

COALITION OF FAMILIES OF KOREAN & COLD WAR POW/MIAS



FALL “We will find our own loved one only by searching for them all.” 2018

All Korean War Punchbowl *Unknowns* Will Be Disinterred!

The Punch Bowl cemetery in Hawaii isn't a bad place to spend eternity. The grounds are peaceful; dotted with broad branched Monkeypod trees and their Harry Potteresque surface roots. There's a million-dollar view of Honolulu and the Pacific Ocean. The summer rains come every few minutes, while the sun shines; friendly drizzles, that don't last long.

Still, spending time beneath an *Unknown* marker is an unsettling way to do any time, let alone eternity. The remains of 867 *unknown* Korean War MIAs were laid to rest in this paradise following the war. Six decades of anonymity. 867 families going without closure, while their loved one waiting beneath American soil.

A broad effort has gone into resolving the scenario. 214 caskets have been exhumed in recent years, thanks to that effort. The remains of 113 missing men have gotten back their names and been sent home to their families. 644 linger on though, waiting for their opportunity.

That opportunity has come! A plan is finally in place to bring up all the caskets. Every one of them! This will be done gradually, in seven phases, over the next few years. It will be done, though.

Each phase will begin with disinterments of those cases having the best chances for identification based on information in the X-File and the most complete skeletons. Eight caskets will be brought up every two weeks. The first

eight are already up. Another eight were scheduled for the first week of November. Phase one includes forty current family requests. The plan will continue until all 644 caskets are up and the remains inside are in the lab; waiting again, but this time with purpose.

There have been cries of *bring them all up at once*. There are reasons for a measured pace. Thousands of men

lost from other wars, many of them also unknown, hold their ground in the cemetery. Patriotic services are held in their honor throughout the year. Folks come to visit them. The busy process of raising 644 caskets at one end of the grounds would intrude on the respect given to them.

Lab capacity is an issue, yet using outside labs is an issue. The final sign off on each identification requires verifiable continuity each step along the way.

The officials marking those final signatures are uncomfortable authorizing work done by laboratories not under their control.

So most of the *Unknowns* will wait a little longer, as will the families hoping the name of their missing loved one will be among them. Fifty-five of their brethren just brought back from North Korea, cut them in the identification line. The return ceremony happened only a few miles away. Hope lifted in the Hawaiian breeze, drifted past the Waikiki hotels and settled among the Monkeypod trees and sunshine rain. The Punch Bowl *Unknowns* will have their turn soon.



“A plan is finally in place.”

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President's Corner

The Honorable Returns Ceremony

Sometimes an early morning phone call turns out well.
"Hello."

"Good morning. This is the vice president's office."

Wiping sleep from my eyes, "Vice president of what?"

"The United States. The Vice President and Mrs.

Pence would like you to join them for the Honorable Return Ceremony in Hawaii."

"The remains from North Korea?"

"Yes."

"In Hawaii?"

"Yes."

"I'd like to do that."

Twenty-four hours later, Air Force 2 was posed behind me. There was time to settle into my seat, look out the window and appreciate what was likely going to be a once in a lifetime experience.



AF2's engines wound up, helicopters hovered protectively in the distance, and a gunboat came to the ready in a nearby waterway. The plane taxied

along the tarmac, cut the commercial planes waiting in line (Vice Presidents get to do that), then sped along the runway and lifted off sharply; the Vice President of the U.S., the Second Lady, their staffs, secret service contingent, Air Force crew, members of the media ... and me ... onboard.

As a guest of the VP, I sat with the heads of staff at two large tables, comfortable seats on each side. The VP and Mrs. Pence came out of their cabin to visit. Both were gracious and easy to talk to. His father fought in the Korean War and had shared with his son that the real heroes were the ones that didn't come home. This meant a lot to the VP, as did our reason for travel.

We stopped at Travis Air Force base in California for gas and to pick up another family member - Diana, and her husband Bob. Diana's father is also MIA. We were soon winging our way over the Pacific Ocean toward Hawaii.

Diana, Bob, and I talked of the honor, responsibility, and good fortune that came with representing the families in this unique experience.

