

**ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Indianapolis, Indiana
August 27, 28, 29, 2019**

Resolution No. 41: Protection Of The POW/MIA Flag

Origin: Ohio

Submitted by: Convention Committee on National Security

WHEREAS, In 1970, Mrs. Michael Hoff, an MIA wife and member of the National League of POW/MIA Families, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs, following approval by the League's Board of Directors at a meeting held January 22-23, 1972, POW/MIA flags were manufactured for distribution; and

WHEREAS, On March 9, 1989, an official League flag – flown over the White House on National POW/MIA Recognition Day 1988 – was installed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th Congress; and

WHEREAS, The League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever displayed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda where it stands as a powerful symbol of America's determination to account for U.S. personnel still missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355, which recognized the League's POW/MIA flag and designated it "the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation"; and

WHEREAS, The importance of the POW/MIA flag lies in its continued visibility, a constant reminder of the plight of America's unreturned veterans, other than "Old Glory," the League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever to fly over the White House, displayed since 1982 in this place of honor on National POW/MIA Recognition Day; and

WHEREAS, Passage by the 105th Congress of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act required that the League's POW/MIA flag fly six days each year: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day, and it must be displayed at the White House, the U.S. Capitol, the Departments of State, Defense and Veterans Affairs, the headquarters of the Selective Service System, major military installations as designated by the secretary of defense, all federal cemeteries and all offices of the U.S. Postal Service; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the specific dates stipulated, the Department of Veterans Affairs voluntarily displays our POW/MIA flag 24/7; and

WHEREAS, The National Vietnam Veterans, Korean War Veterans and World War II Memorials are now also required by law to display the POW/MIA flag daily - most state capitols have adopted similar laws, as have local governments nationwide; and

WHEREAS, It has been reported in the news and on social media outlets that the POW/MIA flag has been taken down and replaced by another supplemental flag which is a disgrace to America's unreturned veterans and their families; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 27, 28, 29, 2019, That the American Legion takes a stand in protecting the integrity of the POW/MIA Flag; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Congress to pass a resolution for not replacing the POW/MIA flag with any other symbol.