

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0904

HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEES
BORDER AND MARITIME SECURITY
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE,
AND COMMUNICATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES
HEALTH
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

April 7, 2017

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc
P.O. Box 44625
Jacksonville, FL 32222

Dear Board Members,

Our nation owes a great debt of gratitude to those who selflessly serve our country any time, but especially during times of conflict. The ones who have suffered beyond what most people can imagine during these conflicts are our Prisoners of War (POW), Missing in Action (MIA) and their families. According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, there are currently over 83,000 missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars and other conflicts. I salute you all in doing your part to honor and recognize those who have given so much for the cause of freedom. I am pleased to commend you for your efforts to secure the needed land for a POW/MIA Memorial here in Jacksonville.

Your proposal to use part of the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field for a POW/MIA Memorial is a fitting location to pay tribute to this very special group. Given that Mary Hoff, the creator of the POW/MIA Flag (the only flag, besides the U.S. flag, to fly over the U.S. Capitol and the White House) is a long-time resident of Jacksonville, and that her husband, Lieutenant Commander Michael G. Hoff, is memorialized at Cecil Field, there could not be a more appropriate site for the POW/MIA Memorial.

With over 150,000 veterans and their families, three major Navy installations, various Florida National Guard units, and hundreds of veteran-friendly businesses, visitors will certainly come to Jacksonville from near and far to respect, honor, appreciate, and remember those who have made such tremendous sacrifices to preserve the God-given freedoms we all enjoy.

My best wishes to you and your organization for much success with this POW/MIA Memorial project.

Sincerely,


John H Rutherford
Member of Congress