

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 311

Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should continue to actively pursue efforts to achieve a full accounting of all members of the Armed Forces who remain unaccounted for from previous conflicts, particularly the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and to continue and maintain programs and procedures for achieving a full accounting of all military personnel who become prisoners of war or missing in action in future conflicts.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2000

Mr. SAXTON (for himself, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. LOBIONDO) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should continue to actively pursue efforts to achieve a full accounting of all members of the Armed Forces who remain unaccounted for from previous conflicts, particularly the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and to continue and maintain programs and procedures for achieving a full accounting of all military personnel who become prisoners of war or missing in action in future conflicts.

Whereas the United States has long-standing programs and procedures for searching for and accounting for members of the Armed Forces and other persons who as a result of a military conflict are placed in a missing status;

Whereas those programs and procedures include joint research and, in some cases, remains recovery operations with the governments of North Korea, Russia, and other countries to account for United States military personnel who engaged in activities related to the Korean War, with the governments of Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries to account for United States military personnel who engaged in activities related to the Vietnam War, and with the government of Russia to account for United States military personnel who engaged in activities related to the Cold War;

Whereas the Department of Defense estimates that there are over 10,000 members of the Armed Forces and others who as a result of activities during the Korean War or the Vietnam War were placed in a missing status or a prisoner of war status, or who were determined to have been killed in action although the body was not recovered, and who remain unaccounted for;

Whereas since 1996 the United States has recovered the remains of 42 United States servicemembers from North Korea, nine of whom were recovered as recently as 1998;

Whereas through the work of the United States-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs, the remains of 18 United States servicemembers whose aircraft were shot down during the Cold War have been recovered and identified, with more than 120 recovered remains still unaccounted for;

Whereas recent advances in forensic medicine and DNA analysis technology have improved the ability of the Department of Defense to identify the remains of recovered unknowns;

Whereas, notwithstanding the matters stated in the foregoing, the Defense Missing Persons Office of the Department of Defense has prepared a draft of a long-term strategic plan to consolidate the personnel recovery and accounting operations of the Department of Defense by 2004 which, if implemented, could result in a reduction of United States search and recovery efforts for unaccounted persons; and

Whereas the United States should continue to actively pursue efforts to achieve a full accounting of unaccounted for persons from past wars, including recovery and identification of remains: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress—

3 (1) that the United States should continue to
4 actively pursue a full accounting of all members of
5 the Armed Forces (and others) who remain unac-
6 counted for from past conflicts (particularly the Ko-
7 rean War and the Vietnam War) and, as part of ef-
8 forts to continue to actively pursue such a full
9 accounting—

10 (A) the Secretary of Defense should con-
11 tinue at current levels activities to analyze, in-
12 vestigate, search for, and account for persons

1 who are unaccounted for from such conflicts
2 and who were at any time classified as a pris-
3 oner of war or missing in action or who were
4 determined to have been killed in action al-
5 though the body was not recovered; and

6 (B) the United States should continue to
7 declassify Department of Defense documents
8 and to release intelligence information held by
9 agencies of the Government to the extent that
10 that information relates to cases of such per-
11 sons; and

12 (2) that the United States should continue to
13 take steps necessary for pursuing, in the case of any
14 future military conflict, a full accounting of all per-
15 sonnel who in such a conflict are classified at any
16 time as a prisoner of war or missing in action.

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