5 years old at the time and promised his mother he would do his utmost to recover his father's remains.

Families of our MIAs are kept informed of the Working Group's activities through the website which contains information on our MIAs, copies of the MOUs and minutes of Working Group meetings: <https://www.army.gov.au/our-work/unrecovered-war-casualties/korean-war-project>

Lest we forget.

Membership

The *Coalition* relies on memberships and broader donations to pursue the issues that need to be resolved in order to learn what happened to the missing men.

Much of this work is done in Washington, DC. Multiple visits each year incur expenses beyond the *Coalition's* regular operation. Please add to your \$25 membership donation and help support these expenses. The more we are able to travel to the nation's capital, the better we can advocate on the men's behalf.



The *Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs* is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, dedicated to accounting for the thousands of American servicemen who are still missing from the Korean and Cold Wars. Their stories should be told and closure found for their families.

Thank you.

Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs
National Membership Application

New

Renewal

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip Code _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____
 (Associate Membership / Nonfamily member – please check here: _____)
 Relationship to missing service member: _____
 Service member's full name: _____ Service # _____
 Branch of Service/Unit or Group: _____
 Date & Area of Loss: _____

Annual Membership Donation - \$25 Washington, DC Travel Donation - \$ _____.

Make checks payable to: Coalition of Families

Mail to:

Coalition of Families (Attn: Treasurer) P.O. Box 4194, Portsmouth, NH 03802

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