

as original cosponsors of the Bill. Senator EVAN BAYH of Indiana is also introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

In October 1803, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark first met at the Falls of the Ohio, recruited the first members of the Corps of Discovery and departed for the west from Clarks-ville, Indiana on October 26, 1803.

Our country will begin commemorating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition next year. Southern Indiana and Louisville, Kentucky will host a "National Signature Event" to mark the important events that happened at the Falls of the Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, the upcoming bicentennial has caused many of us to more carefully examine the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. We discovered that many important sites like the Falls of the Ohio have not been properly recognized in the past. The Falls of the Ohio State Park in Indiana and historic Locust Grove in Louisville, Kentucky have now been certified by the National Park Service as official sites associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

However, there is now a disconnect between the legal definition of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail passed by Congress in 1978 and the sites that have been certified by the National Park Service as significant to the Lewis and Clark story. This bill will extend the Trail corridor to include important sites between Wood River and the Falls of the Ohio.

It will also do more than correct current law to include sites that both the Park Service and Lewis and Clark scholars have noted as significant. By extending the official Trail to include more Eastern sites, a larger portion of the U.S. Population will be within driving distance of the Trail. This means more people in the east will learn about the Lewis and Clark story and be more likely to make a point of exploring Western segments of the Trail. This will significantly boost tourism all along the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment to the National Trails System Act is long overdue. With the upcoming Lewis and Clark bicentennial only months away, this is the perfect time to ensure the Lewis and Clark Trail properly reflects the expedition's history. I hope the House will soon consider this legislation and pass it into law.

FOURTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY END OF DEMOCRACY IN BURMA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to commemorate a very sad day in Burma. Today, September 18th, marks the 14-year anniversary of the Burmese military regime's bloody takeover of Burma, after gunning down an estimated 10,000 non-violent demonstrators throughout the country. Since that awful day, the Burmese people, led by the courageous 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, have against great odds never given up their hope, their belief, and their struggle for the kind of freedom we have enjoyed in this country. This

struggle was enshrined into political reality when Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy won a democratic election in 1990 with 82% of the seats in parliament—a landslide election the regime has never recognized.

Today, I commend the 50 million people of Burma on their struggle, and call on them to never give up their passionate belief that freedom and democracy should not be reserved for a small number of western nations, but extended to all men and women. Freedom and democracy are your rights. You struggle on the side of truth, and sooner or later, truth always triumphs over darkness.

Recently, our hopes for change in Burma were raised. In May of this year, just as my colleagues and I in the U.S. Congress were strongly considering to greatly expand international pressure on the regime, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was released from 19 months of house arrest. At the time, we hoped that her release signaled the start of a tripartite political dialogue in Burma that would include the regime, ethnic nationalities, and the National League for Democracy. My distinguished colleague and chair of the House International Relations Committee, Henry Hyde, and I stated, "It is our hope that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's release represents the dawn of a new era in Burmese history. However, first the junta must demonstrate through concrete actions a serious and consistent commitment to national reconciliation."

However, we were proven right to be cautious. The junta has yet to show a serious commitment to these discussions, which still must yield tangible reforms and changes toward democracy. It would be a tragedy if the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi ended up mere window dressing for an ongoing litany of abuse. The regime has stonewalled the NLD in its efforts to commence a political dialogue and refused to release all political prisoners while factual reports of an intensified campaign of systematic rapes, massacres, and arrests have increased. The regime terrorizes its own population with particular brutality in the country's ethnic areas, where its soldiers continue to facilitate the drug trade.

I am especially frustrated by the regime's refusal to extradite Khun Sa and other drug lords and end its complicity in production of the methamphetamines and heroin that are destroying the lives of people around the world. Those who have watched this regime's untrustworthy leaders over years know that we must rely on actions rather than words. The regime has not complied with our efforts to stop the global flow of drugs. As long as this narco-regime stays in power, it can expect to receive no assistance from the United States.

Fourteen years is far too long for freedom, and we absolutely must lend our vocal public support to the Burmese people's struggle for freedom. It is time the United States and the international community see through the regime's smoke and mirrors and again move to increase concrete political and economic pres-
sure.

OBSERVING NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Many of the ideals and beliefs that form the backbone of our nation continue to flourish in large part because of the great perseverance and dedication of our nation's armed forces. Unfortunately, as we all know, during war and even smaller armed conflicts there inevitably are troops killed, as well as troops captured by enemy forces or who become missing in action.

It is important that communities regularly honor not only those brave soldiers who risked their lives and were killed, but also remember those who became either missing or prisoners of war. We must show them and their families the appropriate appreciation for their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice to defend and preserve the democratic principles held so close to the hearts of all Americans.

About one year ago, on September 21st, President G.W. Bush declared that day as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. By establishing a national day of recognition, we have ensured that this country will formally honor every year those soldiers who were captured by the enemy or fallen missing in battle while serving their country.

The establishment and observance of a day of recognition for our prisoners of war and those missing in action is of great importance for the estimated 43,000 retired servicemen who were previously missing or held prisoner and who fortunately were able to return to the United States. It is just as important for the families and loved ones of those who remain unaccounted for or possibly are still in captivity.

Throughout our nation's history the men and women of the armed services have courageously risen to the call of duty ignoring whatever trepidation they may have for their own safety and security. While the numbers who have perished in the line of duty is a tremendous loss, there are also astounding numbers of those who continue to be listed MIA or as POWs.

Our friends and our neighbors, and even some of our elected officials, are former POWs or were listed MIA during their service. More than one-fourth of the American soldiers held prisoner in the past five US conflicts were released by the enemy and returned to the United States again.

World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War era, Operation Desert Storm, and the Kosovo campaign all resulted in soldiers listed as MIA or POW.

Records show that approximately 143,000 Americans were captured and interned during those conflicts. This number includes 81 women seized on Guam or in the Philippines during World War II, and 2 during the Gulf War. Of these 143,000 American soldiers approximately 125,200 have since been returned to United States military control. That leaves almost 20,000 souls unaccounted for from America's 20th century wars and armed conflicts.