



**National Alliance of Families  
for the Return of America's Missing Servicemen**  
*World War II + Korea + Cold War + Vietnam + Gulf Wars + Afghanistan*  
1302 24<sup>th</sup> Street West, #315  
Billings, Montana 59102-1442  
An IRS recognized 501(c) 3 organization EIN 94-3146805

November 14, 2017

## Bits 'N' Pieces

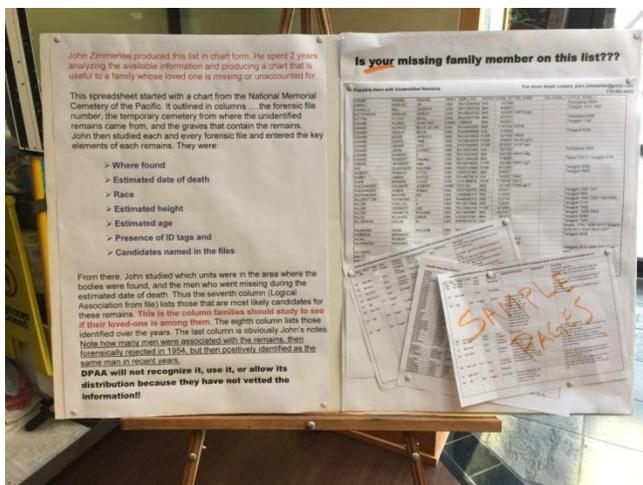
### November 2017 Edition

### *The Newsletter of the National Alliance of Families*

The National Alliance of Families is pleased to share with you the words of MIA family member and Alliance supporter, Robert Moore. Robert is the brother to Cpt. Harry Cecil Moore (USAF).

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) held a Family Update Meeting on 4 November in Boise, ID at the Red Lion Hotel. There were 137 family members registered. The new DPAA Director Kelly McKeague was unable to attend. However, Mrs. Fern Sumpter Winbush was introduced as the Principal Deputy Director. The meeting was moderated by Mr. Todd Livick. **A majority of the 137 family members were attending for the first time.**

The usual presentation was given by new faces. The only one we old timers recognized was Mr. Jack Kull. The standard topics were covered with an explanation of the current status of the recovery and identification progress. This year the recovery and identification is on target to identify some 200 remains. Quite a change from just a few years ago when 25 was a good number.



John Zimmerlee had sent the complete list of over 1000 unknown remains buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. He has taken this list and the list of 800 plus grave sites and merged them. Over a period of 2 years John analyzed each name and took available data to chart each grave site with the names of the most likely remains buried in each grave. John also organized the 1000 names in alphabetical order. With this information a family can see if their loved one is on the list and, if it is, they can easily find the grave site most likely to contain the remains of their loved

one. A job well done after 2 years of tedious work. **John stated that if any family wants to get this information just email him at [john.zimmerlee@gmail.com](mailto:john.zimmerlee@gmail.com).** **Note:** This list was posted by the Moore family as a service to the family members attending the Boise family update. The DPAA does not approve of this list, (stating that they have not vetted it) and tried to have it taken down. Robert Moore



**POW - MIA**

**National Alliance of Families  
for the Return of America's Missing Servicemen**  
*World War II + Korea + Cold War + Vietnam + Gulf Wars + Afghanistan*  
1302 24<sup>th</sup> Street West, #315  
Billings, Montana 59102-1442

An IRS recognized 501(c) 3 organization EIN 94-3146805

stated that everything on the list was appropriate and helpful and he refused to take it down as it was posted in a public place outside the family update meeting room. Incidentally the DPAA Historian asked if she could have a copy. **They (DPAA) have not done this necessary compilation after its nearly 25 years of existence.**

