

Petition urges release of woman in Iran

Former hostages will be asked to sign

United Press International
BUFFALO, N.Y. — The 52 former hostages will be asked to add their signatures to the 4,000 already accumulated on petitions urging speedy negotiations to free a Buffalo woman from an Iranian prison.

The petition is just one of many angles worked out by ordinary citizens and government officials to secure the release of Cynthia Dwyer, 49, the Amherst, N.Y., woman held since early May in Iran's Evin Prison on suspicion of being a spy for the United States. She has yet to be formally charged.

The petition urging President Ronald Reagan to negotiate for the release of Mrs. Dwyer had 4,000 signatures as of Sunday. The signatures have been received by the Buffalo Evening News and WKBW-TV, who have jointly sponsored the

The former hostages were to receive the petition during their stay at West Point before traveling to Washington Tuesday. State Department officials said they would present the petition to the former hostages to sign at an appropriate time.

Rep. Jack Kemp, R-N.Y., is making arrangements to have the petition presented to Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

Rep. Arlen Erdahl, R-Minn., who is expected to be confirmed next week for a seat on the prestigious House Foreign Affairs Committee, said Americans should not slacken efforts to secure the release of the mother of three.

"Maybe it was a foolish thing to do (going to Iran)," he said, "but she is an American citizen and we should continue to press every political, international and economic sanction to see that she is returned to this coun-

try. We cannot tolerate a barbaric act whether it affects 52 Americans or just one."

In Fond Du Lac, Wis., freelance writer Bernice Werme, who is credited with initiating a national letter-writing campaign to free a Wisconsin woman imprisoned in Turkey, is urging other writers to join a campaign to free Dwyer. She said letters should be addressed to Haig.

John Dwyer, who said his wife had gone to Iran to "present a different slant on the hostage situation," explained she had initially become interested in Iranian affairs "for some months as a result of meetings with Iranian students" at the state university.

Negotiations to free the woman are being conducted with Iran through Swiss diplomatic emissaries.

Parade will welcome home Former hostage in Dallas

United Press International
BALCH SPRINGS — The small town of Balch Springs is planning a "Welcome Home Johnny" parade Saturday which supporters promise to be one of the biggest in Dallas County history.

Former hostage Marine Sgt. Johnny McKeel Jr. of Balch Springs, a suburb of 14,700 southeast of Dallas, will be grand marshal of the parade, which is estimated to last four hours.

Organizers of the event, scheduled to begin at 11 a.m., say more than 5,000 people will participate in the parade.

As of Monday, 100 entries were scheduled, with more expected to sign up today said Edd Caldwell, husband of parade chairman Wilma E. Caldwell.

A Marine marching band from New Orleans and Marine color guard from Dallas will be featured as well as five planes flying in formation over the parade route from the Hella Shrine Temple.

The Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders and some team members are expected, along with top state and local government officials. High school bands and drill teams from throughout North Texas will participate, Caldwell said.

McKeel is expected to lead the parade with his family, then watch the remainder of the show from a reviewing stand.

His younger brother, Todd McKeel, and Todd's friend, David Walker, will carry a banner in front of the lead car.

When the McKeels left Balch Springs Saturday to meet their son at West Point, they expected to return home Wednesday.

Freedom stamps' are unique commemorative of release

United Press International
AUSTIN — Marc Ostrofsky has something unique and possibly valuable to commemorate the release of the 52 American hostages from Iran.

The 21-year-old University of Texas student, a fan of the unusual, searched for hours through old stamps Tuesday to find some which would appropriately describe the mood of the country upon learning the hostages were free.

He found two four-cent "freedom stamps."

People don't read these but it (the stamp) states, "The land of the free — the home of the brave."

The UT business major then placed two different freedom stamps and one flag stamp on a one dollar bill. He made two such dollar bills and took them to an Austin post office to be cancelled with the date of the hostages' return to freedom.

"At 5 p.m. on the day (it is cancelled), it's extinct. No one else can make another like it," Ostrofsky said.

Excited about his possible "collectors' item," Ostrofsky took his bills to Austin coin dealer Philip Nohra.

Although Ostrofsky, who described himself as a coin collector and "avid photographer of women," has cancelled bills on other occasions, he said he had not planned the freedom bills.

"It was just a quick idea. My first intention was to get 54 — one for each hostage, myself and the President — and to get the President to sign them. But my funds, my bank account, kept me from doing it."

He hopes to show one of the bills to former hostage William Royer,

The potential for the bills being worth several thousand dollars exists if "not many people thought of doing it," Nohra said. "There's a large currency collecting market in this country, but it is impossible to guess (the value). It was a very intelligent thing for Marc to do. I didn't even think about doing it."

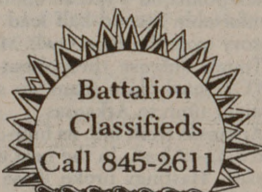
Although Ostrofsky is not planning to sell his commemorative bills, which represent an investment of \$1.51 each, he said "if someone makes an offer, I'll think about it."

For now, the bills are being kept in a bank safety deposit box.

also of Houston.

His other commemorative bills were made on July 4, 1976; his birthday; and July 7, 1977. The latter was postmarked 7-777 in a Houston post office with zip code 77077.

Ostrofsky also presented a \$50 bill complete with a cancelled 50-cent stamp to his mother on her 50th birthday. The present is now framed and hanging in the Houston home of his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Ostrofsky.



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