

## **Captain Michael Scott Speicher**

On January 17, 1991, the first night of the Gulf War, Lieutenant Commander Michael Scott Speicher was shot down over Iraq. A few hours after the first mission had returned to the ships, Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney held a press conference in Washington. On the basis of one account of a flash in the night sky and 12 hours of radio silence, Secretary Cheney declared Speicher dead. No search efforts were launched and Speicher was officially declared KIA in May of 1991. In 2001 his status was changed from KIA to MIA in part due to an Intelligence Community Assessment stating, "We assess LCDR Speicher was either captured alive or his remains were recovered and brought to Baghdad." In March the Washington Times reported, "...new intelligence has led some Pentagon officials to believe Iraq is holding Cmdr. Speicher prisoner. One U.S. official said the new agent offered to identify the exact location in Baghdad where the American is being held and also offered to obtain a photograph of the prisoner." Captain Speicher deserves to be brought home! He deserves the full efforts of our nation working towards this goal. He deserves people like you and I caring about his fate. He deserves action, not inaction, effort, not merely words!

## **What is the Freedom Ride / Vigil?**

The Freedom Ride and Vigil is about bringing Veterans and their supporters together. This gathering sends a "living postcard" to the public, the media, our state and federal representatives, that truth, dignity, loyalty, and honor are still important. The common goal of all who participate is to bring awareness to the POW/MIA issue and the fact that Americans were knowingly left behind. Together we must fight for the truth to ensure that this never happens again! IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY!

## **Schedule of Events**

6:00pm Bikers gather at Kmart Plaza, Gilford  
Contact **Hugh Besemer 536-1343** for details

6:30 – 7:00pm The Freedom Ride Arrives at Hesky  
Park in Meredith

### **7:00pm The Vigil Begins:**

- Display of 20'x30' POW/MIA Flag
- Guest Speaker, Maj. Patricia Blassie, sister of Michael Blassie, Vietnam War Unknown Soldier
- Performance by the Air Force Band
- State Senate Proclamation presented by Sen. Carl Johnson identifying Hesky Park as "NH POW/MIA Awareness Site"
- Presentation of American and POW/MIA Flags which were flown over the South Pole

**THIS PROGRAM CONTINUES TO BE UPDATED.  
PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR LATEST INFO.  
<http://www.statenh.com/powmianetwork>**