

We will miss him terribly.

HONOR OUR POW/MIA'S

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced legislation that requires the flying of the POW/MIA flag, a symbol of the Nation's commitment to service men and women held prisoner or missing, at Federal facilities, including U.S. post offices. The bipartisan bill, H.R. 1161, is in response to a recent incident where South Bay veterans were barred from flying the flag at U.S. post offices in Lomita and Rolling Hills Estates.

There is no doubt that we need to secure a full accounting of the men and women who fought for our Nation's flag and who were captured by the enemy or listed as missing. Having the POW/MIA flag flown at Federal offices and facilities will help us remember the work still to be done for these courageous individuals and their families. One of the individuals leading the effort to have the POW/MIA flag flown prominently around the Nation is David Albert, a councilman in the city of Lomita.

Mr. Speaker, I drafted the bill in response to complaints from Councilman Dave Albert and veterans' groups who were recently denied permission to fly the distinctive black and white flag at a POW/MIA memorial at the Lomita Post Office. A short time later, a POW/MIA flag flying over the post office in Palos Verdes was ordered removed by postal authorities.

The apparent intent of the Postal Services' regulation was to insulate local postmasters from requests to fly flags other than the U.S. flag. When recently asked, Postmaster General Marvin Runyon responded that he saw no need to change the regulations. I'm disappointed by his answer. Postmasters are members of local communities and should be permitted to accommodate requests to fly flags, particularly one like the POW/MIA flag, which Congress has officially recognized as the symbol of our Nation's commitment to those still missing and unaccounted for.

Currently, the POW/MIA flag is required to be flown only at national cemeteries on at most 3 days a year. H.R. 1161, supported by the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, expands the number of Federal sites where the flag will be flown. It also requires that the flag be flown on several specific national holidays associated with patriotism: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, and National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

I thank International Relations Committee Chairman BEN GILMAN, Rules Committee Chairman GERALD SOLOMON, STEVE HORN, JIM RAMSTAD, PETER KING, MIKE McNULTY and TIM HOLDEN for joining me as original cosponsors of this bipartisan bill.

I invite my other colleagues to join as well and I am pleased to share the text of the bill with them.

H.R. 1161

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—
(1) the United States has fought in many wars, and thousands of Americans who served in those wars were captured by the enemy or listed as missing in action;

(2) many of these Americans are still missing and unaccounted for, and the uncertainty surrounding their fates has caused their families to suffer tragic and continuing hardships;

(3) as a symbol of the Nation's concern and commitment to accounting as fully as possible for all Americans still prisoner, missing, or unaccounted for, Congress has officially recognized the National League of Families POW/MIA flag and seeks further to honor those Americans who in future wars may be captured, or listed as missing or unaccounted for; and

(4) the American people observe and honor with appropriate ceremony and activity the third Friday of September each year as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

SEC. 2. DISPLAY.

The POW/MIA flag shall be displayed on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and on the last business day before each of the preceding holidays, on the grounds or in the public lobbies of—

(1) major military installations as designated by the Secretary of Defense;

(2) Federal national cemeteries;

(3) the national Korean War Veterans Memorial;

(4) the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial;

(5) the White House;

(6) the official office of the—

(A) Secretary of State;

(B) Secretary of Defense;

(C) Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

(D) Director of the Selective Service System; and

(7) United States Postal Service post offices.

SEC. 3. REPEAL.

Public Law 102-190 (36 U.S.C. 189 note), relating to display of the POW/MIA flag, is repealed.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS AND DEFINITION.

(a) REGULATIONS.—Within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the agencies or departments responsible for the locations listed in section 2 shall prescribe such regulations as necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(b) DEFINITION.—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.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, the need for water development throughout South Dakota is great. Nothing is more important to the health of ranchers and farmers, and people living in rural areas and small towns than safe drinking water. Access to a quality water supply is absolutely essential. As we approach the 21st century, we should do whatever it takes to guarantee that need is met.

While considerable progress has been made in providing clean and safe drinking

water to residents of my State, much work remains to be done. Fall River County and Perkins County are examples of areas that urgently need to develop new sources of potable water. That is why I am introducing bills today to authorize the construction of the Fall River Water Users District Rural Water System and the Perkins County Rural Water System.

The communities that would be served by both systems are comprised of farmers and ranchers who have had to endure substandard, and at times remote, sources of drinking water. The drinking water available in Fall River County, SD, like the water in much of the rest of the State, is contaminated with high levels of nitrates, sulfates, and dissolved solids. Wells have been known to run dry, due to the high frequency of droughts in the region. Many people currently must haul water, sometimes as much as 60 miles round-trip. Similar problems exist in Perkins County, where much of the drinking water fails to meet minimum public health standards, there by posing a long-term health risk to the citizens of that region.

My first bill would authorize the construction of a system to bring clean water to the residents of Fall River County. I am absolutely committed to continuing to work with the Fall River County Water Users District, the State and the Federal Government to bring a high quality water supply to Fall River County.

Under the second bill I am introducing today, the Perkins County Rural Water System will obtain Missouri River water through the southwest pipeline, which is part of the Garrison Diversion Unit in North Dakota. This is an efficient and cost-effective approach that takes advantage of existing water management infrastructure. Clean, safe drinking water will be provided to about 2,500 people who reside in the towns of Lemmon and Bison, and the surrounding areas.

In my experience as director of the South Dakota Municipal League, I realize the critical role water plays in a community's development. Without a safe and affordable water supply, cities and towns are at a severe disadvantage. Current and future residents need the assurance that this basic, but vital resource will be there. Farm and ranch operators, small businesses, and manufacturers alike depend upon this resource.

The people of Perkins County and Fall River County have gone great lengths to provide for themselves. They do, however, need some assistance in building the infrastructure necessary to supply water. These two bills will supplement those efforts and ensure growth and sustainability for these areas of South Dakota.

It is my hope that my colleagues will join with me in supporting these two pieces of legislation, which will provide safe, clean drinking water to deserving South Dakota families.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO END THE USE OF STEEL JAW
LEGHOLD TRAPS IN THE UNITED
STATES

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced, along with my colleague from Connecticut, CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, legislation to