The Vice President and Mrs. Pence came by to visit again. He asked for ideas family members would like in-

cluded in his speech. We suggested that the returning remains be considered the beginning of more to come, not simply the culmination of the successful summit with North Korea. The VP's speech writer sat across the table from us. Throughout the flight, he would occasionally turn his laptop our way to be sure that sections on our dads and the accounting mission rang true, including the message that the returning remains were considered only the beginning.



AF2 landed at Honolulu's Hickam Field late at night. We asked the heads of staff across the aisle about a ride to the hotel. The director of operations mentioned that he had that covered. A short while later, Diana, Bob and I stepped out onto the plane's stairway with the VP and Mrs. Pence. Waiting on the tarmac below were dignitaries, the media, and a motorcade. After being introduced to the dignitaries, we were guided to a car in the middle of the motorcade. Our ride had indeed been covered.

We returned to Hickam Field the next day for the Honorable Return Ceremony. An airplane hangar dating back to the 1940's was set up to receive the caskets. Diana, Bob, and I were led through a large crowd abuzz with anticipation and settled in front row folding chairs. Our side of the hangar was taken up by other family members of MIAs from all past conflicts who lived on Oahu. Veterans were dressed in formal organizational uniforms. Television cameras were mounted on a nearby platform.

Across the vast open space spanning the center of the hangar was the speaker's podium, positioned against a background of flags representing the U.S., and all the military services. VP Pence waited with other dignitaries. Outside the massive open doors, two quiet cargo planes were parked tail-to-tail, their large doors open, ramps down, ready to be emptied.



The Second Lady settled in with us. 110 support stanchions filled the distance between us and the Vice President. They were paired wide enough apart to allow for 55 caskets. The day was hot and muggy. No one seemed to mind.

(Continued, next page)

President's Corner

(Continued)

My path to the hangar at Hickam Field began two years earlier with an equally serendipitous trip to North Korea. Bill Richardson's Center for Global Engagement made that experience possible. We were a three-person delegation meeting with the DPRK's vice foreign minister, discussing a way to bring home American remains. We brought an offer back instead.

Two years later, having watched that offer follow a myriad of paths within two presidential administrations, I was sitting beside the Second Lady of the U.S., mere feet from where the remains of fifty-five men would finally make their way to American soil.

Among things that dreams are made of is to take part in the discovery of what happened to one's own missing loved one lost to war. Short of that, is an opportunity to take part in the discovery of what happened to other people's missing loved ones. This was an honor of its own.

Vice President Pence presented his moving speech. Then, one-by-one, fifty-five flag draped caskets were brought from the cargo planes' open doors and set reverently on the stanchions. Each casket held the remains of some family's loved one. They were carried by members from each military service; most of them the same young age as the unknown men inside when they were lost to war.



The moments were alternately sad, knowing the tragedy of what had happened to these men then joyous that they were now found. Smiles came then tears flowed for each reason. Vice President

Pence stood respectfully the entire time. Mrs. Pence borrowed my tissue to dab her own tears away.

Smiles prevailed in the end. After six decades spent in anonymity beneath a foreign land, the remains of fifty-five Americans would have their chance to go home.

There were open days before AF 2 headed back to Washington. The time allowed for opportunities to experience other aspects of the accounting mission first hand. One was a tour of the identification laboratory with Jennie Jin, the head of the Korean War Identifications Project.

Jennie had been with the 55 remains from the moment they were received from the North Koreans. Her own family's escape from North Korea made her work even more special. Jennie would be overseeing the next task of learning who the men were. Their remains were already set out on tables, ready for Jennie and her dedicated staff to take the final step of returning their identities.



Another side-trip was to the Punchbowl National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. After a visit to my father's name on the memorial wall, I walked with Jim Horton, the cemetery's director, among more than 800 flat headstones of Korean War servicemen buried as unknowns since the war. As with the 55, they were waiting their time to reconnect with their identities. Jim shared the complex realities required to bring them up. Thanks to the collaborative persistence of people like Jim and determined staff within DPAA and other agencies, outside supporters, and the family members of all the missing men, the time had come. The plan to bring them up is finally underway. (See Cover article of this newsletter)



The trappings of this journey were unique and very special. My place among them came from years of moving from one closed door to another until finding those that would open. These efforts have been inspired by, and often accomplished with, the support of others, many of them strangers, who make seemingly impossible things possible. That alone makes the process of being part of experiences like this trip so meaningful. *Leap and a net will appear* has become a guiding philosophy. Many leaps have been taken to reach where we are today. Many nets have appeared in response. Many more leaps are yet to come!

