

As you entered the grounds this evening, you may have noticed a special table; it is reserved to honor our missing men and women.

Some here were very young, or not yet born, when the Vietnam War began; however, all Americans should never forget the brave men and women who answered our nation's call and served the cause of freedom in a special way.

Let me explain the meaning of this table, and then join me for a moment of silent prayer.

The table is round – to show our everlasting concern. Remember (Bell Chime)

It is set for one. Symbolizing that members of our profession of arms are missing from our midst. They are commonly called POWs or MIAs, we call them "Brothers & Sisters." They are unable to be with us this evening and so we remember them. (Bell Chime)

The cloth is white – symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to serve. Remember (Bell Chime)

The single red rose reminds us of the lives of these Americans...and their loved ones and friends who keep the faith, while seeking answers. Remember (Bell Chime)

The yellow ribbon symbolizes our continued uncertainty, hope for their return and determination to account for them. Remember (Bell Chime)

A slice of lemon reminds us of their bitter fate, captured or missing in a foreign land. Remember (Bell Chime)

A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears of our missing and their families. Remember (Bell Chime)

The lighted candle reflects our hope for their return. Remember (Bell Chime)

The glass is inverted – to symbolize their inability to share a toast. Remember (Bell Chime)

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! -- Until the day they come home, Remember! (Bell Chime)

The chair is empty – they are missing..... (moment of silence)

Let us now have a moment of silence to honor America's POW/MIAs and to the safety of all now serving our nation.