

HONOR-RELEASE-RETURN wishes to recognize Mr. John Zimmerlee for his seemingly tireless work to obtain the identification of all still noted as Missing in Action from the Korean War.

For over two (2) decades on any given day you could have found John at our National Archives depository (just on the outskirts of Washington D.C.) digging through Records of any and all sorts in search of details of those noted as Killed in Action, Missing in Action, Killed in Captivity and/or Prisoner of War from the early 1950's.

John's relentless search for answers and the truth has brought hope to over four thousand (4,000) families across this country. In one incident John provided the Department of Defense accounting unit (DPMO/JPAC) with a list of over one thousand (1,000) military personnel who were miss categorized – i.e. – listed as Killed in Action (KIA) but unit records show he was captured (POW). John asked the DoD units to contact the Families noted in the report so they might pursue locating their family member but that never happened so John took it upon himself to notify the Public and as many individual Families as he could of the error. In another recent incident, John was aware of over six hundred sets of remains that had been turn over to the Department of Defense's accounting agency from 1954 – 1994 and most of these remains had accompanying information that would/could help in their identification. For reasons that are not clear the majority of the six hundred (600) plus sets of remains were interred at National Cemetery in Hawaii commonly referred to as the 'Punch Bowl' as UNKNOWNS! John has now created the two spread sheets that you will find here. He painstakingly researched the information on the remains buried in each unknown grave site and then went looking for possible similarities with current MIAs to come up with a list of names that have similar physical characteristics of the UNKNOWN there by supplying families of current MIAs a chance to identify their Missing Soldier.

John's inspiration all these years? His Father, Captain John Henry Zimmerlee, USAF, Date of Loss – 22 March 1952, Country of Loss – Korea, 5837, Green 7.

Thank YOU, John, for all that you have done to help the Families of the Missing in Action find closure after six decades of waiting and not knowing. We are all truly blessed to have you working the POW/MIA Issue!