

# POW/MIA Missing Man Table

A place setting for one, a table for all. The tradition of setting a separate table in honor of our prisoners of war and missing comrades has been in place since the end of the Vietnam War. The manner in which this table is decorated is full of special symbols to help us remember our brothers and sisters in arms.

The POW/MIA table is separate from others and can be set for one to four place settings to represent each service participating in the event.

*The table is smaller than the others*  
symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his or her oppressors.

*The white tablecloth*  
draped over the table represents the purity of their response to our country's call to arms.

*The empty chair*  
depicts an unknown face, representing no specific Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine, but all who are not here with us.

*The round table*  
shows that our concern for them is never ending.

*The Bible*  
represents faith in a higher power and the pledge to our country, founded as one nation under God.

*The black napkin*  
stands for the emptiness these warriors have left in the hearts of their families and friends, A Purple Heart medal can be pinned to the napkin.

*The single red rose*  
reminds us of their families and loved ones.  
The red ribbon represents the love of our country,  
which inspired them to answer the nations call.

*The yellow candle and its ribbon*  
symbolizes the everlasting hope for a joyous reunion  
with those yet accounted for.

*The slices of lemon*  
on the bread plate remind us of their  
bitter fate.

*The salt upon the bread plate*  
represents the tears of their families.

*The inverted wine glass*  
reminds us that our distinguished  
comrades cannot be with us to drink  
a toast or join in the festivities  
of the evening.

