

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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SENATE APPROVES DOLE NATIONAL POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY

WASHINGTON -- The Senate yesterday approved a resolution by Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) designating July 18, 1980, as National POW-MIA Recognition Day.

"This is a very important piece of legislation for me personally, because it represents something I have been fighting for ever since the end of the Vietnam War," Dole said. "War continues to ravage Indochina, and many of our servicemen who were lost in combat or taken prisoner of war may well be living to see this new conflict in Vietnam.

"The Veterans Administration estimates that there were 142,227 servicemen captured and interned since World War I. In addition, an estimated 92,761 servicemen were lost in combat and never recovered.

"Today, as we are experiencing the horrors and sadness of our American citizens being held hostage in Iran, let us not forget the hardships and horrors endured by our prisoners and missing in action of our past conflicts. Hopefully we will soon be rolling out the red carpet for the hostages' return, but how many have tread over that red carpet in a similar welcoming home? The harrowing nightmare of POW-MIA status affects the lives of family and friends just as dramatically as the Iranian hostage situation has affected us as a nation."

Dole's resolution was matched with a companion resolution introduced on the House side by Rep. Jim Santini of Nevada.

"It is altogether appropriate that all Americans recognize the special debt we owe these Americans held prisoner during wartime," Dole said. "It is my hope that Congress will vote for a National POW-MIA Recognition Day. By so doing, our nation can show its gratitude to these men who endured the hardships of combat, the rigors and privation of captivity, and to also honor those whose fate is yet unresolved, and to assure their families and friends they are not forgotten. This day would be a fitting forum to demonstrate our unified concern for their past sacrifices and future realities."