Boise Valley POW/MIA Corporation
P.O. Box 413
Meridian, Idaho 83680
www.bvpowmia.org

History of Boise Valley POW/MIA Corporation

POW/MIA Corporation History in Idaho:
The Pocatello POW/MIA Awareness Rally Association was established in 2001 by a few Vietnam Veterans and local patriots that wanted to find answers for those who served in Vietnam and never came home. The concept of the Association was to bring public awareness to the POW/MIA issue and raise funds to assist the National League of POW/MIA Families in Washington DC. This was being accomplished by an annual motorcycle rodeo at the Power County Fairgrounds in American Falls, Idaho. The event was held the last weekend in July each year.

Pocatello POW/MIA quickly grew and just completed the 4th Annual POW/MIA Awareness Rally in the summer of 2004. The event had quickly outgrown the Power County Fairgrounds, and plans were to move the 5th Annual POW/MIA Awareness Rally to the Bannock County Fairgrounds in Pocatello, ID the summer of 2005. Initial contact was made with other areas in the state to build public awareness and bring the POW/MIA issue to the forefront.

Boise Valley POW/MIA Concept:
The initial concept of establishing a Boise POW/MIA group was brought up, as there were a handful of Boise area veterans that were wearing POW/MIA patches (full 12”). These members were always in attendance at the annual Pocatello POW/MIA Awareness Rally and Motorcycle Rodeo, some dating back to the first annual Motorcycle Rodeo in July of 2001 in American Falls, ID.

These Boise area veterans would meet every Wednesday at The White Water Saloon in Meridian, ID to enjoy each other’s company and the brotherhood that veterans share. Most of the veterans owned and rode Harley Davidson Motorcycles, so soon they were sharing the roads together and meeting once a week. Some of the first informal Boise Valley POW/MIA Patch In’s were conducted at the White Water Saloon by Jack Harp. Some of these original members would later become the founders of the Boise Valley POW/MIA. Examples of local veterans that were wearing the POW/MIA patch were Jack Harp, Dennis Bailey, Dino Glascock, “Digger” Dave Ferrera, Geno Mills, Jeff and Gerald Steele, Robert Dennis and Tom Henderson to name a few.

Start of the Boise Valley POW/MIA Corporation:
Initial liaison to Pocatello POW/MIA for the Boise area was Jack Harp. Jack was later approached by the newly formed POW/MIA Corporation of Pocatello in 2002 asking him to be a liaison to the Pocatello group for the south west part of Idaho to include the Treasure Valley. Jack served in this capacity from 2002-2005. He was later approached by Pocatello POW/MIA asking him to form a corporation in the Boise area. Jack gladly accepted the newly appointed position as the first Executive Director of the Boise Valley POW/MIA Corporation in the winter of 2005.

The Boise Valley POW/MIA Corporation was officially formed in March of 2006. Bylaws were created with help of the sister corporation from Pocatello. All applicable paperwork was filed with the State of Idaho and IRS to gain a 501(c)(3) status and a

local nonprofit organization. Boise Valley POW/MIA was incorporated in April 2006 with the first General Meeting being held on May 20, 2006 at Big Daddy Toys in Meridian, ID. Initial address of the corporation was setup at Jack's Harp's home of record in Meridian, ID. The corporation record of business was later amended to P.O Box 413, Meridian, ID.

Mission Statement:
The original draft of the Boise Valley POW/MIA Mission Statement of April 2006 remains the current Mission Statement of the Boise Valley POW/MIA Corporation today. The Mission Statement reads as follows:

The Boise Valley POW/MIA Corporation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the public Awareness of **the Prisoner Of War/ Missing In Action** issue. We reflect the highest possible personal and professional standards associated with this organization and are guided and directed by the **National League of POW/MIA Families** in Washington D.C.

Our goals are to:

- To increase public awareness and build support for POW/MIA Issue.
- Acquire funding to disperse to the National League of POW/MIA Families and to the Veterans that reside at the Idaho State Veterans Home in Boise, Idaho.
- Celebrate the camaraderie of Veterans and Patriots alike and to enjoy the Spirit of Freedom and Patriotism we are afforded as Americans.
- Conduct a safe professional environment for all our Members, Brother and Sisters and guests at any of our events.

