



USS MIDWAY MUSEUM TO HOST POW/MIA COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

Prisoner of War/Missing in Action recognition event to be held on museum's flight deck

WHAT: The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of California, along with the USS Midway Museum, will honor the fallen heroes who died in service to our nation but whose remains have not been located on the fields of battle. The POW/MIA commemoration ceremony will take place on the Midway's flight deck prior to the museum opening to the public.

WHERE: USS Midway Museum (910 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA)

WHEN: Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Media are invited to attend. Request media arrive at USS Midway Museum by 8:45 a.m.

DETAILS: POW/MIA recognition is commemorated every September following a resolution passed by Congress in 1979. This recognition is intended to ensure that the United States continues to honor those patriots who have served and were lost, and that the country continues to make every effort to account for those service members who have never returned.

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the remains of nearly 82,000 Americans are still missing from World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and the Cold War.

The guest speaker for the ceremony will be Ann Mills-Griffiths. Ms. Mills-Griffiths is the chairman of the board and CEO of the National League of POW/MIA Families.

The National League of POW/MIA Families was formed in 1970 to obtain the release of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for the missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died serving our nation during the Vietnam War.

Ms. Mills-Griffiths, who has led the League since 1978, lost her brother during the Vietnam War. Cmdr. James Mills was listed as MIA in 1966 when his Navy F-4 Phantom fighter aircraft disappeared while on a night mission over North Vietnam. Miraculously, fragments of Cmdr. Mills' remains were recovered and identified in 2018, 52 years after he was reported missing in action.

Two former POWs, one from WWII and one from the Korean War, will also participate in the ceremony.

The ceremony is not a spectator event and will be conducted with all COVID-19 health and safety protocols in place.

VISUALS: Commemoration ceremony activities.

INTERVIEWS: Interviews available with Ann Mills-Griffiths, former POWs and California VFW event coordinators.

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USS Midway Museum – America's Living Symbol of Freedom – www.midway.org