



Jerry Lee Anderson Jr.  
National Directeur POW/MIA Committee  
Grand Chef De Gare du South Carolina  
2011/2012

Greetings Voyageurs Militaire,

I hope that this letter finds you and yours doing well! Another month has come and gone and surely you have noticed that the Christmas Decorations are on display at our local stores. Is it me or is everyone in a hurry to become another month older? I surely am not! Ha Ha I guess it is the sign of the time now, hurry up and I want it now!

Isn't it amazing how fast things in our world can change? We have been at war for 10 years in Afghanistan and Iraq and now troops are coming home before year's end (at least from Iraq). Now we are sending "advisors" to Africa to assist and train the locals to combat the Al Qaeda insurgency there.... Sound familiar to you does it?

Having been appointed as this year's National Directeur, and being a self proclaimed hobbyist of History and the Military aspect of history, I have been conducting a lot of research to find out as much as possible about the POW/MIA accounting, the tracking of and the retrieval of our fallen and their stories. There is a tremendous amount of information, some good and some not so good. There is rhetoric on all sides as to why this continues to be a problem, the locating and bringing home our fallen/forgotten soldiers/sailors and airmen. My plan this year is not to bore you all with letters about why we want your money, well that's not entirely true is it? Haha I will ask my Sous Directeurs, Keith, Glen, Dan, Charles and Treasurer Willis to do that on in their letters. Heh heh

What I plan to do in my monthly letters, is offer you a story or excerpt about one of our missing, unaccounted for, recently report of sightings, recovery of remains, and any other real and verifiable information concerning our fellow veterans. I hope this effort not only brings you a wealth of knowledge and information, but also reinvigorates your desire to render assistance and aid to those families that are in need of our continued support whether thru financial or by way of email/snail mail/phone calls to our government representatives, to continue to apply pressure for a full accounting and safe return of those still fighting the wars.

Before I offer you this month's letter of interest, I would like to inform you of a duty I recently completed (at least partially) as Directeur POW/MIA. During the National Promenade, 22 POW/MIA Survivor Scholarships were awarded to recipients throughout our great country. However, during the restructuring of the POW/MIA Program some administrative steps were not completed. My first official duty as Directeur afforded me the opportunity to call each and every one of the awardees and CONGRATULATE them on their Scholarship funding. I also had to offer an explanation as to why it has taken so long to notify the Awardees and their families of their Scholarship award.

During the phone calls, I found all the families to be VERY GRATEFUL for the Scholarship award and understanding of the situation they found themselves in with the delay in sending the funds to their respective schools. As I inquired as to their family members POW/MIA status, I received some very heartfelt and emotional stories and again received their APPRECIATION for our efforts no matter the amount awarded.

The stories they shared of their family members, that are still unaccounted for and their memories to which they shared was VERY EMOTIONAL FOR ME AS WELL! Not one complaint, terse word or sign of non appreciation. Several of the Awardees' mothers that I spoke with, shared that their children were learning abroad at some of Europe's finest institutions and this money would help out greatly!

I am grateful for the opportunity to have made those calls and write the CONGRATULATORY cards that were necessary to notify the families of our generosity and appreciation for their families' sacrifices. It was truly an honor and an eye opening experience to hear them tell of their family members. TRULY AN HONOR!

With that being said, this month's letter of interest is an excerpt from a speech made by Capt. John S. McCain, USN, (Ret) who represents Arizona in the U.S. Senate:

As you may know, I spent five and one half years as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. In the early years of our imprisonment, the NVA kept us in solitary confinement or two or three to a cell. In 1971 the NVA moved us from these conditions of isolation into large rooms with as many as 30 to 40 men to a room. This was, as you can imagine, a wonderful change and was a direct result of the efforts of millions of Americans on behalf of a few hundred POWs 10,000 miles from home.

One of the men who moved into my room was a young man named Mike Christian.

Mike came from a small town near Selma, Alabama. He didn't wear a pair of shoes until he was 13 years old. At 17, he enlisted in the US Navy. He later earned a commission by going to Officer Training School. Then he became a Naval Flight Officer and was shot down and captured in 1967.

Mike had a keen and deep appreciation of the opportunities this country-and our military-provides for people who want to work and want to succeed. As part of the change in treatment, the Vietnamese allowed some prisoners to receive packages from home. In some of these packages were handkerchiefs, scarves and other items of clothing. Mike got himself a bamboo needle.

Over a period of a couple of months, he created an American flag and sewed on the inside of his shirt.

Every afternoon, before we had a bowl of soup, we would hang Mike's shirt on the wall of the cell and say the Pledge of Allegiance. I know the Pledge of Allegiance may not seem the most important part of our day now, but I can assure you that in that stark cell it was indeed the most important and meaningful event.

One day the Vietnamese searched our cell, as they did periodically, and discovered Mike's shirt with the flag sewn inside, and removed it. That evening they returned, opened the door of the cell, and for the benefit of all us, beat Mike Christian severely for the next couple of hours. Then, they opened the door of the cell and threw him in. We cleaned him up as well as we could.

The cell in which we lived had a concrete slab in the middle on which we slept. Four naked light bulbs hung in each corner of the room. As I said, we tried to clean up Mike as well as we could. After the excitement died down, I looked in the corner of the room, and sitting there beneath that dim light bulb with a piece of red cloth, another shirt and his bamboo needle, was my friend, Mike Christian. He was sitting there with his eyes almost shut from the beating he had received, making another American flag.

He was not making the flag because it made Mike Christian feel better. He was making that flag because he knew how important it was to us to be able to pledge allegiance to our flag and our country.

So the next time you say the Pledge of Allegiance, you must never forget the sacrifice and courage that thousands of Americans have made to build our nation and promote freedom around the world. You must remember our duty, our honor, and our country.

**"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."**

I hope you enjoyed this month's POW/MIA Letter and next month will be an excerpt on **LANCE P. SIJAN** Medal of Honor Winner.

On behalf of the 2012 POW/MIA Program Team (Monsieur Willis, DeLoach, Boyd, Tarbell, Spigelmire Advisor Terry Sims) and myself,

**GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!**

Warmest Regards

Jerry L. Anderson Jr.  
National Directeur POW/MIA  
Grand Chef Du SC

Jerry L. Anderson Jr.  
National Directeur POW/MIA  
Grand Chef De Gare Du SC  
V1067 Lampiste

4583 Intervale Court  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456  
757-375-3868 cell  
757-963-5204 home  
[jerrylandersonjr@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrylandersonjr@yahoo.com)  
[jerry.l.Anderson@navy.mil](mailto:jerry.l.Anderson@navy.mil)

Copy to: Chef De Chemin De Fer Molina, National Advisor Sims, Committee on Committee Members, National Correspondant, Grand Directeurs, Grand Chefs De Gare and Grand Correspondants.