



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

WHEREAS, nearly 1,700 Americans are still missing from the Vietnam War, approximately 8,000 unaccounted for from the Korean War, 120 from the Cold War, over 78,000 from World War II; and

WHEREAS, their families, friends and other concerned Americans still must deal with the prolonged uncertainty concerning their fates; and

WHEREAS, the Obama administration has reinforced its commitment to maintaining POW/MIA accounting as a priority of the United States, though concerns remain about adequate funding, personnel and policy implementation; and

WHEREAS, the American people are hopeful that reorganization of the Department of Defense missing personnel accounting mission will resolve existing gaps and overlaps in the oversight and operations of the various agencies charged with accounting for unreturned veterans; and

WHEREAS, concerned Americans are encouraged by the increased engagement the Vietnamese government is demonstrating for ongoing efforts to account for missing United States personnel but are concerned that our government has sent inconsistent messages through actions and inactions regarding our seriousness towards in-country investigations and searches; and

WHEREAS, United States government intelligence and other evidence indicate that most countries in which U.S. losses occurred could provide greater assistance to answer questions about missing Americans; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho commends and endorses the national commitment to account as fully as possible for Americans still missing from our nation's wars; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho calls on the President, Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense to consistently raise with foreign counterparts the need for increased action to help account for our missing – alive and dead – and return them to the United States; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho calls on Congress to ensure that POW/MIA-related government offices and organizations receive the funding, personnel and leadership necessary to accomplish the principled mission of accounting for our missing veterans, thus signaling nations around the world that America stands behind those who serve;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor of the great State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim September 19th, 2014 to be

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

in Idaho in honor of returned U.S. POWs, and all Americans still captured, missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, Korean War, Cold War and World War II, and ask all citizens to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 19th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and fourteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-ninth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-fifth.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

BEN YSURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE