

# COALITION OF FAMILIES OF KOREAN & COLD WAR POW/MIAS



SPECIAL EDITION “We will find our own missing loved one by searching for them all.” 2020

## *Looking Back at 2019... Looking Ahead to 2020*

Here we are, with another year underway! 2019 brought closure to more MIA families. The search for answers to their missing loved ones' stories is over. What is to come in the year ahead? This edition of *Update & Review* will look back at what was accomplished in the past year while looking forward to what might come in 2020.

How we measure this progress is important. The final result we all want ... bringing him home ... does not happen in one fell swoop. It is done by successfully resolving seemingly unrelated lesser issues. Measuring these accomplishments is what the *Coalition* goes by and will be covering in this newsletter. Where there has been progress in these issues ... comes hope.

An example of this thinking is how the phased plan to disinter and identify Korean War Unknowns from the Punch Bowl cemetery came about. After decades of not knowing how to handle these treated remains, new technologies in identification made what was once thought impossible, possible. It then occurred to some folks, the *Coalition* among them (horn tooting!), that it was time to bring the Unknowns up and put the new technologies to use on a large scale.



Yellow Brick Road

There were certain challenges in doing this. Peoples' minds needed to wrap around the idea. Long standing policies needed to be changed. Permissions needed to be gotten. The logistics of what to do with large numbers of remains waiting to be identified needed to be worked out.

Each one of these individual issues was pursued as an issue unto itself.

Like *Dorothy* following the Yellow-brick Road, folks joined in along the way. New, more receptive minds chimed in. Policies were changed. A plan was developed! *Voila!* ... the Emerald City was reached. The Unknowns are being disinterred ... identifications are being made ... families are getting closure.

It was a long road, with many challenges ... as are all issues within the accounting mission. The more that we focus the mission on these small challenges, the more often we will find the hope of all hopes coming true.

So, let's take a look at which of these issues were pursued this past year, where they stand, and what more can be done in the year ahead to build upon them, moving toward the goals which will bring answers to as many families as possible.

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## President's Corner

While we do our best to keep personal observations out of the informative aspects of the newsletters, the *President's Corner* is about personal observations. So, here are a few thoughts on issues from last year, the year ahead and ... you know.



***K55 Return Ceremony***

### Working Hand-in-Hand - Congress

Congressional offices from different parties working together? Absolutely. It is more common than people may think. My work on POW/MIA issues allows me to meet with staff members from Congressional offices on both sides of the political aisle; getting to know some quite well.

What I've learned is that Congressional members and their staffs work together easily when common interests are involved ... and POW/MIA issues are common ground for most folks.

### Not Working Hand-in-Hand - State Dept

There is an office in the State Department that all family members should know about - Special Representative to North Korea. The person in charge of this office is called upon for policy negotiations with North Korea, including high level groundwork for nuclear and ... POW/MIA issues. The Special Representative to North Korea does the talking when the President and Secretary of State are off doing other things.

Stephen Biegun was appointed the Special Representative to North Korea in 2018. The Singapore Agreement between the U.S. and North Korea had been signed two months earlier. A month later North Korea returned 55 boxes of remains from the Korean War. The cobwebs of long closed doors were dusting off.

In walked Stephen Biegun. A great deal of hope fell on the shoulders of the new guy. It was an opportunity of a lifetime. Mr. Biegun promptly took that responsibility and handed it off to another agency - folks who carry out policy but don't make it. Two years later, the wave of hope has

flattened out and receded back into the surf. North Korea has not talked POW/MIA remains in over a year. It was a precious opportunity lost.

Stephen Biegun, however, has been promoted! He is the new Deputy Secretary of State. Curiously, the second and third level officials charged with POW/MIA policy discussions with North Korea have also been moved to other positions. Not only has the issue been handed off like an unwanted step-child, the offices charged with the responsibility have been emptied. To date, no one has been appointed to fill any of these policy positions.

### Working Hand-in-Hand - DPAA

Sometimes the *Coalition* does heavy-duty *asking* that has other folks doing the hard work. Last year, we requested that DPAA post on its website the Phased Plan of disinterment the Korean War Unknowns in Hawaii. The idea was that families would be able to track a phase focusing on remains that came from battlefields where their loved one was likely lost. It was about hope; a definitive action families could follow.

