

**Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**  
**Senator Luick-Chair**

Chairman Luick and Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1403.

**Intent of this bill:**

Establish the third Friday in September of each year as Prisoner of War Missing in Action (POW/MIA) day.

**Background and need for bill:**

- The official motto of the POW/MIA flag is “You Are Not Forgotten.” While this remains true all year long, each year, we mark the occasion with a designated day of remembrance.
- More than 130,000 American troops have been POWs since World War II, with tens of thousands of military members still MIA. ND: 362 according to DPAA (326WW2,9V,27K)
- National POW MIA Recognition Day is a day of reflection and giving back to the military community. Every September, we take a bit of extra consideration for Veterans who endured life as a prisoner of war along with those who never were found.
- Commemorating National POW MIA Recognition Day is a way to show families that have a loved one captured as a prisoner of war or that has never been found after combat, that they are not alone.
- 1972 the National League of Families designed a POW / MIA flag.
- August 10, 1990, Congress passed H.J. Resolution 467 designating September 21, 1990 as National POW MIA Recognition Day and recognizing the National League of Families POW/MIA flag.
  - POW/MIA day has taken place on the third Friday in September each year through an annual presidential proclamation.
  - There are many ways we can all honor POWs and those who went MIA during service:
    - Fly the POW/MIA flag to show support.
    - Reach out to those in your community affected by war and missing a loved one.
    - Give back to military charities by donating money, time, or both.
    - Learn more about the histories of POWs and those missing by visiting local military museums, reading a book, or watching a documentary.
- In ND a request must be made to the ND Governor to issue a proclamation.
  - Years missed: 2024, 2023, 2022.

**Outcome of bill:**

A request for a proclamation to the ND Governor would **no longer** be required. ND Governor would be directed by NDCC 01-03 to issue the proclamation each year.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA

