

there is some accountability for the mess, there will be more horror stories somewhere down the road. I guarantee it.

Mr. President, the only way to stop these kinds of waste procurement practices is with accountability. Some heads should roll at the Pentagon. Those responsible for the policies governing spare parts purchases should be identified and disciplined.

I wrote to Secretary of Defense Cohen on March 20th, asking him to consider the need for accountability in the latest round of spare parts horror stories. I am still waiting for a response.

This amendment sends a message over to the Pentagon. It's only a message but a very important message: This kind of waste must be brought to a screeching halt. We must find a way to fix it for good.

And it sets the stage for the debate over the Defense Reform Initiative that will take place later this year. That measure will be considered when we take up the defense authorization bill for FY 1999. I am hoping there will be some specific proposals offered—at that time—to bring some lasting reform to the way DOD buys spare parts.

Again, Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleague from Georgia for sending the right message to the Pentagon.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH P. KENNEDY
II UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, several days ago, our colleague in the other body, Representative JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II, announced his retirement after 12 years of service. Representative KENNEDY has been a tremendous advocate on behalf of the nation's working families, and I want to take this opportunity to say a few words about my friend from Massachusetts.

JOE KENNEDY has brought an uncommon enthusiasm and an intensity to his work here in the Congress. As a member of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, he mastered the arcane details of banking, insurance, securities, and housing law to achieve great success in reforming our nation's financial institutions to be more responsive to the needs of working families.

In 1989, he authored amendments to the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act and the Community Reinvestment Act. These amendments have been responsible for leveraging hundreds of millions of dollars in credit to help people of modest means purchase a home.

As the Chairman of the former Subcommittee on Consumer Credit and Insurance, he worked on legislation to reform the Fair Credit Reporting Act, so that consumers will be better protected from unwarranted uses of their most private financial information and will have a greater ability to safeguard the

confidentiality and accuracy of that information.

More recently, as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, he has continued to champion affordable housing for the elderly and others on fixed incomes. Thanks to his efforts, many more Americans own a home and have a decent, affordable place to live.

Congressman KENNEDY has distinguished himself in other ways, as well. He has been a consistent and articulate voice for peace and justice in places like Northern Ireland, Haiti, and the Mexican state of Chiapas. He has been a staunch supporter of civil rights for women, the disabled, and minorities. He has also worked hard to balance our nation's budget without compromising our commitment to protect our most vulnerable citizens.

Prior to his election to the House, Congressman KENNEDY built a successful company that provides low-cost heating oil and other services to low and moderate income Americans. It is to that company that he will soon return.

I have no doubt that although he is leaving public office, JOE KENNEDY will continue to serve the public interest. I know I speak for many of my colleagues in wishing him and his family well in this new endeavor, and in saying that, we in the Congress will miss his vitality and vision of a more just and prosperous America.●

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADMIRAL
GEORGE R. STERNER

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Vice Admiral George R. Sterner, United States Navy, who will retire on May 1st upon completing 36 years of faithful service to our nation.

During his distinguished career, Vice Admiral Sterner played a significant role in reshaping the way the Navy develops, acquires, modernizes, and maintains its ships and systems so that our Sailors and Marines have the best equipment in the world at an affordable price.

Vice Admiral Sterner's career began in 1962 upon his commissioning as an Ensign in the United States Navy. During the years that followed, he served aboard four submarines and commanded two others. His shore assignments included duty on the staff of the Commander in Chief, United States Atlantic Fleet; Branch Head for submarine tactical weapons on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations; Program Manager for the Mark 48 Advanced Capability Torpedo; and Program Executive Officer for Submarine Combat and Weapons Systems.

After serving in two senior Naval Sea Systems Command positions, Vice Admiral Sterner took charge of this organization on April 25, 1994. As Commander of the largest of the five Navy Systems Commands, Vice Admiral Sterner re-energized an agency in turmoil as a result the largest restructur-

ing since World War II. Managing a budget of approximately \$14 billion annually and managing more than 180 acquisition programs, he has been a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars while insuring that we have technically-superb, world-class naval fleet.

As a testament to his dynamic leadership, the National Performance Review chose to honor him and his command with 27 Hammer Awards for contributions to create a government that works better and costs less.