And the okay came easily from DPAA. The result is an informative, easy to follow link - <https://www.dpaa.mil/Portals/85/Korean%20War%20Disinterment%20Plan%20Phases.pdf>.

More recently, the *Coalition* requested that DPAA post maps of U.S. air losses over North Korea. There are scenarios where having the information accessible to anyone may lead to learning answers to missing airmen's fate.

Again, the okay was given easily, and the challenging work of putting the site together done well - <https://www.dpaa.mil/Portals/85/Korean%20War%20Air%20Losses.pdf>. There is more to go on this one, but a thank you to DPAA and its staff for following through and doing wonderful work.

Our next ask will be that DPAA opt in on John Zimmerlee's research. Subject for the next newsletter edition?

*Rick Downes, President*

*(Lt. Hal Downes, father - MIA 1952)*

## *The Coalition's Board of Directors*

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## United States

### Korean & Cold War POW/MIA Happenings

#### Congress

The U.S. Congress is guardian to the POW/MIA accounting mission.

#### 2019

\* *The Bring Our Heroes Home Act*

(declassification legislation) was introduced in both the Senate (S.2794) and House (H.R. 5646)! Senators Crapo and Shaheen, Reps. Pappas and Fulcher, and their staffs, made this possible. If enacted, the BOHHA will bring comprehensive declassification of documents related to missing service personnel dating back to WWII.



\* The *DPAA Support Act* (H.R. 4879) was introduced in the House, exempting certain DPAA employees from mandatory furlough during a government shutdown. If passed, this bill will allow personnel working on far-off excavations to stay on site rather than be forced to come home.

\* The *National POW/MIA Flag Act* passed and was signed into law! The POW/MIA Flag will now be flown below the American flag at all prominent federal properties, including the U.S. Capitol and White House.



\* The House Committee on Oversight and Reform held a hearing to see how the mission is doing.

\* Funding for POW/MIA operations and appropriated programs was approved, including added specified funding for the Korean conflict.

\* *AFDIL/DNA Funding* - The Delaware lab's budget had not allowed for processing increased bone samples submitted from the Punch Bowl Unknowns disinterment plan. A delay was occurring, creating backup in the Hawaii lab's operation.

AFDIL's work goes beyond POW/MIA identifications. It is funded through the DoD's Defense Health Agency, not DPAA. The crossover budgeting needs can get lost in the funding pathways. It is also against policy for DoD agencies to independently approach Congress for added funding. As a third party, the *Coalition* was able to raise the issue with Congressional offices, who began working out ways to route added funding in AFDIL's direction.

#### 2020

(Note: Like most everybody and everything, the Virus impact has extended to Congressional affairs, throwing a monkey-wrench into the timeline for most legislation.)

\* *AFDIL* – Senator Shaheen's and Rep. Pappas' offices are working on guiding added funding to the DNA lab that will allow the processing of larger numbers of Punch Bowl bone samples submitted by DPAA, keeping pace with the disinterments.

\* *The Bring Our Heroes Home Act* will have a couple of pathways to enactment: 1) finding a place in this year's National Defense Authorization Act, or 2) make its way through committees in both the Senate and House, be voted on, then signed by the President.

\* *DPAA Support Act* – This bill has begun like a ghost ship adrift at sea. There has been no movement. A major family member campaign may be needed to put wind in its sails.

#### White House

The key for the door to recovery efforts inside North Korea is inside the President's pocket.



#### 2019

\* (February) The summit in Hanoi between the U.S. and North Korea ended abruptly when the President left early.

\* (June) The President took a stroll into the DMZ with Chairman Kim at his side. This was a historic first, and good to see them enjoying each other's company, but nothing came of the brief meeting.

\* (June) The White House honored servicemen/women lost to wars from WWII onward in a moving Gold Star Families ceremony. MIA families were included. The event took place in the East Wing of the White House.



#### 2020

There are currently no Korean or Cold War POW/MIA meetings scheduled with foreign governments.

State Dept

2019 – U.S. Special Representative to North Korea, Stephen Biegun, was elevated to Deputy Sec. of State. Biegun was in charge of remains recovery and nuclear disarmament talks with North Korea. Deputy Special Representative to North Korea, Alex Wong, was moved to a United Nations position. They reportedly continued their POW/MIA responsibilities.



