

## Fallen / Missing in Action Table

The table you see here is set for those fallen and missing in action who cannot be with us tonight. Let us reflect upon the number of missing in action...more than 89,000 since WWII. We stand with and honor each and every one of them here tonight.

Their table is smaller than the others in the hall - symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his oppressors.

The table is round- because our concern for them will never end.

Five service caps are placed on the table - one from each of our armed services who have served in our nation's conflicts.

The tablecloth is white - reflecting the purity of their motives when answering their country's call to arms.

There is a single red rose - reminding us of the lives of each of the missing and their loved ones and friends who keep the faith.

The vase is tied with a red ribbon - representing the love of country that inspired them to answer our nation's call.

There is a yellow candle tied with a yellow ribbon- showing our everlasting hope for a joyous reunion with those not yet accounted for.

A slice of lemon rests on the bread plate-depicting the bitter fate of those captured or missing in a far away, foreign land.

A pinch of salt lies on the bread plate-symbolizing the tears shed by their families.

A black napkin is on the table- standing for the emptiness these warriors have left in the hearts of their families and friends.

The wine glass is inverted - reminding us that our comrades cannot join us in our toasts this evening.

A Holy Scripture rests on the table - symbolizing our faith in a higher power and the pledge to our country, founded as one nation under God.

The American Flag is present - we mourn the fact that many of our comrades will not return to our shores, and we pay tribute to their passing.

And finally, the chair is empty – our comrades cannot join us at our festivities tonight. They are missing.