87R13043 JGH-D

By:  Price H.R. No. 1503

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

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