

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 444

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

Received and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Extending the appreciation of Congress and the Nation to the Department of Defense organizations, military departments, and personnel engaged in the mission to achieve the fullest possible accounting for all Americans unaccounted for as a result of the Nation's wars, to the POW/MIA families and veterans who support the mission, and to foreign nations that assist in the mission.

Whereas the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), an element of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, exercises policy, control and oversight within the Department of Defense of the process of investigation, analysis, recovery, and fullest possible accounting of Americans missing as a result of the Nation's previous wars and conflicts;

Whereas the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), located on the island of Oahu in Hawaii, is charged with the mission of conducting investigations, analysis, recovery, and identifications to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the Nation's wars and conflicts;

Whereas the laboratory portion of that command, referred to as the Central Identification Laboratory, is the largest forensic anthropology laboratory in the world;

Whereas the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL), located in Rockville, Maryland, is one of the leading laboratories in the world for processing degraded skeletal remains and family references for mitochondrial DNA;

Whereas the Air Force Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory (LSEL), located in San Antonio, Texas, houses the most comprehensive technical library and collection of life sciences equipment used by the Armed Forces, to include analysts for artifact identification;

Whereas National POW/MIA Recognition Day is one of the six days specified in section 902 of title 36, United States Code, as days on which the National League of Families POW/MIA flag is to be flown over specified Federal facilities and national cemeteries, post offices, and military installations;

Whereas as of September 15, 2006, the remains of 60 Americans unaccounted for from the Korean War have been recovered, and these remains have been repatriated, identified, and returned to their families;

Whereas as of September 15, 2006, the remains of more than 375 Americans unaccounted for from World War II, the

Cold War, and other conflicts fought by the United States have been recovered throughout the world, and these remains have been repatriated, identified, and returned to their families;

Whereas the improved access of representatives of the United States to information in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the Kingdom of Cambodia has resulted in the recovery and repatriation of the remains of Americans unaccounted for from the Vietnam War;

Whereas as of September 15, 2006, 216 Joint Field Actions have been conducted in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, which has resulted in the recovery of the remains of 841 Americans unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, and these remains have been repatriated, identified, and returned to their families;

Whereas the United States has a historic commitment to the recovery of, and the fullest accounting of, Americans who are missing as a result of the Nation's wars and conflicts; and

Whereas every member of the United States Armed Forces who is unaccounted for as a result of service to the Nation is equally important, regardless of the time or place of the war or conflict: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes that National POW/MIA Rec-
4 ognition Day is one of the six days specified by sec-
5 tion 902 of title 36, United States Code, as days on
6 which the National League of Families POW/MIA

1 flag is to be flown over specified Federal facilities
2 and national cemeteries, military installations, and
3 post offices;

4 (2) applauds the personnel of the Defense
5 POW/Missing Personnel Office, the Joint POW/MIA
6 Accounting Command of the Department of De-
7 fense, the Armed Forces DNA Identification Lab-
8 oratory, the Air Force Life Sciences Equipment
9 Laboratory, and the military departments for con-
10 tinuing their mission of achieving the fullest possible
11 accounting of all Americans unaccounted for as a re-
12 sult of the Nation's previous wars and conflicts;

13 (3) extends its appreciation and the apprecia-
14 tion of the people of the United States to the per-
15 sonnel of those offices, commands, and laboratories
16 in the United States, the Socialist Republic of Viet-
17 nam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the
18 Kingdom of Cambodia for their efforts to achieve
19 the fullest possible accounting of all Americans who
20 remain unaccounted for as a result of the Vietnam
21 War;

22 (4) encourages the United States Government
23 to use all available means to continue the mission
24 described in paragraph (2) at current or greater lev-

1 els until the fullest possible accounting missing
2 Americans is achieved;

3 (5) recognizes that the efforts and involvement
4 of POW/MIA families and veterans contribute sig-
5 nificantly to the fullest possible accounting of miss-
6 ing Americans;

7 (6) recognizes the assistance of host nations in
8 supporting the efforts of the United States Govern-
9 ment to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all
10 Americans unaccounted for as a result of the Na-
11 tion's previous wars and conflicts;

12 (7) extends its appreciation to Vietnam, Laos,
13 and Cambodia for continued assistance and coopera-
14 tion in the humane recovery, repatriation, and iden-
15 tification of the remains of Americas still unac-
16 counted for from the Vietnam War; and

1 (8) encourages all host nations to assist and co-
2 operate in the humane recovery, repatriation, and
3 identification of the remains of Americans unac-
4 counted for as a result of the Nation's previous wars
5 and conflicts.

Passed the House of Representatives September 13,
2006.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.