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

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United States

The White House

* President Trump and Chairman Kim Jong Un of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) held a summit in Singapore on June 12, 2018. Among the four stipulations of the agreement was:



The United States and the DPRK commit to recovering POW/MIA remains, including the immediate repatriation of those already identified.

On August 1st, 55 caskets holding remains of missing U.S. servicemen returned from North Korea for identification.

* A second summit between the two leaders is under ongoing discussions.

DoD / DPAA

** North Korea / Remains Recovery*

DPAA is currently working with U.S. government interagency officials on a proposal to resume remains recovery operations in the DPRK and are guardedly optimistic that recovery operations can resume in the Spring of 2019.

** Annual Briefing/August 9-10 Washington, DC*

A total of 720 family members attended the meeting. The families represented 345 losses of missing Americans: Korean War - 697 family members / 332 losses; Cold War - 23 family members / 13 losses.

Gov. Bill Richardson was the inspired featured speaker on day two of the update. Informative panels added to DPAA's plans to keep the briefings fresh and provide outside perspectives.

** Identifications*

37 identifications were made from the Korean War during fiscal year 2018 (October to October). No identifications were made from the Cold War. 206 identifications were made from all conflicts, 156 from WWII.

* The total number listed as Missing or Body Not Recovered from the Korean War - 8,154 ; Still Unaccounted-for - 7,697; Recovered and Identified - 457.

Singapore Summit Returns

* Researchers say each of the 55 boxes North Korea returned contained bones from several people.

* About 20 of the 55 boxes held remains from one mass grave near the Chosin Reservoir.

* Remains of two American soldiers from the 55 cases already been identified.

Congress

* The Senate voted to give the Pentagon an additional \$10 million to help identify remains of U.S. troops turned over by North Korea in July.



** S.120/BOHHA Declassification Legislation*

Senate Bill 120 remains in HSGAC committee. Sen. Heller, the introducing member, was not reelected. The bill will need to be reintroduced in the next Congress / 2019. A new sponsor will need to step forward. (See article on page 7)

North Korea / South Korea



The two Koreas are working with U.N. Command on disarming the demilitarized border. The steps range from withdrawing firearms and guard posts to reducing personnel and adjusting surveillance equipment. South Korea has begun removing mines, and expects North Korea to do the same. A no-fly zone has been imposed.



Russia /USRJC



In March 1992, the U.S. – Russia Joint Commission on POWs and MIAs (USRJC) was established by direction of the Presidents of the United States and the Russian Federation to serve as a forum through which both nations seek to determine the fate of their missing servicemen. This year's annual plenum/conference will be held in DC on November 28th. Representatives from the Korean/Cold War & Vietnam War family organizations have been invited to attend.

* **Congress** - Donna Knox, the Coalition's legislative liaison, traveled twice to Washington, DC, this year.



Her meetings on Capitol Hill have been for the express purpose of advocating on behalf of the *Bring Our Heroes Home Act* (Senate Bill-120 - See p. 7).

* The Coalition will travel to DC again at the end of November. S.120, U.S. air losses inside North Korea, the USRJC plenum, and NCNK 's annual meeting are on the agenda.

* **Media** - The June Singapore Summit between North Korea and the U.S. kicked off an active summer. The Media responded with great interest, and much of it funneled through the Coalition. Requests flooded in from newspapers, magazines, radio and television outlets from all parts of the world and across the U.S. Family members took on many of the interviews.

* **X-Files** - The records on unknown U.S. Korean War remains still interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) are a breath away from being up on the Coalition's website. Accompanying them will be comprehensive research done by John Zimmerlee that associates files with possible matches among the missing men. This has been a long journey coming to fruition.

* **South Korea** - MPVA's dinner at the annual family briefing in August honored many family members with

Our Collective Voice Coalition News

Ambassador of Peace awards. Rick Downes, the Coalition's President, was invited to give a speech.

South Korea's UN Korean War Veterans Support Foundation generously awarded the Coalition a developmental grant .



* **Family Memorials** - The Coalition is excited to present Memorials for Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs. These single page websites are a way for family members to honor their missing loved one, broaden awareness of the mission, and provide funding support for the Coalition. (Coming soon!)

* **Membership Drive** - Thank you all for June's annual memberships/renewals. If the opportunity missed you, feel free to join/renew now, before the year's end! An application and renewal form are on page 10.

The *Coalition* relies on family memberships and broader donations to pursue the issues that one day will lead to answers to missing loved ones' fate..

* **Petition** - The Coalition petition will soon reach its original goal of 2000 signature. Seventy-six more will do it! Please copy the petition, pass it around to family and friends, take it to gatherings then mail completed signature pages to the *Coalition*! (see p. 11).

* **Social Media** - Dorothy Antonelli (uncle, Peter Patete MIA, November 1952) will be posting new identifications on the Coalition's Facebook page. Our lasting thanks to Jan Curran for previously handling the role.

* There are now 420 members of the Facebook page.
(www.facebook.com/groups/2307893609/)

Coalition's Korean/Cold War P.O.W./M.I.A. Agenda

We will only learn the answers to the missing men's stories through persistent action - as individuals and organizations. Congress is one of the mission's true advocates! Please keep Congressional offices informed on these issues:

- * Resolve U.S. Korean/Cold War P.O.W.s last known alive cases
 - * Full, transparent accounting for Cold War losses
- * Declassify former P.O.W. debriefings, intelligence reports, and other unnecessarily protected files (S. 120)
 - * Ret all U.S. remains unearthed and offered by North Korea
 - * Resume joint U.S./North Korea remains recovery operations
- * Approve search teams to locate U.S. air loss sites spread across North Korea
 - * Disinter and identify Korean War Punchbowl unknowns

The following websites will provide contact info for the local and DC offices of your Senate and House representatives:

www.senate.gov/senators/contact/

www.house.gov/representatives/find/

(Find the Representative for your district at: http://clerk.house.gov/member_info/mcapdir.aspx)

“Imagine”

By
John Zimmerlee

Imagine, you're 18 years old and a proud American. World War II has been over for five years and you are not sure what you want to do for the rest of your life, so you take a chance, sign up for active Army duty to see the world and make up your mind.

First stop . . . Japan! Wow, what an experience! Days later, you learn that North Korea has invaded South Korea and your upcoming assignment is in Pusan to push back the North Koreans. Fresh off the boat, you immediately hit the battlefields and wind up in Hadong where bodies are dropping everywhere. Your commander tells you to surrender and you drop your weapon. It is July 27, 1950.

Almost immediately, your government lists you as MIA, “Missing in Action” . . . along with 46 others who were also known to be captured yet labeled MIA. But, you assume that your country knows you are a POW and will be coming to get you very soon.

Your captors line you up and start marching you North. The line is as far North as you can see. Fear rushes in.

Months later you are finally in Pyongyang. American Forces were approaching. Three of you are bound together at the East Gate Ferry site along the Taedong River in Pyongyang. The guards beat you up and toss you into the river. You all drown.

Days later, your Comrades recovered your 3 remains and buried them on the west side of the courtyard of the Provincial Government Building. On October 24, 1950, George Gibbs disinterred the bodies and found your ration card in the jacket pocket of one of the remains. The remains were moved to the Military Cemetery in Pyongyang and buried on plot A, Row 1, Grave 9. A report was filed that you died as a POW, but

your family was never told, and you remained just “Missing in Action.”

According to enemy documents that our government claims . . . to this day . . . to be confidential, your name appeared in those documents during the war. Prior to your death, you were photographed by the enemy and you were identified by the “Office of Special Investigation” from those photos as an obvious POW, but your family was never told, and you remained “Missing in Action.”



