The American Legion
Fall Conference
Holiday Inn Gateway Centre
Flint, MI
September 20, 2019
National Security and Foreign Relations Committee

The Department of Michigan National Security and Foreign Relations Committee meeting was called to order at 2:47 pm in the Madison/McKinley Room.

Roll call was taken. Members present: K. Wakefield, L. Spolarich, G. Hlavka, J. Kailunas, T. DeCarlo.

Members absent: C. Wotring

There were five guests in attendance.

Mr. Spolarich was elected Committee Vice Chair. Mr. Kailunis was elected Committee Secretary.

Minutes of the last Committee meeting which was held at the Department Convention in Kalamazoo were read. Motion to accept minutes by L. Spolarich, second by T. DeCarlo. Motion passed.

During the course of the meeting National Vice Commander Richard Heigert and the Leading Candidate for National Commander, Paul Dillard, visited briefly and made remarks and answered questions posed by the members in attendance.

Report by G. Hlavka on status of POW/MIA (attached)


No Old Business to be considered by the Committee.

No New Business for Committee action.

Good of the American Legion:

Brief discussion about putting an article in the Michigan Legionnaire explaining the Blood, Eye, and Vital Organ program. Mr. Spolarich said he will contact Mark Sutton about publishing the article as soon as possible.

Also, discussed future of veterans interred at the Grand Rapids Veterans Home. No action taken

Meeting adjourned at 3:26 pm

Submitted by, [Signature]
Keith M. Wakefield, Chair
POW-MIA

Cedar Rapids, IA 9-13-19 Signalman 3rd Class
William J. Shanahan Jr. was KIA aboard the USS
Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor Dec 7, 1941
Corporal Ralph L. Cole 19 years old was declared
MIA in 1950, he was one of the 55 boxes returned.

21 MIA's and KIA's from Indiana from the Korean
War were identified over the last few years:

Army Sgt 1st Class Milton Bled MIA Feb 12, 1950

Gene Clark 21 MIA at Unsan

Army PFC James Constant 19 MIA Sept 8, 1950

Army PFC Milton Dinkelboiler Jr 21 KIA April 1951

Army Master Sgt Joseph Durakovich 30 MIA
Nov 28, 1950

Army Lt Col Don Carlos Faith Jr 35 KIA Dec 2, 1950

Posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for
Exceptional Valor:

Army Sgt 1st Class May Harris 21 MIA Dec 12, 1950

Army Cpl Floyd Hooper 27 captured around Feb 4 1951
Died in a POW Camp

Army Master Sgt Charles McDaniel MIA Nov 3, 1950

Army Cpl Morris Messhulam 19 MIA Dec 1950

Army Sgt Virgil Lee Phillips 24 KIA Nov 2, 1950

Army Cpl Gerald L. Shepler 20 MIA Nov 29, 1950

Army Sgt Charles E. Sizemore MIA night of Nov 1-2
1950
POW MIA

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ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN,
I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim

September 20, 2019
as

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

WHEREAS, approximately 1,587 Americans are still missing from the Vietnam War and approximately 7,624 are unaccounted from the Korean War, 126 from the Cold War, and 72,680 from World War II, in which many of those missing are citizens of the Great Lakes State: and,

WHEREAS, these service members sacrificed greatly in service to their country, their families, friends and other concerned citizens, all of whom live with uncertainty concerning their fate: and,

WHEREAS, it is vital we continue to demonstrate the utmost gratitude and admiration, with unrelenting efforts to bring these brave Americans home: and,

WHEREAS, on this day, we encourage every resident in Michigan to honor returned U.S. POWs and all Americans still captured, unaccounted for, or missing in action:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim September 20, 2019, as POW/MIA Recognition Day in Michigan as a symbol of commitment to achieving the fullest possible accounting and in honor of all Americans still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, Korean War, Cold War, and World War II.

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor