

HOUSE BILL NO. 330

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 2/2/00

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, State Affairs

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

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

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

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

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

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

14 (b) Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Recognition Day is established on

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

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

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