



National Security  
District 26  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California



Lou Thompson, Chairman  
February 2008  
Bulletin Five

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***The Auxiliary believes in maintaining a strong national defense  
and endeavors to educate its members on all vital  
national security issues***

**National League of Families of  
American Prisoners & Missing  
in Southeast Asia**

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**[powmialeague.org](http://powmialeague.org)**

At the end of the Vietnam War, there reportedly were 2,583 unaccounted for American prisoners, missing or killed in action/body not recovered.

As of December 19, 2007, the Defense POW/MIA Office lists 1,763 Americans still as missing and unaccounted for, 90+% of them in Vietnam or areas of Cambodia and Laos where Vietnamese forces operated during the war.



The American Legion Riders are a diverse group of motorcycle enthusiasts sharing common goals. All are members or spouses of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion—and all are united by patriotism. They answer the call to ride in service to America's military, her veterans, and for the children and youth of our country.

<http://www.legion.org/programs/legionriders/about>

ROLLING THUNDER XXI  
MAY 23-26, 2008  
***ROLLING THUNDER JOINS IN UNITING AMERICANS  
IN REMEMBRANCE ON MEMORIAL DAY***



**MISSING MAN TABLE & HONORS CEREMONY**  
February 1, 2007

As you entered the dining area, you may have noticed a table – raised to call your attention to its purpose – it is reserved to honor our missing loved one.

\* Set for six, the empty places represent Americans who were or are missing from each of the five services – Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard – and civilians, all with us in spirit.

Some here were very young when the Vietnam War began; however, all Americans should never forget the brave men and women who answered our nation's call and served the cause of freedom in a special way.

Please be seated... while I explain the meaning of this special table, and join me for a moment of silent prayer at the end.

The table is round – to show our everlasting concern.

The cloth is white – symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty.

The single red rose reminds us of the lives of these men....and their loved ones and friends who keep the faith, while seeking answers.

The red ribbon symbolizes our continued determination to account for them.

A slice of lemon reminds us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.

A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears of our missing and their families who long for answers after decades of uncertainty.

The Bible represents the strength gained through faith in our country, founded as one nation under God, to sustain those lost from our midst.

The glass is inverted – to symbolize their inability to share this evening's toast.

The chairs are empty – they are missing..... (silent moment)

Let us now raise our water glasses in a toast to honor America's POW/MIA's and to the success of our efforts to account for them.



\* Adapt the ceremony above with this set-up.

**Table Set-up**

A small, round bistro table  
White tablecloth  
Single place setting, preferably all white  
Wine glass - inverted  
Salt shaker  
Slice of lemon on bread plate with a pile of spilled salt  
Small bud vase with a single stem red rose  
RED ribbon tied around the vase  
Candle - lit  
Empty chair