



JOHN MCCAIN
UNITED STATES SENATOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.
P.O. Box 440625
Jacksonville, FL 32222

Dear Board Members,

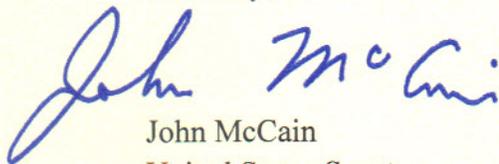
Our nation owes a great debt to the courageous men and women who served our country in enemy captivity, and the more than 83,000 service members who are still unaccounted for. They truly deserve our nation's highest respect and gratitude for the service and selfless sacrifice they provided in defense of our country and freedoms. It is in this spirit that I am in full support of your organization's efforts to establish a memorial and museum honoring our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action on the grounds of former Naval Air Station Cecil Field in Jacksonville, Florida. I was proud to serve in two assignments at NAS Cecil Field. First, as a pilot in the VA-44 Replacement Air Group squadron in 1966, and as Commanding Officer of Replacement Air Group VA-174 "Hellrazors" at Cecil Field from 1976 to 1977, then the largest aviation squadron in the U.S. Navy.

The great honor of my life was serving in North Vietnam in the company of heroes whose comradery, bravery and resilience in the face of tremendous hardship inspired us to resist our captors and find strength and hope, even in the darkest of hours. These men and women, and those like them who served in previous conflicts, and the thousands who never returned home, deserve the upmost admiration, honor and appreciation. While we can never fully repay the debt we owe, we can and must take steps like these to honor their lives and service.

As home to more than 150,000 veterans and three major military installations, Northeast Florida is a perfect location for a POW/MIA monument and museum. With Jacksonville's vibrant military and veteran population, and sterling reputation as a military-friendly city, I am confident that this monument will be well supported. This monument will further that reputation, and provide a place of solace for the family and friends of these heroes.

I offer my best wishes and full support for your organization's efforts to establish a memorial honoring our nation's POW/MIA service members.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator