

SJM 8005 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Transportation

ADOPTED 04/09/2013

1 Beginning on page 1, line 1, strike all material through page 2,
2 line 36, and insert the following:

3 "TO THE HONORABLE LYNN PETERSON, SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, AND
4 TO THE WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, AND TO THE
5 WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, American soldiers and sailors were taken as prisoners of
10 war during the American Revolutionary War with the majority of
11 prisoners kept aboard British prison hulks near New York City. In
12 1873, a general exchange of prisoners occurred after the cessation of
13 hostilities and recognition of American independence; and

14 WHEREAS, During the War of 1812, battlefield exchanges occurred
15 under a general British/American cartel for exchanging prisoners. The
16 British continued to use prison hulks and the American POW's were
17 treated humanely until their repatriation following the Treaty of Ghent
18 in 1814; and

19 WHEREAS, During the Mexican-American War, the Mexican forces
20 released some American prisoners in "head for head" exchanges that
21 occasionally took place during the war, but most American prisoners of
22 war remained incarcerated until the ratification of the Treaty of
23 Guadalupe Hidalgo; and

24 WHEREAS, During the Civil War, both Union and Confederate forces
25 were unprepared to detain the enormous number of POW's. 211,400 Union
26 prisoners were held in the South and 220,000 Confederate prisoners were
27 held in the North. Starting in 1865, the federal government began
28 returning large numbers of prisoners to the Confederacy. After the
29 surrender at Appomattox, the Union prisons were closed quickly; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States entered World War I in April 1917. Of
2 the 4,120 American POW's during World War I, 147 died in captivity with
3 most deaths resulting from wounds received in combat. Prisoner
4 exchanges followed the signing of the armistice; and

5 WHEREAS, During World War II, 260,000 American POW's were held by
6 Germans in Europe. Over 1,121 American POW's died in European prison
7 camps. In the Far East, the Japanese held 124,079 American POW's.
8 10,650 American POW's died in Japanese prison camps. In addition,
9 there were 30,314 MIA's and 78,776 unaccounted for in the Far East; and

10 WHEREAS, During the Korean War, more than 12,000 American POW's
11 were held by North Korea and China. Additionally, over 8,000 were
12 classified as MIA and unaccounted for. After a truce was signed at
13 Panmonjum, over 4,000 American POW's were returned in August 1953; and

14 WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, 1,750 Americans were listed as MIA
15 or unaccounted for in Vietnam and an additional 600 were MIA in
16 neighboring Laos and Cambodia. To date, Vietnam has not accounted for
17 all American POW's; and

18 WHEREAS, During the Gulf War, 47 Americans were listed as POW's or
19 MIA at some point during Operation Desert Storm. At the conclusion of
20 the war, 21 POW's were repatriated, 23 bodies were recovered, 2 bodies
21 were never recovered, and one MIA case was left unresolved until 2009
22 when his remains were found in the Iraq desert; and

23 WHEREAS, During the Cold War, there was a sustained state of
24 political and military tension between Western and Eastern powers and,
25 as of 2000, there were 126 United States servicemen still unaccounted
26 for. The United States Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs
27 found evidence that some United States POW's were held in the former
28 Soviet Union after the Cold War incident and that it "cannot, based on
29 its investigation to date, rule out the possibility that one or more
30 U.S. POWs from past wars or incidents are still being held somewhere
31 within the borders of the former Soviet Union";

32 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
33 Washington State Transportation Commission commence proceedings to
34 designate state route number 117 in Clallam county between the junction
35 of state route number 101 and Marine Drive in the city of Port Angeles
36 as the POW/MIA Memorial Highway to honor the service and sacrifice of
37 all prisoners of war, missing in action, and those unaccounted for who
38 served in the United States of America.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
2 transmitted to the Honorable Lynn Peterson, Secretary of
3 Transportation, the Washington State Transportation Commission, and the
4 Washington State Department of Transportation."

EFFECT: Corrects the secretary of transportation's name and
inserts additional findings regarding POW's/MIA in the Gulf War and
Cold War.

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