

News from Senator

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BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1987

CONTACT: WALT RIKER,
DALE TATE (202) 224-3135

DOLE INTRODUCES NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY LEGISLATION
"WE WILL NEVER FORGET THESE SPECIAL AMERICANS"

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-KS), along with 34 of his Senate colleagues, today introduced legislation designating September 18, 1987 as "National POW/MIA Recognition Day". Senator Dole made the following statement on the Senate floor in recognition of American POW's and MIA's and their families:

FROM TIME TO TIME IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY, MEN AND WOMEN HAVE BEEN CALLED UPON TO MAKE UNCOMMON SACRIFICES FOR THEIR COUNTRY. WHILE DEFENDING THE FREEDOMS THAT YOU AND I ENJOY, MANY AMERICANS HAVE PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE. STILL OTHERS SUFFERED UNIMAGINABLE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HARDSHIPS WHILE CAPTIVES OF AMERICA'S ENEMIES; MANY NEVER RETURNED. WE MUST CONTINUE TO REMEMBER THEIR DEDICATION AND HONOR THEIR SPIRIT.

I HAD THE DISTINCT HONOR TO HOST LAST YEAR'S CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY AND SO I AM PLEASED TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TODAY DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 18, 1987 FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. BY DOING SO, WE NOT ONLY HONOR OUR POWs AND MIAs, BUT WE ALSO RENEW OUR PROMISE TO THE COURAGEOUS FAMILIES OF THESE SPECIAL AMERICANS. A GRATEFUL NATION WILL NEVER REST UNTIL WE GAIN A FULL ACCOUNTING OF THOSE STILL LISTED AS MISSING AND UNACCOUNTED FOR.

I ASK MY COLLEAGUES TO ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION, AS MY 34 COSPONSORS HAVE DONE. I WOULD ALSO CALL ON THEM, AS WELL AS ALL VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS, TO ENCOURAGE NATIONWIDE PARTICIPATION IN INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE POW/MIA ISSUE. WE WILL NEVER FORGET THESE SPECIAL AMERICANS.