

By: Price

H.R. No. 1503

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which is being
2 observed on September 17, 2021, citizens across Texas and the
3 United States pay solemn tribute to the servicemen and women who
4 were held as prisoners of war or who remain missing in action from
5 our nation's conflicts; and

6 WHEREAS, The toll of war is never-ending, lasting far beyond
7 cease-fires, armistices, and treaties; many thousands of soldiers,
8 sailors, and airmen are still considered missing in action from
9 World War II, and thousands more are listed as missing from
10 subsequent wars; decades after their loved ones have been listed as
11 unaccounted for, families continue to mourn and to seek answers as
12 well as respite from the emotional burden of not knowing the fate of
13 a beloved parent, sibling, or child; and

14 WHEREAS, The first national commemoration of POWs and MIAs
15 was held in 1979, when the U.S. Congress passed a resolution
16 specifying July 18 as National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and a
17 ceremony was held in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.; in
18 1984, President Ronald Reagan hosted a ceremony at the White House,
19 which served to honor all returned POWs while also renewing the
20 commitment to account for the missing; since 1986, the
21 commemoration has been held on the third Friday in September, and on
22 that day each year, the black-and-white POW/MIA flag has been flown
23 over somber ceremonies at the White House and the U.S. Capitol, as
24 well as over state capitols, military bases, ships at sea, schools,

1 churches, and many other venues; and

2 WHEREAS, Our men and women in uniform and their families make
3 tremendous sacrifices in order to preserve our freedom and our way
4 of life, and they are owed a profound debt of gratitude as well as
5 the steadfast commitment of our nation to continue its work to
6 ensure that all missing Americans are accounted for or returned
7 home in dignity and honor; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
9 Legislature hereby commemorate September 17, 2021, as National
10 POW/MIA Recognition Day and assure the families of prisoners of war
11 and those still missing in action that their loved ones will never
12 be forgotten.