



In Service to America

Vietnam Veterans Of America

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National POW/MIA
Committee

Chairman
Gary Jones.

Vice-Chair
Grant Coates

Committee Members
Jack Devine

Darrol L. Brown

Bill Duker

James Kuschel

Michael Marks

Bob Johnson

Bob Maras

Patty Dumin

Lee Fisher

Special Advisors
Sharon Hodge (VVA Staff)
Mokie Porter

Kaye Gardner
Associates of Vietnam
Veterans of America,
Inc.

Susie Stephens
National League of Families
of MIA/POWs

National POW/MIA Committee Friday April 16, 2010 Meeting Report



The Meeting was called to order with the following in attendance:

Gary Jones, Grant Coates, Al Cummings, Darrol Brown, John Bishop, Donnie Anderson, Pattie Darwin, Ted Wilkinson, Bob Johnston, Jim Kuschel, Kaye Gardner and visitor Roger Hall.

MINUTES

Minutes from January were not available for review

AGENDA

Minutes were accepted as written with the addition of two items from Bill Duker under new business.

GENERAL REMARKS

Darrol brown announced the plan for the Memorial wall to be in Reno the 2nd week of June sponsored by the American legion.

The new documentary DVD "Once Enemies" was distributed to all committee members. Also a copy was given to all BOD and State Council Presidents.

Member Pattie Dumin described her recent trip to Vietnam and her experiences and feelings there.

OLD BUSINESS

VIP Trip: Gary briefed the committee on the March VI trip to Vietnam. It was exceptionally successful and the trip report will be finalized and sent out. Dan Tucker was a valuable member and the site at Firebase Tomahawk was located. The Vietnamese press followed the delegation throughout much of the country. Jack Devine was asked to co-chair with Mr. Nguyen Van Kiem, VP of VUSA, a roundtable of impressively credentialed people on the subject of "People's Diplomacy & Vietnam-USA Relations. This is a significant honor for VVA. More details are available in the trip report on the web site.

DVD's: Everyone was asked to distribute as many documentaries as possible. It would be a judgment call on everyone's part to ask for donations or a token payment to be utilized by the VVA POW Committee to reimburse Mr. Hillar for his cost in the production of this film and to be used for VI expenses.

The budget was explained to the committee. Since the last VI trip spanned two fiscal years the costs were moved into the 2011 year. This gives the appearance the budget was only about \$3,000. In actuality we were reduced by only about \$3,400 dollars, but the

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accounting is based on a fiscal year date rather than on actual expense. The next VI trip will be handled in the same way with permission given for a current year with the understanding that it will be accounted in the following FY, if the trip spans the date again.

POW Challenge Coin: We are currently sold out. As it has been a good seller for us Darrol Brown made a motion to buy 500 coins and second by Al Cummings. Bob Johnston will get current prices and reorder. Money will come from Revenue line item as that is where it was determined in the beginning to be financed.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Al Cummings and seconded by Darrol Brown to request Government Affairs Committee to encourage congress to **not** require JPAC/CILHI to identify a specific target number of 200 remains as now proposed in the Defense Authorization Act for FY 2010. This can lead to budget target requirements and compromise the integrity of the mission quality in favor of goals.

Committee requests Government Affairs department to encourage congress and all other to be determined to recertify the MI 17 helicopters to carry JPAC teams into JFA sites and elsewhere. Current failure to recertify this transportation is causing extreme hardship to the teams and the short time span available to them. Issue was presented to Bernie and Rick for ideas.

VISITOR PRESENTATION

Mr. Roger Hall, a long time lobbyist for HR(res 111) regarding the establishment of a congressional oversight committee for POW/MIA affairs spoke for 30 minutes on the issue of live POW's in Vietnam. He used information from several decades ago and accused the DPMO of being a DIA propagandist front for the USG. He advised the committee that an 1865 law allows the President to send armed troops into a country to rescue POW's. When asked what he wanted us to do for him, he simply stated "to support HR(res) 111" which we have already supported years before. After the presentation the committee felt that VVA should not support any effort to attack a governmental agency let alone a sovereign country. We recommend no further action by VVA on this issue.