

# POW/MIA TABLE CEREMONY

This is a ceremony to remember our nation's heroes. Those that swore on their lives, to protect our values and defend our nation. We do it to **HONOR** and **REMEMBER** them for they are **NOT** with us.

This **table**, which is round, to show our everlasting concern will be set for all **POA-MIAs** so that **WE** may **(REMEMBER!)**

The **chair is empty** for **THEY** are **NOT** here, though **WE** ever hope for their return, **(REMEMBER!)**

The **white tablecloth**, which stands for purity and their willingness to answer our country's call to arms so that future generations will remain free, **(REMEMBER!)**

The **table which is set** for only one, symbolizing the frailty of one against all his oppressors. **(REMEMBER!)**

The **wineglass** is inverted, they cannot toast with us today for **THEY** are not here, maybe tomorrow, when **THEY** are home if we **(REMEMBER!)**

The **candle** reminds us of the light of hope that lives in our hearts to light the way home away from their captors and back to a grateful nation. The **black ribbon** on the candle reminds us of those who will **NEVER** be coming home. **(REMEMBER!)**

The **single rose**, reminds us of loved ones and families of our comrades who keep the faith and await their return. The **red ribbon** on the vase, just like the ones worn by thousands back home that admire their will, determination and who **DEMAND** a proper accounting of **ALL** our missing. **REMEMBER!**

The **slice of lemon** is on the plate to remind us of their bitter fate if **WE** do not bring them home. **(REMEMBER!)**

The **salt** on the table which symbolizes the families **tears** as **THEY** wait and. **(REMEMBER!)**

The **bible** which represents strength achieved from faith, helping to sustain those lost from our country founded as **ONE NATION UNDER GOD. (REMEMBER!)**

The faded picture on the table serves as a reminder to the families that **THEY** are **LOVED AND MISSED VERY MUCH. (REMEMBER!)**

THE CANDLE WILL BE LIT TO SYMBOLIZE THE UPWARD REACH OF THEIR UNEQUALED SPIRIT. **(REMEMBER!)**

Please join us now as we bow our heads in a moment of silence to **HONOR** all of our **POW-MIA** comrades for **THEY** will surely **REMEMBER** what we did here today...

As you look upon this empty table remember not ghosts of the past **REMEMBER OUR HEROES**, remember how **WE** depended on them each and every day. Now **THEY** depend on us to **BRING THEM HOME**. Remember our friends, the ones we loved, for they love life and freedom as we do. Remember all of you who served with them, who called them comrades, who served at their side in good times and in bad. **THEY** were there for **YOU**, now **YOU** need to be there for **THEM. (REMEMBER!)**

We would like to thank those of you who invited us here, as well as all of you who joined us for our ceremony. As each year passes, finding our missing becomes harder and harder. Some witnesses may die, forget where a plane went down or where a service member was shot, killed or captured. The ground where they lay can erode, or their bones may just crumble and disappear. **THE LONGER THEY ARE MISSING THE EASIER IT IS TO FORGET! Our POW MIA** wound is one **NO** amount of time can **EVER** heal. Only with **OUR** actions can **WE** bring our **NATIONS HEROES** back to the forefront of everyone's thoughts and prayers!

We take great **HONOR AND PRIDE** in presenting this ceremony and your attendance with us here today tells us that you are **KEEPING THE FAITH**, just as we do. With that in mind we would like to issue a personal challenge to each and every one of you – the challenge for you to be the one who. **(REMEMBERS!)**

Please stand as our detail is dismissed and thank you again for being here!