After the war, remains were shipped from North Korea to

South Korea and N-17030 was among them. It appears to be the same remains that had your ration card in the shirt pocket. But as of 1955, your remains were reburied as an unknown in the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, grave number 333 and you remained “Missing in Action”.

With a budget of \$140 million a year, DPAA has been sitting on this compelling information while their laboratory was just 9 miles from your remains . . . for the last 63 years.

In reality, James Elbert Beller, we hope that our government will soon open your file; give your case the attention it so deserves; disinter these remains; identify you; return you to your family . . . and no longer refer to you as just “Missing in Action”!!!

Together we can and will get answers!

(Capt. John Zimmerlee, Jr. - MIA)
(For more of John's research visit John's blog at:
www.coalitionoffamilies.org/john-zimmerlee---blog

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 missing. 126 Americans remain unaccounted for from the war.

The U.S. / Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA research will meet for their annual conference this November. The Coalition will be there and share a report soon after.

Senate Bill 120: *The Bring Our Heroes Home Act*

Important Legislation that Awaits a Serious Commitment to Declassification

Senate Bill 120, the *Bring Our Heroes Home Act*, has been limping around Senate halls since it was introduced to this Congress by Sen. Heller in 2017. If passed into legislation, the BOHHA would create an independent Review



Board that would oversee mandatory declassification of records pertaining to American servicemen missing and unaccounted for since WWII. Exceptions to the declassification mandate would be few and they would be sub-

ject to more ardent scrutiny than ever before. Though some in government, particularly the Intelligence community, say POW/MIA records have been reviewed and acted upon as needed, this claim stands with empty hands for more than one reason.

Importantly, there has been so little transparency over the decades, the American People, especially families of POW/MIAs, have no way to evaluate whether, in fact, all records have been thoroughly reviewed and all leads legitimately investigated. Given the USG's shameful history of hiding critical information about the reported holding back of American servicemen after each of the referenced wars, it is difficult to muster up blind faith.

So, the Coalition has pursued comprehensive legislation that would put an end to the secrecy; that would unearth the institutional reluctance to bring forth what could be some difficult truths; and that would unmask the utterly unacceptable level of disinterest that has prevailed in the Intel community relative to the aged and largely forgotten issue of missing American servicemen.

To move through the Senate's legislative process, S-120 must garner co-sponsors. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) must 'score' the bill, which means assign an estimated cost to it. The Bill needs to be marked up in committee, a process by which, with a nod from Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee chairman Ron Johnson (R-WI), committee members would discuss and critique the proposed legislation, consider relevant issues and make changes, with an eye to tightening the bill and eliminating problems it might create. If committee members vote to pass the Bill out of Committee, it goes to the full Senate for a vote.

This process doesn't take itself lightly and many, if not most, Bills must be massaged, pushed and dragged through the halls, into Senate offices, and then driven into the con-

By
Donna D. Knox

sciousness of Senate staffers. Awareness must come about, then an understanding and perceived need, then an interest, then the time and political will to come out from the weeds and get onboard. None of this happens by itself.

That's where we must put skin in the game. For the last three years, the Coalition has covered Capitol Hill on this issue. Phone calls, emails, letters and—most important of all—trips to D.C. to meet with Senate staffers to generate support for S-120. This year, I have been to the Hill twice. Both of my trips have been for the express purpose of advocating on behalf of the *Bring Our Heroes Home Act*. I focused on members of HSGAC and, to a lesser extent, the Armed Services Committee, meeting with staffers from more than a dozen senators' offices and, when schedules wouldn't permit face-to-face sit downs, having discussions by telephone and via email with others.

The long and short of it is that, while no staffers have come out and said their member would oppose the Bill (that would be pretty hard to justify), most would not commit until they see the CBO score and a final version of the Bill, once it has been marked up in Committee. This means Senator Johnson, as committee chairman, has got to take an interest and move the Bill along. And, he's got to ask the CBO to score the Bill. So far, to my knowledge, he has not done these things. The CBO did look at cost when Senator Heller explored the idea of attaching S-120 to this year's Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The report concluded that S-120 would affect general spending by less than a million dollars. Though that assessment was informal, and far from complete, it at least suggests that cost should not be a major roadblock to passage of this Bill.

