



**WE HONOR OUR KILLED IN ACTION AND WANT AN  
ACCOUNTING OR RELEASE OF OUR MISSING IN ACTION  
OR PRISONERS OF WAR.**

**Official Newsletter of..."Run For The Wall"...Spring 2002**

**Quarterly Newsletter  
" We Ride For Those Who Can't "  
Spring 2002**

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**A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

On Wednesday 15 May, 2002 Run For The Wall XIV (RFTW) will depart from Ontario, California. It is our annual journey across America to our nations capital in Washington DC to take part in Rolling Thunder XV during the Memorial Day weekend on Sunday 26 May 2002.

I am sure that Gunny Gregory did not envision the impact, growth and healing that this Run would provide when he rode the inaugural ride in 1988. His dedication, determination and spirit continue as a beacon for all of us to follow. Thank you Gunnery Sergeant James Gregory, USMC.

I would ask everyone to take a moment to read the mission statement, philosophy and goals of RFTW. Although it states Vietnam veterans, it affords all veterans a vehicle to seek their personal healing as well as their families and friends. We continue our demands for the accountability and return of our Prisoners of War and those Mission in Action (POW/MIA). We honor and remember those Killed in Action (KIA).

RFTW is not a party or a means for a free trip to Washington DC, we ride together for a cause and mission. States Coordinators and volunteers in the states we ride and many states we do not, plan and work very hard toward our

arrival. At some stops food, fuel or snacks may be provided to members of RFTW free of charge. Please take a moment to thank these volunteers for their unselfish efforts to make your trip easier. Many of these volunteers are veterans also, or mothers and fathers that lost a son or daughter to war. Some have loved ones that have not returned home and have been abandon on foreign soil. Without the support of these wonderful hard working and tireless folks, RFTW would not be as easy of a journey. Do not complain when you have to buy your own food or fuel, I am sure there are over 58,000 that would gladly do it if they could. So take a minute and meet, thank and talk with these volunteers, the rewards will be many.

RFTW has been blessed with some outstanding men and women that have performed the duties as Road Guards. They ensure the safety of riders, proper spacing and flow of the group, as well as traffic control when required. Please listen to and follow their instructions, they have a very difficult responsibility.

Often at overpasses and along the roadside hands, flags wave, and salutes rendered as you pass by people. These Americans send with you their love, prayers and tears to carry for them. Keep them close to your heart and remember. To others, we are just a pack of motorcycles that disrupt their daily commute to work. Please do not wave at them with one finger or offer any negative action. Remember that we are Run For The Wall.

To the RFTW State Coordinators and volunteers, I thank you for your dedication, super efforts and passionate support for our pilgrimage. To the Central and Southern Route Coordinators thank you for your leadership and comment to provide an well-organized event. To the new member of the Board of Directors, I welcome you.

To past members of the Board of Directors, thank you for your valuable service, guidance and contributions. It is my privilege to serve as a member of the Board of Directors, to sit as its Chairman and to ride with Run For The Wall as a family member. I look forward to seeing you all in May as you arrive to Angel Fire.

To the FNG's of 2002, "Welcome Home" and welcome to RFTW. To the family members that will not be joining us this year, you are with us in thought and spirit. To the former riders of RFTW who will be riding this year, it is an honor and privilege to ride with you this year. Much has changed since we last rode together, the events of 11 September 2001. Many of our young men and women have given their lives in the defense of freedom. Remember them and the Americans soldiers, sailors, airman, and Marines that continue to stand guard around the world protecting the United States of America.

To Mr. Newt Heisley, thank you for the banner you designed and the words we remember, "POW/MIA. YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN".

"Lest We Forget"  
Joe "Dragon" Lozano  
Chairman, Board of Directors, Run For The Wall

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## **RFTW OPENS WEEKLY INTERNET CHATROOM**

The Run For The Wall Board and Coordinators have created a weekly internet chatroom where you can meet to ask questions, catch up on the latest info, and stay in touch with other folks from RFTW. Every Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. PST, a member of the RFTW Board will be present in the chatroom.

Here's the URL Address to register for entry to the Chatroom, along with the direct links, once you're registered:  
<http://www.rftw.org/chat.htm>

## **NO CHANGES IN RFTW FOLLOWING 9-11-2001**

RFTW XIV will occur, as scheduled in May, 2002. At this time we do not have any information on the particulars of what will happen in D.C. during Rolling Thunder Weekend. Although no official word has been published, it appears that Rolling Thunder will also occur, as scheduled.

One thing we do know for sure, is that the need to keep the POW/MIA issue alive is more important than ever. A large number of Americans were casualties as a result of the September 11 attacks. Many are still MIA. It is important that they do not end up being forgotten, or as just some numbers. They were living human beings before the attack, and they need to be remembered that way.

The same message that we have carried for the past 13 years, needs to be continued this spring. See you all on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Ontario, CA or where ever you can join us.

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## **CALLING ALL ROAD GUARDS**

RFTW 2002 will be leaving L.A. with a larger group than ever before. As a result, we are looking for a few qualified men or women riders to serve as Road Guards. Anyone interested in being a Road Guard for RFTW 2002 should contact Central Route Road Guard Captain Mark "Straight Arrow" Rittermeyer, or Southern Route Road Guard Captain Don "Recon Don" Morrell, as soon as possible.

The following criteria has been established for Road Guards:

1. Must have been on the Run for two (2) years, but need not have gone "all the way" either time.
2. Must have current motorcycle endorsement on license for the state of licensure.
3. Must be well experienced motorcycle operator. Successful completion of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Experienced Rider Course is desirable, but not required.
4. As servants to the Run and the public, Road Guards must treat everyone with honor and respect. The Road Guard's function is to provide safe travel to both the Run, and the Public.

**ATTENTION FORMER ROAD GUARDS:** Please contact Mark or Don at your earliest opportunity if you are willing to serve again. They need to know how many new Road Guards they will have to recruit for the Run.

Straight Arrow and Recon look forward to seeing you in May! In the mean time keep warm and safe.

Central Route Road Guard Captain Mark (Straight Arrow) Rittermeyer (863) 816-9898 e-mail: <a href="mailto:mrirt@Juno.com">mrirt@Juno.com</a>	Southern Route Road Guard Captain Don "Recon Don" Morrell (773) 230-8002
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## **RFTW REGISTRATION**

No, I repeat, NO preregistration is required for Run For The Wall.

Registration for RFTW XIV will begin on Tuesday, May 14 at the Fairfield Inn. We will also have registration set up each morning and evening at each day's departure sight. Each morning of RFTW XIV there will be a riders meeting to go over the day's activities. Be there, packed and fueled up, ready to roll because we will be departing every morning at 8:00AM local time.

At the time you register, you will be given a wristband and a set of detailed route instructions for the Central Route. The wrist band is used to identify those people who are registered to ride with RFTW. (You won't get fed if you don't have one.) The detailed route instructions will identify each official stop that will be made on this run. If, for any reason, you have to leave the main body of the Run, these directions and instructions will help you catch up with us again. Riding instructions and daily information will be given out each morning as part of the riders meeting. It's important that you be there, every day!

For the New Riders (FNG's), read the descriptions provided in the Route Update sections of the web site. Also read the back issues of the RFTW Newsletter - nestled in among the articles about the RFTW family and mission are an enormous amount of helpful information. These articles and updates will provide an idea of what you need to do to ride your motorcycle in our formation. It really isn't all that hard - we take care of our new riders. The most important people on this run are the FNG's. You will not be thrown into the pack to struggle to survive, we will help you. We were all FNG's at one time, we know what it is like, we will help.

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## **SOUTHERN ROUTE SEEKS FRIENDS OF BILL W. COORDINATOR**

The Southern Route is still in need of a Friends of Bill W. Coordinator, to arrange meetings and be a support contact for others during the Run.

Anyone willing to help out, please contact Southern Route Coordinator Kent "Pappa Smurf" Wilson at:

(505) 722-2046 or email: [rftwsr@yahoo.com](mailto:rftwsr@yahoo.com).

