

National POW/MIA Day

Friday, 15 September 12, 2017 is national POW/MIA day. The day is “an annual event honors our missing service members and their families, and highlights the government’s commitment to account for them. America’s POW/MIAs should be honored and recognized, rather than memorialized, with the focus on continuing commitment to account as fully as possible for those still missing. Strong, united support by the American people is crucial to achieving concrete answers.” Events are scheduled throughout the nation to remember or POW/MIA service members.

Vietnam Veterans of American chapter 941 will hold a special event on 15 September at 9:00 am on our Veterans Memorial Bridge. Everyone is welcome to attend and be part of our event. Chapter 941 represents Vietnam Veterans and has over 200 members from our region with one member as far away as Texas. Chapter 941 provides a number of services to our community including color guard services for events, including MSUM ballgames, holding special events such as POW/MIA day, visiting Veterans in nursing homes, the VA hospital and Veterans Homes in Lisbon and Fergus Falls marching in parades and perhaps most importing visiting high school classes and talking about the Vietnam War. The chapter holds fundraising events to help pay for services for needy Veterans. The chapter’s work is done by volunteers and they are an important part of our community. VVA’s mission statement says it all “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.”

Nationally, the National League of POW/MIA Families will gather for a candlelight remembrance at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. They will remember the over 1,600 still missing.

If you’ve been to an American Legion or VFW post, you may have seen a table with a white table cloth, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their country’s call to arms; a POW/MIA flag draped over an empty chair symbolic of the missing and fallen are not here; a place setting for one; a single red rose, signifying the blood that many have shed in sacrifice to insure the freedom of our country; a slice of lemon, representing the bitter fate of the missing; salt, symbolic of the tears of the families who wait; an inverted glass, indicating that the missing cannot partake; and a lit candle, representing the hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home. During special events, a special ceremony is conducted to honor our POW/MIA and includes placing the hats representing each of our service branches. Moorhead American Legion and the NDSU ROTC perform this ceremony at the annual members’ dinner.

Please take a moment Friday to remember our missing.