

Reps. Amos, Accavitti, Elsenheimer, Marleau, Acciavatti, Agema, Ball, Bauer, Bieda, Booher, Brandenburg, Byrnes, Byrum, Calley, Casperson, Caswell, Caul, Cushingberry, Dean, Emmons, Gaffney, Garfield, Green, Hammel, Hammon, Hansen, Hildenbrand, Hoogendyk, Hopgood, Horn, Huizenga, Rick Jones, Robert Jones, Knollenberg, Lahti, LaJoy, David Law, Kathleen Law, Lemmons, Mayes, McDowell, Meadows, Meekhof, Meltzer, Miller, Moolenaar, Moss, Nitz, Nofs, Opsommer, Palmer, Palsrok, Pastor, Pearce, Polidori, Proos, Robertson, Rocca, Sak, Schuitmaker, Scott, Shaffer, Sheltroun, Stahl, Steil, Vagnozzi, Valentine, Walker and Wojno offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 242.

A resolution designating December 16, 2007 as POW/MIA Recognition Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, The United States has fought in many wars. Thousands of Americans who served in those wars were captured by the enemy or listed as missing in action; and

Whereas, Many American prisoners of war were subjected to brutal and inhuman treatment by their enemy captors in violation of international codes and customs for the treatment of prisoners of war, and many such prisoners of war died from such treatment; and

Whereas, Many of these Americans are still missing and unaccounted for, and the uncertainty surrounding their fates has caused their families to suffer acute hardship; and

Whereas, December 16 is the historic first day of the Battle of the Bulge, the largest American fought battle of World War II resulting in 23,544 prisoners of war and missing in action, more than any other battle during the war; and

Whereas, Over 100 men of the Michigan 254th Engineer Combat Battalion were killed, captured, or went missing in action during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II; and

Whereas, Of the four Americans serving in the current conflict in Iraq, as well as one serving in Operation Desert Storm, who are listed as missing in action, two of these soldiers, Specialist Ahmed K. Altaie and Private Byron W. Fouty, hail from the state of Michigan; and

Whereas, The sacrifices of Americans still missing and unaccounted for and their families are deserving of our state's recognition and support for continued priority efforts to determine the fate of those missing Americans; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body designate December 16, 2007 as POW/MIA Recognition Day in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That the Governor is encouraged to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the state of Michigan to recognize that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and be it further

Resolved, That Michigan's residents are hereby encouraged to recognize National 'POW/MIA Recognition Day,' during which all of our nation's prisoners of war and those missing in action, such as Specialist Alex R. Jimenez, Sgt. Keith "Matt" Maupin and LT. Commander Mike Scott Speicher, who also went missing while serving their country, are recognized for their valor and dedication to the freedom of our nation's citizens and people around the world; and be it further

Resolved, That the National League of Families POW/MIA flag is hereby recognized officially and designated as the symbol of our state's concern and commitment to resolving the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the nation.