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## **FORMATION RIDING**

This article was received from Pokey. He has some good suggestions for the formation riding.

2001 was my first RFTW, and I made it all the way.. and back..no more FNG pin! As a senior captain for a major airline with 30 plus yrs flying experience, I've managed to do a fair bit of formation work. Your comments about practicing were right on, but I'd like to add a couple thoughts to maybe get passed on.

First, folks need to anticipate what the throttle needs..eg. when the group starts up a hill, or even a slight grade, give it some gas. If they wait until they notice that they're slowing down, they're already behind and out of sync. The same logic applies when going down a hill or grade, only now they'll need less gas. Also, paying attention to the tendencies of the riders immediately around them after each stop helps from getting surprised.

I'd also suggest that folks should practice getting back in formation. Pick a car on the interstate and practice closing to a "staggered" position, not in their blind spot and holding it there. You can also then practice making slight changes to the amount of stagger and holding the new position.

My wife just started riding a little over 3 years ago, and these are some of the things I had her doing to get up to speed. The HOG Chapter we usually ride with typically has 20 to 40 bikes on a ride so she had to learn quickly. She did the ride with us to Needles last year and frankly, I think she did a better job of riding "two-up" than some of the folks did after 2000 miles. (She wants to go all the way this year!)

Finally, I know that "2 seconds" is the politically correct briefing, but in the real world if you get more than about 1 second back, there's a road guard telling you to close it up. I found that using a "One Mississippi" count was about right. I started when the bike in front of me crosses a shadow, or an oil spot or..whatever.. and if I got to "...Two Mis..." I was too far back, and knew that a Road Guard was in my immediate future. At "One Mississippi..." that was about as close as I wanted to get. In other words, somewhere between "One Mississippi.." and "One Mississippi, Two.." was about right.

You still have about 2 to 2 1/2 sec's of visibility, diagonally, thru the formation to see if something is happening, and that's what the "PC" 2 seconds is trying to accomplish.

Last year I brought up these thoughts to a couple of folks who were struggling, and it seemed to help them out, so I thought I'd pass them on.

We'll see you in May. - *Dan Cole, aka "Pokey"* (don't ask)

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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR THE RFTW XIV SOUTHERN ROUTE**

By Southern Route Coordinator Kent Wilson

Q. Is the Southern Route going to Rainelle, West Virginia this year?

A. No, Wytheville, Virginia has become the "Rainelle Stop" for the Southern Route. The Mayor and Town of Wytheville are working hard to prepare a 'special welcome' for riders of the Southern Route. I understand the mayor is working to involve school children for our stop this year. Final details yet to come, but we will have a Wreath Laying and Ceremony there. Thanks to Laurie (Zimmerman) Clay "Airborne" for a great organizing job in Wytheville!

Q. Any additional info on the Southern Route?

A. The Southern Route will leave Ontario, CA and follow I-10 thru Phoenix, AZ to El Paso, TX. I-10 splits in West Texas and we will ride I-20 to Odessa, Ft Worth-Dallas East to Birmingham, AL. At Birmingham, we will ride 59/259 North to Chattanooga, TN and pick up I-75 North thru Knoxville, TN into Virginia, where we take I-81 North to Toms Brook Truck Stop.

This is where the two Runs will meet to go into Washington together on Friday, May 24. As with the Central Route, a detailed day-to-day itinerary and directions will be handed out at registration.

Q. Does the Southern Route stop at VA Medical Centers?

A. Yes! This year we will stop at:

Phoenix, AZ - Carl P Hayden VA Medical Center and Soldiers Home  
Tuscaloosa, AL - Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center

Roanoke, VA - Virginia Veterans Care Center, Vets Homeless Shelter and VA Medical Center

Q. How do I get my Bike Serviced?

A. H-D Dealers in all major cities have been advised of our arrival dates. We will stop at:

Jackson, MS, H-D Dealer. We will lunch there (Alligator Stew and Bar-b-q)

Roanoke, VA - H-D Dealer - General Service, On-site mechanics, oil changes, quick repairs.

