

BOB DOLE



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AMERICA HONORS PRISONERS OF WAR, MISSING IN ACTION

WASHINGTON -- Today is "National POW-MIA Recognition Day."

America will honor its servicemen and women taken prisoner of war or missing in action by taking this day to recognize their contributions to the cause of freedom.

Legislation establishing the Recognition Day was originally introduced as a resolution by Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) and was adopted by Congress on July 3.

"The Veterans' Administration estimates that nearly 150,000 servicemen were captured and held incarcerated since World War II," Dole said. "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.

"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.

"It is altogether appropriate that all Americans recognize the special debt we owe these Americans held prisoner during wartime. Let us honor these servicemen and women and assure that their sacrifice for the American people has not been forgotten."