

32nd USAWOA Annual Meeting of the Members
Warrant Officer Banquet
October 15, 2004

Memorial to our Fallen Warrant Officers

CW4 Barbara Carpenter:

Slide Presentation POW/MIA Ceremony - Ladies and Gentlemen, at this time please watch the screen. Tonight we not only pay tribute to the POW's and soldiers missing in action, we remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice on the global war on terrorism. Please join us as we remember our fellow Warrant Officers. If only they had one more day. Ladies and Gentlemen, please stand as we honor these heroes.

**Prisoner of War Ceremony Table Configuration and
Narrative**

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you entered the dining room this evening, you have noticed a small table set before you. It is our way of recognizing those members of our profession of arms missing from our midst. (Music on [Bag Pipes]) Commonly referred to as KIA / MIA / or POW - we call them brothers and sisters. They are unable to be with us this evening and so we remember them because of their sacrifice.

Let us remember the United States Army, honored by **USAWOA Past National President CW3 (Ret) Alfred Cox**.

Let us remember the men and women prisoners of war from all branches of service who are too often forgotten.

NOTE: Color Guard, place hat on table.

The **tablecloth is white**, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms so that their children may remain free.

The **lone candle** symbolizes the frailty of a prisoner, alone, trying to stand against their oppressors. (**At this point**

Color Guard Light Candle)

The **black ribbon** on the candle is a reminder of the loved ones and the families of our comrades in arms who keep the faith and eagerly await their return.

The **slice of lemon** on the plate reminds us of their fates if we fail to bring them home.

The **salt** on the plate symbolizes the tears cried by loved ones as they wait and hope. **(Pick up Salt and set it down)**

The glass is turned over. They could not be with us tonight, maybe tomorrow (Color Guard turns glass over).

The **red ribbon** is joined by a **yellow ribbon** and tied to a flower vase as a symbol of those worn by the ones who wait and hope. (Vase has a red carnation or rose)

The **picture** on the table is there as a reminder that they are missed and remembered.

The chair is tipped because they are not with us today, but saved in hopes that they will return home once again. **(Tip Chair)** As you look upon the empty table, do not remember ghosts from the past, remember our comrades.

Remember those who we depend upon in battle, they depend on us to bring them home safely.

Remember our friends. They are the ones we love — who love life and freedom as much as we do. Please... remember for they may be gone, but never forgotten.

TAPS (Color Guard Salute and Order Arms)

Color Guard departs