

POW/MIA Recognition

WHEREAS, in 1971, Mary Hoff, the wife of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Michael Hoff., who was listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War, developed the idea for a national flag to remind every American of the U.S. servicemembers who were prisoners of war and of those whose fates were never accounted for during war; and

WHEREAS, by the end of the Vietnam War, more than 2,500 servicemembers were listed by the Department of Defense as Prisoner of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA)., and in 1979, as families of the missing pressed for full accountability, Congress and the president proclaimed the first National POW/MIA Recognition Day to acknowledge the families' concerns and symbolize the steadfast resolve of the American people to never forget the men and women who gave up their freedom protecting ours; and

WHEREAS, Newt Heisley, who had been a U.S. Army pilot during World War II, designed the POW/MIA Flag to include black-and-white images of the silhouette of a man in profile with his head bowed in the foreground with a guard tower and barbed wire behind him, and the words, "You Are Not Forgotten," at the bottom; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, the POW/MIA flag became the only flag other than the American flag to fly over the White House in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 1990, Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355, designating the POW/MIA flag as "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."; and

WHEREAS, according to the most recent estimate from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, more than 81,000 Americans remain missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars, and other conflicts; and

WHEREAS, Congress has designated the third Friday of September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day and has ordered prominent display of the POW/MIA Flag on this day and several other national observances; and

WHEREAS; the continued visibility of the POW/MIA Flag is an apt reminder of the plight of Americas POW/MIAs; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the City of Racine to recognize the national commitment to search efforts for all those wartime missing and unaccounted for, as well as support for their families, and to honor the remarkable bravery, sacrifice, and commitment to service of former prisoners of war; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute section 62.11, the City of Racine Common Council shall have the management and control of the city's property; and

WHEREAS, it is apt that the Common Council should, from time-to-time, demonstrate expressions of the City's policies and principles.

THEREFORE, BET IT RESOLVED, that—subject to the affirmative recommendation of the Public Works and Services Committee and approval by the Common Council each year—the City of Racine shall fly the POW/MIA Flag upon the City of Racine City Hall flagpole each day during the month of September each year.

Fiscal Note: N/A