



CONGRATULATIONS

to Mary Schantag, COB, POW Network, and her team of Volunteers for living up to the Mission's ethos: "YOU are NOT Forgotten" and their commitment to educate the American Public.



MISSOURI'S POW/MIA CHRISTMAS TREE POW Network

Making its debut during Branson Veterans Homecoming last month, Missouri's White POW/MIA Christmas Tree has found a temporary home for the Christmas season.

During the first showing at the Jim Stafford Theater for the Shindig's Welcome Home Celebration, P.O.W. Network Chairman, Mary Schantag, told the audience that there are at least 2,433 service members unaccounted for from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the Cold War from Missouri. Each dog tag on the tree represents a KIA/BNR, or POW/MIA from the state of Missouri. One tag represents the 110 service members from MO from WWI. Another 2,323 military service members are individually named on the tree.

She went on to say that at least 86,000 U.S. military personnel remain unaccounted for since the end of WWI. The idea was to create a visual reminder and think of the tree times 50 states and remember the ones who did not come home.



More than 100 hours of work by volunteers went into putting the tree together with dog tags that each bear the name of a missing man. A star wrapped in barbed wire on top is accompanied by black POW/MIA ornaments, red cardinals, and red and blue ornaments.

"The reaction of people as they read a name, or take a picture has been gratifying," Schantag said. "The mission of the Network is to educate people on the POW/MIA issue. In a way, it's a haunting

reminder to understand how many families are affected by the loss of a loved one each holiday season. "

The tree can be seen at Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theater - home of the Legends and The Bretts during the Christmas season in Branson, Missouri.