



NEWS RELEASE

Korean War Veterans Association Voices Support for National POW/MIA Recognition Day and the Personnel Accounting Effort

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The Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) is proud to observe and celebrate the National POW/MIA Recognition Day. The KWVA pledges its assistance and full support to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)'s personnel accounting effort for the Korean War and as well as other past wars and other military operations.

As stated by KWVA president, Jeff Brodeur, "Because the U.S. still has more than 7,500 Korean War military personnel unaccounted for from the Korean War, which includes more than 5,300 American remains in North Korea, the KWVA is fully supportive of the noble mission of the DPAA and is proud to be among the many veterans service organizations (VSO) that stand behind it as it continues to strive for a full accounting of all Americans." Brodeur continued to state that, "Our nation's ability to bring home our fallen heroes is a national commitment, but it is extremely limited by the lack of resources and the cooperation of our former enemies particularly in the case of the Korean War. It is also affected by dwindling numbers of eyewitnesses who can provide information useful in identifying possible incident sites, among other factors."

That is why the Korean War Veterans Association has been partnering with the DPAA and its predecessor organizations to work with foreign governments to help American researchers gain access to foreign military officials, applicable archives, and persons knowledgeable of the locations of battlefields where remains might still be buried. The KWVA urges Congress to continue its support for the Department of Defense personnel accounting effort and provide DPAA with the necessary resources to expand its search and recovery operations world-wide. It also requests that legislators fully support efforts that would lead to the resumption of remains recovery operations in the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the future. We encourage the DPRK to repatriate any U.S. or allied remains that they may have unilaterally recovered.

An unfortunate reality of military engagements is that sometimes service members are held against their will as prisoners-of-war or are killed-in-action and buried in remote and unmarked battlefield locations or near POW camps.

The KWVA recognizes the importance of its involvement in DPAA activities and the responsibility that this country has to ensure the fullest accountability for its missing service members.

In closing, Brodeur said, " As president of an organization that consists of many veterans who fought in the Korean War and those who served in the defense of the Republic of Korea after the war, I am honored to pledge the KWVA's support to the DPAA. I promise that we will continue to play a strong role toward accounting for fallen servicemen, whose remains were left behind enemy lines during the Korean War and all other wars or military operations."

