

2d SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41 (STATE AFFAIRS)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/27/92

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' 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 on April 12, 1973, the United States Department of Defense publicly stated that
8 there was no evidence of live American prisoners of war in Southeast Asia; and

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

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

13 WHEREAS there have been more than 11,700 live sighting reports received by the Department
14 of Defense since 1973 and, after detailed analysis, the Department of Defense admits there are a number
15 of unresolved and discrepancy cases; and

16 WHEREAS there is conjecture that congressional inquiries into the POW/MIA issue have been
17 hampered by information that was concealed from committee members or that was misinterpreted or

1 manipulated in government files; and

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

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

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

10 **WHEREAS** the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs has been established in the
11 United States Congress to resolve the POW/MIA issue;

12 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to oppose
13 lifting trade embargoes, lifting economic sanctions, and normalizing affairs with Vietnam and Laos until
14 the Congress resolves the POW/MIA issue in Southeast Asia based on the recommendations of the
15 Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs; and be it

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

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the United States Congress
19 to continue funding its investigation into the status of missing American service personnel, which is vital
20 to resolving the POW/MIA issue.

21 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
22 States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate;
23 the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable George J.
24 Mitchell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S.
25 House of Representatives; the Honorable Richard A. Gephardt, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of
26 Representatives; the Honorable Robert Dole, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable William
27 S. Broomfield, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Claiborne Pell,
28 Chair of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; the Honorable Dante B. Fascell, Chair of the House
29 Committee on Foreign Affairs; the Honorable John F. Kerry, Chair of the Senate Select Committee on
30 POW/MIA Affairs; the Honorable Robert C. Smith, Vice-Chair of the Senate Select Committee on
31 POW/MIA affairs; the Honorable John Miller, U.S. Representative; the Honorable James A. Baker, III,
32 Secretary of the U.S. Department of State; the Honorable Dick Cheney, Secretary of the U.S. Department

**1 of Defense; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
2 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the
3 Honorable Jerry W. Hefner, Chair of the Oklahoma House Veterans Affairs Committee.**