Closer to home, Vice Admiral Sterner has been a friend to the dedicated men and women who works at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Thanks in part to his vision, the Shipyard retains its important military-industrial capabilities and continues to provide critical jobs for the region.

Vice Admiral George Sterner's innovation has positioned the Naval Sea Systems Command for the 21st Century. He is an individual of uncommon character and his professionalism will be sincerely missed. I am proud, Mr. President, to thank him for his honorable service in the United States Navy, and to wish him "fair winds and following seas" as he closes his distinguished military career.●

NATIONAL POW RECOGNITION DAY

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, April 9 is National POW Recognition Day, and I rise today to pay tribute to all those U.S. service persons who guarded their country in past wars, who have been listed as POWs or MIA, and to their families. I especially want to pay tribute to Col. Richard A. Walsh III, an Air force pilot from Minnesota listed as missing-in-action in Laos. We must never forget Richard and the other MIAs for their courageous service and sacrifices. In addition, we must never forget the sacrifices made by their families.

That is why I also want to recognize Richard's wife and a constituent of mine, Ms. Sharon Walsh. As the executive director of the Minnesota League of POW/MIA Families, Sharon has worked hard over the years on behalf of our POW/MIAs and their families, and I commend her. I can't imagine how difficult and painful it has been for Sharon and her family not knowing exactly what happened to Richard in Southeast Asia.

Ms. Walsh asked me to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a document outlining some of her concerns and questions regarding the issue of satellite imagery and American POW/MIAs during the war in Southeast Asia. She, along with a small group of my constituents, are frustrated with certain federal agencies, including the Department of Defense. These agencies are responsible for maintaining and publicly disclosing information about reported U.S. satellite imagery of possible pilot distress symbols, associated with American service personnel who are unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

The statement contains serious allegations about U.S. government mishandling of these matters. My constituents claim that since the war has ended U.S. satellite imagery has detected pilot distress symbols on the ground in Southeast Asia, and the U.S. government has willfully ignored key evidence in this matter. The Department of Defense POW/MIA office has repeatedly indicated to me, and in the media, that they have fully and carefully investigated these claims and found them baseless, attributing the reported symbols to unrelated, largely natural causes, and to mistakes in photographic interpretation of satellite imagery.

Mr. President, I ask that the material from Ms. Walsh be printed in the RECORD. I know this issue has been addressed by Pentagon officials for years, and was carefully studied by the now-defunct Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs. Nonetheless, I promised my constituents to share this information with my colleagues, for the record, at an appropriate time. I believe POW Recognition Day is an appropriate occasion for us to consider these issues, and I hope it will contribute to any further discussion of these matters in the Senate.

The material follows:

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF
POW/MIA FAMILIES.

I am Sharon Walsh, Minneapolis, Minnesota, the wife of Richard A. Walsh III Colonel, USAF, a pilot who is or was missing in action in Laos. I represent the League of Minnesota Families of Missing and Prisoners in Southeast Asia.

This letter and the enclosed referenced documents document the betrayal of branches of the U.S. government toward America's missing personnel in the war in Southeast Asia. In my lifetime, I cannot recall such disregard and callous behavior toward young men who thought they represented an honorable government. Actually it is criminal felonious purposeful malfeasance in government that many of us find shocking.

In 1992, U.S. satellites recorded symbols on the ground in Southeast Asia exactly matched rescue codes assigned to pilots missing in the Vietnam War. Other symbols exactly matched names of POW/MIA pilots.

The official U.S. government explanation is these symbols were created by vegetation and shadows and it is a coincidence they match names and classified codes of MIAs. It does not take a mathematical probability expert to realize the absurdity of the government story.

Government officials have committed both unethical and illegal acts to misinform the nation about the satellite imagery. However, the existence of enough of these rescue symbols are verified in government documents to show the U.S. is now an accomplice to slavery and torture of human beings. The documents Senator Wellstone is introducing into the Congressional Record show exactly how the government has lied and misled the public, the press, and the Congress.

I urge every member of Congress who believes in the principles of liberty and justice to carefully examine these documents. The precedents of the POW/MIA issue—rewarding the corrupt and punishing the truthful, must be reversed if we are to survive as a free and democratic society. In the name of justice,

please act swiftly to remove and prosecute those government officials who have betrayed both the missing men and our nation.

Thank You,

SHARON WALSH,
Executive Director.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE ILLUSTRATING FRAUDULENT U.S. GOVERNMENT IMAGERY STORIES

Below is a table showing various government stories about pilot distress symbols found in satellite imagery. GX2527, SEREX, and 72TA88 were symbols recorded by U.S. satellites taking pictures of the field next to Dong Vai Prison, Vietnam on June 5, 1992. Dong Vai Prison is the site of seventeen live sighting reports of American POWs.

POW/MIA officials lie to the press and Congress in order to prevent further investigation. These corrupt officials may eventually admit the truth to a few individuals, but only after millions have read the fraudulent story in the press or after serious Congressional inquiry has been stopped cold. They have a record of making up any story to hide the truth. No U.S. government POW/MIA official has been prosecuted for perjury or even reprimanded for putting out false information.

"SEREX" is the last name of MIA Henry Serex, lost in south Vietnam in 1972. "GX2527" contains the E and E codes and personal authenticator codes assigned to MIA Peter Marthes, lost in Laos in November 1969. The letters "TA" were, with other symbols, letters found just below the 1992 "SEREX" letters and also possibly in 1973 photography. The "USA" letters were photographed over Laos in late 1988 and early 1989.

Examples in the table below include perjury before the Senate Select POW/MIA Committee (SSC), lies intended to prevent an investigation by the House Intelligence Committee, and lies to the press. Quotes are represented by Italics. The POW/MIA office is the source of correspondence unless otherwise noted.

SEREX

October 8, 1992 Deposition of Air Force JSSA Deputy Chief Robert Dussault before the SSC: . . . very clearly to me there was the name S-E-R-E-X.

August 29, 1994, to the chairman House Intelligence: the individual who identified the symbol he thought was made by Major Serex never identified the letters "SEREX." He identified what he thought was "SER." Only after examining an alphabetically arranged listing of missing Americans did he match "SER" to "SEREX."

December 6, 1994 to Star Tribune: No member of the Defense Department has ever observed the word "SEREX" on any satellite imagery or photography maintained by the US government.

October 10, 1996 to Wellstone: Mr. Dussault testified before Congress that he had observed the letters "SEREX" on satellite imagery. Mr. Dussault is not a professional imagery analyst; he was testifying as a Department of Defense employee.

TA

October 15, 1992 Andrews sworn testimony to Senate: The first symbol of interest is a 1973 TH. This symbol was imaged on May 20, 1973 and again on July 10, 1973 on the Plain of Jars in Laos . . . It has been interpreted as either a 1573 or 1973 and either TA or TH. None of the four possible combination of these symbols correlate to a classic distress symbol or to the escape and evasion symbols that our crews were trained to use.

December 6, 1994 to Star Tribune: To our knowledge, the letters "TA" were never used as an official evasion and escape symbol during the war in Southeast Asia.

January 6, 1995 letter from Air Force JSSA: According to PACOM documents covering the Vietnam war period, GX and TA were issued as classified E&E coded letter pair distress symbols.

May 1, 1996 to Wellstone: No one questions the fact that T and A, along with many letters of the alphabet were used during the Vietnam War as evader symbols.

October 10, 1996 to Wellstone: Available records from the period indicate the combination of "T" as the primary evasion and escape (E&E) letter and "A" as the backup E&E letter were used from October 1972 to 10 April 1973.

GX2527

December 6, 1994 to Star Tribune: The combination of letters and numbers in the so-called "GX2527" symbol is not a valid evader symbol.

January 6, 1995 letter from Air Force JSSA: According to PACOM documents covering the Vietnam war period, GX and TA were issued as classified E&E coded letter pair distress symbols.

August 1995 POW/MIA office report provided to Wellstone: The letters "GX" have no known correlation to any American missing in Southeast Asia." and "Additionally, the combination GX2527" is not a valid evader symbol.

May 1, 1996 to Wellstone: Whether the alleged symbol "GX2527" is a valid E&E symbol is not relevant . . .

October 10, 1996 to Wellstone: Accordingly to the JSSA, available records from the period indicate the combination of "G" as the primary E&E letter and "X" as the backup E&E letter were employed during September 1971. The loss incident of the individual linked to these letters had occurred almost two years before.

USA

December 6, 1988 CIA analysis: The letters form water filled depressions in the otherwise dry fields.

