



Carl Vinson VA Medical Center, 1826 Veterans Blvd., Dublin, GA 31021



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dublin VA to team up with American Legion for POW-MIA Recognition Day program on Sept. 15

Dublin, Ga. – The Carl Vinson VA Medical Center and American Legion Padgett-Webb Post 17 will jointly host a special program on Sept. 15 at 8:00 a.m. at the medical center's flagpole on its front lawn to observe National POW-MIA Recognition Day. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Program coordinator Keith Griffin, chief of the Center for Development and Civic Engagement at the medical center, invited everyone to attend.

“All of our veterans are heroes to our nation, but those veterans who were POWs and MIAs have made a special sacrifice that we must honor. National POW-MIA Recognition Day is an excellent opportunity for all Americans to give these veterans thanks and the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center and American Legion wants to acknowledge their sacrifice,” Griffin said.

National POW-MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday each September and honors those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. Established by an Act of Congress under Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act, part of the observance involves flying the POW-MIA flag. The Dublin VA flies the POW-MIA flag year-round in perpetual recognition of the sacrifices made by America's military POWs and MIAs.

Griffin said that the ceremony would also be dedicated to Keith Smith from American Legion Padgett-Webb Post 17 in Dublin who conducted the ceremony for many years until his recent death. Griffin said that the event is another example of VA and community partners working together to honor veterans.

“We need our community partners in order to ensure that America's heroes get the best health care, so collaborating with them on events honoring veterans makes perfect sense,” Griffin said.

The program will include a special POW-MIA ceremony conducted by Dublin's Padgett-Webb Post 17 commander James Drury that acknowledges former POWs and service members who are still missing.

VA Communications director Dr. Frank Jordan reiterated Griffin's invitation and expressed hope that the public would join the medical center in honoring POWs and MIAs.

"We want to use all of our events and observances as a way of encouraging our VA stakeholders to come in and see what we are doing to care for our veterans. Our POW-MIA observance is certainly an outstanding chance for doing that, so we hope that everyone will set aside a little time to join us. We especially hope that our schools and other organizations will bring in the youth to learn about POWs and MIAs," Jordan said.

Griffin said that the program is an annual event that grows each year.

"Our country needs these programs not only to honor our veterans and their sacrifices to our nation but also so that we can be confident that we are sustaining our sense of patriotism from one generation to the next. We hope to see young people at all of our events," Griffin said.

The Dublin VA maintains a permanent POW-MIA memorial on display in its cafeteria.

For more information, contact Keith Griffin at Keith.Griffin@va.gov or 478-277-2729. Information about events at the medical center is also available on Facebook.

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Photo credit: Greg Swars

Photos:

- 1) 1 Former POW Bill Freeman speaks at VA Memorial Day program in 2016
- 2) POW-MIA memorial on display at VA's 2023 Veterans Day ceremony
- 3) 2023 POW-MIA Day poster





National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Though not here...



their sacrifice is not forgotten



September 15, 2023 | **#NotForgotten** | www.dpaa.mil |



Media Contact:

Dr. Frank G. Jordan Jr., FACHE
Chief, Communications & Public Affairs
Carl Vinson VA Medical Center
1826 Veterans Blvd., Dublin, Ga. 31021
478-290-3264 or Frank.Jordan2@va.gov
Facebook: Dublin VA Medical Center
www.dublin.va.gov