

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced: 4/12/91

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

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to missing American service personnel.

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 WHEREAS there are more than 88,000 American service personnel missing in action from
4 World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam conflict; and

5 WHEREAS recent information has been released regarding American service personnel held
6 against their will after World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam conflict; and

7 WHEREAS the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee released an interim report
8 in October 1990 that concluded that American service personnel were held in Southeast Asia after the
9 end of the Vietnam conflict and that information available to the United States government does not rule
10 out the probability that American service personnel are still being held in Southeast Asia; and

11 WHEREAS on April 12, 1973, the United States Department of Defense publicly stated that
12 there was no evidence of live American prisoners of war in Southeast Asia; and

13 WHEREAS the public statement was given nine days after Pathet Lao leaders had declared that
14 Laotian communist forces did in fact have live American prisoners of war in their control; and

15 WHEREAS the prisoners of war held by the Laotian government and its military forces were
16 never released; and

17 WHEREAS there have been more than 11,700 live sighting reports received by the Department

1 of Defense since 1973 and, after detailed analysis, the Department of Defense admits there are a number
2 of unresolved and discrepancy cases; and

3 **WHEREAS** in October 1990 the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee released an
4 Interim Report on the Southeast Asian POW/MIA Issue that concluded that United States military and
5 civilian personnel were held against their will in Southeast Asia, despite earlier public statements by the
6 Department of Defense that there was no evidence of live prisoners of war, and the report also concluded
7 that information available to the United States government does not rule out the probability that United
8 States citizens are still held in Southeast Asia; and

9 **WHEREAS** the interim report states that congressional inquiries into the POW/MIA issue have
10 been hampered by information that was concealed from committee members or that was misinterpreted
11 or manipulated in government files; and

12 **WHEREAS** the POW/MIA Truth Bill has been introduced into the United States Congress, and
13 the bill would direct the heads of the federal government agencies and departments to disclose
14 information concerning the United States service personnel classified as prisoners of war or missing in
15 action from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam conflict; and

16 **WHEREAS** the bill protects national security by censoring the sources and methods used to
17 collect the live sighting reports; and

18 **WHEREAS** the families of these missing service personnel need and deserve the opportunity to
19 have access to the information concerning the status of their loved ones;

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to appoint
21 a select committee to assist the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee to obtain information
22 in government files on missing American service personnel; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to
24 begin committee hearings immediately to consider enacting the POW/MIA Truth Bill; and be it

25 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the United States Congress
26 to continue funding its investigation into the status of missing American service personnel, which is vital
27 to resolving the POW/MIA issue in Southeast Asia.

28 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
29 States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate;
30 the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable James
31 A. Baker, III, Secretary of the U.S. Department of State; the Honorable Dick Cheney, Secretary of the
32 U.S. Department of Defense; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski,

1 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
2 in Congress.