

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 444

Extending the thanks of Congress and the Nation to the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command of the Department of Defense, the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, the Air Force Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory, and the military departments and to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for their efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans unaccounted for as a result of the Vietnam War.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 2006

Mr. SIMMONS (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Extending the thanks of Congress and the Nation to the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command of the Department of Defense, the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, the Air Force Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory, and the military departments and to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for their efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans unaccounted for as a result of the Vietnam War.

Whereas the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), an element of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, exercises policy, control and oversight within the Department of Defense of the process of investigation, analysis, recovery, and fullest possible accounting of Americans missing as a result of the Nation's previous conflicts;

Whereas the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), located on the island of Oahu in Hawaii, is charged with the mission of achieving the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the Nation's previous conflicts;

Whereas the laboratory portion of that command, referred to as the Central Identification Laboratory, is the largest forensic anthropology laboratory in the world;

Whereas the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL), located in Rockville, Maryland, is one of the leading laboratories in the world for processing degraded skeletal remains and family references for mitochondrial DNA;

Whereas the Air Force Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory (LSEL), located in San Antonio, Texas, houses the most comprehensive technical library and collection of life sciences equipment used by the U.S. military, to include analysts for artifact identification;

Whereas National POW/MIA Recognition Day is one of the six days specified by law as days on which the POW/MIA flag is to be flown over specified Federal facilities and national cemeteries, post offices, and military installations;

Whereas as diplomatic relations of the United States with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have improved, so has access to archival information and on-site investigations relative to unaccounted-for Americans;

Whereas as of June 28, 2006, 86 Joint Field Activities have been conducted in Vietnam in hopes of bringing home remains of Americans unaccounted for from the Vietnam War;

Whereas as of June 28, 2006, the remains of 604 Americans have been repatriated from Vietnam, identified, and returned to their families;

Whereas as of June 28, 2006, 95 Joint Field Activities have been conducted in Laos in hopes of bringing home remains of Americans unaccounted for from the Vietnam War;

Whereas as of June 28, 2006, the remains of 208 Americans have been repatriated from Laos, identified, and returned to their families;

Whereas as of June 28, 2006, 35 Joint Field Activities have been conducted in Cambodia in hopes of bringing home remains of Americans unaccounted for from the Vietnam War;

Whereas as of June 28, 2006, the remains of 29 Americans have been repatriated from Cambodia, identified, and returned to their families;

Whereas in June 2006 the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/MIA Affairs met with senior Vietnamese officials to follow-up on proposals made during previous visits; and

Whereas the United States has a historic commitment to the recovery of and full accounting for Americans who are

missing from the Nation's wars and conflicts: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) recognizes that National POW/MIA Rec-
4 ognition Day is one of the six days specified by law
5 (pursuant to section 902 of title 36, United States
6 Code) as days on which the POW/MIA flag is to be
7 flown over specified Federal facilities and national
8 cemeteries, military installations, and post offices;

9 (2) applauds the personnel of the Defense
10 POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), the Joint
11 POW/MIA Accounting Command of the Department
12 of Defense, the Armed Forces DNA Identification
13 Laboratory, the Air Force Life Sciences Equipment
14 Laboratory, and the military departments for con-
15 tinuing their mission of achieving the fullest possible
16 accounting of all Americans unaccounted for as a re-
17 sult of the Nation's previous conflicts;

18 (3) extends the thanks of the Congress and the
19 Nation to the personnel of those offices, commands,
20 and laboratories in the United States and the Social-
21 ist Republic of Vietnam for their efforts to achieve
22 the fullest possible accounting of all Americans who
23 remain unaccounted for as a result of the Vietnam
24 War;

1 (4) encourages the United States Government
2 to use all available means to continue the mission
3 described in paragraph (1) at current or greater lev-
4 els until the fullest possible accounting is achieved;

5 (5) recognizes that the efforts and involvement
6 of POW/MIA families and veterans contribute sig-
7 nificantly to the fullest possible accounting of miss-
8 ing Americans;

9 (6) recognizes the assistance of host nations in
10 supporting the efforts of the United States Govern-
11 ment to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all
12 Americans unaccounted for as a result of the Na-
13 tion's previous conflicts;

14 (7) recognizes and honors the eight Americans
15 and nine Vietnamese who have paid the ultimate
16 price in supporting the mission of fullest possible ac-
17 counting, namely Lieutenant Colonel Rennie Cory,
18 Lieutenant Colonel George C. Martin, Major Charles
19 E. Lewis, Captain Richard M. Rees, Chief Hospital
20 Corpsman Pedro J. Gonzales, Master Sergeant Ste-
21 ven L. Moser, Sergeant First Class Tommy J. Mur-
22 phy, Technical Sergeant Robert M. Flynn, Senior
23 Colonel Tran Van Bien, Mr. Nguyen Thanh Ha,
24 Lieutenant Colonel Nguyen Van Ha, Lieutenant
25 Colonel Nguyen Thanh Son, Major Vu Pham The

1 Kien, Major Nguyen Huu Nham, Lieutenant Giap
2 Thanh Ngan, Lieutenant Dang Ngoc, and Lieuten-
3 ant Pham Huy Dung;

4 (8) thanks the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for
5 continued assistance and cooperation in the humane
6 recovery, identification, and repatriation of the re-
7 mains of American personnel remaining unaccounted
8 for from the Vietnam era; and

9 (9) recognizes that the efforts and involvement
10 of POW/MIA families contribute significantly to the
11 success of Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command
12 and that that command owes a great deal of grati-
13 tude to the families and veterans who support the
14 mission of that command.

○