If you have your service interval planned, make your own service arrangements in advance.

"REMEMBER: ONE MISSION - DIFFERENT ROUTES"

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## **THE LATEST NEWS ON THE CENTRAL ROUTE 2002**

By Central Route Coordinator Milo Gordon

RFTW Staffing: One of the first jobs that I did this year as Central Route Coordinator was to find some good people who are willing to serve the Central Route.

We had two excellent servants in Larry (Sky Pilot) Flenniken and Rodger (Harley Rodg) Michael as my assistants last year. Unfortunately, both are on the "sick, lame & lazy" list this year. Sky Pilot had back surgery the end of August. He experienced some complications to his arms as a result of the surgery and will not be riding for about a year. Harley Rodg has experienced a flair-up in his PTSD and his Shrink thinks that he needs to limit his participation to being just a participant. I feel sad that they both will limit their participation. They and the people that worked with them are a big part of the reason that RFTW XIII was such a success. I will miss them.

That left some positions to be filled. I chose Terry "Doorgunner" Clevenger as my Assistant Route Coordinator, and Mark "Straight Arrow" Rittmeyer as Central Route Road Guard Captain. Both have had quite a bit of experience with the Run, and are willing to serve.

RFTW XIV will be Doorgunner's fourth "all the way," his third year serving as a Road Guard, and his second as California State Coordinator. Doorgunner earned his nickname in the Republic of Vietnam, where he spent 1967-69 as a Crew Chief in a Huey gunship in the 101<sup>st</sup> Division, in and around Hue and Camp Eagle.

Central Route Road Guard Captain Mark "Straight Arrow" Rittmeyer has many years' experience riding motorcycles. RFTW XIV will be Mark's fourth RFTW, and third "all the way," and he served as a Road Guard in 2001. Although Mark is not a veteran, he describes himself as "Flag waving, proud to be American, thankful to ALL Vets," and a strong, long-time supporter of RFTW, and of the POW-MIA and veteran's causes.

Even with key positions filled, there is always a need for support people in other functions. If interested in serving on the Run, please give me a holler.

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## **RFTW Chaplain's Message**



The events of this last year have touched us all. Some of us have lost friends and loved ones, others have friends and loved ones serving in Afghanistan, protecting our freedom. I think before 9-11 we sometimes took that freedom for granted. I hope things have changed in our lives since then. As a RFTW chaplain I am there to help with your Spiritual needs as well as being there to support you as we take our sojourn to the Wall. Feel free to see me anytime on the Run. Also, as we remember our POW/MIAs let us also remember all those who were lost on 9-11 and keep their families in our prayers; and let us not forget those who are serving their country in this time of war. See you in May, I hope RC

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## **PREPARING FOR THE RUN - GAS STOP ADVICE**

It will be helpful if you bring lots of one dollar bills for when you make gas stops. At each stop, all the pumps are turned on, and stay on until we gas the last bike. A Road Guard or Run Gas Pump Assistant will "man" (or "woman") each pump. When you get to the pump, have your gas money out and ready. If you need to root around in your pack for cash, do it before you get in the gas line. The Run has grown far too large to have several hundred bikes waiting in line for gas while one person fools around. If the person manning the gas pump does not see your cash out and ready, they will ask you to leave the line, and to get back in line (at the end of the line,) when you are ready to gas up.

When the person manning the pump hands you the gas nozzle, note the amount on the pump, and pump your gas. When you're done, hand the nozzle back to them, and hand them the money you owe. We ask that you round up to the next dollar, and do not give, or ask for, change. Hand over the loot, and move out smartly so the next bike can be gassed.

The reason we ask you to "round up" is not only to save time, but also to help pay for Chase Trucks. The few cents' difference between the actual amount you owe for the gas in your bike and the amount that you pay is the money that buys gasoline for the official Run Support Vehicles, also known as Chase Trucks. These are the guys and gals who will be there for you if you break down on the highway during the Run, and when you consider the amount of time they spend helping riders, and the wear-and-tear they put on their trucks and trailers on the riders' behalf, the contribution of a few cents per tank of gas to help keep them on the road with us is a real bargain.

