

POW-MIA – Chairman, George Whitfield

Hegseth Honors Nation's POW/MIAs

By Matthew Olay Pentagon News

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth today (September 19, 2025) paid tribute to the U.S. military's prisoners of war and personnel missing in action during a ceremony commemorating National POW/MIA Recognition Day on the Pentagon's River Parade Field.

Hegseth, who was joined by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George, began his remarks by taking a moment to remember the nation's former POWs, as well as to recognize retired Navy Rear Adm. Robert Shumaker, a former POW who coined the term "Hanoi Hilton" for North Vietnam's notorious Hỏa Lò Prison, and who attended the morning ceremony.

"Thank you, admiral. I hope someday my kids and grandkids come to understand what that would take; the sheer courage [and] fortitude it would take," Hegseth said of Shumaker's resilience while in captivity.

Courtesy of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency