



# Freedom's Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Military History Center

112 N. Main ST  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
<http://www.okmhc.org/>



## "Promoting Patriotism through the Preservation of Military History"

Volume 4, Number 9

September 2016

### United States Armed Services Days of Observance

There are several Days of Observance in the month of September. We believe the most significant are Victory over Japan (VJ) Day on September 2, POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 16, Air Force Birthday on September 18, and Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day on September 27.

### POW/MIA Recognition Day

POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed in the United States on the third Friday in September. It honors those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. This day was established by an Act of Congress in 1998.

The Military History Center has dedicated a small portion of the Memorial Flag Plaza as a special section to honor Oklahoma's thirty-two Vietnam War MIAs with memorial bricks. Each of the thirty-two bricks will be engraved with the MIA's name, rank, branch of service, city and date listed as missing.

We invite you to join the MHC in remembering these heroes by sponsoring a brick to perpetually honor an Oklahoma MIA. The cost of each brick is only \$100. Please contact the MHC for information.

### Oklahoma Viet Nam War MIAs

William O. Bare	OK City	USAF	27 Jul 67
Wayne L. Bolte	Claremore	USAF	02 Apr 72
Charles F. Bookout	OK City	Army	4 Jul 70
Robert W. Burnes	Edmond	USMC	5 Jan 70
Neil S. Bynum	Vian	USAF	26 Oct 69
Allen B. Cecil	Holdenville	Army	21 Sep 69
Dennis I. Day	Blackwell	Army	3 Nov 70
Jerry D. DewBerry	Ardmore	USMC	5 Jul 65
George J. Eisenberger	Pawhuska	Army	5 Dec 65
Charles W. Fryer	OK City	Navy	7 Aug 66
James P. Gauley	Ringwood	USAF	10 Jan 67
Tommy E. Gist	Durant	USAF	18 May 68
James A. Green	Boynton	Army	18 Jun 70
Donald J. Hall	Stroud	USAF	6 Feb 67
Jimmy D. Hyde	Caddo	Navy	5 Dec 65
Wayne C. Irsch	Tulsa	USAF	9 Jan 68
Steven B. Johnston	Muskogee	USAF	4 Jan 73
Larry C. Knight	Wilburton	Navy	9 Apr 70
Henry L. Mosberg	Putnam	Army	26 Sep 66
David P. Neislar	Norman	Navy	20 Feb 69
Stanley E. Olmstead	Marshall	Navy	17 Oct 65
Fred M. Owens	Picher	Army	10 Jun 65
Samuel J. Padgett	Tulsa	Army	10 Apr 68
Martin R. Scott	Tulsa	USAF	15 Mar 66
Howard H. Smith	OK City	USAF	30 Sep 68
Lilburn R. Stow	Vici	USAF	26 Apr 68
Aubrey E. Stowers, Jr.	Sentinel	USAF	21 Mar 68
James H. Tucker	Pawnee	USAF	26 Apr 66
Ronald J. Ward	Anadarko	USAF	18 Dec 72
Frank P. Watson	OK City	USAF	18 Jun 65
John E. Wilburn	Luther	Army	19 Apr 68
Samuel A. Woodworth	Minco	USAF	17 Apr 65



James P. Gauley  
CPT – USAF  
Ringwood  
10 January 1967

# America's POW/MIAs

## World War II

During World War II, approximately 130,000 American soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen became prisoners of war. Germany held just under 94,000 and Japan held 27,465.

The largest group of Americans taken prisoner in a single event in the European theater was during the Battle of the Bulge, when almost 23,000 were taken, mostly infantrymen. The largest group of American prisoners taken by the Japanese came at the surrender of the Philippines – approximately 20,000. The highest ranking American prisoner of World War II was Lt. General Jonathan M. Wainwright, Commander of the American and Filipino forces. The Eighth Air Force, stationed in the United Kingdom, lost more men as prisoners than any other unit in any theater of the war – approximately 28,000.

More than twelve thousand prisoners died while in captivity. 1,121 prisoners, about one per cent of the total held by the Germans, died in captivity. Of those held by the Japanese, 11,107, more than forty per cent, died in captivity.

Some prisoners died of wounds received before or at capture, or were killed in escape attempts. Others died of the effects of malnutrition, disease and abuse. Others were worked to death, and still others were simply murdered.

## Korea

Accounting for all of POWs and MIAs of the Korean War has been impossible because of lack of cooperation and honesty by the North Koreans. More than 7,000 Americans were captured by the North Koreans and Chinese during the Korean War, but only 3,800 returned alive. The North Koreans outright murdered an estimated 1,000. They wantonly murdered or massacred hundreds of American prisoners on and off the battlefield. At least another 1,700 died of sickness and malnutrition during imprisonment. When the Chinese took control of the POWs, the prisoners' physical conditions improved slightly, but they were subjected to indoctrination efforts. Under torture, a number of American airmen "confessed" to germ warfare and other atrocities. Twenty-one Americans and one British citizen renounced their citizenship and decided to remain in China following the armistice in 1953.

Major General William F. Dean, commander of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, was the highest ranking American captured in Korea. During the withdrawal from Taejon, he became separated from his men and was captured on July 20, 1950.

Since 1954, more than 3,000 remains have been recovered in both North and South Korea, but more than 7,000 American soldiers are still unaccounted for. Documents obtained from the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and other government depositories by a Congressional committee in 1996 showed that the Pentagon knew in December 1953 that more than 900 American troops were alive at the end of the war but were never released by the North Koreans. The Defense Department denies the accuracy of these reports. If any of part of the report is true, few, if any, of the POWs would be alive today. Americans are unlikely ever to know the truth.

## Vietnam

Trying to account for American POWs from the Viet Nam War has been extremely difficult, because the Vietnamese and Laotian governments have been dishonest and uncooperative in accounting for their prisoners.

Prisoners held by the North Vietnamese – overwhelmingly airmen shot down over that country – were imprisoned in permanent facilities at several locations, mostly around Hanoi. The exact number of captured men will never be known as the North Vietnamese authorities have not fully accounted for all the prisoners they are known to have held. They returned 591 after the war, and the remains of over 900 have since been recovered. The Viet Cong returned 114 prisoners, but are believed to have held as many as 150 during the course of the war. Their prisoners were held in various locations in South Vietnam and sometimes Cambodia. The least is known about prisoners held by the communist Pathet Lao. Different reports claim from sixty to more than 500 prisoners were held in Laos; however, only nine were returned after the war, and they were under control of the North Vietnamese. The U. S. government disputes the Laotian reports, and they cannot be corroborated; nevertheless, many people believe them to be true.

Many missing airmen likely crashed in remote, inaccessible locations. Others were probably killed by civilians before authorities could intervene, and still others were killed attempting escape, from the effects of torture or were simply murdered. As of now, 1,624 MIAs, including thirty-two Oklahomans, remain unaccounted for. As with Korean War POW/MIAs, Americans are unlikely ever to know the truth.



### Important Dates

**October 28-30 – Coweta Mission  
Civil War Weekend**

See page eight for details.

**November 13 – A Salute to Veterans**

The MHC will host its annual Veterans Day Patriotic Concert, "A Salute to Veterans", on Sunday, November 13, at the Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center. The October newsletter will contain detailed information. In the meantime, please mark your calendars, and plan to attend this important patriotic event.

## Combat Hero and POW



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Lloyd Holdcroft – April 1943

Captain Lloyd Holdcroft, 360<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, 303<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group “Hell’s Angels”, Eighth Air Force, flew his B-17, *The Road Back*, from his base in England in the early morning of April 18, 1944. It was the Hell’s Angels’ 136<sup>th</sup> mission and Holdcroft’s twenty-ninth. The thirty-five B-17s were loaded with incendiary bombs for their target, the Heinkel Aircraft Component Factory at Oranienburg, just north of Berlin. After releasing his bomb load, Holdcroft turned *The Road Back* toward England. Two engines were hit by anti-aircraft fire, but Holdcroft flew his crippled bomber another four and a half hours before he had to set it down in a wheels-up belly landing in a field near Soltau, sixty-five km north of Hanover – a valiant effort that fell hundreds of miles short. Along the way, a German fighter pilot seeing that the damaged B-17 would soon crash or have to set down, saluted and flew away. Holdcroft’s was the only bomber lost on the mission.

The entire crew of ten survived the landing, set the plane afire and broke up into three groups in an unsuccessful attempt to avoid capture. The Germans took the crew to the large POW camp, Stalag Luft III, the camp from which “The Great Escape” was made, located near Sagan in eastern Germany (now Zagen in Poland). As the Red Army closed in on Germany in early 1945, the Germans loaded their prisoners on railroad cars and moved them west. Holdcroft and his fellow prisoners’ final stop was Stalag VIIA, located at Moosburg, northeast of Munich, on April 13, 1945. Sixteen days later, the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division of Third Army, entered the gates of Stalag VIIA. Captain Holdcroft was a free man after 377 days of captivity.

Lloyd L. Holdcroft was born on December 25, 1916, in Blackford County, Indiana. He enlisted in the Army Air Force on April 29, 1943, and flew his first bombing mission eight months later. After the war, he remained in the Air Force, retiring in 1961 as a highly-decorated major. At some time after retirement, he relocated to Broken Arrow. Major Holdcroft died on September 15, 1996, at age seventy-nine. He is buried next to his wife, Edna, in Veterans Field of Honor of Park Grove Cemetery in Broken Arrow. Major Holdcroft donated his major’s uniform and World War II artifacts to the MHC, which has created an exhibit in his memory.

The entire crew of *The Road Back* survived their captivity.

## This Month’s Featured Artifact



This Vietnam Era POW copper bracelet was worn by Carol Hart during the Vietnam War in honor of Maj. David Duart, 13<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron. Major Duart was stationed at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base. His F-105 fighter was hit by a surface-to-air missile (SAM) over North Vietnam, on February 18, 1967. He safely ejected but was captured by local militia immediately upon landing. He was held captive for six years in various POW camps in and around the infamous Hanoi Hilton and the Zoo.

During the Vietnam War, many Americans wore POW bracelets to keep faith with the POWs. Carol Hart graciously donated her bracelet to the MHC.



David H. Duart was a highly decorated career Air Force officer. His many decorations include three Silver Stars. He was born on December 25, 1934, in Pennsylvania. He retired as a colonel on May 1, 1980. Colonel Duart died September 10, 2003, at age seventy. He is buried in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery at San Antonio, Texas.



## Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

American Gold Star Mothers Inc. was formed in the United States shortly after World War I to provide support for mothers who lost sons or daughters in the war. The name came from the custom of families of servicemen hanging a banner called a Service Flag in the window of their homes. The Service Flag had a star for each son or daughter in the United States Armed Forces. Living servicemen or women are represented by a blue star, and those who had lost their lives are represented by a gold star.

Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day is observed in the United States, in their honor, on the last Sunday of September.

## Part II of Leo Haas's War Story

*Editor: In last month's Newsletter, we published part of Mr. Leo Haas's personal war story given by his daughters at the End of World War II commemoration on August 14. His daughter, Ms. Suzanne Adair, was having problems with her computer, and was unable to get her portion to me on time for the August Newsletter. Here it is.*

"Often I have thought about the mother waiting for a son, who would never return. I have thought about the newly married wife or sweetheart, who remembered the promise, "See you soon," but would never see their soldier return. And, strangely, I have been sad when my thoughts turned to problems caused by my involvement against the Japanese. I have forgiven, and hope for the same. Can you imagine the unspoken affection we had for each other? An affection that allowed men to offer their lives for each other without hesitation and, I suppose, without understanding. I will always remember them as my brothers."

One time in particular, on a mission from Okinawa, my plane, *The Blind Bomber*, and another, *Hogan's Goat*, were returning to our base after a hit on an ocean-going ship. We were crossing over Kyushu and crossed paths with at least twelve, and possible twenty Japanese fighters. I was sure I was going to die, so I decided to fight to the death. I braced myself for the fight.

Both of us stayed close, wing to wing, and dropped down, right over the water, so the fighters couldn't go under us. We endured phosphorous bombs dropped upon us, but used slow, slow turns to evade them. The fighters attacked us individually and then in twos, proceeding to unleash a hail of bullets against us. We managed to stay airborne and shoot down two of the enemy planes. The surviving Japanese planes were now way out over the open ocean, and turned towards their base. We were shot up, but no one was seriously injured. Our commander told us later that it was amazing we survived.

Today, one of the Japanese planes that got away is at the Pensacola Naval Air Station Museum in Florida, with some of our bullet holes in it!"



Bennie G. Adkins was a sergeant first-class serving as an Intelligence Sergeant with Detachment A-102, 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces, at Camp A Chau, Republic of Vietnam, when the camp was attacked by a large North Vietnamese and Viet Cong force in the early morning hours of March 9, 1966. The battle lasted until March 12, during which Sgt. Adkins "distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty". Sergeant Major Adkins received his Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony on September 15, 2014.

Bennie G. Adkins was born February 1, 1934, at Waurika, Oklahoma. He was drafted into the Army at Waurika in 1956 and went on to a twenty-two-year career, retiring as a Command Sergeant Major, in 1978. Adkins deployed to Vietnam three times between 1963 and 1971. During those tours of duty, in addition to the Medal of Honor, he was awarded two Bronze Stars with Valor device and three Purple Hearts. Sergeant Major Adkins now lives in Alabama.



Donald Paul Sloat was deployed to Vietnam as a machine gunner in Co. D, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 196<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry "Americal" Division. On January 17, 1970, he "distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty" by falling on a grenade, thereby saving the lives of his comrades. Bill Sloat accepted his brother's Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony on September 15, 2014.

Donald Paul Sloat was born February 6, 1949, at Coweta, Oklahoma. He entered the Army in 1969. He is buried in Vernon Cemetery at Coweta. He was one month short of his twenty-first birthday.

## This Month's Featured Exhibit



**Missing Man Table**

### Symbolism:

The listed items are considered traditional. Some commands and units may place headcovers or other items at the place setting as well.

- Tables, set for one, are small, symbolizing the frailty of one isolated prisoner. The table is usually set close to, or in sight of, the entrance to the dining room. For large events, the Missing Man Table is set for six places representing members of the five armed services – Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air force, Coast Guard – and a sixth place reminiscent of the civilians who died during service along side the armed forces or missing during armed conflict. The table is round to represent the everlasting concern on the part of the survivors for their missing loved one.
- The tablecloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms.
- The single red rose in the vase signifies the blood that many have shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedoms of our beloved United States of America. The rose also reminds us of family and friends of our missing comrades who keep the faith while awaiting their return.
- The yellow ribbon on the vase represents the yellow ribbons worn on the lapels of the thousands who with unyielding determination demand a proper accounting of our comrades who are not among us.
- The slice of lemon on the bread plate represents the bitter fate of the missing.
- Salt, sprinkled on the bread plate, is symbolic of the countless fallen tears of families, as they wait.

- The inverted glass represents the fact that the missing and fallen cannot partake.
- The lighted candle, reminiscent of the light of hope, which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home.
- The empty chair: The missing and fallen are not present.

## Support the Military History Center

Do you want to join the many patriotic Oklahomans who are already supporting the Military History Center's mission of "Promoting Patriotism by Preserving Military History"? If so, contact the Military History Center at (918) 794-2712 to learn how you can be a supporter, or click on the link below to go to the MHC website, <http://www.okmhc.org/donate/>.

There's something to accommodate everyone's budget. Monetary donations, as well as gifts in kind, are tax deductible, subject to IRS regulations.

We invite you to be a part of this unique opportunity to support a first-class military museum and history center in Oklahoma.



Docents Harold Hayes and Dennis Hoch with Charley Pitner of Lubbock, Texas, who recently visited the MHC with his family. Harold and Dennis gave Charley a couple of the MHC's surplus flags. He was obviously thrilled. Charley wrote a nice thank-you card expressing his appreciation.

## Museum Hours and Admission Fee

Tuesday – Friday: 10:00 – 4:00; Saturday: 10:00 – 2:00  
Closed Sunday and Monday and major Federal holidays

Adults – \$5.00

Members and Children under 18 – Free

**For more information, call (918) 794-2712**

**Follow us on Facebook**

## Civil Air Patrol



Jonathan Colburn teaches Eighth Grade U.S. History at Broken Arrow's Oliver Middle School, and he takes his history seriously. These are photographs of his classroom. He is also an MHC docent and was on the championship team of the Military Trivia Event.



The Civil Air Patrol Exhibit at the MHC is the Eagle Scout Project of Kurt LeVan, Troop 80 of Owasso, "in honor of those who gave all".



During World War II, the CAP was seen as a way to use America's civilian aviation resources to aid the war effort instead of grounding them. One of their most important missions was coastal patrol. During World War II, the CAP's coastal patrol flew twenty-four million miles, found 173 German U-Boats, attacked fifty-seven, hit ten, and sank two. By the end of the war, sixty-four CAP members had lost their lives in the line of duty.

On July 1, 1946, President Harry Truman signed legislation incorporating the CAP. On May 26, 1948, the CAP officially became the civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force.



The Eagle and Fledglings Statue at the south end of the Air Gardens on the campus of the United States Air Force Academy is inscribed with the quote: "Man's flight through life is sustained by the power of his knowledge." The Air Force Academy, youngest of the service schools, was established in 1954, at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, north of Colorado Springs, Colorado.



# United States Air Force



Just four years after Wilbur and Orville Wright made the first flight ever in a heavier than air machine, the Army recognized the potential of the new “aeroplane”. On August 1, 1907, the Army created the Aeronautical Division, Signal Corps. The new air service was to be an aerial reconnaissance arm of the Army. That mission lasted until 1918. With America’s entry into World War I, the Air Service’s mission was expanded to include a combat role, and its name was changed to U.S. Army Air Service. The potential of air combat was recognized during the war, as pilots not only engaged in one-on-one aerial combat, but also engaged in a primitive form of bombing, mostly by hand-dropping small shells on enemy infantry positions. Airmen also provided aerial reconnaissance and combat support for Army ground troops.

During the interwar years, the Air Service was hard pressed to convince senior War Department officials of the value of air warfare beyond its World War I role. Even after General Billy Mitchell, in 1921, demonstrated that aircraft could sink a warship, it was not until the late 1930s, after seeing what the Germans were doing in the Spanish Civil War, that senior Army commanders began to recognize the potential of massed aerial attacks and bombing. The Air Service, renamed the Army Air Corps in 1926, had a long-time champion in the person of General Henry H. “Hap” Arnold. General Arnold, more than any other person, was responsible for the modern Air Force. He received his flying lessons directly from the Wright brothers and became one of the first three of the Air Service’s rated pilots. During World War I, he was tutored in air combat and ground support tactics by British air officers in France. He later became a protégé of General Billy Mitchell. Arnold was appointed commander of the Army Air Corps, in 1938. Three years later, the Army once again renamed the air service, this time to U.S. Army Air Force (USAAF), which Arnold continued to command. Administratively, the most important thing that Arnold and the other senior Air Force officers wanted was separation from Army control, if not separation, autonomy. The latter they got by presidential executive order in early 1941.

When the United States began devising plans for the prosecution of World War II, Arnold and his most senior officers, with their newly granted autonomy, were determined to carve out a strategic role for the Air Force. In Europe, the USAAF executed the bombing campaign over Germany and German occupied territory. With American industry turning out thousands of airplanes every month and with technological improvements and more powerful engines that enabled the planes to carry heavier bomb loads and fly further, and with the development of the Norden bombsight that greatly improved accuracy, the Air Force had all the tools available to play their strategic role. By 1944, bomber streams of a thousand and more planes were regularly flying from British and Italian air bases to pulverize Germany. In the Pacific Theater and the Far East, the Air Force, in the beginning, served primarily in a support role. In the Southwest Pacific, it supported MacArthur’s drive to the Philippines. In India, it transported thousands of tons of supplies over the Himalayas to China. With the capture of Saipan and Tinian, the Air Force acquired forward bases that put Japan in range of the newly developed long-range B-29 heavy bomber. After General Curtis LeMay arrived at Tinian in late 1944, he soon realized that high-level bombing over Japan was having little effect. After studying the problem, he realized that most low-tech Japanese industrial production was a cottage industry, done in people’s homes, which were constructed of wood and paper. LeMay decided to change his tactics to low-level incendiary bombing to destroy that industry and to render factory workers homeless. On March 9, 1945, LeMay stripped his B-29s of all their armament to reduce weight and packed the bombers with hundreds of small phosphorous and napalm bombs and sent them over Tokyo. The success of the attack exceeded even LeMay’s expectations. From that date, incendiary raids became the norm for all but a handful of Japanese cities. The Japanese bombing campaign effectively culminated with the dropping of the newly developed atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6 and three days later on Nagasaki.

