

108TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 485

Extending the thanks of Congress and the Nation to the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office and the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command of the Department of Defense and to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for their efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans unaccounted for as a result of the Vietnam War.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2004

Mr. SIMMONS (for himself and Mr. EVANS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Extending the thanks of Congress and the Nation to the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office and the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command of the Department of Defense and to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for their efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans unaccounted for as a result of the Vietnam War.

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 entire process for investigation and recovery related to missing persons;

Whereas the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office coordinates for the Department of Defense with other departments and agencies of the United States on all matters concerning missing persons and establishes procedure to be followed by Department of Defense boards of inquiry and by officials reviewing the reports of such boards;

Whereas the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), located on the island of Oahu in Hawaii, was activated on October 1, 2003, as a standing joint task force of the United States Pacific Command with the mission of achieving the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the Nation's previous conflicts;

Whereas the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command was created from the merger of the 30-year-old United States Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii, and the 11-year-old Joint Task Force-Full Accounting;

Whereas the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, commanded by a flag officer, is committed and dedicated to bringing home the Nation's service members and civilians who made the ultimate sacrifice;

Whereas the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command is a 425-member organization comprised of handpicked members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps with specialized skills and Department of the Navy civilians;

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

Whereas National POW/MIA Recognition Day is one of the 6 days specified by law as days on which the POW/MIA

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

Whereas as diplomatic relations of the United States with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have improved, so has access to archival information and on-site investigations relative to unaccounted-for Americans;

Whereas as of July 8, 2004, more than 77 Joint Field Activities have been conducted in Vietnam in hopes of bringing home remains of Americans unaccounted for from the Vietnam War;

Whereas as of July 8, 2004, remains of 503 Americans have been repatriated, identified, and returned to their families across America;

Whereas in June 2004 the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/MIA Affairs met with senior Vietnamese officials to follow-up on proposals made during previous visits;

Whereas during a recent visit Vietnamese officials agreed to allow access to capitol area archives and the return of United States personnel to the Central Highlands;

Whereas Vietnamese officials have allowed United States investigators to conduct nearly 300 oral history interviews with Vietnamese government and military officials; and

Whereas the Department of Defense has reciprocated by allowing Vietnamese officials access to United States records and maps to assist their search for unaccounted for Vietnamese: Now, therefore, be it

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

1 (1) recognizes that National POW/MIA Rec-
2 ognition Day is one of the six days specified by law
3 (pursuant to section 902 of title 36, United States
4 Code) as days on which the POW/MIA flag is to be
5 flown over specified Federal facilities and national
6 cemeteries, military installations, and post offices;

7 (2) applauds the personnel of the Defense
8 POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) and the
9 Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) of
10 the Department of Defense for continuing their mis-
11 sion of achieving the fullest possible accounting of
12 all Americans unaccounted for as a result of the Na-
13 tion's previous conflicts;

14 (3) extends the thanks of the Congress and the
15 Nation to the personnel of that office and command
16 and to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for their ef-
17 forts to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all
18 Americans who remain unaccounted for as a result
19 of the Vietnam War;

20 (4) recognizes and honors the eight Americans
21 and nine Vietnamese who have paid the ultimate
22 price in supporting that full accountability mission,
23 namely Lieutenant Colonel Rennie Cory, Lieutenant
24 Colonel George C. Martin, Major Charles E. Lewis,
25 Captain Richard M. Rees, Chief Hospital Corpsman

1 Pedro J. Gonzales, Master Sergeant Steven L.
2 Moser, Sergeant First Class Tommy J. Murphy,
3 Technical Sergeant Robert M. Flynn, Senior Colonel
4 Tran Van Bien, Mr. Nguyen Thanh Ha, Lieutenant
5 Colonel Nguyen Van Ha, Lieutenant Colonel
6 Nguyen Thanh Son, Major Vu Pham The Kien,
7 Major Nguyen Huu Nham, Lieutenant Giap Thanh
8 Ngan, Lieutenant Dang Ngoc, and Lieutenant
9 Pham Huy Dung;

10 (5) thanks the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for
11 continued assistance and cooperation in the humane
12 recovery, identification, and repatriation of the re-
13 mains of American personnel remaining unaccounted
14 for from the Vietnam era; and

15 (6) recognizes that the efforts and involvement
16 of POW/MIA families contribute significantly to the
17 success of Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command
18 and that that command owes a great deal of grati-
19 tude to the families and veterans who support the
20 mission of that command.

○