

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, 1,883 Americans are still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, over 8,100 from the Korean War, over 120 from the Cold War and over 78,000 from WWII, plus CDR Michael Scott Speicher, USN, still Missing in Action from the Persian Gulf War, and the families and friends of these missing Americans, as well as their fellow veterans, still endure uncertainty concerning their fate; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Government intelligence and other evidence indicate that Vietnam could account for scores of missing Americans, including many of the 387 still missing in Laos and the 56 still unaccounted for in Cambodia, by unilaterally locating and returning identifiable remains and providing archival records to answer other discrepancies; and

WHEREAS, the Bush Administration has strengthened and renewed POW/MIA accounting efforts with the governments of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Russia, Communist China, North Korea and other nations to account for Americans whose fate are as yet unknown, though much more need to be done; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi supports continued priority by the administration to account as fully as possible for Americans still missing from our nation's wars; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi calls on the President to use meetings with foreign officials to ask for personal assistance to account for Americans – alive and dead – and return them to the United States, in particular to ask the Prime Minister of Vietnam to authorize locating and returning remains that would account for scores of America's POW/MIAs and providing records with answers on many more, and to ask the President of Russia to authorize provision of records relevant to all past wars in which the fate of Americans is still unknown:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim September 19, 2003, as

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

in the state of Mississippi in honor of all American POW/MIAs still missing from the Vietnam War and those still unaccounted for from the Korean War, Cold War and WWII and encourage all citizens to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, September 15, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR