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Sent
w/19.

Dear Mr. McDowell:

Mr. James A. Baker III asked me to respond to your letter of September 11.

We greatly appreciate your interest in the POW/MIA issue and we support efforts such as yours to increase public awareness of this American tragedy.

Since 1976, the Departments of Defense and State have worked in close association to debrief Indochinese refugees in order to obtain any information they may have on our missing men. Since the fall of Saigon in 1975, we have received 1,533 reports. Of the total, 447 are first hand live sighting reports. Fifty-one percent of these (229) correlated with individuals since accounted for, thus attesting to source validity. Ten percent are known to be fabrications. The remaining forty-seven percent (208) of the sighting reports of our men being held ~~against their will~~ remain unverified and are the subject of continuing investigation. The remaining 1,086 reports pertain to hearsay sightings and to crashsite and gravesite information.

Given the above circumstances we believe it ^{would be} irresponsible ~~for~~ ^{to} rule out the possibility of live Americans being held against their will. In a letter from President Reagan to the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, he stated "I assure you that actions to investigate live sighting reports receive and will continue to receive necessary priority and resources, based on the assumption that at least some Americans are still being held captive. Should any such reports prove to be true, this government will act decisively to insure their return."

An interagency group for POW/MIA affairs consisting of representatives from the Departments of State and Defense, the National Security Council, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National League of Families meet regularly to explore all possible avenues to obtain a full accounting. Obviously, details concerning options considered or being considered are not appropriately divulged publicly.

I hope the above is of help to you. Should you desire more specific information, the Department of Defense would be the appropriate agency for you to contact.

Enclosed is the photograph you requested.

in one
 Thank you again for your letter. Your support and interest *is* appreciated.

Sincerely,

MCB

Mr. John McDowell
 RR #1, Box 147
 Clarksville, Iowa 50619

cc Hon James A. Baker, III

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Room
392

Date 10/4/82

To: DICK CHILDRESS

From: Morton C. Blackwell

_____ Please respond on behalf of
the President

_____ Please prepare draft for
Elizabeth Dole's signature

_____ Please prepare draft for
my signature

_____ FYI

X PLEASE DRAFT
Reply per phone
CONVERSATION

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SEP 29 1982

Date: 9/28/82

TO: ELIZABETH DOLE'S OFFICE

FROM: **KATHERINE CAMALIER**
Staff Assistant to
James A. Baker, III

☐ Information

☒ Action

Please route for appropriate
response on behalf of Jim Baker.
I'd appreciate it if you'd send
me a copy of the response for our
files. **QUICK TURNAROUND**, please.

Thanks.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

9/30/82

Morton -

Red says he gave
you the USC contact
for this.

Please expedite
for EHO.

Thanks

Diana

Dear Mr. Baker,

Sept. 11, 1982

I'm a freelance writer seeking information which I can use in a potential magazine article on the possibility of American P.O.W.'s still in captivity in Southeast Asia.

I read that President Reagan on June 30th. said he'd seen evidence which led him to assume that at least some of the missing may still be alive in Southeast Asia. Did the President make this statement and could you please give me more details about this evidence? Secondly, could you please tell me what plans, if any, the Administration has to get these presumed P.O.W.'s back home? Is there a task force or special group that is studying the options? If some of our men are still being held, does the President have any idea as to the motives of the communists in doing so?

Lastly, I certainly would appreciate it if you could send me a black and white photo of the President suitable for publication, preferably one showing him making a speech, perhaps at a podium. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John McDowell
John McDowell
RR#1, Box 147
Clarksville, Iowa
50619

319-278
1114

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SEP 29 1982

Date: 9/28/82

TO: ELIZABETH DOLE'S OFFICE
FROM: KATHERINE CAMALIER
Staff Assistant to
James A. Baker, III

☐ Information

☒ Action

Please route for appropriate response on behalf of Jim Baker. I'd appreciate it if you'd send me a copy of the response for our files. [REDACTED] please.

Thanks.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

9/30/82

Morton -

Red says he gave
you the N.C. contact
for this.

Please expedite
for EHO.

Thanks

Diana

Sent to Dick
C. H. Dole
for Draft
10/4
5:16

Dear Mr. Baker,

Sept. 11, 1982

I'm a freelance writer seeking information which I can use in a potential magazine article on the [REDACTED]

I read that President Reagan on June 30th. said he'd seen evidence which led him to assume that at least some of the missing may still be alive in Southeast Asia. Did the President make this statement and could you please give me more details about this evidence? Secondly, could you please tell me what plans, if any, the Administration has to get these presumed P.O.W.'s back home? Is there a task force or special group that is studying the options? If some of our men are still being held, does the President have any idea as to the motives of the communists in doing so?

Lastly, I certainly would appreciate it if you could send me a black and white photo of the President suitable for publication, preferably one showing him making a speech, perhaps at a podium. Thank you.

Sincerely,
John McDowell
John McDowell
RR#1, Box 147
Clarksville, Iowa
50619

POW/MIA 4999

JUL 26 1982

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

July 23, 1982

EHD	
RC	WV
JB	
DL	
MB	

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH DOLE

Assistant to President for Public Liasion

FROM:

WILLIAM P. CLARK *WPC*

SUBJECT:

Private Sector Support to the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia

In a recent meeting that Bud McFarlane held with the Executive Board of the National League, it was pointed out that the decline in private sector support to this organization correlated with the declining attention of past administrations to seek a final accounting of our servicemen.

Given the President's personal commitment to resolution of this issue and the resultant high priority the Departments of State and Defense are now giving to the matter, perhaps something could be done to encourage greater private sector support to the League again.

It would be appreciated, if in your contacts with appropriate private organizations you could insure that they understand the administration fully supports the League's activities and we strongly encourage private sector support to them and their activities. Any help you can provide along these lines will be greatly appreciated.

My point of contact for POW/MIA affairs who could provide additional information if needed by your staff is Richard Childress, X3576.

*Not -
could
you
please
provide
some
ideas
in this
regard!
She*

POW/MIA

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 2, 1982

TO: George Saunders

FROM: Maiselle Shortley

I don't know if the attached is
in your area of concern, but I
though I would pass it along.

Let me know if you need anything
on this.

Thanks again for your help with
clearing Mark Loveday.

United Veterans Organization of Suffolk County

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
SABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
HICAN VETERANS ORGANIZATION
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
JEWISH WAR VETERANS



TIN CAN SAILORS

MASONIC WAR VETERANS
VETERANS OF WORLD WAR I
WORLD WAR II SUBMARINE VETERANS
WORLD WAR VETERANS CLUB
MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

RALLY FOR POW/MIAS



ON OCTOBER 31, 1982, A RALLY WILL BE HELD AT THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C., TO LET THE AMERICAN PUBLIC KNOW THAT THERE ARE INDEED SOME OF AMERICA'S FINEST YOUNG MEN IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN PRISON CAMPS!!!



OVER 425 LIVE SIGHTING REPORTS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. PRESIDENT REAGAN MUST DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF THESE MEN.



THE VIETNAMESE REASONING IS THAT THE U.S. PROMISED REPARATIONS - \$3.25 BILLION IN UNRESTRICTED GRANT ASSISTANCE. IS THIS WHAT THEY WANT FOR THE RETURN OF THE POW/MIAS?



A PARADE WILL BEGIN AT 12 NOON AT THE DEPT. OF JUSTICE, 10TH STREET AND PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, PROCEED TO THE WHITE HOUSE, AND A NEWS CONFERENCE HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR 1:30 P.M. AT LAFAYETTE PARK!!!



WE URGE ALL CONCERNED AMERICANS TO CONTACT THEIR CONGRESSMAN, ASKING THAT THEY CALL PRESIDENT REAGAN WITH A REQUEST TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION.



