



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota

State Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th St. #314 St Paul MN 55155
Telephone 651-224-7634 Fax 651-224-5243
Toll Free 1-888-217-9598
Email – deptoffice@mnala.org
Website - www.mnala.org

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NATIONAL SECURITY

Remember to honor our POW/MIAs (Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action) at Legion and Auxiliary diners and functions. At all Post/Unit/Squadron functions, we should have a POW/MIA flag on a staff or draped over a chair. Outside the Post Home, we should also have a POW/MIA flag under our American flag.

Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th American Legion National Convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States.

"POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY"

We call your attention to the small table set in a place of honor. It is set for one . . . this table is our way of recognizing those members of the Armed Forces who are missing from our midst . . . they are commonly called POWs or MIAs . . . we call them comrades. They are unable to be here with their loved ones and families . . . so we join together to pay humble tribute to them *Remember!*



The **tablecloth** is white - symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms *Remember!*

This **table** set for one is small - symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his oppressors .

The single **red rose** displayed in a vase - reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades in arms who keep the faith while awaiting their return *Remember!*

The **yellow ribbon** - tied so prominently on the vase is reminiscent of the yellow ribbon worn upon the lapels and breasts of thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing *Remember!*

A slice of **lemon** is on the plate - to remind us of their bitter fate *Remember!*

There is **salt** upon the plate -- symbolic of the families' tears as they wait *Remember!*

The **glass** is inverted -- they cannot toast with us this night *Remember!*

The **chair** – the chair is empty - they are not here *Remember!*

The **candle** – is reminiscent of the light of hope, which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation *Remember!*

The **American flag** – reminds us that many of them may never return – and have paid the supreme sacrifice to insure our freedoms *Remember!*

All of you who served with them and called them comrades, who depended upon their might and aid, and relied upon them, for surely, they have not forsaken you *Remember!*

Remember! – until the day they come home Remember!

Dee Dee Buckley
National Security Chairman