December 6, 1994 to Wellstone: The "USA" and "KO" symbols referred to in the Star Tribune article were created by two Lao youths who shaped the letters out of rice straw they set ablaze.

May 1, 1996 to Wellstone: When imagery analyst first reviewed the photography containing "USA, their initial analytic findings was that the letters were depressions that when filled with water would form the dark images observed on the imagery. They based their initial analytic finding on the basis that since the surrounding rice field was much lighter in color, the darkness of the letters was probably caused by water filled depressions. This initial photographic analysis was in error.

October 10, 1996 Same as May, 1996 statement.

EXAMINATION OF ABOVE STATEMENTS

These are only examples—the POW/MIA office commonly changes stories. True statements were obtained by confronting the POW/MIA office with declassified documents. Confrontation with irrefutable documents sometimes works. However, in the case of "GX2527" POW/MIA officials still try to discredit the validity of these symbols. This is not hard to understand, given that no one with any common sense can believe the official government story that vegetation and shadows created a classified six-character valid distress symbol. Despite years of challenges, and numerous promises from DPMO officials to provided documentation, not one document has been provided to support the DPMO position that "GX2527" is not a valid evader symbol.

Discussion of SEREX. In response to a story in the Star Tribune that stated that

the Air Force JSSA deputy chief saw the letters SEREX, the head of the POW/MIA office (General Wold) wrote the Star Tribune claiming no Defense Department employee ever saw the letters "SEREX." In October 1996 the POW/MIA office confessed their statement was false. The only excuse for this offered is a vague statement open to many interpretations. DPMO has refused to elaborate.

The August 29, 1994 statement by the POW/MIA office to the head of the House Intelligence committee is a pure fabrication—with invented details to give it apparent credibility. This is an outrageous attempt to obstruct justice and prevent a potential investigation by the House Intelligence Committee. No excuse for this statement has been forthcoming by the POW/MIA office to date.

Discussion of TA. The POW/MIA office now confesses that the letters "TA" were used during the war as E&E codes. Their office previously claimed to the best of their knowledge they were not. It turns out the codes were not used just for one month, but from October 1972 to April 10, 1973!

Note the previous dates relate to May 1973 symbols discussed in the October 15, 1992 testimony of Assistant Secretary of Defense Duane Andrews. Andrews was sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and did not do so. Had the Senate Select POW/MIA committee been told that TA were active escape and evasion symbols for those missing from October 1972 to April 10, 1973, they may have concluded that the symbols photographed in May 1973 were made by an American. Again, the government is entitled to take any position it desires. However, the law does not allow government officials to lie, mislead, or conceal information to support their position. Doing so under sworn oath is called "perjury."

Discussion of GX2527. The POW/MIA office has been confronted with the statement from the SSC final report: "This consultant had detected, with '100 percent confidence' a faint 'GX2527' in a photograph of a prison facility in Vietnam taken in June, 1992. This number correlates to the primary and backup distress symbols and authenticator number of a pilot lost in Laos in 1969." Their office has also been confronted with expert testimony from the Air Force JSSA stating GX2527 is a valid pilot distress symbol. JSSA is the very agency that teaches pilots the rescue symbols. The POW/MIA office on one occasion said whether GX2527 is a valid distress symbol is not relevant. They still have not admitted GX2527 is a valid distress symbol, indeed, they often deny it.

On a second point, the POW/MIA office previously stated "The letters 'GX' have no known correlation to any American missing Southeast Asia." They now say GX were valid for the months of September, 1971 and point out this is two years after MIA Peter Matthes was shot down. Clearly, they lied when they said GX correlated to no known missing American—there are multiple Americans missing in September 1971. The POW/MIA office has refused to respond to numerous inquiries asking what rescue letters they claim were valid for November 1969.

Discussion of USA. The POW/MIA office, the same office that has refused to follow recommendations of the SSC regarding imagery because they say they are so positive of their findings, now claims an imagery analyst made a mistake. It stretches the imagination to believe an imagery analyst could not tell land from water. The POW/MIA office claims new analysis showed the unnamed imagery analyst was mistaken. Yet in my FOIA request, which asked for all documents relating to the USA letters, I received not one document to support the POW/MIA office's latest story.

REFERENCES

December 6, 1988—CIA analysis of USA letters, provided by DPMO in FOIA request.