FOR INFO CALL: TOM KAISER, CHAIRMAN - 516/226-1474
JACK PRISMICK, CO-CHAIRMAN - 516/223-4221
HANK GRINTHAL, CO-CHAIRMAN - 516/561-6319
ED CARTER, CO-CHAIRMAN - 212/464-6940



National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day, 1981

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout American history our prisoners of war have been called upon to make uncommon sacrifices. In fulfilling their duty as citizens of the United States they have defended American ideals while suffering unimaginable indignities under the absolute control of the enemy. They remained steadfast even while their treatment contravened international understandings and violated elementary considerations of compassion and morality.

All Americans ought to recognize the special debt we owe to our fellow citizens who, in the act of serving our Nation, relinquished their freedom that we might enjoy the blessings of peace and liberty. Likewise, we must remember the unresolved casualties of war—our servicemen who are still missing. The pain and bitterness of war endure for their families, relatives and friends—and for all of us. Our Nation will continue to seek answers to the many questions that remain about their fate.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, July 17, 1981, as National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day, a day dedicated to all former American prisoners of war, to those still missing, and to their families. I urge all Americans to join in honoring those who made the uncommon sacrifice of being held captive in war, and to honor as well their loved ones who have also suffered valiantly and patiently. I also call on appropriate officials of the Federal, State and local governments, as well as private organizations, to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifth.

Ronald Reagan



National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day, 1981

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifth.

Ronald Reagan

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 8, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: Morton

FROM: Joyce

SUBJECT: Thousand Oaks, VFW

I received a telephone call from Congresswoman Bobbi Fiedler's office this morning. They wanted you to know what the Thousand Oaks group would be interested in discussing tomorrow when they meet with you:

1. They will be asking you about the efforts the Administration is making in regard to designated and third party efforts to place pressure on the Hanoi government regarding the MIA/POWs.
2. Want an explanation of what the President meant when he said in a speech, "decisive action is being looked at."
3. Whether any autopsy-type information on bodies being returned from Vietnam can be made available by the Federal Government.
4. They want to stress to the Administration their strong feelings and interests in the entire issue of MIA/POWs.

White House, Thais don't want Bo Gritz

BY A WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Reagan administration has rejected a request from a California veterans group that former Green Beret James "Bo" Gritz be included in a delegation visiting the White House next week.

The White House snub to the man who has made a habit of slipping in and out of Laos and talking about it was the second bit of bad news for Gritz yesterday.

In Bangkok, police ordered the expulsion of Gritz and a team of Americans who are believed to be using Thailand as a base for forays into Laos to look for U.S. prisoners of war.

Ronald Stevens, speaking for a Veterans of Foreign Wars local in Thousand Oaks, Calif., said he expected Gritz by June 9 to join his group in Washington for a meeting with Morton Blackwell, a special assistant to President Reagan.

"But Richard Childress (a White House staff member) told us, 'We prefer not having Bo in the meeting,'" Stevens said. "He said it 'would not be in the best interests' of (Gritz) or the POW-MIA issue — whatever that means."

The Thai Ministry of Interior declared the Gritz party persona non grata, noting that Gritz was charged last March with illegally possessing a powerful transmitter.

Gritz, 44, has stirred controversies by leading patrols into Laos in late 1982 and early this year to search for Americans he believes have been imprisoned since the Vietnam War.

As a result of one abortive raid last year Gritz and his men were captured and given suspended jail

see GRITZ, page 12A



Larry Lambert/Washington Times
Ex-Green Beret "Bo" Gritz got bad news from two fronts yesterday.

Washington Times, Friday, June 3, 1983

GRITZ

From page one

terms and fined \$130 apiece. They returned promptly to the United States.

Gritz began telling tales of heroism in the Vietnam War to drum up funds for future excursions, but this added to the controversies his raids had stirred.

REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS

To: Officer-in-charge
Appointments Center
Room 060, OEOB

Please admit the following appointments on Thursday, June 9, 19 83

for MORTON C. BLACKWELL of Office of Public Liaison
(NAME OF PERSON TO BE VISITED) (AGENCY)

Congresswoman Bobbi Fiedler
Mr. Larry Downing
Mr. Joseph Violante
Mr. Peter Holguin
Mr. Lorenzo Ramirez, Jr.
mr. David Stull
Mr. Charles Pikaart
Mr. Peter Boyle
Mr. Robert Golden
Mr. Ed Flanigan
Mr. Robert Duncan

Add Watt Williams 6/3/83

MEETING LOCATION

Building 191- OEOB

Requested by SHORTLEY

Room No. 191

Room No. 191 Telephone 2657

Time of Meeting 2:00 p.m.

Date of request June 1, 1983

Additions and/or changes made by telephone should be limited to three (3) names or less.

APPOINTMENTS CENTER: SIG/OEOB - 395-6046 or WHITE HOUSE - 456-6742

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Bobbi Fiedler

May 31, 1983

The Honorable Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Suite 191
Old Executive Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20500

Attn: Joyce

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

I am writing to confirm your appointment on June 9, 1983, at 2:00, with representatives of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3866 in Thousand Oaks, California. The Post has been very active with regards to making the public aware of the POW/MIA issue, and will be presenting to you over 7,000 signatures of residents who share their concerns.

The following will be in attendance on June 9th.

Larry Downing (group contact)
Joseph Violante
Pete Holguin
Lorenzo Ramirez, Jr.
David Stull
Charles Pikaart
Peter Boyle
Robert Golden
Ed Flanigan
Bob Duncan

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. If you have any further questions, please contact Brenda Egeberg of my staff.

Sincerely,

Bobbi Fiedler
BOBBI FIEDLER
Member of Congress

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

LISTING OF VFW (Thousand Oaks, CA)
attendees for presentation of
MIA/POW Petition, June 9, 1983
2:00 p.m., 17th Street Entrance OEOB:

Mr. Joseph Violante (VFW contact)
Lawrence Downing
Pedro Holquin (has brother who is MIA
in Vietnam)
Lorenzo Ramirez
David Stull
Charles Pikaart
Peter Boyle
Robert Golden

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 31, 1983

Ms. Beth Singley
Office of Congresswoman Bobbi Fiedler
Suite #1607 - Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

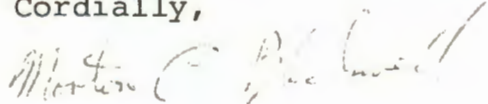
Dear Ms. Singley:

This is to confirm the arrangements which have been made with my office for me to receive, on behalf of the President, the petitions regarding our Missing In Action and Prisoners of War from members of the Thousand Oaks VFW Post.

I am looking forward to meeting the members of the Thousand Oaks VFW Post on Thursday, June 9th at 2:00 p.m. at the 17th Street entrance of the Old Executive Office Building.

As you may be aware, the White House does not provide photographers for occasions not involving the President; therefore, if members of the group desire photos to be taken, it will be necessary that they bring their own photographer.

Cordially,



MORTON C. BLACKWELL
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

MCB:jet

*Point of Contact in Bobbi Fiedler's Office
Brenda - 225-5811*

To Norton

Date 5/20/83 Time 9:47

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Beth Singley

of Legislative Affairs

Phone 7092

Area Code Number Extension

TELEPHONED	☒	PLEASE CALL	☒
CALLED TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN	
WANTS TO SEE YOU		URGENT	

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message Congressman Bobbi Fiedler
has some constituents coming in
on June 5th (Sunday) to
present a petition w/ 70,000
signatures, re: MIA/POW.
They would like Joyce
to give it to someone at W.H.

do you want to accept it? Or
do you think it better to have B.F.
accept it + send it to W.H.?

AMPAD
EFFICIENCY®

23-020

VFW Post - Thousand Oaks, Ca.

2:00 Thursday, June 9th

10:35 - 5/25/83

Returned call. MCB has
nothing on calendar will
defer to Legis. Aff.
Judgment.

Brenda - in Bobbi Fiedler's
Office

225-5811

to set up time/date on
June 9th

17th ✓ Entrance OFCB

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 28, 1983

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Hyatt Regency Hotel
Crystal City, Virginia

9:49 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. (Applause.) You've done that already. George Brooks, Ann Griffiths, members of the Board and family members and members of Congress, I think most of you know that during the course of any given day, we meet with an assortment of groups who represent a cross section of interests and causes.

None of those meetings are routine, but I must tell you that this meeting today is more than special. The anguish you've suffered, the families of brave men of listed prisoners of war or missing in action, the misery of anguish is unspeakable, something the rest of us can really never know even in a partial measure. Twelve years ago, I said something to a group of you in California that I believe is even more true today. If they could be here today, millions of Americans, from every corner of this land, who have only a glimmer of your pain, would say to you, "We want with all our hearts to share your burden."

And what a burden you've had to bear. You watched as we disengaged from Vietnam and many of our prisoners of war returned for an emotional homecoming. You've seen task forces and committees hold hearings and issue reports that attempted to foreclose hope. But as the tragic flow of refugees from Indochina began a few years ago, those columns of humanity who had suffered hunger and thirst and disease and piracy, brought with them firsthand, "live sighting" reports of American prisoners held captive after 1973. As this information was investigated, respected figures in the intelligence community reached personal conclusions that these reports were credible, even though the circumstances of the sightings prevented confirmation.

But with these refugees and the news they brought, another tragedy was unfolding here at home. You, the families of our missing men, were trying to be heard, and yet, you were sometimes unfairly and cruelly branded as emotionally distraught groups that ignored reality and simply hoped against hope.

Government and public attention began to wane. And instead of being a full partner with your government in attempts to learn the fates of loved ones, you were confronted with legal rulings that presumed the loved ones were dead. You found yourselves quite literally on the outside, driven in some cases to demonstrate for attention in front of the White House gates.

Well, today I want you to know that your vigil is over. Your government is attentive and intelligence assets of the United States are fully focused on this issue. (Applause.) Furthermore, I pledge to you, we will take decisive action on any live sighting report that can be confirmed.

We're also working to achieve the accounting of our missing men. I'm sure you understand that some of these approaches must be done quietly. As Judge Clark told you yesterday, despite the

MORE

differences between our governments, we have followed up encouraging Lao response to the recent visit by the League's delegation. We are fully prepared to take additional, concrete steps with the Lao government to improve relations. I pledge to you that the progress on the POW/MIA issue will be the principle measure of their sincerity. I wish to recognize publicly their positive steps to date, and call upon them to continue with us in this humanitarian effort to end the years of uncertainty that you have endured.

I, also, called on the government in Hanoi to honor their pledges to the American people on the POW/MIA issue. Not for me, not for our government, but for our missing men and those of you that did nothing to deserve the terrible emotional ordeal that you have endured.

Now, these steps are an indication of how things are changing for the better, and how the work of those of you in the National League of Families has helped bring about this change.

You are the ones who have forged a partnership to realize our common quest -- the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for the still missing, and the repatriation of the remains of those who died serving our nation. The myth that this effort is partisan or needlessly raises your hopes has now been dashed.

The government bureaucracy now understands that these goals are the highest national priority. And there is strong, bipartisan support in the Congress. (Applause.) Those Americans who attempted to discharge government responsibilities through private efforts should now understand that the full resources of our government are now committed to these goals.

Today is a time for remembering many -- the private donors, the Congressmen, and the government employees -- all those who are dedicated to organizing and supporting a variety of projects to achieve our goals. Because of the very nature of the work, they must shun publicity. But I want them to know that their quiet and responsible efforts represent the highest patriotic humanitarian values. I urge them to continue on with their work, regardless of the obstacles and frustrations, for the return home of only one of our men will be a personal reward of far greater value than any words spoken here today.

But beyond all this, I have mentioned that there are, of course, those of you here today. Today, this is room of heroes who kept a vigil of unprecedented faith and devotion. Through all the years of heartbreak and mistrust, you have been the ones who have cared. You are the ones who asked for justice -- for deeds, not words.

The membership of the National League of Families, past and present board members, and your national office staff deserve the gratitude and accolades of this nation. And I think I should mention other individuals who share our goals such as Fred Travelena, a returned POW Captain Jerry Coffee -- who have, also, given without regard to personal gain.

So all of us can be gratified that progress is being made, but never satisfied. We need greater public awareness from the American people. So I ask each American who hears or reads of this to find a way to help. No matter how small each individual effort may seem, it is needed.

MORE

I ask too that you continue to provide us with positive suggestions through your Washington office. We welcome and solicit your help and cooperation as well as the criticism when you feel we deserve it. It's possible there will be differences from time to time on tactics and strategy, but I repeat: We are heartfelt allies and friends. Our goals are the same.

The government is large. It's possible sometimes you'll hear voices that will sound contradictory or insensitive, but we're doing what we can to eliminate that. So, please, don't let it shake our larger faith. Only if we're united, only if we have faith in each other, can we finally hope to end the tragic ordeal that you've endured with such steadfast and wondrous courage.

I know I've spoken before and told of when the POWs did return immediately after the agreement. Nancy and I were fortunate enough -- I was Governor then in Sacramento -- to have several hundred of them, not all at once, of course -- couldn't get them in -- but in groups, in our home. One who is here at this table this morning was one of those. We heard such stories. We saw then such courage. And one night afterward, I said to Nancy, "Where did we find such men?" And the answer came almost as quickly as I'd asked it. We found them where we've always found them -- on the farms, in the shops, in the offices, on the streets, in towns and cities in America and farms. They're just the product of the greatest, freest system man has ever known. (Applause.)

Speaking for Nancy and myself, you and they will be in our prayers. God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

10:00 A.M. EST



National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day, 1983

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Since the earliest days of our Nation, America's men and women have answered the call to duty. In each of our country's conflicts, our prisoners of war have endured extreme hardships and have been required to make great sacrifices. But even when facing the most extreme adversity, they have proudly defended American ideals. Their burden has been magnified when they were subject to mistreatment, torture, or death in violation of fundamental moral standards and international codes of conduct.

Our country is also acutely aware of the deep suffering experienced by the families of our servicemen held captive or missing in action. These families have faced a haunting uncertainty and awesome silence that tear at their hearts and earns the deep esteem of their countrymen.

American P.O.W.'s and M.I.A.'s are heroes who have gone beyond courage and beyond duty to an honored place in the souls of their fellow Americans. They symbolize the kind of singular sacrifice and devotion that has repeatedly proven instrumental in shaping our Nation's destiny. This country will never forget nor fail to honor those who have so courageously garnered our highest regard.

By Joint Resolution, the Congress has designated April 9, 1983, as National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day. On this day, I firmly believe that we should recognize the special debt all Americans owe to our fellow citizens who gave up their freedom in the service of our country and to the families who have undergone a great travail.

We shall continue to remember our missing servicemen. Our Nation must never forget them. Resolution of their fate is, and will remain, a matter of the highest national priority. On April 9, 1983, a P.O.W.-M.I.A. Flag will fly over the White House, the Departments of State and Defense, and the Veterans Administration as a symbol of our unswerving commitment to resolving the fate of all servicemen still missing.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Saturday, April 9, 1983, as National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day, a day dedicated to all former American prisoners of war, to those still missing, and to their families. I call on all Americans to join in honoring those who have been held captive in war and their loved ones.

I call upon State and local officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventh.

Ronald Reagan