2020 – U.S. Special Envoy for North Korea, Mark Lambert, was moved to a United Nations position.

\* Nominations have not been made, to date, to replace the three top Administration policy positions responsible for North Korea POW/MIA affairs. The positions are empty.

Department of Defense

*Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)*

*Family Updates*

2019 - The highest number of family members attended DPAA family briefings in any one year.

2020 - The virus caused the cancellation of updates in Miami, Little Rock, and Chicago. For the time being, the Washington, D.C. (July 30 -30) and Colorado Springs (Sept. 12) briefings remain scheduled for the rest of the year. The decision on holding the Washington briefing will come by late May. Keep track at: <https://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Family-Events/>



*Misidentification*

2019 - An identification made in 2018 on remains of a Korean War Unknown disinterred from the Punch Bowl cemetery proved to be an error.

2020 – The family was informed of the misidentification. DPAA initiated a cause analysis and will adjust their procedures as necessary.

*"While this misidentification is an unfortunate mistake, we will learn from it, and the lessons we learn and apply will further strengthen our scientific enterprise," Dir. Kelly McKeague.*

*Identifications*

2019 - Phase 1 (of 7) disinterring Korean War Unknowns from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punch Bowl) was completed (73 disinterments) .

2020

\* Phase 2 of the Punch Bowl disinterment plan was completed in February. There were 107 disinterments. Phase 3 of the plan, however, has been delayed until the end of summer. The decision was made to catch up on a backlog and evaluate the overall process to date. Follow the plan's progress at this link:



<https://www.dpaa.mil/Portals/85/Korean%20War%20Disinterment%20Plan%20Phases.pdf>

\* K-55 -To date, 45 identifications have been reported from the over 500 commingled bones turned over by North Korea in 2018. It is estimated that at least 250 individuals are represented; 170 are Americans and 80 are non-US personnel. The remains of 20 previously identified Americans were also among the boxes.

\* DPAA has identified most of the American remains returned from North Korea from the 1990s through 2005.

*DPAA Leadership Change*

2019 - Adm. Jon Kreitz retired as Deputy Director for Operations DPAA (Hawaii). Good-bye to a good guy.

2020 - Rear Admiral Darius Banaji, USN, was appointed the new Deputy Director for Operations. Welcome!

*U.S. / Korea Joint Recovery Activities (JRAs)*

2019 - The last discussion between the U.S. and North Korea on returning recovery operations to the DPRK took place in March.

2020 - DPAA *"does not anticipate the resumption of field operations with the Korean People's Army (KPA) in the near term."*

\* Arrowhead Ridge /DMZ - An agreement to work with South Korea's counterpart (MAKRI) on recovery operations inside the DMZ has been postponed due to the virus.

*Miscellaneous News*

\* DPAA will be returning \$16.9M to DoD that was specifically added to its FY2020 budget for field work in North Korea that will not be done.

\* Korean War Air Losses - DPAA is posting maps on their website showing the location of known U.S. crash sites across North Korea. Three of the nine provinces have been posted: <https://www.dpaa.mil/Portals/85/Korean%20War%20Air%20Losses.pdf>



## Russia, North Korea, South Korea

### Russia

#### *U.S./Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs*

The USRJC was established in 1992 as a forum through which Russia and the U.S. seek to determine fates of their missing service personnel.



\* The U.S. and Russian sides of the USRJC participated in Technical Talks for the Korean and Cold War working groups last December in Moscow.

### *Cold War*

\* USN PB4-Y2

DPAA has contracted with Swedish Deep Sea Productions on the search for the wreckage of the plane shot down April 8th, 1950 over the Baltic Sea.

\* U.S. Navy P2V Neptune - Plans were discussed to revisit a hospital cemetery near Vladivostok for a cemetery excavation possibly related to the air loss from Nov. 6, 1951. A July/August 2020 timeframe was tentatively set.



*“The Russian side reiterated its commitment to support this mission, as well as optimism that all logistical arrangements and legal permission would be in place to execute this work in the planned July-August timeframe.”*

\* Other Cold War issues discussed were:

1) Arranging potential Russian partner organizations to help locate wreckage of downed U.S. aircraft lost over the Sea of Japan;



2) A search for additional gun camera photography taken by Soviet aircraft during Cold War incidents.

### *Korean War*

\* Highlights from the Technical Talks included:

1) Expanding declassification of archival records of Soviet military units and commands not previously accessed by U.S. researchers;

2) Further discussions of four individual cases of unaccounted for U.S. aircrew members: Capt. Harry Moore, Staff Sgt. Joseph Dougherty, Capt. Albert Tenney, and 1Lt. Robert Niemann.

3) Obtaining additional Soviet topographic maps of North Korea that correlate specific locations of 24 crash sites of downed U.S. aircraft.

\* The USRJC annual conference scheduled for this May in Moscow has been postponed due to the pandemic. Once the crisis is resolved, the Co-chairs will agree on a new date for the next Plenum.

### *Cold War Losses*

Thirty-nine U.S. military and civilian aircraft were either shot down or otherwise lost on the periphery of communist countries, primarily the former Soviet Union, while flying intelligence missions during the Cold War (1946-1991). One hundred twenty-six U.S. service members remain unaccounted for from the war.

North Korea

2019

A rundown of official talks between North Korea and the U.S: *(Note: There was no mention of Korean War POW/MIA issues being discussed at any of these meetings.)*

\* January - Senior representatives from North Korea and the U.S. met in Sweden to prepare for a second summit between President Trump and Chairman Kim.



\* February - Special Representative Stephen Biegun spent three days in talks with Pyongyang.  
 \* February - Chairman Kim and President Trump abruptly cut off their second summit in Hanoi.

\* June - President Trump and Chairman Kim met briefly inside the demilitarized zone.  
 \* October - Negotiators from both countries met again in Sweden then parted with nothing accomplished.

*"I think we're in a situation where the U.S. government is still perceiving the ball as in North Korea's court," Scott Snyder, the Senior Fellow for Korea Studies and Director of the U.S.-Korea Policy Program at the Council on Foreign Relations, told NK News. (11/2019)*

2020  
 ?????

South Korea

2019

\* The Republic of Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans' Affairs (MPVA) hosted relatives of twenty-one U.S. Korean War MIA servicemen for six days in May.

These trips bring MIA family members to South Korea to honor the American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who fought with the Korean people, and to thank their families for the sacrifices they have made, including the feelings of loss they continue to experience to this day.



\* Demilitarized Zone / Arrowhead Ridge – The DMZ between North and South Korea has remained a "no-man's land" since the armistice agreement was signed in 1953. The Arrowhead Ridge/Hill 281 battlefield was uncovered last spring for the first time since the war ended.

149 land mines and 2,403 unexploded bombs were removed from the area, according to MAKRI (South Korea's complement to DPAA). Three hundred South Korean, French and American soldiers died fighting North Korean and Chinese forces, who are believed to have lost some 3,000 soldiers during the battle for the ridge.

"The scene is just as it was when the war ended. Bodies and articles are being found at close intervals, and they are in surprisingly good condition." (The Korea Herald/Asia News Network)

2020

\* This year's MPVA's Revisit Korea trip is scheduled from September 20 through September 26.

\* DMZ /Arrowhead Ridge– MAKRI was scheduled to resume recovery operations on the former battlefield in April. A U.S. 24-person team, set to work alongside them, has been postponed until further notice due to the COVID-19 virus.

\* **K-55** - Of the 55 boxes of remains from the Korean War received in 2018 from North Korea, it is estimated that at least eighty of the 250 sets of remains represented are non-U.S. personnel. Repatriation is planned in order to return those believed to be from South Korea.

**American Trophies**

*By John Zimmerlee and Mark Sauter*

Soldier's sent into battle face dire realities. One of these possibilities shouldn't be the uncertainty that, like disappearing into a Stephen King fog, they will simply never be heard from again.

*American Trophies* tells the personal stories of

men who went into battle, were captured by the enemy, were known to be alive but were never heard from again.

This book brings these men to life, presents a strong case for finally learning what happened to them, and ideally bring closure to families who still search for answers to their loved one's fate.

*(This E-book can be purchased through Amazon)*

## Our Collective Voice

### *Coalition News*

The Coalition's role in the accounting mission focuses on three areas - advocacy, outreach and research. Together and separately they are the pathways to answers we all look forward to finding.

#### Advocacy

"There are other ways."

The *Coalition* works with Congressional offices, the Administration, and nongovernmental organizations to move critical issues forward.

