

Senator Hansen offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 174.

A resolution designating September 21, 2012, 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, It has always been the creed of those who wear a military uniform never to leave a fallen comrade on the battlefield. On this day, we pay tribute to those who are missing in action or have been taken prisoner of war and never returned home; and

Whereas, To date, a total of 83,467 Americans are listed as prisoners of war or missing in action since World War II. This includes 73,681 in World War II, 7,951 in the Korean War, 1,657 in Vietnam, 127 in the Cold War, and 6 in Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom; and

Whereas, We as a nation can never collectively rest until we account for all those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to their country; and

Whereas, We express our deepest gratitude to these patriots in both words and actions, knowing they were fighting to protect our rights and freedoms; and

Whereas, Many American prisoners of war were subjected to brutal and inhumane 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, Their work will not be complete, nor will our commitment be fulfilled, until they come home; and

Whereas, The stark MIA/POW flag will fly proudly near the United States and state of Michigan flags on September 21, serving as a commanding reminder that the duty of those who are missing in action or prisoners of war is finished, but ours continues as we seek to find, repatriate, and honor these courageous men and women; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body designate September 21, 2012, as POW/MIA Recognition Day in the state of Michigan.