

## Local women want to raise awareness of POW

### Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl is America's only known living war captive

By Nancy Kennedy

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#### How you can help



US Army

Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl

\* Letters addressed to Secretary of State John Kerry can be mailed to: Cynthia Holden, 2719 W. Woodthrus St., Lecanto, FL 34461; or drop them off at Consignment U.S.A. Auto Sales, 644 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River.

\* Mail Christmas cards to: Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, C/O The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500

\* Learn more about U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl on Facebook at Bring Bowe Bergdahl Home.

\* For more information, email Cynthia Holden at [CYN2719@yahoo.com](mailto:CYN2719@yahoo.com).

On June 30, 2009, Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl was reported missing while on duty in Afghanistan.

Since then, the Taliban has released videos showing him in captivity.

In December 2011, he was reported to have escaped his captors, but was recaptured three days later.

Bergdahl, 27, comes from Hailey, Idaho, and his family wants him to come home.

Two local women, Air Force veteran Cynthia Holden and Susan Turner, member of the Marine Corps League 1139, are working to bring awareness to the fact that Bergdahl is an American POW.

Both Holden and Turner said they're appalled that many people either don't know or have forgotten about it and they've joined forces to make sure that the people of Citrus County know and do not forget.

"He could be our son or our brother," Turner said.

Holden, who is active in a variety of veterans-related issues, said local Citrus County residents can help in several ways.

"I'm with Rolling Thunder, and they want a million Christmas cards for Bowe (Bergdahl) sent to the White House to make them aware that we're aware that we have a POW that's been there for four and a half years," she said. "Also, they want a million Christmas cards sent to Bowe directly through the Red Cross."

Also, Holden and Turner are collecting signatures on a letter addressed to Secretary of State John Kerry, urging him to do whatever he can to bring this soldier home.

The letter can be printed out from The Grapevine website at [www.veteransgrapevine.com](http://www.veteransgrapevine.com). Scroll down until you see a flying American flag and the words: Bring Home America's Only Known Living Prisoner of War. Click on it and follow the links.

"People can mail the letters directly to me or drop them off at Consignment U.S.A. Auto Sales," Holden said. "We want to send all these signatures to Idaho — Kerry has a home in Bowe's hometown — so his family can present them to Kerry on his front lawn with all the media present."

Holden and Turner are also hoping to erect a billboard in Citrus County with the message: "Bring Bowe Home."

"We need to have awareness," Holden said. "He is an American soldier — he's one of us and we want him home."

Contact Chronicle reporter Nancy Kennedy at 352-564-2927 or [nkennedy@chronicleonline.com](mailto:nkennedy@chronicleonline.com).