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Date: Andrew Osborn
Fri. Sept. 16
11:30 - 1:00
Location: Table - MSC Main Hallway
2:30 - 3:30 507 Rudder

For further information please contact: Your Study Abroad Office on campus or the Institute for Study Abroad, Butler University, 4600 Sunset Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46208, Tel: 317/283-9336 or 1/800-858-0229.

SALUTE POWs, MIAs FOR SACRIFICE

Students should respect heroes by observing commemorative week

For those of you who did not know, this week is POW-MIA Week, and Friday has been designated as POW-MIA Day. These times are set apart during the year in order to honor our Prisoners of War and our soldiers still Missing in Action. I would dare say that most Americans and even more so most college students do not have the proper respect and appreciation for these American heroes. Hopefully, I can relate to you the significance and importance of honoring these men of perseverance and courage by telling you stories about two Aggies who were POWs.

MATT SEGREST
Guest Columnist



With a strikingly clear and vivid memory, he recalled the torturous time as a POW; but said with conviction: "They got my gun, they got my watch, but they never got my Aggie ring."

"They got my gun, they got my watch, but they never got my Aggie ring."

A second Aggie hero is Col. Jim Ray, Class of '63. During the Vietnam War, Ray was flying a mission to bomb a bridge between Hanoi and China in the Northeast section of North Vietnam. Tragedy struck, however, when Ray's F105 B Model bomber was shot down. Ray ejected from his fiery, out-of-control plane, and upon reaching the

ground was taken captive by the North Vietnamese. For the next "six years, nine months, and four days," Col. Ray was a prisoner in 12 to 13 different POW camps, including the disgraceful "Hanoi Hilton." Ray was subjected to brainwashing attempts, propaganda and torture that would make one's skin curl. POWs underwent sleep deprivation and countless beatings and even were hung by their arms until their arms popped out of socket - an injury for which Ray still has operations today. Col. Ray told me that he would keep himself going by joking to himself and those around him: "I've had sophomores in the Corps of Cadets give me worse than this!"

Both Col. Ray and Mr. Hopmann went through life as prisoners of war, somehow survived and went on with their lives. What made them able to keep going was an not to quit, each replied with the same answer: 1) Prayer and a faith in God, and 2) the training and lessons they learned as a proud son of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets.

This Friday, to recognize and honor heroes like Hopmann, and Ray, the Corps will be holding an informal wreath laying ceremony on the Simpson Drill Field. The ceremony will begin promptly at noon. I do not want this to be just a Corps event, but a University-wide event - is for everyone for whom these POWs put their lives on the line, and for everyone's liberty that America's MIAs fought to preserve.

Having this ceremony is the least we can do to honor those with the courage and perseverance to overcome such odds, and the families who mourned for them. These brave men paid dearly for the freedom that you and I so enjoy - give them the honor they deserve.

POWs and MIAs - you are not forgotten. *Corps Commander Matt Segrest, senior business management major*

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