SENATE BILL NO. 236

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 2/2/00
Referred: State Affairs

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act establishing Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Recognition Days and Women Veterans Day; and providing for an effective date."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* Section 1. AS 44.12 is amended by adding new sections to read:

Sec. 44.12.076. Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Recognition Days.

(a) Former Prisoners of War Recognition Day is established on April 9 of each year to recognize and honor all former prisoners of war (POWs) from our nation’s wars who have returned home. These POWs repeatedly demonstrated their devotion to duty, honor, and country, despite enduring captivity and sometimes brutal treatment by their captors. The governor shall issue a proclamation to commemorate the day and the POW/MIA flag shall be flown that day at sites identified by the governor. Former POW Recognition Day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

(b) Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Recognition Day is established on
the third Friday of September each year to honor all prisoners of war (POWs) and
those missing in action (MIAs), unaccounted for from all our nation’s wars or who
died in captivity. These POWs and MIAs repeatedly demonstrated their devotion to
duty, honor, and country, despite enduring captivity and sometimes brutal treatment
by their captors. The fate of those unaccounted for and missing in action from our
nation’s wars causes considerable uncertainty for their families, friends, fellow soldiers,
and veterans. This day is also an occasion for Alaskans to remember our country’s
enormous responsibility to do everything possible to account for those still missing in
action. The governor shall issue a proclamation to commemorate the day and the
POW/MIA flag shall be flown that day at sites identified by the governor. POW and
MIA Recognition Day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic
groups and the public.

Sec. 44.12.078. Women Veterans Day. Women Veterans Day is established
on November 9 of each year to acknowledge and commemorate the sacrifices endured
and valor displayed by American women veterans and to recognize their increasing
role in the military. The governor shall issue a proclamation to commemorate Women
Veterans Day. The day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by
civic groups and the public.

* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).