#### 2019

The *Coalition* made trips to Washington, DC, in February, August, and December. Each trip ran 2-3 days, during which we met with 26 Congressional offices and multiple nongovernmental organizations.



\* The *Bring Our Heroes Home Act* - The *Coalition* initiated this POW/MIA declassification legislation at the end of 2016. Now in its third Congress, the bill was reintroduced in the Senate last November!!

A tip of the hat to Senator Crapo (ID), Senator Shaheen (NH), and their staffs for their dedication and expertise ... and to the *Coalition's* Donna Knox, who provided extensive research and writing support. The bill was named S. 2794 and assigned to the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee.

The bill was taken up in the House by Rep. Pappas (NH).

\* *AFDIL* (DNA Lab) Funding - It was brought to the *Coalition's* attention that there is a glitch in DoD funding pathways leading to DNA identifications of Punch Bowl Korean War Unknowns. The identification process relies heavily on *AFDIL's* DNA processing. *AFDIL* is funded under a separate DoD subagency than DPAA, and wasn't receiving relative amounts of additional funding by Congress.

This shortfall impacted *AFDIL's* ability to keep pace with increased submissions from the disinterment of Punch Bowl Unknowns. A delay was occurring in the *DPAA* lab while it waited for *AFDIL's* analyses.

Government policy doesn't allow *AFDIL* to approach Capitol Hill directly to say: *Hi, we're over here! We need some of that added funding too!* An intermediary was needed to raise the issue. The *Coalition* took on the role and reached out to Congressional offices for ways to route additional funding directly to *AFDIL*.

#### 2020

\* *AFDIL /DNA Funding* - Sen.

Shaheen and Rep. Pappas have agreed to pursue pathways to route additional funding for identifications to the DNA lab. If successful, this will support the timely processing of samples submitted from Punch Bowl Unknowns by *DPAA's* Hawaii lab.

\* The *Bring Our Heroes Home Act* - In January, Rep. Pappas's office teamed with Rep. Fulcher's office to introduce the *BOHHA* in the House of Representatives!! The bill has been assigned to the House Oversight and Reform committee as HR -5646.

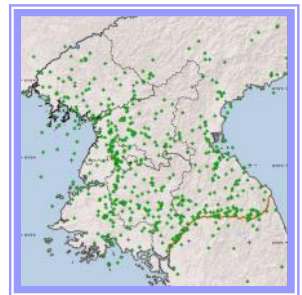
\* *BOHHA: Senate and House* - The direct path to enactment will be to have the *BOHHA* attached to the upcoming *National Defense Authorization Act* (military spending bill). The alternate route will be to move the legislation through committees, have it voted on by both chambers, then signed into law by the President.

#### *Miscellaneous*

\* *Remains Recovery/North Korea* - Along with others, the *Coalition* pursued multiple avenues in hopes that POW/MIA negotiations would take place between the U.S. & North Korea ... without luck. No serious negotiations have taken place in more than a year. We will continue these efforts in the year ahead.

\* *Air losses/North Korea* - The *Coalition* is pursuing a glimmer of hope that may one day bring forth information on air losses inside North Korea. It is a true long shot, much like a single ray of sunlight glancing off a complacent pond on a cloudy day! The Corona virus has clouded over the day for now. Clouds do part however. Hope is eternal.

<https://www.dpaa.mil/Portals/85/Korean%20War%20Air%20Losses.pdf>



Outreach

The Coalition's outreach work includes keeping family members informed on the issues, broadening awareness of the mission as a whole, and helping individual cases.

*Newsletters*

2019

\* Two editions of *Update & Review* were published last year - the spring *Look Back/Look Ahead* (last year's version of this edition) and a summer special edition on the DPAA's annual family briefing.



2020

\* This year's *Look Back/Look Ahead* newsletter will be followed by special *Live Sighting and Soviet Transfer* editions that will reexamine long standing reports of American servicemen transferred to the former Soviet Union and decades of American POW sightings inside North Korea.

*Website*

2019 - 2020

The Coalition's website is an evolving resource for general information on the Korean and Cold Wars and insights on the issues. There is also a *who's who* within the organizations' leadership, and special features like family member tributes to their missing loved ones.



