

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1992

Source

2d SCS CSHJR 41(STA)

Legislative
Resolve No.

69



Relating to missing American service personnel.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS there have been more than 11,700 live sighting reports received by the Department of Defense since 1973 and, after detailed analysis, the Department of Defense

admits there are a number of unresolved and discrepancy cases; and

WHEREAS there is conjecture that congressional inquiries into the POW/MIA issue have been hampered by information that was concealed from committee members or that was misinterpreted or manipulated in government files; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable George J. Mitchell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the

Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Richard A. Gephardt, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert Dole, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable William S. Broomfield, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Claiborne Pell, Chair of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; the Honorable Dante B. Fascell, Chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs; the Honorable John F. Kerry, Chair of the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs; the Honorable Robert C. Smith, Vice-Chair of the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs; the Honorable John Miller, U.S. Representative; the Honorable James A. Baker, III, Secretary of the U.S. Department of State; the Honorable Dick Cheney, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the Honorable Jerry W. Hefner, Chair of the Oklahoma House Veterans Affairs Committee.