At the closing question and answer period the panel was asked if any of them had asked for the classified files held by the various agencies of the Government. There was a vague response and one member stated that he could not look at the classified files and only Mrs. Winbush stated that she has clearance and now has asked to see them. Is this because the Moore family has filed suit to demand this information? A sad state of affairs when we have waited 50 years for information and the agency paid to help us has not obtained critical information from other agencies of our own government. Yet over the years they (DPMO now DPAA) have railed against the Russians for refusing to release their classified files. **SAD**

## **BIOGRAPHY OF HARRY CECIL MOORE**

February 11, 1924 - June 1, 1951

By Robert and Lois (Gehringer) Moore

Harry was born in Elm Grove, West Virginia on February 11, 1924, the son of Mildreth Dague Moore and Samuel Cecil Moore. He was born in the family home at Stone Church Road in Elm Grove.

Harry subsequently had three younger brothers. Robert was born in West Alexander, Pennsylvania. George and Charles were born in Elm Grove, West Virginia.

The parents separated soon after the youngest son Charles was born. Harry and Robert were sent to live with the maternal grandparents (Charles & Mary Adeline [Thatcher] Dague) and George and Charles were sent to live with the paternal grandparents.

The maternal grandparents had a farm on Stone Church Road in Elm Grove and Harry and Robert were required to work on the farm. At first they were very young and they certainly had less demanding chores, but as they got older, responsibilities increased. They were required to feed chickens, care for the horses, cattle, hogs and other details associated with a farm.

Harry attended school at the Bridge Street Elementary School grades one through eight. He was an above average student even though the demands of his own life were substantial. He later attended Triadelphia High School grades nine through twelve. He was an average student and participated in many activities and was on the school Stage Crew. He was elected to attend Boys' State which was quite an honor.

At that time West Virginia had very little opportunity for young people. The Federal Government had several programs and Harry went to southern West Virginia to attend CYA School where he learned welding and other vocational skills.



## **POW - MIA**

**National Alliance of Families  
for the Return of America's Missing Servicemen**  
*World War II + Korea + Cold War + Vietnam + Gulf Wars + Afghanistan*  
1302 24<sup>th</sup> Street West, #315  
Billings, Montana 59102-1442

An IRS recognized 501(c) 3 organization EIN 94-3146805

Harry enlisted in the Army Air Corps in June of 1942 and was sent to Tyndell Field, Florida where he trained to be an aerial gunner. In October 1942 he was sent to Barksdale Field, Louisiana and trained to be a radio operator. Following his graduation as a radio operator with a rank of Staff Sergeant Harry was selected to enter pilot's training and went to Coleman Flying School in Coleman, Texas.



Following graduation as a Second Lieutenant he was sent to Majors Army Air Field in Greenville, Texas for Basic Training in AT6 airplanes. Upon successfully completing this training Harry went to Moore Field in Mission, Texas for advanced training as a fighter pilot and was trained to fly P40s and other aircraft. He graduated and received his wings as a fighter pilot. At that time he received the rank of First Lieutenant.

He was then sent to the China-Burma-India Theatre of war where he flew P40 airplanes. There was a shortage of planes and pilots at that time and the schedule was murderous. Harry soon became a squadron leader and was subsequently shot down by the Japanese near Kunming, China. He was listed as Missing in Action for fifty-one days. During the time he was unaccounted for he actually had been walking through the mountains attempting to find friendly Chinese and at the same time trying to avoid the Japanese.\*See his Debriefing and Walk Out Report

On the fifty-first day his mother was notified that he had been Killed in Action, but on the same day she received a telegram from Harry stating that he was alive and had rejoined his group.

At the end of the war Harry returned home to Elm Grove and held various jobs and lived with several different people as he did not have a place where he felt at home.



## **POW - MIA**

**National Alliance of Families  
for the Return of America's Missing Servicemen**  
*World War II + Korea + Cold War + Vietnam + Gulf Wars + Afghanistan*  
1302 24<sup>th</sup> Street West, #315  
Billings, Montana 59102-1442

An IRS recognized 501(c) 3 organization EIN 94-3146805

He drove a coal truck for a while and worked for his uncle as a well driller. These jobs did not satisfy him and he decided to reenlist in the Army Air Corps Reserves. He was stationed at Reading, Pennsylvania as a recruiter.