Less than five years after the end of World War II, the Air Force was in combat again. It was now in Korea, and many of its fighter pilots were flying recently developed jet aircraft. Korea was followed over the next six decades with combat in Southeast Asia, the Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Serbia, Iraq and Afghanistan. With the development of in-flight refueling in the 1950s, the Air Force no longer needed bases within several hundred miles of the target. Planes could fly directly from the United States to targets thousands of miles away, if need be.

Part of the modern Air Force’s mission includes responsibility for the U.S. missile defense system with its nuclear retaliatory capabilities. It’s also in charge of the military’s space program, routinely launching communications satellites. On September 18, 1947, the long-held dream of the Air Force was realized when President Truman signed the National Security Act, which, in part, created an independent U.S. Air Force. The Air Force Chief of Staff now sat with the Joint Chiefs of Staff as an equal.

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## *The Ninth Annual Wagoner County*

# **coweta Mission Civil War Weekend**

**When:** October 28, 29 and 30, 2016

**Where:** Arthur Street's Farm  
32721 East 161<sup>st</sup> Street South, Coweta, OK

**From Tulsa, Broken Arrow & Coweta** - Travel east on Highway 51 to the intersection of 305<sup>th</sup> Street (also known as Ben Lumpkin Road). This is the intersection at the high school. Travel south on 305<sup>th</sup> Street to 161<sup>st</sup> Street. Turn left, and travel east on 161<sup>st</sup> Street until you see the signs for the event.

Friday, October 28 ..... Events begin at 6:00 PM

Saturday, October 29 .... Events begin at 9:00 AM

Sunday, October 30 ..... Events begin at 10:00 AM

### **Featuring:**

A Candlelight Tour, Infantry Camp, Artillery Battery, Medical Hospital, Signal Corps, Engineering, Officers Meeting, Period Music, Coweta Mission Trading Post, Civil War Battle, Civil War Period Dance and a Civil War Church Service.

**Admission:** Daily admission is \$5 per adult, \$2 per child under 12 and \$1 for Children under 6

For the weekend schedule of events, **map** and any other information, go to

[www.cowetamission.com](http://www.cowetamission.com) or call 918-625-4900 or 918-357-2590.

We are on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/CowetaMission>

**All proceeds from the Civil War Weekend will benefit the Military History Center.**



# *“Lest We Forget”*



**General Douglas MacArthur addresses the dignitaries at the Japanese surrender ceremony aboard USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay – September 2, 1945.**

The Emperor of Japan finally realized the futility of further resistance only after the U.S. Air Force had dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the Soviet Union had entered the war. He broadcast an Imperial Rescript to his subjects at noon on August 15, Japan Standard time, (August 14 in the U.S.) informing them that they would have to “endure the unendurable” by accepting surrender. When news of the Japanese surrender was announced to the world, it sparked nation-wide, spontaneous celebrations over the final end of World War II. On September 2, 1945, a formal surrender ceremony was held in Tokyo Bay aboard USS *Missouri*. President Truman declared September 2 to be Victory over Japan, or VJ, Day. The Emperor ordered Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu (standing in the front row with the cane) to sign the Instrument of Surrender on the Emperor’s behalf and on that of the Japanese Government. The Emperor also ordered General Yoshijiro Umezu (standing next to Shigemitsu) to sign the Instrument of Surrender on behalf of the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters. General MacArthur signed as Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers. Admiral Chester Nimitz signed on behalf of the United States. Representatives of each country at war with Japan signed in turn.

During the war with Japan, the United States lost 111,606 killed and missing, 253,142 wounded and 27,465 as prisoners of war, of which 11,107 died in captivity.

*Freedom is not free.*



**THANK YOU**