

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Blackwell, Morton: Files
Folder Title: POW/MIA: POW/MIA's
National League of Families,
07/09/1982 or 07/10/1982
Box: 46

To see more digitized collections visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Due to President's departure tomorrow
morning, we are short of time.

Please phone your responses into
my office as soon as possible.

Dodie Livingston -- 456-2941

Thank you!

*Phoned 6/30
CS*

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 30, 1982 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5 p.m. June 30, 1982

SUBJECT: Draft proclamation regarding the flying of P.O.W.-M.I.A. Flag
over White House and Pentagon on July 9, 1982.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAMES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILLIAMSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WEIDENBAUM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
✓ HARPER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HICKEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
✓ CLARK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROSEBUSH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY/SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CEQ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANZERI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OSTP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BOLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USTR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FULLER (For Cabinet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GERGEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Remarks:

As you may recall, July 9, 1982, has already been proclaimed as P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day. This proclamation would permit the flying of a P.O.W.-M.I.A. flag supplied by p.o.w. group over the White House and Pentagon on July 9.

For your information, I am told this type of thing has only been done once before -- flying of Bicentennial Flag in 1976.

Department of State, OPD, and NSC have already signed off on this Proc, and preliminary opinion from White House Counsel's Office is they will have no objections.

Please comment as you feel appropriate. Thank you!

Dodie Livingston (x2941)

for
 Richard G. Darman
 Assistant to the President
 and

Dodie



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

GENERAL COUNSEL

June 30, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MICHAEL J. HOROWITZ
COUNSEL TO THE DIRECTOR *MJH*

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PROCLAMATION ENTITLED
"P.O.W.-M.I.A. FLAG"

Enclosed for your consideration is a proposed proclamation that directs the flying of a P.O.W.-M.I.A. flag over the White House and the Pentagon on July 9th. You have already proclaimed that day as "National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day."

The National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia has loaned to the National Security Council staff one of their flags to fly over the White House and one to fly over the Pentagon.

The staffs of the National Security Council and the Office of Policy Development, and the Departments of State and Defense concur in this special mark of recognition during the observance of National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day.

The proposed proclamation has the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Enclosures

P.O.W.-M.I.A. FLAG

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Friday, July 9, 1982 has been designated as "National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day, 1982." It is a fitting mark of recognition of the uncommon sacrifices of all former American prisoners of war, those still missing, and their families, that a P.O.W.-M.I.A. flag fly over the White House and the Pentagon.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution as President and Commander in Chief of the armed forces, do hereby proclaim that a P.O.W.-M.I.A. flag shall be flown, subordinate to the National Colors, over the White House and the Pentagon on National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day, Friday, July 9, 1982.

I invite other government officials and individuals to join in this special mark of recognition and to participate in appropriate observances.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
day of , in the year of our Lord
nineteen hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of
the United States of America the two hundred and

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: Dodie Livingston

FROM: Maiselle Shortley

The scheduling office has declined the attached invitation for the President.

Is it possible to send them a Presidential message? I would appreciate knowing by the end of the week, May 14, if this will be done.

I have attached the schedule proposal, the letter of invitation and a memo from Bill Clark.

THANKS FOR YOUR PROMPT ATTENTION.

Cal Dick Childress

END
Red
Morton B.
Diana L.
File

*Wait to see if they
get a letter.*

Fred Ryan

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

APR 26 1982
REGRET
Date 4/23/82
7/9
or
7/10
GJH
W

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

April 8, 1982

TO: GREGORY J. NEWELL, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: Elizabeth H. Dole *END*

REQUEST: To participate in the 13th annual meeting of the
National League of Families of American Prisoners
and Missing in South East Asia.

PURPOSE: To reaffirm the President's commitment to the missing
men and their families and to stress the stepped up
efforts of the Administration to increase public
awareness on the issue of obtaining the return and
the fullest accounting of our POW/MIAs.

BACKGROUND: The National League of Families is the major organ-
ization representing the families of the missing
men. They will be holding their 13th annual meeting
in the Washington area which will be attended by
some 500 relatives of missing men from around the
nation. This meeting coincides with the National
POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at the Pentagon.
The President has set up an Interagency Task Force
which has launched a public awareness campaign on
the POW/MIA issue and which has encouraged Administra-
tion officials to incorporate the issue in major
speeches throughout the country.

PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION: President Reagan participated in a proclamation/bill
signing ceremony in the Rose Garden last year for the
National POW/MIA Recognition Day. This was attended
by the League's nine member board of directors as well
as by some members of Congress. However, this was
not a substantive meeting with the President as he
did not make a major statement. President Reagan is
the first President who has not met for personal
discussions with League officials or addressed an
annual meeting. Presidents Nixon and Ford spoke at
the League's annual banquet, and President Carter
had a 45 minute meeting in the Cabinet Room with
League officials thirteen days after taking office.

DATE: July 9, 8:30 a.m. Congressional breakfast or
July 10, 8:30 a.m. Annual Banquet

LOCATION: Stouffer's Hotel, Arlington, Virginia DURATION: 20 min.

PARTICIPANTS: 500-600 POW/MIA families and friends

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: The President arrives, is greeted by League officials, makes his speech to the full assembly, and departs.

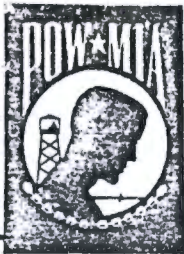
REMARKS REQUIRED: Major speech

MEDIA COVERAGE: Full press coverage

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole, William P. Clark

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

March 22, 1982

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the members of the National League of POW/MIA Families, I would like to extend an invitation to participate in our 13th annual meeting, July 9-11, 1982, at Stouffer's National Center Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

While we would be delighted to hear from you during any portion of the meeting, specifically we would like you to address our Congressional Breakfast on Friday, July 9th. As it is anticipated that July 9th will also be National POW/MIA Recognition Day, your participation would be most appropriate and timely. The breakfast is set for 8:30 a.m. until approximately 10:00 a.m. //

Some 500-600 POW/MIA family members, concerned citizens and members of Congress will attend this breakfast and opening session of the League's annual meeting.

In view of the increased effort your administration has evidenced in seeking the return and the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIAs, I know our members would be greatly encouraged to hear directly of your deep personal commitment to these servicemen and civilians who remain missing as a result of the Vietnam war.

Respectfully,

Ann Mills Griffiths
Ann Mills Griffiths
Executive Director

AMG/cb

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 6, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR GREGORY J. NEWELL

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK *WPC*

SUBJECT: President's Participation in the 13th Annual Meeting of the National League of POW/MIA Families

As you may know, we have deflected many requests over the year from POW/MIA groups to meet with the President in anticipation of an annual event. This is the one.

The League is the largest and most influential of these groups and invites the representatives of all the major POW/MIA groups to their annual meeting. This provides an opportunity to satisfy these requests.

President Reagan, by his personal commitment to an honorable accounting, is held in high esteem by these groups. Since each of the past three Presidents have participated in the League's activities, a declination of this request would undermine the credibility now established and could injure the harmonious cooperation between these groups and the Administration.

I strongly urge that the President be scheduled for this event.

William P. Clark

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MARCH 29, 1982

MEMORANDUM

MAR 29 1982

TO: ✓ RED CAVANEY - WILLIAM CLARK

FROM: GREGORY J. NEWELL, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION.

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING
SCHEDULING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

EVENT: Participate in the 13th annual meeting of
the National League of POW/MIA Families.

DATE: July 9-11, 1982

LOCATION: Arlington, VA

BACKGROUND: See attached.

YOUR RECOMMENDATION:

Accept ☒ Regret ☐ Surrogate ☐ Message ☐ Other ☐
Priority ☐
Routine ☐

IF RECOMMENDATION IS TO ACCEPT, PLEASE CITE REASONS:

See schedule proposal and William P. Clark memo.

RESPONSE DUE 4-2-82 TO Fred J. Ryan.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 6, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR GREGORY J. NEWELL

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK *WPC*

SUBJECT: President's Participation in the 13th Annual Meeting of the National League of POW/MIA Families

As you may know, we have deflected many requests over the year from POW/MIA groups to meet with the President in anticipation of an annual event. This is the one.

The League is the largest and most influential of these groups and invites the representatives of all the major POW/MIA groups to their annual meeting. This provides an opportunity to satisfy these requests.

President Reagan, by his personal commitment to an honorable accounting, is held in high esteem by these groups. Since each of the past three Presidents have participated in the League's activities, a declination of this request would undermine the credibility now established and could injure the harmonious cooperation between these groups and the Administration.

I strongly urge that the President be scheduled for this event.

William P. Clark

(
E
)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MARCH 29, 1982

MEMORANDUM

TO: ✓ WILLIAM CLARK - RED CAVANEY

FROM: GREGORY J. ✓ NEWELL, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION.

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING
SCHEDULING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

EVENT: Participate in the 13th annual meeting of
the National League of POW/MIA Families.

DATE: July 9-11, 1982

LOCATION: Arlington, VA

BACKGROUND: See attached.

YOUR RECOMMENDATION:

Accept___ Regret___ Surrogate___ Message___ Other___
Priority___
Routine___

IF RECOMMENDATION IS TO ACCEPT, PLEASE CITE REASONS:

RESPONSE DUE 4-2-82 TO Fred J. Ryan.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

March 22, 1982

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

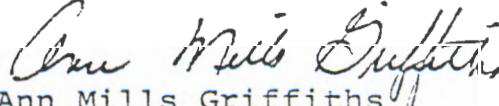
On behalf of the members of the National League of POW/MIA Families, I would like to extend an invitation to participate in our 13th annual meeting, July 9-11, 1982, at Stouffer's National Center Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

While we would be delighted to hear from you during any portion of the meeting, specifically we would like you to address our Congressional Breakfast on Friday, July 9th. As it is anticipated that July 9th will also be National POW/MIA Recognition Day, your participation would be most appropriate and timely. The breakfast is set for 8:30 a.m. until approximately 10:00 a.m.

Some 500-600 POW/MIA family members, concerned citizens and members of Congress will attend this breakfast and opening session of the League's annual meeting.

In view of the increased effort your administration has evidenced in seeking the return and the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIAs, I know our members would be greatly encouraged to hear directly of your deep personal commitment to these servicemen and civilians who remain missing as a result of the Vietnam war.

Respectfully,


Ann Mills Griffiths
Executive Director

AMG/cb

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

March 31, 1982

SIGNED

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

FROM:

RICHARD CHILDRESS 

SUBJECT:

President's Participation in the 13th Annual Meeting of the National League of POW/MIA Families

At Tab A is Greg Newell's request for your recommendation on the President's participation in the 13th Annual Meeting of the National League of POW/MIA Families on July 9. This would coincide with the anticipated designation of July 9 as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

To keep from fragmenting the President, we have held off various POW/MIA groups seeking to see him in anticipation of this annual event. The National League invites all of the major POW/MIA groups to this event and it represents an opportunity to satisfy all at one time. Traditionally, Presidents since President Ford have met with the board. President Reagan has yet to do so, although the board was present when President Reagan held a Rose Garden signing ceremony for POW/MIA Recognition Day last year.

Given President Reagan's personal commitment to resolution of the issue and the widespread belief in his sincerity by these groups, his participation is critical. The concerns expressed to you by Anne Griffiths are felt throughout the League.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo at Tab I to Greg Newell recommending that the President accept the invitation.

Approve ✓

Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I - Memorandum to Greg Newell
Tab A - Incoming from Newell

National Security Council The White House

Package # 2131

'82 APR -1 A10:08

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	ACTION
John Poindexter	<u>1</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Bud McFarlane	<u>2</u>	<u>M</u>	<u> </u>
Jacque Hill	<u>3</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Judge Clark	<u>4</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>A</u>
John Poindexter	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Staff Secretary	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Sit Room	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

I-Information A-Action R-Retain D-Dispatch

DISTRIBUTION

CY To VP	<u> </u>	Show CC	<u> </u>
CY To Meese	<u> </u>	Show CC	<u> </u>
CY To Baker	<u> </u>	Show CC	<u> </u>
CY To Deaver	<u> </u>	Show CC	<u> </u>

Other

COMMENTS



**Veterans
Administration**

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 9 DESIGNATED POW/MIA DAY

In cooperation with the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration will lead the Nation July 9 in honoring America's 100,000 former prisoners of war.

President Reagan, in conjunction with a Congressional Resolution, has designated July 9 as P.O.W. - M.I.A. Recognition Day. Administrator of Veterans Affairs Robert P. Nimmo has asked that VA facilities conduct appropriate ceremonies on that day to honor all former POWs and those still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

In a message to VA employees, Nimmo said: "All Americans should recognize the debt we owe our fellow citizens who, while serving the Nation, were imprisoned by the enemy. We should not forget the unresolved casualties of war -- those who are still missing. Their families, relatives and friends still wait, not knowing the fate of their loved ones."

In Washington, Recognition Day ceremonies will be held at the Pentagon, hosted by the Defense Department.

-more-

The Prisoners of War Health Care Benefits Act of 1981 gives former POWs special priority for VA medical treatment. It also reduces from six months to 30 days the requisite internment period for presumptions relating to certain diseases associated with prison camps in compensation claims.

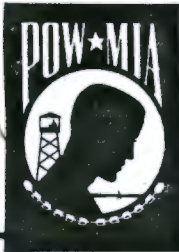
In the 12-month period that ended Oct. 1, 1981, VA hospitals treated 4,553 former POWs, including 2,530 with service-connected ailments.

A 14-member Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War assists Administrator Nimmo. Committee members represent European and Pacific theaters of World War II, Korea and Vietnam and each branch of the military.

#

June 22, 1982

Contact: John Scholzen
(202) 389-2741



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

March 23, 1982

MEMO TO: Dick Childress, Kathy Christiansen
FROM: Ann Griffiths, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Desired U.S. government/administration participation
in League Annual Meeting

In view of the stepped up efforts of the U.S. government to increase public awareness on the issue of the unaccounted for servicemen and civilians in Indochina, visible, high level participation in the League's Annual Meeting would enhance this effort, particularly as President Reagan is the first president who has not met with League officials or addressed an annual meeting.

July 9, 1982 - LEAGUE OF FAMILIES CONGRESSIONAL BREAKFAST
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - Stouffer's National
Center Hotel, Arlington.

Participation by: The President
Alternative: The Vice President -

*Pentagon
11 AM
July 9*

Twenty minute drop by to address the POW/MIA families, concerned citizens and members of Congress. Appropriate time to stress the personal commitment to the missing men and their families. The President should also stress that he receives regular briefings on the issue and this country stands ready to take whatever steps are necessary to secure the return of any living POWs.

Appearance at this event particularly good for press coverage, as following the breakfast will be the National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at the Pentagon. Media will be able to tie in events for good footage on evening network news.

Admission at breakfast by ticket only. Audience approximately 500.

July 10, 1982 - NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES BANQUET
Cocktails - 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Dinner - 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Program - 8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Stouffer's National Center Hotel, Arlington

MEMO TO CHILDRESS & CHRISTIANSEN
March 13, 1982

Page 2

Participation by: Secretary of Defense
Alternative: Secretary of State
National Security Advisor

As the return of POWs and an accounting for the missing is primarily the responsibility of the Department of Defense and the Secretary has been particularly responsive to this issue, Mr. Weinberger's participation would be appropriate and welcome by the POW/MIA families.

As an alternative, the Secretary of State could use this opportunity to make an address on U.S. foreign policy in the Southeast Asian region.

The banquet is an annual event. In the past, speakers have been Presidents Nixon and Ford, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, members of the U.S. Congress, national security advisors Kissinger and Allen, etc.

Admission by ticket only. Audience 500-600 POW/MIA families and friends.

cc: Interagency Group members

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Collections

This is not a presidential record. This marker is used as an administrative marker by the Ronald W. Reagan Presidential Library Staff. This marker identifies that there was an object in this folder that could not be scanned due to its size.



National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day, 1982

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Since the Revolutionary War, when General George Washington complained of the treatment accorded to captured soldiers of the Continental Army, the United States has recognized the uncommon hardships experienced by our soldiers held prisoner during times of war. Called upon to defend American ideals while undergoing extreme adversity in violation of fundamental moral standards and the international codes and customs for the treatment of prisoners of war, our soldiers have fulfilled their duty to their services and country.

