Public Law 102-113
102d Congress

Joint Resolution

Designating September 20, 1991, as "National POW/MIA Recognition Day", and authorizing display of the National League of Families POW/MIA flag.

Oct. 3, 1991
[H.J. Res. 233]

Whereas the United States has fought in many wars, most recently in unprecedented unity with Allied forces in the Persian Gulf War;

Whereas thousands of Americans who served in those wars were captured by the enemy or listed as missing in action;

Whereas many American prisoners of war were subjected to brutal and inhumane treatment by their enemy captors in violation of international codes and customs for the treatment of prisoners of war, and many such prisoners of war died from such treatment;

Whereas many of these Americans are still listed as missing and unaccounted for, and the uncertainty surrounding their fates has caused their families to suffer acute and continuing hardships;

Whereas in section 2 of Public Law 101-355, the Congress officially recognized and designated the National League of Families POW/MIA flag as the symbol of the Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoners of war, missing in action, or unaccounted for in Southeast Asia; and

Whereas the sacrifices of Americans still missing and unaccounted for from all our Nation's wars and their families are deserving of national recognition and support for continued priority efforts to determine the fate of those missing Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF "NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY".

September 20, 1991, is hereby designated as "National POW/MIA Recognition Day", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT TO DISPLAY POW/MIA FLAG AT ALL NATIONAL CEMETERIES, THE NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL, AND CERTAIN FEDERAL BUILDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The POW/MIA flag shall be displayed—

(1) at all national cemeteries and the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial on May 30, 1991 (Memorial Day), September 20, 1991 ("National POW/MIA Recognition Day"), and November 11, 1991 (Veteran's Day), and

(2) on, or on the grounds of, the buildings specified in subsection (b) on September 20, 1991,

as the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing,

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and unaccounted for, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation.

(b) BUILDINGS.—The buildings specified in this subsection are—

(1) the White House, and

(2) the buildings containing the primary offices of the—

(A) Secretary of State,

(B) Secretary of Defense,

(C) Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and

(D) Director of the Selective Service Commission.

(c) PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION.—Within 30 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, the Administrator of General Services shall procure POW/MIA flags and appropriately distribute such flags as are necessary to carry out this joint resolution.

(d) POW/MIA FLAG.—As used in this section, the term "POW/MIA flag" means the National League of Families POW/MIA flag recognized officially and designated by section 2 of Public Law 101-355.

Approved October 3, 1991.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 233 (S.J. Res. 170):

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 137 (1991):

Sept. 16, considered and passed House. S.J. Res. 170 considered and passed Senate.

Sept. 18, H.J. Res. 233 considered and passed Senate.