Original Charter Board Members:
Executive Director: Jack Harp
Executive Officer: Dennis Bailey
Chaplin: Mike Bachmann
Flags and Equipment Chairman: Tom Henderson
Photographer: Robert Dennis
Public Relations Officer: Michelle Audette
Secretary: Celeste Vialet
Sergeant At Arms: Dino Glascock
Treasurer: Debbie Bachmann

Seal:
The seal of the corporation was created by Boise Valley POW/MIA member Tom Young. Jack asked Tom to create a seal for the corporation as he knew Tom was a great artist. The seal was later amended to also become the Boise Valley POW/MIA member patch.

Initial Exposure:
Some of the initial events that put Boise Valley POW/MIA on the map were the Parade American in Nampa, laying of a POW/MIA Wreath at the ISVC on Memorial Day, participation in the Boise Veterans Day Parade, and Flag lines for local KIA's from Iraq and Afghanistan on the Global War on Terrorism.

Jack Harp created a fallen solider memorial tribute that has since been requested at the grave sites of our local fallen heroes. This memorial was one of the distinct things that Boise Valley POW/MIA was quickly known and recognized for. One of the most

striking memorials was Jack's era specific 3 rifle fallen solider memorial that was setup at the Idaho Veterans Cemetery during the annual Memorial Day Ceremony. This memorial has three rifles and era specific gear to remember our fallen from all conflicts (three memorials represented WWII/Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm/Global War on Terrorism).

Initial flag lines were done at all funerals with the request of the families. In the early days, the flag lines were setup on entry road coming up to the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery. With help of Sergeant At Arms Dino Glascock, Boise Valley POW/MIA has established a protocol for flag lines and formal ceremonies inside the cemetery. Initial flag lines were done by BV POW/MIA members only.

Ongoing Missions:
The Sweet Ride/Silent Auction and BBQ is an annual event held the last Sunday in April in Sweet, ID. This event is held to raise funds to disperse to the National League of POW/MIA Families in Washington DC.

Chrome At The Home is an annual event held the forth week in September at the Idaho State Veterans Home. This event is a Motorcycle Show and Silent Auction to benefit the Idaho State Veterans Home in Boise, ID.

Memorial Day Ceremony at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery, the Boise Valley POW/MIA Corporation has helped every year in the planning and conducting of the memorial service at the cemetery.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is held the third Friday in September. The Boise Valley POW/MIA Corporation has made a habit of performing the "Missing Man Table Ceremony" at public venues around town on this day to bring awareness to the POW/MIA situation.

POW/MIA Awareness Booth is a canopy that is dedicated to the Idaho 12. The booth displays photos and information on the 12 Idaho Veterans who were missing at the end of the Vietnam War. It also has information on the Idaho missing from the Korean War and WWII. It is setup and displayed at various events around the valley.

Boise Valley POW/MIA has established a great working relationship with Idaho Patriot Guards Riders (PGR) to do joint flag lines at all requested missions inside on the grounds of the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery. Over the years the BV POW/MIA and PGR have established a joint flag line that is very impressive and shows respect to our fallen heroes and their families.

Accomplishments:

- Governor signed proclamation to fly POW/MIA flag over every state building in Idaho.
- Boise Valley POW/MIA granite bench inside the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery.
- Flag line for Medal Of Honor Recipient Ed Freeman's memorial service.
- Flag line for Idaho POW/MIA Jesse Donald Phelps memorial service.
- Presented Idaho State Veterans Home with POW/MIA flag and mission certificate flown by an A10 in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

- Invited guest speaker Ann Mills Griffith (Director National League of POW/MIA Families) guest speaker at 2009 BV POW/MIA Motorcycle Rodeo.

- Hosted the 2009 Veterans Day Program at the Idaho State Veterans Home.

- Flag lines for all KIA service members from Treasure Valley to include services in the Magic Valley and Montana.

- Flag lines to welcome home Idaho's 116th CCB and 183rd Aviation Bn from Iraq and Afghanistan.

- Participation in 2009, 2010 and 2011 Bowe Bergdahl Prayer Ride to Hailey, ID.

- Participation in Idaho Global War On Terrorism Memorial in downtown Boise, ID

- POW/MIA flag presented to Idaho State Veterans Home on Veterans Day 2011 flown in Operation Iraqi Freedom with Idaho's 116th Combat Brigade.

- Helped in the establishment of the 911 Memorial in downtown Boise.

- Establishment of the POW/MIA Memorial Highway from the western Idaho border on US Highway 26 to the eastern Idaho border. This is a continuation of the memorial highway from the Pacific coast of US Highway 26.

Revision Date: 06 FEB 2012