After a short time, he found he was able to reenlist and receive his previous commission of Lieutenant and go back to flying.

In September of 1948 he was sent to Hamilton Air Force Base in Marin County, California in preparation for his assignment in the Philippines. It was then that his long time girl friend from Elm Grove, Lois Gehringer flew to California to see him once more prior to his leaving for a four year tour of duty. While in California they decided to marry and were married at the base chapel at Hamilton Air Force Base. After a few days Lois flew back to Elm Grove and Harry to the Philippines.

After arriving at Clark Air Force Base, Harry immediately applied for housing on the base so that Lois could join him and he would be able to move from the Bachelors' Officers Quarters.

In that World War II had been over for such a short time it was rather difficult to secure a passport for civilian travel, but Lois finally secured hers and joined him in April of 1949.

He had a very happy and challenging life while at Clark Air Force Base. The planes he flew there, usually on a daily basis were P51s. He, also, joined the Masonic Lodge and became a Third Degree Mason. In June of 1950 a "Police Action" was begun between the United States and North Korea, the United States attempting to keep the north from taking over the south.

In July of that year Harry became a father and about ten days later was called to duty in Korea. The pilots were stationed in Japan and would do their bombing missions over Korea and then return to their base in Japan. In August when Lois was returning to the United States with their daughter he was permitted to return to Clark Air Force Base to see them once more. He immediately returned to Japan.

He was flying missions daily; sometimes several in a day. Apparently the planes they were flying were rather old and sometimes in poor repair, but they had no choice but to do their job.

On June 1, 1951 while on a mission over the South China Sea he was struck by enemy fire and crashed into the water. He was listed as Missing in Action for one year and then as Killed in Action. At the time of his death he was a Captain in the United States Air Force.

Harry was 27 years old.



**POW - MIA**

**National Alliance of Families  
for the Return of America's Missing Servicemen**  
*World War II + Korea + Cold War + Vietnam + Gulf Wars + Afghanistan*  
1302 24<sup>th</sup> Street West, #315  
Billings, Montana 59102-1442  
An IRS recognized 501(c) 3 organization EIN 94-3146805

**In memory of stone at Arlington National Cemetery**





**National Alliance of Families  
for the Return of America's Missing Servicemen**  
*World War II + Korea + Cold War + Vietnam + Gulf Wars + Afghanistan*  
1302 24<sup>th</sup> Street West, #315  
Billings, Montana 59102-1442  
An IRS recognized 501(c) 3 organization EIN 94-3146805

### **Special Announcement**

The Alliance is pleased to be partners and supporters of the [POW Investigative Project, Inc](#) (PIP) with launched on Veteran's Day. The PIP is an innovative project which combines investigative reporting & global crowd-sourcing. PIP invites contributors from across the world to provide information on US servicemen missing from the Korean, Cold and Vietnam Wars. Online contributors may volunteer to share information or, in some cases, accept paid research assignments to resolve specific leads. The site launches with information in seven languages plus English (Russian, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Lao, Polish and Spanish), with more to come. We will share more information on the PIP in next month's Bits!

#### **Can You Help Us Find Missing Americans?**

**Можете ли вы помочь найти пропавших американцев?**

**您是否能够协助找寻失踪的美国人？**

**누락된 미국인을 찾을 도와 드릴까요?**

**Bạn có thể giúp tìm những người Mỹ mất tích không?**

**ທ່ານ ສາມາດຊ່ອຍຊອກຫາ ຄົນອາເມລິກັນທີ່ສູນຫາຍໄດ້ບໍ່?**

**Czy możesz pomóc nam znaleźć zaginionych Amerykanów?**

**¿Puede ayudarnos a encontrar estadounidenses desaparecidos?**