



Voiture 1379 Communiqué for September 2024

The key phrase behind the national POW/MIA remembrance movement, which honors Soldiers who were taken as prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action, is “you are not forgotten.”

Many American service members suffered as prisoners of war during varying conflicts- while some made it home to their families, many never did. Continue reading to learn more about this important movement and how you can help recognize it.

What is POW/MIA Recognition Day?

POW/MIA Recognition Day is commemorated on the third Friday of every September, a date that’s not associated with any particular war. In 1979, Congress and the president passed resolutions making it official after the families of the more than 2,500 Vietnam War POW/MIAs pushed for full accountability.

A national-level ceremony is held on every National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Traditionally held at the Pentagon, it features members from each branch of military service and participation from high-ranking officials. In addition to the national-level ceremony, observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans’ facilities. All of these National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies share the common purpose of honoring those who were held captive and returned, as well as those who remain missing.

The Creations of the POW/MIA Flag

Few know that the official POW/MIA flag was actually created many years before the remembrance day became official. POW/MIA Flag flying in Washington D.C.

In 1971, Mrs. Michael Hoff, the wife of Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael Hoff who was listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War after his plane was shot down over Laos, developed the idea for a national flag to remind every American of the U.S. service members whose fates were never accounted for during the war.

World War II pilot Newt Heisley designed the now-famous flag, which was made in black and white to represent the sorrow, anxiety and hope symbolized by the image of the gaunt man featured on it. Some claim the silhouette is a profile of Heisley’s son, who contracted hepatitis while training to go to Vietnam. The virus ravaged his body, leaving his features hallow and emaciated. They suggest that while staring at his son’s sunken features, Heisley saw the stark image of American servicemembers held captive under harsh conditions. Using a pencil, he sketched his son’s profile, creating the basis for a symbol that would come to have a powerful impact on the national conscience.

The Fall Grande Cheminot and Grand Chefs Homecoming will be held October 8th to the 10th in Springfield MO at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Oasis Convention Center. Please come out and see what is going on the Grande du Missouri.

This months Promenade will be at Post 61 on September 25th with meal at the Post at 18:00 HRS and Promenade starting directly after the meal.

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

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