If you want to pay by credit card, use the ATM, or are too broke or too stingy to pay via the "round-up" method, please avail yourself of the pumps which are not open and dedicated to RFTW quick fueling. While the Run does dominate most pumps, we always leave a couple open for use by those not associated with the Run, and those who don't want to participate in cash-only, round-up, mass gassing.

As soon as your bike is gassed, leave the pump area and park in the line-up, and head for the restroom ASAP. The restrooms are a weak link in the gas stops. There are more gas pumps than restrooms, and there's always a line. Be thoughtful of your fellow riders, and take care of your business quickly - the folks who are waiting will really appreciate it!

Later, *J.R.*

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## **POW-MIA FAMILIES UPDATE**

Americans accounted for: According to the Department of Defense, there are now 1,945 Americans still missing and

unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

The remains of LtCol Lawrence G. Evert, USAF, from Wyoming, missing since November 8, 1967, were jointly recovered during successive field operations beginning February 9, 2000. The remains of LT Gene R. Gollahon, USN, from Ohio, missing since August 13, 1965, were jointly recovered April 26, 2000. In addition, one Air Force officer, previously missing in North Vietnam, was accounted for through identification of remains recovered during several field operations beginning in 1997. No public announcement has yet been made, though it is hoped that will soon occur.

Of the total unaccounted for, 1,466 are in Vietnam, 411 in Laos, 60 in Cambodia and 8 in the territorial waters of the PRC. Over 90% of all Vietnam War missing were lost in Vietnam or areas under its wartime control.

For added information on any subject, please contact the League's web site at:

<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org>  
or call the national office at (703) 465-7432

If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message and your call will be returned.

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## **IRISH WILL REMEMBER VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY**

A Service for Memorial Day will take place in St Mary's Church of Ireland, Athlone, County Westmeath, Ireland on Sunday, 26th May, 2002, at 12 noon. All Veterans, families, and the families of those who have lost loved ones, are cordially invited to attend this special Memorial Day.

Declan Hughes, who many will remember from RFTW 1999, extends a special invitation to any of the RFTW family who may be in the Emerald Isle to join our Irish brothers and sisters for this service in honor of Veterans.

For more information, contact:

Declan Hughes  
Irish Veterans Memorial Project  
Capel Chambers, 119 Capel Street  
Dublin 1, Republic of Ireland  
e-mail: [dectwth@eircom.net](mailto:dectwth@eircom.net)

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## **VISIT BISCUIT BOY'S WEB SITE!**

Kyle "Biscuit Boy" LaFrenier is a 13 year old all-American boy who lives in Colorado Springs, CO, with his mom, dad, brother and sister. Kyle attends the seventh grade, and is a proud Boy Scout. Kyle's dear grandpa, who passed away in 2000, was a veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam wars, and his dad served in the United States Army.

Kyle earned the name "Biscuit Boy" when he helped his dad's Army unit serve breakfast to Run For The Wall participants in Salina, Kansas, in 1999. Everyone on the Run fell in love with Kyle's winning smile and shining



personality, and for some reason, he kinda likes us too!

Kyle insisted on returning to serve biscuits in Salina in 2000, accompanied by his little brother, who was quickly dubbed "Gravy Boy."

In 2001, even though Kyle's dad was no longer stationed in Fort Riley, when the Run arrived in Salina, we were honored to find the whole LaFrenier family there to greet us. Faithful caring and hugs from Kyle, his family, and others like them, is a sweet salve that heals wounded hearts. I am at a loss for words to express how much they mean to us, and seeing them in May will be a highlight of the Run.

Kyle has recently created his very own website, and would love to have his Run For The Wall family visit. Please take a few minutes to visit Biscuit Boy's website and sign his guest book at:

[www.geocities.com/kyle\\_laf/biscuitboy.html](http://www.geocities.com/kyle_laf/biscuitboy.html)

You can also email kyle at: [kylelaf@hotmail.com](mailto:kylelaf@hotmail.com)

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## **OUR POWS STILL OUT THERE, SAYS TOP U.S. BRASS**

American Free Press March 25, 2002

When former Spotlight correspondent Mike Blair first began reporting back in 1975 that live American prisoners were being held from both the Korean and Vietnam wars, the Establishment insisted that they were all dead. In the Clinton years, all were pronounced dead. But the Bush administration says there are live POWs, and it is committed to bringing them home.

