

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE SPONSORS "POW-MIA DAY"

WASHINGTON -- Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) yesterday joined Senators S. I. Hayakawa (R.-Calif.), Dennis DeConcini (D.-Ariz.), and others in introducing legislation to declare July 9, 1982, "National POW-MIA Recognition Day."

Senator Dole made the following statement on the floor of the Senate on the introduction of Senate Joint Resolution 160:

Today, we introduce a joint resolution to designate July 9, 1982, as "National POW-MIA Recognition Day." It is with deep gratitude and heartfelt thanks that we seek to honor those who so honored us with their heroic and selfless sacrifices, ultimately that of their freedom.

The Veterans Administration has estimated that since World War II, 140,000 soldiers have been captured and held as prisoners of war. Over 9,000 men have been listed as missing in action and never recovered. These men suffered in ways that we may only hope to understand. They endured loss of their freedom and loved ones, lack of proper medical attention, torture, and in many cases a horrible death. For those now free, their memories will always be held captive to those dark years of their lives.

How can we ever hope to repay the sacrifices of those men who stood as living embodiments of the words honor and courage? We must start by remembering. We must start by letting these men know that we will honor their incredible sacrifices. We must start by expressing that which we so deeply feel. And we must proclaim this day as a day to remember the unspeakable torment and pain that both prisoners and their families suffered for their country. We are proud of these men. Let us let them know that.