

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. Nov. 25, 1970 -- The following resolution will be introduced today by U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) for himself and a bipartisan group of co-sponsors.

Senator Dole will ask unanimous consent for immediate consideration of the Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Relating to the joint Army-Air Force effort to liberate American prisoners-of-war held captive by North Vietnam.

WHEREAS, at the request of the Secretary of Defense, the President of the United States authorized a Joint Army-Air Force Task Force operation, the purpose of which was to undertake the liberation of a substantial number of prisoners-of-war being held under inhumane conditions by the Government of North Vietnam in flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated officers and men of the Joint Army-Air Force Task Force, under the inspiring leadership of Colonel Arthur D. Simons, United States Army, and Brigadier General Leroy J. Manor, United States Air Force, flew into the Son Tay prison compound near Hanoi, deep in the heart of heavily defended enemy territory, for the purpose of liberating American prisoners-of-war; and

WHEREAS, this group of courageous volunteers carried out this perilous mission with such superb timing and perfect execution that not a single casualty was sustained; and

WHEREAS, this heroic humanitarian gesture, voluntarily made by the men of the liberation task force at great risk to their own safety and lives, clearly demonstrates their deep unselfish compassion for their comrades in arms who are being deprived of their freedom under the most despicable conditions;

WHEREAS, this daring operation will bring to all families of prisoners-of-war and missing men a reassuring comfort in the knowledge that these brave men have not been forsaken by their country and will serve as notice to the enemy that the United States will not tolerate continued inhumane treatment of American prisoners-of-war in flagrant violation of civilized standards of respect for human dignity: Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate hereby commends the brave officers and men of the Special Joint Army-Air Force Task Force, led by Colonel Arthur D. Simons, United States Army, and Brigadier General Leroy J. Manor, United States Air Force, for their courageous attempt on November 21, 1970, to liberate a substantial number of prisoners-of-war being held under inhumane conditions by the Government of North Vietnam in violation of the Geneva Conventions.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the extraordinary courage, dedication, and selflessness displayed by the members of such joint task force has earned for them the highest admiration and commendation of this Nation and has brought an undeniable luster to the Armed Forces of the United States and the people they so honorably serve.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Secretary of the Senate to each person who participated in the special joint Army-Air Force Task Force Rescue Mission.