

AMERICA'S WHITE TABLE CEREMONY



PRESENTED BY

**BOBBI HOROWITZ-RIGG, WOMEN'S ARMY CORP. , AMERICAN LEGION
COUNTY COMMANDER, BURLINGTON COUNTY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF AMVETS, RETIRED**

12 NOON • SUNDAY • MAY 27TH • 2018

DUNKS FERRY

HISTORIC RIVERFRONT PARK • BEVERLY • NJ

A little-known tradition to the outside civilian world, "the white table" originated during the time of the Vietnam War as a symbol for and remembrance to service members held prisoner of war or missing in action. Solitary and solemn, it is the table where no one will ever sit.

It was just a little white table...

To show one soldier's lonely battle against many.

We cover it with a white cloth to honor a soldier's

Pure heart when he answers his country's call to duty.

We place a lemon slice and grains of salt on a plate.

To show a captive soldier's bitter fate and the tears of families

Waiting for loved ones to return.

We push an empty chair to the table

For the missing soldiers who are not here.

We lay a black napkin for the sorrow of captivity,

And turn over a glass for the meal that won't be eaten.

We place a white candle for peace and finally, a red rose

In a vase tied with a red ribbon for the hope that

All our missing will return someday.

It was just a little white table...

Adapted from the Margot Theis Raven's book...America's White Table

The Original Table was set by the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association or "The River Rats" to remember those who did not return.

A TOAST OF WATER TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT RETURNED...

**YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN SO LONG AS THERE IS ONE LEFT IN WHOM YOUR
MEMORY REMAINS.**