



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



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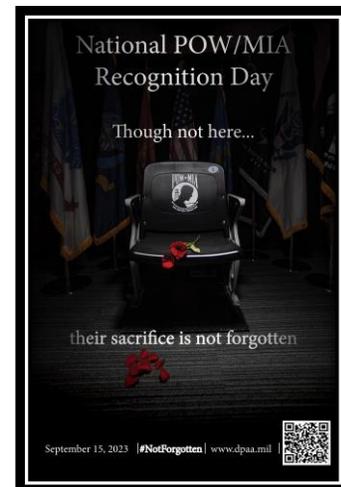
Dear Commemorative Partners,

Though not here... their sacrifice is not forgotten is this year’s theme for **National POW/MIA Recognition Day**. Since 1999, the [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency](#) (DPAA) has created a [poster](#) each year in commemoration. The 2023 poster at right is available for download along with all previous editions.

This [National POW/MIA Recognition Day poster](#) was unveiled in a June 26 Pentagon ceremony hosted by the United States Secretary of the Army, Christine E. Wormuth and DPAA Director, Kelly K. McKeague. Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel and Vietnam veteran Michael L. Brazelton—who survived more than six years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam—was also present for the unveiling. Read more about the [ceremony](#) and DPAA’s ongoing mission and recovery efforts.



Secretary of the Army, Christine E. Wormuth at the unveiling ceremony.



National POW/MIA Recognition Day 2023 Poster

In observance of this significant day, a national ceremony is held each year on the third Friday in September—along with other observances across the country—for those held captive and returned, and those who remain missing. Join us this year, as we pause in a time of remembrance on **September 15**.

Since National POW/MIA Recognition Day last year, *five Vietnam War service members* have been accounted for:

From left to right:



- U.S. Army Staff Sergeant [Sanford I. Finger](#), 29, of Miami Beach, Florida.
- U.S. Army Private First Class [Thomas F. Green](#), 19, of Ramona, California.
- U.S. Army Reserve Chief Warrant Officer Three [Larry A. Zich](#), 24, of Sturgis, South Dakota.
- U.S. Air Force Colonel [Ernest L. De Soto](#), 37, of San Francisco, California.
- U.S. Air Force Captain [Frederick M. Hall](#), 25, of Waynesville, North Carolina.

Finally, we also pay tribute this month to **Gold Star Mother’s and Family’s Day**. The last Sunday in September was set aside by Congress to honor *Gold Star Mothers*, and it has been observed every year since 1936. Eleven years ago, it was amplified to include and embody the loss shared by the entire family. This year, we commemorate it on **September 24**. As you gather during these national observances, **remember and honor** the ultimate sacrifices of our Nation’s Gold Star families, those Vietnam veterans who were imprisoned and returned, and those Vietnam War families still awaiting word of their loved ones.

~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!