

Statement by Warren Mayor Jim Fouts on National POW/MIA Recognition Day September 18, 2015

“The number of Americans listed by DoD as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 956. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and identified before the end of the war, bring the total of US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War to 1,019. Of the 1,627 still missing and unaccounted-for, 90% were list in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam’s wartime control: Vietnam – 1,269; Laos 302; Cambodia – 49; PRC territorial waters – 7. Since formation in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains.

“On July 21, 2015, at the 116th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the President stated in part: “As we mark the 70th anniversary of the second end of the – or the end of the Second World War, I want to offer a special salute to all of our World War II veterans. As communities across our country continue to mark 50 years since the Vietnam War, we say once more, welcome to all our Vietnam vets. As I think you heard this morning, we have a new POW/MIA agency, new leadership. We’re building stronger partnerships with veterans’ groups like the VFW. Because bringing home Americans taken prisoner or who’ve gone missing is a sacred mission, and we are stepping up our efforts for all wars, to never leave a fallen comrade behind – ever.”

“A Blessing & Dedication Ceremony was held on July 27th to officially open the new Senator Daniel K. Inouye Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Center of Excellence.

The National League of Families’ vision for DPAA is to develop and carry out a viable process to more effectively and efficiently pursue increased accounting objectives for missing US personnel and their families.

“In my judgment, right now truly IS the accounting mission’s last real chance to move forward with the priority required, fully supported by

State and DoD policy and resourced with funding and personnel required. If this ongoing effort does not succeed, I envision no future such opportunities.

“We need a central accounting force we all have sorely missed since 1992 – with cohesive, interagency US Government priority that will, with the support of all, achieve the fullest possible accounting. This longstanding, entirely reasonable League objective is defined as 1) the missing man returned alive; or 2) his remains recovered and identified; or 3) convincing evidence as to why neither is possible, in which case he will remain forever as unrecovered and all information that relates or may relate will be provided to the next-of-kin who will then have the certainty of knowing our U.S. Government did its very best to bring him home to his family and our Nation.

“The MIA/POW flag is displayed in front of Warren City Hall.”

- Warren Mayor Jim Fouts