[www.coalitionoffamilies.org/](http://www.coalitionoffamilies.org/)

*Social Media*

2019 - 2020

\* The Coalition's Facebook page reaches family and non-family member *friends*; broadening awareness and garnering support for the mission, while being a forum for up-to-date information on identifications and other news.

A special acknowledgement goes out to family member Dorothy Antonelli (Uncle, Sgt. Peter Patete MIA) for keeping a steadfast eye on posting DPPA identifications!

[www.facebook.com/groups/2307893609/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2307893609/)

\* The Coalition's Twitter page is the oft neglected step-child. Time rarely allows active posting on this platform.

*Media*

2019 - 2020

The Coalition is contacted by print, television, and radio outlets from far and wide, particularly when the U.S. and North Korea schedule talks. They often want to talk with family members of the missing men. We share what we know about the issues and direct interviewers to family members who are interested in sharing their stories. Let us know if that might be you!

Media outlets reaching out to the Coalition last year and this year include the Washington Post, Stars & Stripes, Buffalo News (NY), Wall Street Journal, Radio Free Asia, Fox & Friends, Time.com, and Fox Nation.

*Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs)*

The Coalition's relationships with supportive NGOs are critical partnerships that extend the families reach to Congressional offices, the State Department, the White House, even foreign governments. Parallel interests include pursuing a conclusion to the Korean War and reuniting Korean-Americans with their family members still living in North Korea. We have been honored to work with several prestigious NGOs over the past year and look forward to what might be accomplished in the year ahead.

*Individual Family Member Cases*

As is the case each year, the Coalition is approached by families having issues moving their cases forward. We are able to affect some situations directly, or we can recommend alternate pathways. All instances are confidential.

**Special Note:** Longtime Coalition members Charlie Angle and Margaret Valdez have found the closure we all hope for.

Charlie's brother, Cpl. Donald Eugene Angle, was identified last summer from the disinterments of Punch Bowl Unknowns. Donald is home.



Margaret's brother, Sfc. Frank Gonzales Vehar, was identified last month. He is waiting in Hawaii until the virus guidelines allow the family to bring him home.

Welcome back to both, and we are so very happy for Charlie, Margaret, and all families who will learn their loved ones are home this year ... and in the years ahead.



**Research**

Research takes different forms, including:

- \* archival - what happened in the past; done brilliantly by folks like John Zimmerlee, and
- \* the present - learning about the people, offices, agencies, and organizations that move issues forward.

The Coalition does a bit of both, but more of the latter - keeping up with how to move forward.

There is also research that has one foot in the past and another in the present. The Coalition is tackling these issues that look back in order to move forward:

- \* The remains inside the Tomb of the Korean War Unknown Soldier ,
- \* Transfer of American POWs to the former Soviet Union ,
- \* American POWs last seen alive in North Korea or sighted during the decades since the war ended



***Tomb of the Korean War Unknown Soldier***

\* The remains of an American Korean War MIA are buried as Unknown inside the Tomb at Arlington National Cemetery. This is someone’s missing loved one.

Four different Unknowns were disinterred from the hundreds who were buried at the Punchbowl cemetery in Hawaii. They were all remains with a low prospect for identification.

The caskets were presented during the interment ceremony at Arlington Cemetery. The responsibility to select the set of remains to represent all Korean War unknowns



was given to a single serviceman. He stood in front of the four caskets, holding a wreath of carnations, made his selection then placed the wreath upon the casket and saluted.

The Korean War Unknown Soldier had been chosen.

\* 2019 – During a Q&A at last summer’s DPAA/DC update, a family member asked if the Korean War Unknown’s remains would be disinterred. DPAA responded: “*The remains are not included in the current disinterment plan but that from a forensic standpoint, after all seven phases have been completed there is no reason not to.*”

It was added that getting the necessary permissions to do so would be a lengthy process.

\* 2020 - The Coalition decided to begin the lengthy process now, so that it will be underway when the time comes to look at whose loved one lays inside.

From initial inquiries, it appears that multiple executive offices, several nongovernmental organizations and more than one branch of government will have to weigh in.

There will surely be different ideas and opinions about whether the Tomb of the Korean War Unknown Soldier should be disturbed. It promises to be a lively conversation.

***The Live Sighting / Prisoner Transfer Issues***

\* Over the decades, questions have haunted families and supporters about sightings of American servicemen, often unnamed, reportedly left behind in North Korea or transported to the former Soviet Union.

If true, they represent someone’s loved one. Pursuing these cases is extremely difficult. Neither country is eager to share information, or may not even have records. People who may have known about the sightings at the time didn’t want to tell. While some work is being done on the transfer issue (and Cold War shootdowns) through the USRJC, sightings inside North Korea are very difficult to pursue.

The tenor and nature of both efforts is so challenging that they are typically cast aside by authorities. Words/phrases like *alleged* or lack *credible* evidence are used and the speaker quickly moves on. The reports are still there, however, clamoring to be put to rest.

2019

\* At last year’s annual government briefing, a family member asked DPAA about reports of sightings over the years. The government response was that no *credible* evidence has been found to warrant active pursuit.

Operating on the belief that evidence is *credible* unless and until it is proven to be otherwise, the *Coalition* will delve further into the *last known alive issue*.

Last year, we initiated another review of sighting reports, government memos, congressional hearings, and a multitude of studies with an eye to dusting off the issue, and ideally lead to further research that will one day provide certainty to reports, one way or another.

2020

\* The conversation continues with an upcoming *Update & Review* edition that will review the evidence relating to sighting/transfer issues, analyze the credibility of reports, and explore what might be done to resolve these particularly disturbing aspects of the POW/MIA mission.

Miscellaneous

70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War

June 25, 2020, will mark the 70th anniversary of the Korean War's beginning. Unfortunately, due to concerns over the corona virus, commemoration activities are either being cancelled, postponed, or are waiting to see how things go.

Among the events in Washington, DC, the Republic of Korea's Embassy is planning on both an official commemoration ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial and an appreciation concert. A decision will be made on May 30 whether to postpone the events until July 27th.

National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum

"Our mission is to honor all former prisoners of war; remember and never forget those missing in action heroes and the families who seek their return."



Ground was broken for Phase one construction of the National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum located in Jacksonville, Florida. The establishment of the museum will result in the country's only nationally recognized Memorial for ALL missing military personnel. <https://www.powmiamemorial.org/>

*"There are tens of thousands of untold stories of men still missing in action from America's wars; stories still looking for their endings. Once someone goes missing, those who love them become a part of the story. The families of these men are still searching for these endings. The families' stories are unique unto themselves.*



*The National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum will become a home of sort for the missing, while giving people a place to learn of the sacrifices involved in keeping America free and to feel a part of the stories themselves. It will be a testament to, a warning against the ways war has been fought, and hopefully will never be fought again. "*

*Richard Downes, President  
Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs*

**Be Your Loved One's Voice!**



As the voice for our missing loved ones, speaking up on their behalf may help bring them home. Yet, it is difficult for some people to believe any individual can make a difference; difficult to work activism into their lives; easy to believe that major events happen all at once.

They actually happen because of actions taken by individuals ... sharing a story with one's local Congressional office or newspaper; letting them know about important issues ... building on each others' efforts. Step by step, each action we take individually adds up to a grand

event!

Our loved one's return depends on each of us working on our own and together to bring him ... bring them all ... home. On our own and together, we can be the difference. Let the world know your story and what issues need attention. Be your loved one's voice!

The following websites provide contact info for your Senate and House representatives:

[www.senate.gov/senators/contact/](http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/)

[www.house.gov/representatives/find/](http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/)

(Find the Representative for your district at: [http://clerk.house.gov/member\\_info/mcaphdir.aspx](http://clerk.house.gov/member_info/mcaphdir.aspx))

**Membership!**

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, their remains brought home, identified, and closure found for their families.

The *Coalition* relies on memberships and broader donations to pursue the issues that one day will lead to answers to what happened to these missing fathers, husbands, brothers, uncles ... and now grandfathers.



**We need your support!**

Together, we can learn what happened to these missing American servicemen, who not only sacrificed their lives in service to their country but left behind loved ones still hoping to learn their fate.

**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 / Non family 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. Please make checks payable to: Coalition of Families.

Send to:

Coalition of Families (Attn: Treasurer) P.O. Box 22242, Portsmouth, NH 03802

*Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs*

*PO Box 22242*

*Portsmouth, NH 03802*

*818.259.9950*

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*www.coalitionoffamilies.org*