The American Legion Department of Michigan
101st Convention
Radisson Hotel
Kalamazoo, Michigan
June 28, 2019
National Security and Foreign Relations Committee

The Department of Michigan National Security and Foreign Relations Committee meeting was called to order in the Stone Theater Room by L. Spolarich at 8:30 am.
Pledge was one with a moment of silence for Gary Sammons.

Districts present; 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 18, 19

Roll call; present L. Spolarich, G. Hiavka, R. DuBay, J. Kailunas. Absent Rose.
Guest; PNC Bob Spanagle, PDC John Mella
Minutes read, motion by DuBay and second by Kailunas to accept. Passed

Report by G. Hiavka on POW/MIA (attached)

Larry Chase gave updated report on Post 14 District 18 who have sent veterans to Russia.
The group is working with the Russian’s to get verification on our 18 missing veterans. Next step is bringing them home.

Resolution #19-C24 act on line 5. Gas line. Chairman Spolarich reading the resolution when Mark Sutton came in and he was able explain and answer questions on resolution #19-C24C. Buckley made motion to accept, DuBay second, motion passed

John Mella gave a brief on U.P. Cemeteries for veterans.
Bob Spanagle voiced in saying it made sense to have state controlled cemeteries.

Meeting adjourned 9:35 am

Respectfully Submitted
Levern Spolarich
[Signature]
POW - MIA Report

The Defense POW - MIA Accounting Agency has announced the identification of remains of seven Army soldiers unaccounted for since the Korean War.

Stg 1st Whse Donald B. Strum Co C 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division who was lost in North Korea on Nov 4th, 1950.

Cpl Robert Higgins 21 of Bucks Co, Penn. He was assigned to Battery C 15th Field Artillery Battalion 15th Field Artillery Battalion 2nd Infantry Div. when lost in battle in South Korea on Feb 13, 1951.

Stg Floyd J, E Jackson 30 of Warrensburg Mo. Died while a POW in North Korea on Feb 13, 1951. He was assigned to Headquarters Co 3rd Battalion 31st Infantry Regiment 7th Infantry Division which made up part of the 31st Regimental Combat Team.

Stg Arnold V. Anderson of Gary Minn died while a POW in North Korea after being captured on Feb 14. He was assigned to Co B 3rd Battalion 9th Infantry Regiment 8th Army.
CPL Lindsey C. Lockett 25 of Henrico VA. DIED WHILE A POW IN NORTH KOREA ON MAY 31, 1951. HE WAS ASSIGNED TO MEDICAL DETACHMENT HEADQUARTER BATTERY 503RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, 24TH INF DIVISION.

PFC John R. Bowers of Greenville, S.C. He was assigned to Company L, 36th Battalioin, 9th Inf Division. When lost in South Korea on Feb. 14, 1951.

22 of the remains released have been identified.

NAVY WATER TENDER 2nd Class Edgar Gross 39 of Athens, Alabama killed during the attack of Pearl Harbor Dec. 7th, 1941 aboard the USS Oklahoma. His remains were recovered in 1944. In 2015 the Defense Dept. issued a policy that directed the disinterment of remains associated with the Oklahoma. Gross's relatives provided DNA that led to identification. He was buried Memorial Day 2019 in his home town of Athens, Alabama.

The remain of a Traverse City man killed in the Korea War are now buried in the U.S. accounted for after missing for almost 70 yrs. CPL Charles Lawler killed on Nov. 2nd 1950. He was 19 yrs old. He was never reported as a POW. He was...
Declared dead in 1953, his remains were in one of the 55 boxes handed over to the U.S. Lawler will be buried on July 27, 2019 in Traverse City Michigan.

There are still more than 7,600 unaccounted for in Korea.

Submitted by Gary Hauke, POW-MIA CT