





"No Higher Honor"

In an effort to curb British sea control, the Continental Congress established the Continental Navy, which later became the United States Navy, on October 13, 1775. When the Continental Navy was initially formed it consisted of only two armed vessels that were tasked with disrupting munition ships supplying the British Army in America. Over the past nearly two and half centuries, the Navy has grown to become the largest, most advanced and most lethal fighting force the world has ever known.

In 1972, Chief of Naval Operations Zumwalt designated October 13 as the Navy's official birthday in order to "enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service."

The theme of this year's 244th Birthday is "No Higher Honor," derived from a quote by LCDR Robert Copeland, Commanding Officer of WWII destroyer USS Samuel B. Roberts (DE-413), which was sunk off Samar by Japanese forces in October 1944 during the most dramatic naval engagement of the Leyte campaign. The 75th anniversary of the Battle of Leyte Gulf is this year. "No Higher Honor" links today's Sailors with those who have gone before them, who have stood the watch and served with honor, courage, and commitment, since the establishment of our Navy in 1775.



In Honor of our POWs/MIAs

The table is round - to show our everlasting concern for
our missing comrades.

The tablecloth is white - symbolizing the purity of their motives
when answering the call to duty.

The single red rose is displayed in a vase - to remind us of the life of
each of the missing and their loved ones
and friends who keep the faith, awaiting answers.

The vase is tied with a red ribbon - a symbol of our continued
determination to account for our missing.

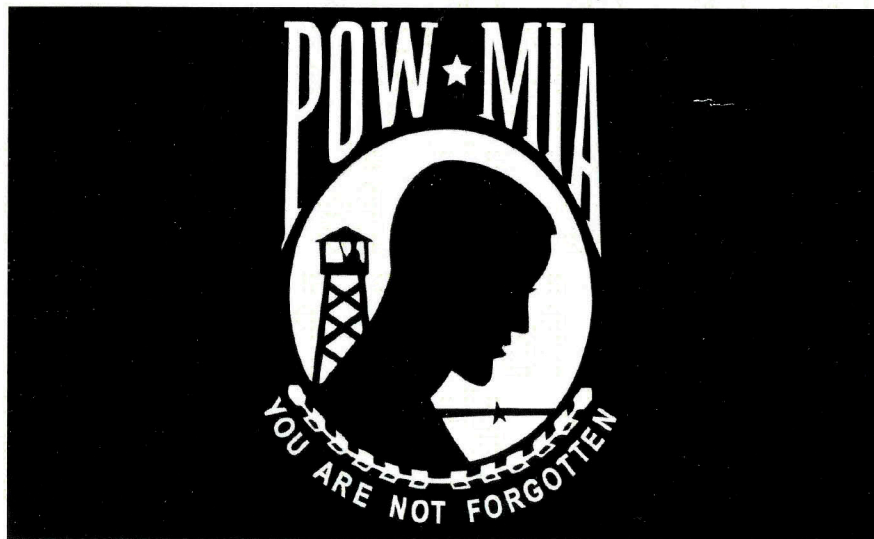
A slice of lemon on the bread plate - to remind us of the bitter fate of
those captured and missing in a foreign land.

A pinch of salt - to symbolize the tears endured by those missing
and their families who seek answers.

The Bible - to represent the strength gained through faith to sustain
those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.

The glass is inverted - to symbolize their inability to share
this evening's toast.

The chair is empty - they are missing.



Eva Garcia

Founder & President, The Spanish Legacy in the U.S.



Eva Garcia has over 20 years of International experience, over 10 years of experience in communications, public and military protocol, and institutional relationships, specifically in the area of Defense and Security.

Since 2010, she has worked for Indra, a company in the global defense and security sector, where she is responsible for Institutional Relationships in the Defense and Security Business Unit with a strong

focus on the Spanish Armed Forces,

She is the founder and president of the Spanish Legacy in the United States of America. The Legacy is dedicated to bringing attention to the significance of Spain's historical and cultural contributions to the United States, in order to encourage and promote ties between the two countries based upon the cherished relationship that existed even before the United States became an independent country.

The Legacy focuses on teaching about the importance of knowing our past and the strong ties that have united us, through the recovery and study of Spanish history and its contributions to the United States of America, especially those of our military leaders. This historical milestones achieved in the past centuries are the backbone of what we represent today and a legacy of what should be taught and absorbed by current and future generations

Eva also supports the following non-profits: the Cyber Security Forum Initiative, the Navy League of the United States of America, and the Association Bernardo de Galvez y Gallardo, Conde de Galvez, where in May 2015, received the fifth Bernardo de Gálvez award for her excellent contribution to the recovery of the forgotten hero, an effort spearheaded by the Association.
