



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
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The Leadership and People of Vietnam
c/o The Honorable David B. Shear
Ambassador of the United States to the SRV
Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the POW/MIA families, I am writing on our National POW/MIA Recognition Day to add my congratulations and deep appreciation for the cooperation your government and people have provided over the decades since we began so long ago. The path we have traveled has not always been easy or smooth, but it has accomplished much more than anyone, other than those of us directly involved, might have thought possible.

Our collective success stands as an example to the world of what can be achieved when nations, even former enemies, work constructively together in a spirit of humanitarian cooperation and goodwill. The resulting evolution in our relationship is nearly miraculous and, again, is a testament to our shared determination to move forward, bilaterally and multilaterally, to the benefit of all.

This year, 2013, is very significant, not only to commemorate our decades of cooperation, but to also celebrate the 40th anniversary of the end of active US military engagement in the war between our countries. It was also 40 years ago that listed American POWs were released and returned home with the honor they earned. On June 13th, we were honored that your country's talented Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Nguyen Quoc Cuong, accepted our invitation to address the 44th Annual Meeting Dinner. His remarks were very well received, in fact warmly welcomed. It was then my privilege to accept Secretary of State Kerry's invitation to attend the luncheon he hosted in honor of H.E. Truong Tan Sang on July 24th, during his delegation's visit to Washington, DC, that included meeting with President Obama at the White House.

We who worked long and hard toward broadening the level and scope of bilateral cooperation can share a sense of accomplishment over the maturing and expanding relationship. Thanks to each of you and others no longer with us, certainly including H.E. Le Mai and H.E. Nguyen Co Thach, father of your current Foreign Minister, H.E. Pham Binh Minh, for all that has been accomplished to bring answers to the POW/MIA families throughout this process.

I was honored by your invitation to be with you on this special occasion and wish that I could have been there this evening. Since that was not possible, I would ask you all to stand, and raise your glasses in a toast to our past achievements, to working cohesively to overcome any challenges that may arise, to future successes, and to ever-expanding friendship and cooperation between our two governments and peoples.

Hear! Hear!

Ann Mills Griffiths
Chairman of the Board