
Special Edition - Post 201 Newsletter

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American Legion Post 201 <americanlegionalpharetta@gmail.com>

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**Alpharetta Post 201****Telephone: 770-475-9023**americanlegionalpharetta@gmail.com

Special Edition - - September 16, 2022

September 16, 2022**POW/MIA Recognition Day
&
Anniversary of American Legion Charter Issued in 1919*****POW/MIA Day***

Today, the third Friday of September, is the day set aside to honor those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action, as well as seeking the return of the remains of fallen soldiers.

Established by an Act of Congress (Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act) today is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

More than a half million Americans have been captured and interned as prisoners of war (POW) since the American Revolution. Those numbers include more than 142,000 Americans captured and interned as POWs since World War I, and nearly 100 women.

Since World War II, nearly 88,000 men and women in uniform remain unaccounted for. Almost 90 percent of those service-members served during World War II.

The Defense POW/MIA Office estimates 26,000-36,000 of those still missing are recoverable. More than 1,300 service members who have gone missing while serving in World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War have been identified since 1973.

Since October 2007, the remains of more than 70 servicemen have been identified and returned to their families for burial, including WWII soldiers, sailors and airmen missing for more than 60 years.

Three Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) soldiers — Staff Sgt. Matt Maupin, Sgt. Alex Jimenez and Pfc. Byron Fouty — also were returned home for burial. Spc. Ahmed K. Altaie, an Iraqi-born translator and reserve soldier who was abducted by gunmen in October 2006, remains the only soldier listed as missing in OIF.

Vietnam veterans remember “Operation Homecoming,” the military undertaking to return 591 American POWs held by North Vietnam. Between Feb. 12 and Apr. 4, 1973 fifty-four C-141 missions were flown out of Hanoi, bringing the former POWs home.

Of the POWs repatriated to the United States 325 of them served in the U.S. Air Force, a majority of which were bomber pilots shot down over North Vietnam or VC controlled territory. The remaining 266 consisted of 138 U.S. Navy personnel, 77 soldiers serving in the U.S. Army, 26 U.S. Marines and 25 civilian employees of U.S. government agencies.

A majority of the prisoners were held at camps in North Vietnam, however some POWs were held in at various locations throughout Southeast Asia. A total of 69 POWs were held in South Vietnam by the VC and would eventually leave the country aboard flights from Loc Ninh, while only nine POWs were released from Laos, as well as an additional three from China.

On May 24, 1973 President and First Lady Nixon hosted the American POWs held captive in Vietnam to dinner at the White House. In 2013, forty years later, the Richard Nixon Foundation hosted what was perhaps their last reunion gathering. At that time ABC News produced a 12-minute recap of that reunion. [Click here to view](#) that program.

Sources: Veteranownedbusiness.com and Wikipedia

Anniversary of Legion National Charter

Although the American Legion celebrates its “official” birthday on March 15 each year - - - the day in 1919 when members of the American Expeditionary Force convened the first American Legion caucus in Paris - - - today is the day when, 103 years ago, a national charter was granted to the Legion by the U.S. Congress.

This morning Fox News recognized the chartering date with a feature story on its web site. [Click here to read](#) the story.

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Editor's Note: Thanks to Tom Billings for the link to the video of 40th Anniversary reunion of the Vietnam POWs, and to Ed Holben for the Fox News link about the American Legion charter. - hdh



American Legion Post 201 | 201 Wills Road, Alpharetta, GA 30009

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