By Fred Lingel exclusive to the American Free Press

Jerry Jennings, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, said on March 11 that live American prisoners are being held from the Vietnam War and the administration is committed to bringing them home.

"Our highest concern is live prisoners," Jennings told a gathering of the American Legion. "You all want to bring your fellow veterans home."

These words are significant because, during the Clinton years, the White House insisted that there are no live POWs and that Vietnam and Red China were cooperating fully in the effort to account for 1,936 Americans missing from the Vietnam War, said Ann Mills Griffiths.

"There was not a superlative we didn't hear" from the Clinton administration about Vietnam, Griffiths said. She heads the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. America is investigating all "live sightings" of American prisoners of war and pressing for greater cooperation from China, North Korea, Vietnam, and Russia, Jennings said.

"We are looking for more cooperation from Vietnam," Jennings said.

"We need access to officials and documents. They know much more about Laos than they have told us."

Vietnam captured Americans there when the war spilled over into Laos. Since some Americans captured by North Vietnam and, earlier North Korea, were sent to the former Soviet Union, Jennings said they are seeking access to

Cold War records in Russia and are hopeful of full cooperation.

## REFUSES TO COOPERATE

Since a large number of Americans captured in Korea were sent to Red China, the United States is pressing the Chinese to make documents and officials available to investigators, Jennings said. But, he said, China has refused to cooperate.

Hunting for live Americans is a nonstop project as demonstrated by a Washington Times report the same day that Lt. Cmdr. Michael Scott Speicher, a Navy pilot whose plane went down in the Persian Gulf, could be still alive and in an Iraqi prison, Jennings said.

Americans are being held alive in Southeast Asia, China, and Russia; and the United States will "intensify efforts" to find them, Jennings said.

There have been 21,000 reports of first-hand, live sightings of Americans being held in Vietnam, and all are being investigated, Jennings said.

There are 1,936 Americans unaccounted for in the Vietnam War; 1,806 from the Korean War; and 120 from the Cold War, he said.

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## NIKKI REQUESTS HELP FOR DESERT STORM POW

This is Nikki!! This is very important, and I am going to do whatever I can.... BECAUSE I CARE!!

On March 11, there was an update on Lt. Cmdr. Michael Speicher, a POW/MIA from the Gulf War and they said that there may be new evidence that he is alive!! I'm sure that most of you know about Lt. Cmdr. Speicher, but here is a web site, with his story just in case you don't know all of the details: <http://www.pownetwork.org/saudi/sd017.htm>

And here is a section from this web site, that I wanted to make sure everyone saw!!!

"It was pointed out that the Senate Armed Services Committee and Personnel subcommittee have not been getting any support, positive feedback, or pressure on the Lt. Cmdr. Michael Speicher case from the veteran's organizations. There is a feeling among some Senator's that there is little interest being shown in the Speicher case or the POW issue. Some Senators see the Speicher case as the best possibility of a live POW, but there is no veteran support. Furthering the Speicher case is a goal itself, but doing so will also bring needed support for Vietnam era cases."

As soon as I got home from school, just a few hours ago, I looked up every web site I could find and I went to every message board, chat room, or yahoo group that I use or belong to and what I found really upset me! First off, not one of my local news channels or newspapers had the story about Lt. Cmdr. Speicher, but that doesn't surprise me (neither did the USA Today)!! What's worse than that is some of the boards and sites that I use might have had one small post about the new story, but that's it!!! No replies, no suggestions, no messages on getting involved and helping Lt. Cmdr. Speicher, NOTHING!!! And to top that, I received only one email about this since the story broke!!! I don't know if Lt. Cmdr. Speicher is alive or not, but if he is, we have to get him out YESTERDAY, not tomorrow and not next week, but NOW!!

