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STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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JEB BUSH
Governor

GLEND A. HOOD
Secretary of State

October 29, 2003

Honorable Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House of Representatives
235 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As directed by the Florida Legislature, we are enclosing a copy of House Memorial No. 209, adopted by the 2003 Regular Session, urging Congress to provide adequate federal funding for a full accounting of those missing from our nation's wars, including any Florida resident who is classified as a United States Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA).

Sincerely,

Glenda E. Hood

Glenda E. Hood
Secretary of State

/lc

Enclosure



HM 0209, Engrossed 1

2003

House Memorial No. 209

1
2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States urging Congress
3 to provide adequate federal funding for a full accounting of
4 those missing from our nation's wars, including any Florida
5 resident who is classified as a United States Prisoner of
6 War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA).

7
8 WHEREAS, the men and women of the United States Armed
9 Forces are trained and dedicated to protect the security of our
10 nation, and

11 WHEREAS, these men and women have devoted themselves to the
12 task of protecting our lives and liberty as United States
13 citizens, and

14 WHEREAS, all Americans derive inspiration from the
15 sacrifices endured by members of the armed services during
16 captivity as prisoners of war, and

17 WHEREAS, the courage of the families of those members of
18 the Armed Services who remain missing or unaccounted for
19 continues to be a great source of inspiration and admiration for
20 all Americans, and

21 WHEREAS, Americans recognize the special debt of gratitude
22 owed to those who have sacrificed their freedom in the service
23 of our country, and

24 WHEREAS, as a reaffirmation of our commitment to the
25 courageous families of these military personnel, the State of
26 Florida pledges support to the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing
27 Personnel Office within the Department of Defense, which is the
28 federal agency charged to deal with the POW/MIA issue, and



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29 WHEREAS, the State of Florida hopes to ensure that those
30 who served and sacrificed for our nation are not forgotten and
31 left on faraway shores by urging the Congress to continue their
32 support of the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office
33 of the Department of Defense and its activities, NOW, THEREFORE,
34

35 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

36

37 That the Congress of the United States is requested to
38 provide the funds necessary for the Defense Prisoner of
39 War/Missing Personnel Office of the Department of Defense and
40 other Department of Defense agencies that play critical roles in
41 achieving the fullest possible accounting of POW/MIA's to
42 continue their work unimpeded from budgetary constraints or
43 reductions.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Florida, through
45 the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, will continue
46 working with the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel
47 Office to assist in the identification of unlocated family
48 members of any Florida resident classified as a United States
49 POW/MIA, thereby enabling the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing
50 Personnel Office to request that eligible family members provide
51 a blood sample to keep on file in the event it is needed in the
52 identification process.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
54 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
55 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the



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56 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
57 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 23, 2003.