

Dear Friend,

I've been up most of the night, reviewing what the last 15 years have meant for the National League of POW/MIA Families ...

... and writing a survey I hope you'll complete and mail back to me immediately to help return the over 2,400 POW/MIAs still prisoner and missing in Southeast Asia.

You see, we must know if there are still caring Americans out there who are willing to help obtain the release of our men from Vietnam and Laos ... still keeping faith with our POW/MIAs and their families.

Frankly, I'm tired and frustrated by the long wait, but confident and encouraged by the results now being achieved.

However, without additional support from patriotic Americans, the torch of truth, we've carried all this time could soon dim and eventually burn out.

That would be a crushing blow to those of us who have spent year after year -- in a round-the-clock vigil -- waiting for loved ones who never came home.

At first, many of us believed our men would come home alive after the first year or so. For some it's been over 20 blood and sweat years of hard work, and I speak for all POW/MIA families when I say that we just want to know -- one way or the other -- if our loved ones are alive or dead, and if or when they will be returned to us.

Since 1978, I've been Executive Director of the League, working on a shoe-string budget in a rent-free office provided by The American Legion. @ \$50,000 a year salary

Many of us have used our own money -- and when our personal resources ran out, we began writing letters to patriotic Americans like you -- and to friends we've never met -- for help.

We have endured the torture of not knowing, the horror of waking up in a sweat at night after seeing a loved one in a nightmarish dream, the heartache of celebrating each holiday with an empty place at the table -- always wondering.

... of looking at old photographs and wishing that our loved one was at our side ... of going to weddings and graduations without our husbands, fathers, brothers or sons to share the joy of these special family occasions.

Each has suffered in his or her own way and when word finally comes that the remains of some Americans are being returned, we are tense with anticipation, wondering when our long ordeal will be over.

For some, it is, and we're all thankful. But for the remaining families, it's just a roller coaster ride of fear and resentment, optimism and expectation, frustration and confusion.

I've stood by the gravesites with families of servicemen who are finally laid to rest, and paid honor to more flag-draped coffins and listened to more taps than I dare to remember ...

I've tromped through the jungles of the hot, green hells where our men fought and I've sifted through the rubble of crash sites, hoping for a clue ... ?

**POW/MIA/POW/MIA/POW**

National League of POW/MIA Families 1608 K Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001



... I've read volumes of live-sighting reports and interviewed eyewitnesses who came to our shores as boat people ...

... I've pressed for the release of government classified papers and photographs, reviewing each piece like a scientist in search of a cure for cancer ...

... I've handed out flyers and bumper stickers, worn ID bracelets and participated in candlelight ceremonies for our men ...

... and I've written countless letters and reports, collected and tabulated the results of petitions, and talked until I was hoarse ...

... but I haven't given up! Neither have the other 2,400 plus families who are still waiting for word of their loved ones.

We've waded through tons of evidence pointing to American veterans still being help captive.

And for all our trouble, for all our heartache, the remains of 147 Americans have been returned during the past 13 years, 72 during the Reagan administration since the national priority was raised.

So our persistence, perseverance and faith are paying off.

But unless you and other Americans are willing to sacrifice a special gift of \$15, \$25, \$50, \$100 -- or whatever you can spare to help us end this vigil -- it could take many more years before we obtain the accounting for our POW/MIAs.

We want all of our men home NOW -- on American soil -- alive or dead. We'd like nothing better than to close forever the doors of the League's headquarters.

But until as many of our men as humanly possible are accounted for, we will stand strong and wait and work through government channels ... knowing that is the only real way to reach our goal ...

... and I'll continue to write to any American who will listen.

That's why I'm hoping you'll help me today by completing the questions on the enclosed survey. Your support will encourage us to continue our mission and give us solid evidence that ALL Americans want our POW/MIAs released -- that we are "one nation under God, indivisible..."

That's why I'm writing to you tonight, urging you to take a few minutes of your time to help end our 13 years of uncertainty ... of waiting.

I can't afford to break faith. My brother is still among the missing. Somehow, I feel that you won't break faith either. We Americans have a long history of pulling together when the going gets rough.

Please answer this letter and the enclosed survey today -- not for me, but for those who were sent to Southeast Asia to fight for our freedom -- yours and mine -- and never yet came home.

Your answers -- and your generous gift of \$15, \$25, \$50, \$100 -- whatever gift you can give -- will keep hope burning in our hearts.

Thank you!

→ 25 - I's on Me's

AMG/C62PW

*Self promoting!*  
*Maricium at its greatest!*

faith  
Ann Mills Griffiths