The purpose of this vigil is to honor all who fought, died or are unaccounted for as a result of military action in Vietnam. TET '68, Inc., recognizes that citizens of good will and patriotism hold divergent opinions on the question of POW/MIA’s who remain alive yet alive in captivity. It is the official position of TET '68, Inc., to insist upon a full accounting of these men.

*Mr. William Kirkland* is the President of TET '68, Inc., a non-profit veteran’s organization founded in 1986. He served with D Co. 3rd Bde, 4th Inf Div - "None Better" - U. S. Army.

*The Rev. Dr. Donald D. Denton* is a Presbyterian minister serving with the Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care. He served with 1st Radio Battalion, First Marine Division, 1968-69. He is a life member of the First Marine Division Association.

*Manchester High School JROTC* is serving as our color guard. Sgt. Major William Wilderman, (USA Ret) is their sponsor.

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A Vigil of Remembering

In the Season of Epiphany January 31, 2003

Prelude
Patriotic and Religious Selections

Presentation of the Colors Manchester High School, JROTC

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem

Words of Welcome Rev. Donald D. Denton

Recognition of Guests Mr. William Kirkland

Remarks by Guests

Litany of Remembering

Liturgist: Mighty and Everlasting God, tonight we remember our absent comrades! Their eyes are burned into our hearts. Their names echo in our ears. We honor their sacrifices for this nation and her people. We remember our debt to them.

People: Mighty Creator: our comrades served this land with the strength of their youth. They gave up their future so that others could walk in freedom’s light. They liberated others whose names they did not know.

Liturgist: Everlasting Creator, on this night when we remember the fire of battles, we remember those still unaccounted for. We grieve their absence! Strengthen their families! Bless their children! Encourage all who work for a full accounting. We ask Thy blessing upon those still deployed in harm’s way.

Scripture Zephaniah 3:17-20; Philippians 2:2-4

Message These Are the Best and the Brightest

Ceremony of the Table

Litany of the States (Please ‘sound off’ the number opposite from your home state when it is read)

Benediction

Taps

At the end of the Vietnam War, there were 2,585 unaccounted for American prisoners, missing in action or killed in action/body not recovered. As of December 19, 2002, 1,891 Americans are still missing and unaccounted for, over 90% of them in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia where Vietnamese forces operated during the war. The names of the most recent Americans accounted for have not yet been released. Their remains were recovered during several US-Lao joint operations, the latest in February of this year, and they were officially identified on December 11th.

Unaccounted For Americans From The Vietnam War

By Home State
Alabama — 36
Alaska — 2
Arizona — 20
Arkansas — 21
California — 191
Colorado — 31
Connecticut — 31
Delaware — 4
District of Columbia — 9
Florida — 64
Georgia — 35
Hawaii — 8
Idaho — 10
Illinois — 75
Indiana — 60
Iowa — 31
Kansas — 33
Kentucky — 15
Louisiana — 25
Maine — 14
Maryland — 27
Massachusetts — 44
Michigan — 60
Minnesota — 38
Mississippi — 13
Missouri — 39
Montana — 20
Nebraska — 19
Nevada — 8
New Hampshire — 8
New Jersey — 52
New Mexico — 13
New York — 132
North Carolina — 44
North Dakota — 12
Ohio — 91
Oklahoma — 41
Oregon — 40
Pennsylvania — 101
Rhode Island — 8
South Carolina — 30
South Dakota — 7
Tennessee — 34
Texas — 130
Utah — 16
Vermont — 5
Virginia — 49
Washington — 47
West Virginia — 19
Wisconsin — 33
Wyoming — 5
Puerto Rico — 1
Virgin Islands — 1
Canada & Civilians — 11

Total — 1,891 (source: National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia)