



THE SILENT MARCH

National POW / MIA Recognition Day is designated on the third Friday in September . This is a day for Americans to reflect and remember all unaccounted for U. S. Military Personnel who served their country in time of war. Each year at this time, the First District and the Second District conduct a “Silent March” to remember our missing comrades from all wars. What is a Silent March ?

The Silent March is best described as a quiet, solemn procession. The participants of the March walk in unison with reverent silence and the only sound to be heard is a lone drumbeat. It is not a parade with marching bands, sirens and a great deal of fanfare. All Veterans and the general public are invited to participate. The distance traveled is usually around $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 mile.

The March concludes with a ceremony that includes guest speakers, a presentation of the POW/MIA Table Ceremony, and a reading of the names of Wisconsin Veterans who are still missing-in-action from Vietnam. Each name is accompanied by the toll of a bell and the release of a black balloon. A balloon is also released for MIA's from WWII, the Korean Conflict, the Cold War, and the Gulf War. It is usually a very moving observance and an appropriate manner in which to show our respect for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while in captivity and for those missing in action whose fate is still undetermined.

For more information on conducting a Silent March in your district, please contact the following Legionnaires: Tom Ingram, Chairman – POW/MIA Committee, (262)377-4398, Bob Miller - Vice Chairman - POW/MIA Committee & POW/MIA Chairman 1st District, (262)279-6429 or Jim Schmidt - Past State Vice Commander, (262)537-4001



**SILENT MARCH
COMMITTEE MEETING
INITIAL AGENDA**

PURPOSE: Initial meeting to organize tasks and develop action plan

- 1) Establish committee roster
- 2) Identify and group tasks
- 3) Assign individual / teams to tasks
- 4) Develop time line for completing tasks



TASK GROUPS:

Public Relations

Send invitations to other Posts, politicians, State Commander, and any other military orgs
Send press releases
Develop Public Relations plan
Rain day alternate plan

Promotional Materials

Print promotional cards
Print posters / signs
Promotional T-shirts
Print program

Personnel Scheduling

Arrange for guest speakers
Drummer for silent march
Roll call participants
Designate Emcee
Chaplains
Singer

Logistics (Permits, security, equipment)

Arrange for transportation to and from ceremony
Arrange for Security with City Police
Secure permission from the Riviera for ceremony
Sound System for ceremony
Stage and seating for ceremony
Ceremony Equipment

- items for POW/MIA Ceremony
- balloons
- bell

Food / Beverage

After-ceremony refreshments / food



SILENT MARCH SUGGESTED TIME LINES

JAN OR FEB: Initial meeting to organize tasks and develop action plan

MAR: Work on Promotional Materials, Invitations to State Commander, Public figures / Politicians

APR: Begin Logistics / Personnel Planning

MAY: Continue Logistics / Personnel Planning

JUN: Begin Local promotion

JUL: Continue Local Promotion, News releases

AUG: Send out invitations to Posts & other Military Organizations, News releases

SEP: SHOWTIME !

S A M P L E



Frank Kresen Post 24 Memorial Building

P.O. BOX 24
LAKE GENEVA, WI 53147



Commander
Marine Corps League
McHenry County Detachment
P.O. Box 311
Woodstock, IL 60098

Dear Commander:

You are all cordially invited to participate as Frank Kresen Post 24 of Lake Geneva, WI hosts the Annual 1st District POW / MIA SILENT MARCH. This is a day for Americans to reflect and remember all unaccounted for U. S. Military Personnel who served their country in time of war.

All Posts are invited to send their Honor Guard to participate in the march. It is not a problem if an entire Guard cannot attend - even one member is welcome. Of course all Post members are welcome to march but if they cannot, then they are encouraged to attend the ceremony.

For the ceremony this year, we have as our guest speaker, retired LTCOL Harold Fritz, a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor and a former resident of Lake Geneva. Immediately following the ceremony, there will be a fellowship at Post 24 where food and beverages may be purchased. Shuttle vehicles will be available to bring marchers to the Post and to the parking lot. Please notify us if your Post plans on attending.

- **Date:** Saturday, September 20, 2003
- **Place:** Lake Geneva: March route – start at Post 24, corner of Henry St. and Williams St proceeding to the Riviera, 812 Wrigley Drive (7/10 mile)
- **Registration & Assembly:** registration at 0900, march at 1100, ceremony at 1145

THERE WILL BE NO MARCH IN THE EVENT OF RAIN. The ceremony will still be held at 1145 at Lake Geneva Middle School, 600 Bloomfield Rd & Hwy H South (across from Badger High School)

NOTE: Please announce this in your monthly newsletter and post this letter in a prominent place for all members to read.

For more information call the Post at 262-248-9767 or myself at 262-279-6429.

Bob Miller, Committee Chairman
Frank Kresen Post 24

S A M P L E



Frank Kresen Post 24

Memorial Building

P.O. BOX 24
LAKE GENEVA, WI 53147



The Honorable Senator Neal Kedzie
N7661 Highway 12
Elkhorn 53121

Dear Senator Kedzie:

You are cordially invited to participate as the Frank Kresen Post 24 of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin hosts the 1st District Annual POW/MIA SILENT MARCH which is a day for all Americans to reflect and remember all unaccounted for U.S. Military Personnel who served their country in time of war.

It is the goal of Post 24 to invite all veterans and non-veterans to march in this silent observance showing unity in support of our POW/MIA'S from all the wars. Please tell some friends and participate as we show support to the families who have not given up hope for the return of their loved ones. All colors and marchers will be together in a group, combining many from all over Wisconsin and Northern Illinois.

If you are unable to march, please be a spectator of the march and witness the ceremony, including many dignitaries, at 11:45a.m. at the Riviera Ballroom. A fellowship immediately following the ceremony will be at Post 24. Shuttle vehicles will be moving marchers back to Post 24 where food and beverages may be purchased.

Please notify us if you plan on attending and if you would like to speak at the ceremony.

Date: Saturday, September 20th, 2003

- Place: Lake Geneva parade route: Start Post 24, corner of Henry St. & Broad St. to the Riviera, 830 Wrigley Drive. (The rain location for the ceremony will be the Lake Geneva Middle School, 600 Bloomfield Rd. & Hwy. H, across from Badger High School. There will be no march in the event of rain.)
- Registration & Assembly starting at 9:00a.m.—**March starts at-11:00a.m**—Ceremony---11:45a.m.

For more information call Post 24 at 262-248-9767 or me at 262-279-6429

Bob Miller, Committee Chairman

Frank Kresen Post 24

Lake Geneva, WI

S A M P L E

WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION

FIRST DISTRICT POW/MIA SILENT MARCH

KENOSHA PAUL HERRICK POST #21

Master of Ceremonies.....Brad Cramlet
Post 21 POW/MIA Chairman

Post 21 Color Guard: Leading March with District Colors
 Don Goods, U.S.Army E-8 Retired
 Hiriam Goods, U.S.Navy E-7 Retired
 Colleen Cramlet, Auxiliary Unit 21
 Ryan Davis S.A.L. Squadron 21
 Dave Peterson, U.S.Navy E-7 Active Duty

Posting of Colors..... Myron Cobb & Bob Miller
 1st District Sergeant-at-Arms

Invocation.....Vernon Wienke
 1st District Chaplain

Pledge of Allegiance.....Brad Cramlet

Welcome.....Amel Bolyard
 Post 21 Commander

Response.....Phil Cote
 1st District Commander

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony.....Chapter 767
 Vietnam Veterans of America, Racine

National Anthem.....Kip Cushing
 Post 171 Union Grove

Special Recognition.....All Veterans Organizations,
 Senators, Representatives, County and Local Governments
 and the Public

Main Speaker.....Master Sgt. Bob Miller U.S.A.F. Retired
 Wisconsin American Legion
 POW/MIA Vice Chariman

S A M P L E

Roll Call.....Ron Hessil
1st District Vice Commander

Reporting 'For Those Missing:'
U.S. Army: Sgt 1st Class Timothy Alderdice
U.S. Navy: MM3 Tony Clay
USMC: Corporal John Dumas
U.S.Air Force: Sr.A Felicia Harris

Bell For Those Missing.....Myron Cobb
1st District Sgt-at-Arms

Balloon Release

God Bless America.....Kip Cushing
Post 171 Union Grove

Benediction.....Vernon Wienke
1st District Chaplain

The Code of Conduct:

I am an American fighting in the forces that guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

If I am captured I will continue to resist by means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

I will never forget that I am an American fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.