Since it would be the longest of long shots for S-120 to make it to the Senate floor before this Congress adjourns, it appears that the Bill will have to be re-introduced next year, either by Senator Heller if he is re-elected, or by another senator if he is not. Either way, it would be helpful if at least one member of HSGAC would take the Bill under his or her wing and guide it through the process.

So where does all this leave us? Still not knowing what intelligence lies buried in archives or file rooms that could bring answers from the dark corners of secrets past. We will have no way of changing that situation unless S-120 or its successor is passed, and aggressive review, analysis and release of information pertaining to missing American servicemen becomes the law. (Continued next page)

CLASSIFIED

Bobby & Beth

by
Beth Moore

(There are growing numbers of family members who are finding the closure other family members still await. This is a series of family members sharing their experience of finding closure.)

My brother, PFC Robert E. Mitchell, was born on Feb. 20, 1931; and twenty-two months later, I came along. There were four older 'half' brothers and two 'half' sisters, who were already grown and 'on their own'. My brother and I worked together on the farm, went to school and Church together until he graduated from High School. My brother was Robert and I was Elizabeth, so we grew up being known as Bobby and Beth.

Bobby joined the Army, November 1949. He was listed MIA, Sept. 6, 1950. A telegram was delivered to our farm home to notify my parents and me. As long as my Mom lived, she

and provided an awesome memorial service on what would have been Robert's 85th birthday, Feb. 20, 2016.



Then about a year later, I was notified that a set of remains in the Punch Bowl in Hawaii, was disinterred, tested, and identified as my brother, PFC Robert E. Mitchell. His remains, accompanied by Chaplain Atkins, were flown to Little Rock, AR, airport, and were escorted by Beebe, Searcy, Cabot police dept's, and Lonoke Co. sheriff's office, with many local people all along the way from the Air Port to Beebe, some holding flags and showing such honor for him. It was over-

whelming to see such

honor and patriotism. Then on Saturday, June 3, 2017, with full Military Honors, PFC Robert E. Mitchell was laid to rest, with many family, friends, and others attending. For me, it was an emotional, beautiful service.

I have contacted the VA and we plan to update the Marker, to show that he is no longer MIA, that he has been found, identified, returned home, and laid to rest June 3, 2017

I'm thankful that we have a place close by, that we can visit and no longer wonder where he is.

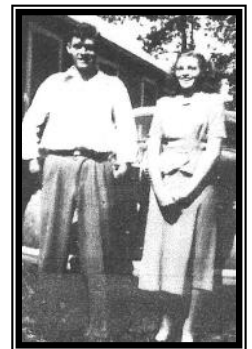
(If you are among the fortunate, please capture your experience in words and pics to share with others. Send them to coalitionoffamilies@gmail.com)



diligently reached out to everyone that she thought could help give us any information about Bobby's whereabouts, welfare, or any news at all. Our parents, Marvin and Bessie Mitchell, both died in 1965.

Then in July 1991, I realized that 'if and when', my brother was

found and identified, the Dept. of Defense would not have any one to contact, so I wrote giving them my name and address. Since then, I have kept in touch and attended some of the updates for families of POW/MIAs. With no guarantee that my brother would be found and identified in my lifetime, I and some of my nieces and nephews, decided to plan a memorial and place a marker in a local cemetery. I contacted the Dept. of Defense and was graciously given permission



(S. 120 / BOHHA— Donna Knox, Continued)

I am dismayed, but not surprised, that this road has been so long; so unpopulated; and so difficult to traverse. But then, if our government wanted transparency on the issue, it would have brought it about decades ago. Which, of course, fuels the fire and makes me wonder *What are they hiding?* If the answer to that question is *Nothing*, what are they waiting for?

I challenge those in positions of influence to actively support the *Bring Our Heroes Home Act*. I challenge the American People, especially families whose loved ones remain missing, to pressure their elected officials to get this job done. The men who disappeared without an accounting deserve no less.

Donna Knox is the daughter of Lt. Harold W. Downes, Jr., MIA as of January 13, 1952

The Kick is Good!

by

Richard L. Downes

Most folks know of a running bit between Lucy and Charlie Brown from the Peanuts cartoon strip. Lucy holds a football for Charlie to kick then pulls it away each time at the last minute. *Good Grief*, the trusting boy winds up on his backside; his pride and faith in humanity dashed.



This has been a go-to analogy for the Korean War POW/MIA mission. Charlie Brown has remained the same figure - the hopeful families of the missing men. The Lucy character and the football have changed from issue to issue. At one time or another, Lucy has represented North Korea and U.S. promises to resume remains recovery operations inside North Korea then reneging. She has been China promising archival records on Korean War P.O.W. camps that they never intended to share.

Too often Lucy has stood for agencies within our own government promising transparency while doing everything they could to avoid declassifying reports on the missing men. The families have placed hope on each opportunity as it presented itself. They've tucked their skepticism into their back pocket and strode toward the football, hopes in hand ... then swoosh! On their backsides again.

Well, Lucy brought the football out once again during the June summit between North Korea and the U.S.

A plan to return American remains was nestled into the green summer grass. Hopes soared! Like good old Charlie Browns, the families lined their hopes up for the kick. The promise, however, wavered tenuously in



the summer heat. They wanted desperately for the ball to be there when their foot swung through. And on that very special August day, 55 flag-draped carrying-cases rested evenly spaced on supports inside the

hangar at Hickam Air Force Base.

Thwack! The kick was up and good! 55 points! The world took notice!

The game is long from over, of course. Many more kicks need to be made. Lucy has trotted out a new ball, in fact. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and the Korean People's Army (KPA) have quietly been discussing a spring 2019 return of joint recovery operations to disinter U.S. remains resting beneath Korean War era battlefields; now corn fields and rice paddies. It is an old football, of course. The families' collective backside has been bruised several times trying to



make this kick. Times are new though. There are alternate perspectives in play. The Charlie Browns of the accounting mission might feel more secure about our backsides. Lucy may be a different gal these days.

P.O.W. Office: Recovery of Korean War remains Could Restart in Spring

By

Elizabeth Shim

Oct. 30 (UPI) -- The Defense POW/MIA Accounting agency has been exchanging correspondence with the North Korean military and plans are underway to restart the recovery of U.S. war remains.

DPAA's public affairs director Chuck Prichard told Voice of America on Tuesday he hopes more remains of U.S. servicemen who went missing during the 1950-53 Korean War will be recovered in spring 2019.

Membership and Funding!

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.

Coalition officers have met with government officials in North Korea and former Soviet bloc countries. They have collaborated with Congressional offices to introduce legislation, secured the release of the Korean War's X-files, and effected changes in government policy.

These accomplishments are achieved on family membership donations and work done almost entirely on a volunteer basis. So much more will be done when the *Coalition* has a fully operational budget that supports broader projects and salaried officers. We invite all of you to join us in reaching out to other organizations in order to develop broader financial support. Extended funding, large and small, will make a difference!

Thank you to all long-standing supporters for renewing your memberships, adding-on donations, supporting individual projects, and increasing contributions through online shopping at links on the *Coalition's* website.

(<http://www.coalitionoffamilies.org/merchant-partners.html>)

Together, we can broaden the effort to learn the stories of missing American servicemen who not only sacrificed their lives in service to their country but knowledge of their endings. Thank you!



Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs
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Service member's full name: _____ **Service #** _____

Branch of Service/Unit or Group: _____

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Annual Membership Donation - \$25. Please make checks payable to: Coalition of Families.

Send to:

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

Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs

PO Box 4194

Portsmouth, NH 03802

818.259.9950

coalitionoffamilies@gmail.com

www.coalitionoffamilies.org

Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIA's

We call upon the governments of the United States, Russia, China, North Korea, and South Korea, to:

*Fully investigate reports that missing American servicemen were kept in captivity following the Korean War,

**Pursue the recovery and identification of American servicemen's remains located within their borders,*

*Honor pledges for full transparency regarding still classified Korean and Cold War documents, and,

**Pursue these humanitarian objectives steadfastly, in the present frame of time, not an unending point in the future.*

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>FAMILY MEMBER</u>	<u>(Yes/No)</u>
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