

INTRODUCTION (March 25, 2006)

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Background: While in Hanoi, NAM-POWs would often argue vehemently with each other over minor points, statistics, facts, sports, and general knowledge. We all had to rely on our memories as we were denied access to written material. We lovingly referred to the points in our spurious arguments as “Hanoi Facts,” because they could not be substantiated. A lot of our fiercely defended Hanoi Facts just weren’t factual. Many Hanoi bets were paid off when we got home in early 1973.

In 1998 I became the Secretary-Treasurer, then the President of NAM-POWs for two terms. I was often on the hot spot to investigate, consolidate, and provide answers to many interested parties including the press and fellow POWs. I worked closely with Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) to establish an exact and factual data base concerning the 801 POWs who returned alive from the Vietnam War. Rather than discard the answers I dug up, I saved them for future reference. I called my various papers “Mac’s Facts.” At last, I put to rest Hanoi Facts and we can now rely on verifiable facts concerning POWs during the Vietnam War.

Many of my facts and statistics were condensed on pages 152-165 for the book, Open Doors—Vietnam POWs Thirty Years Later. In my penchant for precision, I will note that there is one error in Open Doors. Immediately after publication of Open Doors (December 2005), sure enough DPMO determined that Mr. Veto Baker was to be reclassified from “POW” to “AWOL/DESERTER/ COLLABORATOR-RETURNED.” There are now 801 Defense Department of Defense recognized POWs vice the previous number of 802. Yes, that’s another “Mac’s Fact.”

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“MAC FACTS” BY CAPTAIN JOHN M. McGRATH, USN (RETIRED)

If I am in error in any manner with my Facts, please contact me and I will correct the record. It helps to have “proof” to convince me to change the record. I can prove my points. Can you? You can contact me at: [mmcgrath62@comcast.net](mailto:mmcgrath62@comcast.net). Thank You.

Captain John M. McGrath, USN (Ret)

POW 5 years 8 months in North Vietnam

Historian, NAM-POWs Corporation

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