



Voiture 1379 Communiqué for July 2011

With the start of the 2012 membership year upon us, I want to remind everyone that our numbers are starting to grow. With this being said we need to be working on getting new members and keeping the members we currently have. My goal this year is to be at 100% by Veterans Day. So if you can please get your dues to me as soon as possible so we can meet our goal for 2012 membership.

To avoid missing issues of the Communiqué please be sure to send the Correspondant any change of address information. It cost fifty (\$.50) for each address correction.

Air Force Pilot Missing from Vietnam War Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of a serviceman, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Air Force Maj. Richard G. Elzinga of Shedd, Ore., will be buried on July 8 in Arlington National Cemetery. On March 26, 1970, Elzinga and his co-pilot went missing when their O-1G Birdog aircraft failed to return to base from a familiarization flight over Laos. Fifteen minutes after the last radio contact, a communication and visual search showed no sign of the men or their aircraft. Search and rescue missions continued for two days with no results.

Between 1994 and 2009, joint U.S.-Lao People's Democratic Republic teams led by Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, analyzed leads, interviewed villagers and surveyed possible crash site locations. During several joint field surveys, teams recovered human remains, aircraft wreckage, and crew-related equipment.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA -- which matched that of his aunt and cousin -- in the identification of Elzinga's remains.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO website at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call 703-699-1169.

Don't forget August 27th is the Annual Voiture 1379 ChicNic being held at Wallace State Park near Cameron, MO. The ChicNic begins at 13:00 HRS and the cost is \$10 per person for adults. Please be sure to bring a passing dish and something to use for a door prize give away.

This months Promenade will be on July 27th at Post 61 in Claycomo, MO with dinner and Promenade at Post 61. Dinner – provided by Post 61 SAL Squadron and will begin at 18:00 HRS with the Promenade beginning at 19:00 HRS. We will be WRECKING two (2) P.G.'s so come out and help show these P.G.s how much fun the 40et8 is.

If there are any other functions you would like to "get the word out" please let me know and I can put it in the next communiqué.

Thank you for your service to Our Great Nation, your service to the American Legion, and the 40et8 through Voiture 1379. If we all work together we can and do make a difference.

Robert C. Emery, Correspondant Locale, Voiture 1379