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CONGRESS PASSES "NATIONAL POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY" INTRODUCED BY DOLE

WASHINGTON -- America will honor its servicemen and women taken prisoner of war or missing in action by marking July 18 as "National POW-MIA Recognition Day." Legislation establishing the Recognition Day was originally introduced as a resolution by Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) and was adopted in Congress when the House passed the Dole resolution yesterday. The Senate approved the resolution, S.J. Res. 168, on June 26.

"I introduced this measure to show concern and recognition of our nation's debt to the former prisoners of war and those missing in action," Dole said. "We Americans should be reminded of our commitment to our servicemen wherever they may be.

"The Veterans' Administration estimates that 142,227 servicemen were captured and held incarcerated since World War II. In addition, 9,261 men were lost in combat and never recovered. The pain and hardship these men were subjected to in the hands of the enemy continue to haunt the memories of their loved ones. The implications of war may forever affect their lives.

"It is our fervent hope that someday the carpets and drums will roll, and the church bells will toll, not in sorrow, but in jubilation at the return of our men who have traveled in strange hostile lands.

"Let us honor these servicemen and women and assure that their sacrifice for the American people has not been forgotten nor in vain."