I've been involved long enough to know that our government has more information than they are telling us and I also know that without NOISE from EVERYONE, this news update will die again and nothing will be done!!

We are at war and it's a war that could take a really, really long time, how many of our troops will be left in Afghanistan???? If we don't pressure the government to bring home Lt. Cmdr. Speicher NOW, will they care if anyone is left in Afghanistan??

If we don't speak up and take a stance about this, what chances do any of our POW/MIA's have??? Just like the paragraph above says, this could lead to much needed support for the whole POW/MIA issue and it is up to everyone of us to push this so far into the spotlight and not let up until every American is talking about bringing home Lt. Cmdr. Speicher and ALL of our POW/MIA's. People, start making noise!! Contact your Senators and your Representatives (I think bombarding them with phone calls is the best, email never works!!), and demand that they bring home Lt. Cmdr. Speicher now and that they co-sponsor S.1339 (a bill to amend the Bring Them Home Alive Act of 2000) You can read this bill at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d107:s.01339>:

Contact Senator Pat Roberts from Kansas and Senator Robert C. Smith from New Hampshire (interviewed in the article above), even if you don't live there, start posting this new information on every message board, group or chat room that you belong to, write letters to the editors of your newspapers and do whatever you can because we cannot let this issue die again. If you belong to a Veterans group, then get your group or post involved, show them this email if you have to!!! If you sit back and do nothing that's exactly what will happen, just like it did a year ago when Lt. Cmdr. Speicher's status was changed from KIA to MIA!!

Then, just to make everything worse, I heard about some comments that the U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam made. Here is the link to the article in the USA Today if you want to read the whole thing and here is the quote he made:

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2002/03/03/orange.htm>

U.S. Ambassador Raymond Burghardt said the United States and communist Vietnam have successfully dealt with the issues of missing American soldiers and establishment of trade and diplomatic ties on their long road to reconciliation, and that the conference represents "one of the last tasks remaining to our countries."

If they have successfully dealt with the issue of missing American soldiers, then why are there so many families who do not know what happened to their loved ones??? If this is the Ambassador's way of thinking then I definitely think he needs replaced!!!!

I'm sorry if I sound so angry, but I guess right now I really am!! We have got to pull together because we can bring Lt. Cmdr. Michael Speicher home!! Please do whatever you can, we cannot let this issue die again!! For the past year I have ended my speeches by saying "To the world I may only be one person, but to one person I may be the world" and I am going to try to be that one person for Lt. Cmdr. Michael Speicher. I hope you will be there with me to help!! Thanks... and if you care the same way I do, then I hope to hear from you!!! Together, we can do this!!!

~Nikki~

A friend to all Vets and PROUD of it!!!

Visit my Web Site!!! <http://www.geocities.com/nlmendicino>

*Okay, RFTW Brothers and Sisters, Nikki has issued the challenge, and is leading the way. Let's really get busy and holler for our elected representatives and appointed government servants to provide a full accounting for ALL POWs and MIAs from ALL wars. It's way past time for an honest, all-out effort to be made. I'd like to hear that every participant and supporter of RFTW has called and written to demand their representatives support the legislation that Nikki has mentioned, and demand a return or full accounting for every missing American.*

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## THE WALL

You Have To Stand A Little Taller, When Your Standing At The Wall.  
These Are The Names Of America's Greatest Sons.  
As I Stand And Look With Pride, At All These Gallant Men Who Died,  
I Brush Back Tears And Stand A Little Taller.

Now My Friend Lt. Dan, He Was Sent To Vietnam,  
He Answered When Our Country Made The Call.  
Though His Name Is On The Wall, In Battle He Did Not Fall,  
He Was Taken To A Pow Camp.

Now This War Will Never End Till We Bring Back All Our Men  
From The Prison Camps, Somewhere In Vietnam.

Robert Nicholas  
Written in memory of Lt. Dan Borah from Olney, Illinois - my friend and classmate.  
Rest In Peace, Brother.  
Poem Copyright ©2001 Robert Nicholas

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