

March 9, 1989

TO: Senator Dole
FROM: Jeff House
SUBJECT: POW/MIA Flag Ceremony today at 3 pm in Rotunda

Schedule

General Patrick Brady (U.S. Army Chief of Public Affairs & CMH Winner) is serving as Master of Ceremonies. You will notice that you are scheduled to speak first after the Invocation (approximately 3:03 pm)

2:45 - 3 pm: small USAF Band plays as guests arrive

3 - 3:20: REVEREND HALVERSON (Invocation)

Brief Remarks by SENATOR DOLE
SENATOR MITCHELL
CONGRESSMAN MICHEL
SPEAKER WRIGHT
ANN MILLS GRIFFITHS

3:20 - 3:25: USAF Band plays "America"

3:25: REVEREND HALVERSON (Benediction)

Guests/Media

We're expecting a crowd of 150, but it's hard to judge. Guests include Members of Congress, senior Administration officials (Will Taft and Bob Kimmitt are confirmed attendees), representatives of the Foreign Diplomatic Corps and families of missing servicemen.

National and Kansas press have been alerted. A press release will be handed out at the ceremony.

Message from President Bush

The White House is preparing a few lines from President Bush that you can relay at the ceremony.

Attached: Speech for tomorrow's ceremony

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES POW/MIA FLAG
CEREMONY IN CAPITOL ROTUNDA

I AM PLEASED TO SEE SO MANY FRIENDS,
COLLEAGUES AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS HERE TODAY
FOR THE UNVEILING OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF
FAMILIES POW/MIA FLAG DISPLAY.

I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR JOINING US FOR
THIS IMPORTANT CEREMONY. AND I ESPECIALLY WANT
TO THANK ANN MILLS GRIFFITHS. ANN -- ALONG WITH
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF
FAMILIES AND OTHER CONCERNED GROUPS -- HAS
WORKED TIRELESSLY OVER THE YEARS TO RAISE

AMERICAN CONSCIOUSNESS ON THE VERY IMPORTANT
NATIONAL ISSUE OF ACCOUNTING FOR ALL OF OUR
MISSING AMERICANS.

WHEN I INTRODUCED THE LEGISLATION
AUTHORIZING THIS PROUD DISPLAY, I DID SO IN
RECOGNITION OF THE COURAGE AND DEDICATION OF
THESE SPECIAL FAMILIES TO KEEP THE POW/MIA ISSUE A
NATIONAL PRIORITY. NOW, THIS STARK BLACK AND
WHITE FLAG, THE RECOGNIZED SYMBOL OF POW/MIAS
FROM ALL OF OUR NATION'S WARS, STANDS PROUDLY
BESIDE THE STATUE OF ONE OF OUR GREATEST
PRESIDENTS, ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

THIS POW/MIA FLAG WILL SERVE AS A DAILY
REMINDER TO CONGRESS AND TO THE MILLIONS OF
VISITORS TO OUR NATION'S CAPITOL OF AMERICA'S
UNENDING GRATITUDE FOR OUR BRAVE MEN'S
SACRIFICES. THIS FLAG IS AN IMPORTANT SYMBOL OF
OUR NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO RESOLVING THE
POW/MIA ISSUE AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE.

WHILE NEW DEVELOPMENTS HAVE OFTEN BEEN
SLOW AND PAINSTAKING, I AM ENCOURAGED BY
INCREASED PROGRESS MADE DURING THE REAGAN
PRESIDENCY. I AM PARTICULARLY HEARTENED BY
RECENT SUCCESSES RESULTING FROM AGREEMENTS

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REACHED BY GENERAL VESSEY, THE PRESIDENT'S
SPECIAL POW/MIA EMISSARY, WITH THE VIETNAMESE. I
AM SORRY THAT GENERAL VESSEY COULD NOT BE HERE
WITH US TODAY, BUT I AM PLEASED TO SEE WILL TAFT
AND OTHER SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS.

IF WE -- THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE
BRANCHES, REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS, AND THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE -- STAND UNITED AND REMAIN
COMMITTED, I AM CONFIDENT THAT AMERICA WILL
CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS IN ACCOUNTING FOR
HER MISSING MEN.

STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT BUSH POW/MIA FLAG CEREMONY

PRESIDENT BUSH ASKED ME TO RELAY THE
FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

"I AM PLEASED TO GREET ALL THOSE GATHERED IN
THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA AS YOU UNVEIL THE NATIONAL
LEAGUE OF FAMILIES POW/MIA FLAG. ALTHOUGH I
CANNOT BE WITH YOU TODAY, I JOIN YOU IN SPIRIT AS
YOU REAFFIRM YOUR COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING THE
FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING FOR THOSE AMERICAN
SERVICEMEN AND CIVILIANS WHO ARE NOT YET
RETURNED TO US.

DURING WORLD WAR II, I WAS SHOT DOWN BY

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ENEMY FORCES AND NEARLY CAPTURED. BUT I WAS
FORTUNATE -- I WAS RESCUED BY AMERICAN SEAMEN.
MY HEART GOES OUT TO THOSE FAMILIES WHOSE SONS
WERE NOT SO FORTUNATE, TO THOSE FAMILIES OF
POWS AND MIAS WHO STILL AWAIT WORD OF THEIR
LOVED ONES' FATE.

OUR NATION CANNOT AND WILL NOT FORGET
THESE MISSING AMERICANS; WE SHALL NOT DIVERT OUR
ATTENTION FROM THE SUFFERING OF OUR PRISONERS
OF WAR. IN RAISING THIS FLAG, WE PROMISE TO KEEP

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FAITH WITH THEM AND WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

I RENEW MY PLEDGE THAT THIS ISSUE WILL BE
MAINTAINED AS A NATIONAL PRIORITY UNTIL WE HAVE
ACHIEVED OUR GOAL. THE MEN YOU HONOR TODAY
ARE TRULY AMERICA'S HEROES AND THEY DESERVE NO
LESS.

GOD BLESS YOU.

GEORGE BUSH