

# DDC/DDSP POW/MIA Recognition Day

As installation personnel and guests attending the POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony in New Cumberland, PA began to gather at the memorial site across from Building 81, the fog started to lift. This year the annual ceremony dedicated to the memory of beloved soldiers, sailors, and airmen who were captured or reported missing during war, presented an opportunity to recognize, too, America's most recent losses.



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*The 4th US Marine Corps Recruiting Command during POW/MIA Day.*



The 4th USMC Recruiting and USA Recruiting units stood side-by-side in formation. Family members of POW/MIA LTC Ernst P. Kiefel, Jr., missing since 1966, were special guests. As the DDC Commander, BG Pillsbury and his wife took their seats, the Depot Singers under the direction of Sharon Heiner, led the more than 150 attendees in "God Bless America".

The DDSP Riggers Color Guard posted the colors as Nicholas Cekovich sang "The Star Spangled Banner." Master of Ceremonies, Captain Hugh Davis, USA, called on Chaplain Theodore Bowers USNR Ret to the stage; the sun broke through the clouds as he lead everyone in a moment of silence for the victims of the September 11th terrorist attack. DDSP Commander Captain Chris McKelvey, USN, shared how he and



↑ *The DDSP Riggers Color Guard post the colors.*

his wife were in Germany when the attack occurred. They were moved by the surrounding outpouring of support to themselves and toward America. Keynote speaker, Rev. Grover G. DeVault, USA Retired Chaplain, explained how he had been part of Northern Command I Corp Mortuary Unit and 95th Evacuation Medication Unit in Vietnam. When fellow chaplain and close friend was killed on the way to visit him at the unit, it intensified his admiration for

those who recovered and processed the bodies of the fallen. He conveyed the importance of physical and emotional closure



to the deaths of loved ones.

CAPT McKelvey and Mary Schimmel from American Legion Post 143 dedicated a wreath, as they stood in respect, a 21 gun salute was fired by the 193rd Special Operations Wing Honor Guard, whose members were planning to deploy that weekend. Taps fol-



lowed, played by bugler and member of the PA Air National Guard, William "Bill" Davey. Just before the retiring of the colors, Rodney Owens stepped through the crowd playing "Amazing Grace" on his bagpipe. The music faded slowly as he walked off in the distance. The ceremony drew to an end but the memory of those missing are never to be forgotten.



↑ *Rodney Owens playing Amazing Grace (left).*



↑ *The Pennsylvania Air National Guard 193rd Special Operations Wing Honor Guard fired the 21 gun salute (right).*