October 15, 1992—statement to SSC from Assistant Secretary Defense Duane Andrews.

August 29, 1994—POW/MIA office letter to House Intelligence Committee Chairman.

December 6, 1994—letter from General James Wold to Minneapolis Star Tribune.

August 1995—POW/MIA office report "Satellite imagery and Ground Distress Symbols."

May 1, 1996—letter from POW/MIA office to Senator Wellstone.

October 10, 1996—letter from POW/MIA office to Senator Wellstone.●

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL CHARLES R. LARSON, UNITED STATES NAVY

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding naval officer and dear friend, Admiral Charles R. Larson. It is an honor and a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and to commend him for the superb service he has provided the United States Navy and our great nation during a truly distinguished military career. Admiral Larson's achievements over his 40-year career are unparalleled in our modern Navy. In addition to being a superb naval officer and my well-respected classmate at the United States Naval Academy, Admiral Larson was the youngest officer in the history of our Navy to be promoted to Admiral. Upon retirement in June, he will have served in 11 positions spanning more than 19 years as a flag officer.

Admiral Charles R. Larson assumed duties as the 55th Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy on 1 August 1994. Prior to his arrival, Admiral Lawson served from March 1991–July 1994 as Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command (CINCPAC) located in Honolulu, Hawaii. As the senior U.S. military commander in the Pacific and Indian Ocean areas, he led the largest of the unified commands and directed all Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force operations across 103 million square miles—more than 50 percent of the Earth's surface. In his position as Commander of CINCPAC, Admiral Larson had primary responsibility for 350,000 personnel and the readiness of all U.S. forces in the theater, and was accountable to the President and the Secretary of the Defense. He was also the U.S. Military representative for collective defense arrangements in the Pacific and worked with 44 countries in the Pacific Rim.

Admiral Larson was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. A graduate of North High School in Omaha, Nebraska, he graduated from the United States Naval Academy with distinction in 1958. After being commissioned in the U.S. Navy, he reported to flight training in Pensacola, Florida, and was designated a naval aviator in May 1960. He then reported to Attack Squadron 176, where he flew missions from the aircraft carrier USS *Shangri-La* (CVA 38).

In April 1963, he volunteered and was accepted for nuclear power training. Upon completion, he served in two fleet ballistic submarines, USS *Nathan Hale* and USS *Nathanael Greene*, before reporting as executive officer of the nuclear-powered attack submarine USS *Bergal*.

Admiral Larson was the first naval officer selected as a White House Fellow, serving in 1968 as Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior. From January 1969 to April 1971, he served as Naval Aide to the President of the United States. He reported back to sea duty as executive officer of the nuclear-powered submarine USS *Sculpin*. From August 1973 to July 1976, he served as commanding officer of the nuclear submarine USS *Halibut*. In August 1976, Admiral Larson assumed duties as Commander, Submarine Development Group ONE, in San Diego, California. In this assignment, he headed the Navy's worldwide deep submergence program with a variety of submarines, surface ships, deep submersibles, and diving systems under his command.

As a Flag Officer, Admiral Larson has served in nine assignments both ashore and afloat subsequent to his promotion to Rear Admiral in March 1979. These include: Director of the Strategic Submarine Division and Trident Coordinator on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations; Director, Long Range Planning Group, an organization he established to assist the Chief of Naval Operations identify and prioritize long-range Naval objectives for planning the Navy of the early 21st century; Commander, Submarine Group EIGHT; Commander, Area Anti-Submarine Warfare Forces, SIXTH Fleet; and Commander, Submarines Mediterranean (NATO) in Naples, Italy.

From August 1983 to August 1986, he served as the 51st Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy. In August 1986, Admiral Larson was promoted to Vice Admiral prior to reporting as Commander, Striking Fleet Atlantic/Commander, SECOND FLEET. In August 1988, he reported as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Plans, Policy and Operations.

Admiral Larson was promoted to four-star rank in February 1990 upon being assigned as Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet the Navy component commander in the Pacific theater. After one year in this position, Admiral Larson was nominated by the President and assumed duties as Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command.

Admiral Larson's decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, six Navy Distinguished Service Medals, three Legions of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, and Navy Achievement Medal.

For the past four years, Admiral Larson has served as the 55th Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy. Admiral Larson was asked to assume the duties as Superintendent to