

"One Empty Seat" the POW-MIA National Chair of Honor Program

From Patrick J. Hughes
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Although the POW-MIA National Chair of Honor Program was started by Rolling Thunder®, Inc. anyone, any organization can honor these "still missing" Servicemen in this very special way.

This movement was started by Joe D'Entremont, a locksmith from Boston and a member of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. He is very committed to the POW/MIA issue and Rolling Thunder®, Inc.'s mission statement. After seeing a seat purposely left empty at the Bristol, TN race track for American service members who were POW-MIA, Joe was determined that Massachusetts would be the first state in the nation to have POW-MIA chairs in all their professional sports venues.

Joe's determination and persistence opened the doors for him at Gillette Stadium. Joe got introduced to Hussey Seating Company through Robert Kraft, and Joe asked Hussey Seating if they would donate a black Fusion seat. That first seat was dedicated on Veteran's Day of 2012. Gillette was the first professional sports stadium in the nation with a POW-MIA Chair of Honor!

Joe's next target was TD Garden, and once he got their agreement to dedicate a seat, he reached out to Hussey again. Then on July 4, 2013 just weeks after the Boston Marathon terrorist bombing, another Chair of Honor was placed in Fenway Park, home of the Red Sox.

I am a Marine Corps Vietnam combat veteran working as a professional photographer. I also speak on behalf of the over 91,000 "Still Missing" American Servicemen. After learning of Joe D's efforts I started planning how to place the "One Empty Seat" POW-MIA National Chair of Honor in and around the Philadelphia area. The argument is brief and to the point: "To all who see them, this Empty Chair will serve as an instant reminder of all the sacrifices made for 'Our Country' by these still missing American servicemen who have for too long been forgotten by all but their immediate families and close friends." So far, over twenty-five Chairs of Honor have been placed in the Philadelphia area.

http://patrickjhughes.com/galleries/5_powmia/01_OES/

The United States' National POW-MIA Recognition

Day is observed across the nation on the third Friday of September each year. Many Americans take the time to remember those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families.

"America's Veterans are the Purchasers of Peace and every Veteran has earned the Right, the Absolute Right to Come Home!" - Michael DePaulo, USMC

The AZ Rider Motorcycle News readers help many Veterans and their families during the year, whereas the POW's and MIA's have yet to receive any benefits for themselves or their families. We need to recognize these Soldiers and reach out to their families so they know we have not forgotten them. We need to Honor these Soldiers with a place of their own.

This Chair of Honor is very simple yet POWERFUL. It's a single black chair with the POW-MIA logo on it which is then flanked by the American Flag and the POW/MIA Flag. Along with the Chair is a plaque that states since WWI over 91 thousand servicemen remain unaccounted for. This chair is in their honor until they come home. They will not be FORGOTTEN.

Among the missing are over 73,000 from World War II, more than 7,800 from Korea War and more than 1,600 from the Vietnam War.

Chairs placed in the State of Delaware include Frawley Stadium, home of minor league team the Wilmington 'Blue Rocks'; Dover International Speedway; the Town of Georgetown, DE; and Kent County Veterans Memorial Park in Dover. Incarcerated Veterans restored a leather chair over 100-years old which was placed at Legislative Hall just outside of the Governor's office. (See photo below, top right). So that makes Five in Delaware until this Memorial Day when Rommel's Harley-Davidson in Smyrna, DE places the first of six (6) Chairs of Honor, one for each HD dealership they own. One of my biggest supporters in Delaware is Joyce "Angel" Proctor. Not a Vet, just someone who cares very much about Veterans and the placing of POW-MIA Chairs of Honor.

Editor's note ... On Friday Feb 28, 2014 a POW/MIA Chair was dedicated at Goodyear Ballpark, located at 1933 South Ballpark Way in Goodyear, AZ. Joe "D" was in attendance at the dedication.

On April 14, 2016, Patrick sent us an update. "The House passed HR1670 and then the Senate passed

S885. They were unanimous votes. These are bills to place a POW-MIA National Chair of Honor in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, DC. Now it's on its way to Potus {President of the United States} to be finalized! Thanks to all who have worked so hard for this legislation; especially Joe D'Entremont. Please keep Joe D in your thoughts and prayers as he is recovering from two major strokes."

Hussey Seating Company
<http://www.husseyseating.com/pow-mia-chair-of-honor/#.VvgNd3o2tyD>

Program Mission

POWMIACHairofHonor.org POW-MIA Chair of Honor Program is intended to support POWMIACHairofHonor.org's main mission by bringing daily reminders of the POW/MIA issue to cities and towns big and small across the nation. A POW-MIA chair in any location is to remain perpetually empty to help people remember that even though our soldiers are not here, there is still a space for them.

POW-MIA Chairs of Honor can be found in public spaces ranging from professional sports stadiums to small town city halls, and everywhere in between. POWMIACHairofHonor.org also have portable POW-MIA Chairs of Honor for their individual chapter activities, like VA facility visits and local veterans' events.

Chair Options

POWMIACHairofHonor.org's chairs presented by Hussey Seating Company are available in Fixed and Portable models as shown below. Chairs have lead-times from order to delivery, which run 4 - 6 weeks depending on product demand. Hussey Seating will donate the chair if you commit to creating a local PR event around the chair dedication and the POW-MIA mission and then share the results with us. For more information and the necessary forms, email a request to pow-mia@husseyseating.com.

Purchase Price Options:

Fixed Chair: \$200 plus \$200 S&H

Portable Chair: \$100 plus \$35 S&H

Freight Option:

Customer Pick-Up Available upon Request
Contact Sheryl Rothstein Executive Assistant
207-676-0282 srothstein@husseyseating.com



Photos above were taken at the March 19th Dedication of "One Empty Seat" at Kent County Veterans Memorial Park, Dover Delaware. The Chair of Honor and accompanying plaque were a gift from the Brothers At Arms MC. They were unveiled by Joe Startt Jr. [left] VVA Chapter 850 President, and Joey Heat [right], Brothers-At-Arms MC Club President.

photos above, left to right ... Joe D'Entremont | The Wells Fargo Center, home of the Philadelphia Flyers Hockey Team. Before the National Anthem at every home game, the presence of the POW-MIA National Chair of Honor is announced. | St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi Roman Catholic Church. The plaque's inscription reads: "This Pew Is Dedicated In Memory Of Deceased Veterans, Prisoners Of War and Those Missing In Action".