

POW Info Wanted – Those Lost to the Mekong River

There are a lot of American bones buried in the muck of the Mekong and its many branches/tributaries. They'll never be recovered or "accounted for." A lot of those are 9th ID guys who died or were killed embarking or debarking from transports either going into or retiring from combat. Ever try to swim with an M60 and 300 rounds? Being unexpectedly submerged without solid footing is disorienting, wounded or not. Resources can't be spared to find those buddies in combat or recovery because finding them is an equipment and manpower intensive task. Since the river is really warm water, the bodies bloat and float quickly, but then rupture swiftly and sink. Add to that the various river dwellers attracted to large free meals, bull sharks and Mekong catfish among them, the dead we could recover were relatively few in number. That's the difference between dying in combat on dry land as opposed to dying in combat on or adjacent to anything deeper than waist-high water. Many of those who died before reaching the Normandy beaches were similarly unrecoverable ? particularly those in the "floating" tanks.

The next time you think to toast our missing and/or dead, make one glass be filled with water.

Judicial Watch sues Defense Department, seeking POW and MIA records from Vietnam era



By Jennifer Harper - The Washington Times

Dated November 30, 2018-

Of interest to members of Rolling Thunder, veterans' groups and others who have not forgotten those soldiers who were prisoners of war or still missing in action during the Vietnam War, or through military action in Laos.

Judicial Watch has sued the Defense Department, seeking government records from 1973 to the present regarding American soldiers who were prisoners of war or missing in action.

"Judicial Watch filed the lawsuit after the Pentagon failed to respond to two Freedom of Information Act requests," the watchdog organization said in a statement.

The request includes access to lists of POWs and MIAs provided to North Vietnam, as well as materials used to brief President Nixon in 1973 about those who could be remaining in that nation.

The organization is also seeking reports of "live sightings" of U.S. soldiers from Jan. 27, 1973, to the present, along with data collected from the classified program known as "PAVE SPIKE," plus electronic messages containing individual code numbers issued to U.S. airmen transmitted from the ground in Vietnam and/or Laos from Jan. 27, 1973 to the present.

"The Vietnam MIA-POW issue is a sore spot for many veterans and concerned Americans," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "Why is the Pentagon stonewalling our attempts to obtain information that is clearly in the public interest?"