

***FALLEN, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN***  
***The Search and Recovery of POW/MIAs From Prior Wars***

Presented by  
Ward B. Nickisch, Colonel, US Army Retired

The presentation will provide an update on the Nation's search and recovery operations to bring home the skeletal remains of those service members who remain "unaccounted for" from Southeast Asia, Korea and World War II.



Through the use of colored slides, the audience will be able to see actual recovery missions, and will be exposed to some of the scientific processes (including mtDNA) used to identify the recovered remains and return them to the service member's family. Included in the presentation will be an update on recovery missions into North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) and a very significant recovery of WWII Marines from the South Pacific.



There are more than 1,600 service members who remain "unaccounted for" from Southeast Asia; almost 7,700 from the Korean War; and almost 73,000 from WWII. The audience will gain an understanding and appreciation for our Nation's commitment and the dedication of the soldiers and civilians who conduct this arduous duty to achieve the fullest possible accounting.



***To honor and remember.....it's heart work !***

Colonel Ward Nickisch is a native of Huron, South Dakota who retired after 30 years of Army service, including duty in Vietnam in 1970 and 1971. He later commanded two companies in Germany and a battalion in the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, NC and went on to serve as the Deputy Adjutant General of the Army. His last assignment was as the Director of Casualty and Memorial Affairs for the US Army. In that position he supervised the US Army's Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI), which conducted the search, recovery, identification and repatriation of the soldiers (of all military Services) whose bodies were never recovered from all prior wars. In 2003 this unit became a part of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) which was then reorganized into the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in January 2015.

He has participated in recovery missions in Vietnam; and he served as a senior member of the United States Delegation to the first bilateral talks with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. These historically significant talks resulted in the agreement for the conduct of the first Joint Recovery Operations into North Korea beginning in July 1996. Subsequent negotiations reached agreement for additional Joint Recovery Operations and established the framework for similar missions in subsequent years. He was honored to be directly involved in the planning and implementation of the events relating to the disinterment and identification of the remains of the Vietnam Unknown from the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

Colonel Nickisch remains active in Veterans affairs at the local, state and national levels. He serves on the Board of Directors of the David Westphall Veterans Foundation in support of the first Vietnam Veterans National Memorial at Angel Fire, NM; and he serves as the Co-Chair of the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation. In 2012 he was designated by the Secretary of the Army as a Distinguished Member of the Adjutant General's Corps Regiment and inducted into the US Army Adjutant General's Corps Hall of Fame at Ft. Jackson, SC. He is a member of the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and several Veteran organizations including the VFW, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Military Officers Association of America. Colonel Nickisch and his wife reside in Gainesville, Virginia.