Prisoners of War and Missing in Action of the Korean War

Throughout our Nation's history, the men and women of America's Armed Forces have preserved our freedom, protected our security, and upheld our democratic values. Included within the ranks of those servicemen and women who paid the ultimate price of freedom with their lives are the thousands who were held as prisoners of war (POW) or those missing in action (MIA) whose fate has never been resolved. Many service personnel have been lost in the chaos of battle, the grief of their loss made more acute for their families and their fellow Americans because of the inability to determine whether they perished or survived. Captive Americans, cruelly stripped of their freedom, treated with contempt and brutality, and used as pawns by their captors in a larger political struggle, have fought long, lonely battles against despair, physical and psychological torture, and the ultimate fear of being forgotten. But Americans will never forget those who have borne the indignities and sufferings of captivity in service to our country, those missing in action, or those who died as prisoners of war, far from home and family.

Captured by the Enemy

U.S. Army soldiers under Chinese People's Volunteer Army guard, most likely from initial fighting around the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir. November 1950

Americans in Captivity

American POWs held by the North Koreans.

Star-Spangled Freedom

POWs repatriated in a United Nations POW exchange and their flight nurses in Japan. They proudly display the American flag that was hand-made by the prisoners during their long imprisonment at a Communist POW camp.

The Journey Home

POWs repatriated during a United Nations prisoner exchange file down the stairway at Inchon, Korea prior to being processed and sent home. September 1953

A Joyful Homecoming

"Welcome home" was the joyous greeting given to Lt. Albert de la Garza, one of the POWs repatriated in the United Nations POW exchange at Panmunjom, Korea.

For Heroic Efforts

Former POW, Sgt. Hiroshi Miyamura, U.S. Army 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, is congratulated by Gen. Osborne as he is told he has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions beyond the call of duty. April 1951

Not Forgotten

We honor former American prisoners of war and those whose fate is still undetermined. We also remember with special sympathy and concern the courageous families who maintain their steadfast vigil and who persevere in their search for answers and the peace that comes only with certainty.

POW★MIA
YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN