



## Vietnam Veterans of America

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March 20, 2012

Honorable Patty Murray, Chair,  
U.S. Senate Veterans Affairs Committee  
413 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murray:

As it has been for over thirty years, the highest national priority of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is to continue to make meaningful progress toward the goal of achieving the fullest possible accounting of our Nation's service members who have not returned, our POW/MIAs.

This highest priority is of such significance to us that we did not include it in our overall statement, as we wanted to highlight that this must continue to be the highest national priority for both the President and the Executive branch, as well as for the Congress, as it is for so many Americans.

It is imperative that the President and the Secretary of Defense continue to drive this issue, and that the Congress continues to provide all of the resources necessary in support of the Defense Prisoner of War Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) and for the recovery and identification operations conducted by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). It is particularly important at this time that the President and the Secretary of Defense ensure that there is close coordination and adherence to the mission at both the policy and the operational level, so that the rate of progress can be more pronounced than in the past.

It is also imperative that the US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs be fully supported at the highest levels of the Department of Defense (DOD) and the White House, so that significant progress can be made toward obtaining fate-clarifying information essential to the overall accounting mission.

We urge you and your counterparts on the Appropriations Committee to ensure that all three legs of this mission are supported to the fully authorized extent of resources for FY2013, at the Commission, at DPMO, and at the operational/laboratory level.

Honorable Patty Murray  
March 20, 2012

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Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we hope you will give this priority the special attention it deserves. Just as Vietnam Veterans of America believes that it is our mission to “Leave No Veteran Behind,” so it is with our comrades who did not return. We must never give up hope, and we must continue to do all that is possible toward reaching the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "John Rowan". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Rowan  
National President