Similarly, our country has recognized the acute suffering experienced by the families of our soldiers held captive or missing in action. The uncertainty these service families live with day-to-day surely touches the heart of every American.

The Congress has by Joint Resolution designated July 9, 1982 as National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day and on this day we should recognize the special debt owed to our fellow citizens who gave up their freedom and their families in the service of our country. We must also remember our still-missing servicemen, for whose families, relatives and friends the anguish and bitterness of war are enduring aspects.

Our Nation must not forget and will continue to seek answers to their fates.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate July 9, 1982 as National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day, a day dedicated to all former American prisoners of war, to those still missing, and to their families. I call on all Americans to join in honoring those who made the uncommon sacrifice of being held captive in war, and their loved ones.

I call upon State and local officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixth.

Ronald Reagan



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

March 22, 1982

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:


On behalf of the members of the National League of POW/MIA Families, I would like to extend an invitation to participate in our 13th annual meeting, July 9-11, 1982, at Stouffer's National Center Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

While we would be delighted to hear from you during any portion of the meeting, specifically we would like you to address our Congressional Breakfast on Friday, July 9th. As it is anticipated that July 9th will also be National POW/MIA Recognition Day, your participation would be most appropriate and timely. The breakfast is set for 8:30 a.m. until approximately 10:00 a.m.

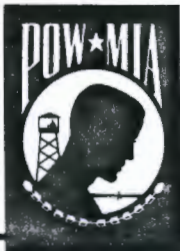
Some 500-600 POW/MIA family members, concerned citizens and members of Congress will attend this breakfast and opening session of the League's annual meeting.

In view of the increased effort your administration has evidenced in seeking the return and the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIAs, I know our members would be greatly encouraged to hear directly of your deep personal commitment to these servicemen and civilians who remain missing as a result of the Vietnam war.

Respectfully,


Ann Mills Griffiths
Executive Director

AMG/cb



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

March 22, 1982

The Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the members of the National League of POW/MIA Families, I would like to extend an invitation to participate in our 13th annual meeting, July 9-11, 1982, at Stouffer's National Center Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

While we would be delighted to hear from you during any portion of the meeting, specifically we would like you to address our annual banquet on Saturday, July 10th. Past speakers at League dinners have been former Presidents Nixon and Ford, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, members of Congress and former national security advisors Kissinger and Allen. The dinner begins with cocktails at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m. and the program at 8:30 p.m.

Some 500-600 POW/MIA family members and friends will be in attendance for the dinner.

In view of the increased effort the Reagan Administration has evidenced in seeking the return and the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIAs, I know our members would be greatly encouraged to hear directly of your deep personal commitment to these servicemen and civilians who remain missing as a result of the Vietnam war.

Respectfully,

Ann Mills Griffiths
Executive Director

AMG/cb

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 1, 1982

NATIONAL P.O.W. - M.I.A. RECOGNITION DAY, 1982

- - - - -

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Since the Revolutionary War, when General George Washington complained of the treatment accorded to captured soldiers of the Continental Army, the United States has recognized the uncommon hardships experienced by our soldiers held prisoner during times of war. Called upon to defend American ideals while undergoing extreme adversity in violation of fundamental moral standards and the international codes and customs for the treatment of prisoners of war, our soldiers have fulfilled their duty to their services and country.

Similarly, our country has recognized the acute suffering experienced by the families of our soldiers held captive or missing in action. The uncertainty these service families live with day-to-day surely touches the heart of every American.

The Congress has by Joint Resolution designated July 9, 1982 as National P.O.W. - M.I.A. Recognition Day and on this day we should recognize the special debt owed to our fellow citizens who gave up their freedom and their families in the service of our country. We must also remember our still-missing servicemen, for whose families, relatives and friends the anguish and bitterness of war are enduring aspects.

Our Nation must not forget and will continue to seek answers to their fates.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate July 9, 1982 as National P.O.W. - M.I.A. Recognition Day, a day dedicated to all former American prisoners of war, to those still missing, and to their families. I call on all Americans to join in honoring those who made the uncommon sacrifice of being held captive in war, and their loved ones.

I call upon State and local officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixth.

RONALD REAGAN

#