



The POW/MIA or Missing Comrade 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 Viet Nam War. The purpose of the table is to serve as a reminder to the nation of the sacrifices of those who have not returned.

Table elements and their meanings

- ♦ **Small table:** Represents the frailty of one prisoner in the face of their oppressors.
- ♦ **White tablecloth:** Symbolizes the purity of the service members' intentions to answer their country's call.
- ♦ **Single rose in a vase:** Represents the blood shed for freedom and the loved ones who keep faith while awaiting return.
- ♦ **Yellow ribbon on the vase:** Signifies the unyielding determination for a proper accounting of the missing.
- ♦ **Slice of lemon on a plate:** Represents their bitter fate.
- ♦ **Salt sprinkled on the plate:** Symbolizes the countless tears of the families who await their return.
- ♦ **Inverted wine glass:** Indicates that our comrades cannot be with us to drink a toast.
- ♦ **Empty chair:** Represents that the service member is not there.
- ♦ **Candle:** Represents the light of hope that illuminates their way home.
- ♦ **American flag:** Reminds us that some may have made the ultimate sacrifice.

