

NORTH CAROLINA VIETNAM VETERANS POW/MIA CEREMONY

- 1) Welcome and any initial comments – Rora Kellis (if using a color guard) “post the colors”
- 2) Prayer – Chaplain/Pastor Bruce Parsons
- 3) Pledge of Allegiance – Rora Kellis
- 4) Star Spangled Banner – Mike Nelsen
- 5) Proclamation – Rora Kellis

The North Carolina Vietnam memorial, “the last fire fight” was dedicated in May of 1987 by the Vietnam memorial committee. Since that time North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc. along with guest organizations have held these ceremonies at 12:00 noon on the first Saturday of every month as well as special occasions. North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc. is committed to hold these sacred ceremonies until there has been a full accounting of all our fellow North Carolinians who are still unaccounted for as a direct result of the war in Southeast Asia.

When our imprisoned comrades returned from Southeast Asia in 1973, it was evident that not all our known missing were returned. There have been many facts and miss-facts disseminated to the public and to the POW/MIA families since that time. Which are truths and which are lies, we may never know. What we do know is that since World War 1, in any conflict involving the communists, not all our missing comrades in arms have been returned or accounted for.

After WWI – 4,000 + MIA’s were unaccounted for;

After WWII – 73,600 + MIA’s were unaccounted for, 1295 still from NC;

After the Korean war – 8,000 + MIA’s were unaccounted for, 184 still from NC;

After the war in Vietnam, there was 2,640 + of our brothers unaccounted for, 66 from NC, and of this number 38 are still unaccounted for because of the war in Southeast Asia

- 6) Introduce Department of North Carolina Department Commander Devell “Bo” Durham. Commander Durham will call out for the readers to “Report”readers step up and call out names. At the end “until they are all come home!”
- 7) Missing Man Table Ceremony – District 16 Commander Georgia Hughes Nelsen
- 8) When using a color guard “retire the colors”
- 9) (Rora) Thank all the guests and members of NCVVI. Call for closing remarks by Commander Durham. (Rora) Special announcements – ask if anyone has any announcements.