

HB 984 -- DISPLAY OF THE POW/MIA FLAG

SPONSOR: Meadows

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Veterans by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill encourages all government buildings, businesses, and Missouri residents to display the POW/MIA flag on Memorial Day, July 4, September 11, and Veterans Day.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill encourages businesses and state agencies to display the POW/MIA flag on four specific holidays. It is not required, and there is no penalty for not displaying the flag. The POW/MIA flag is a reminder to be vigilant and honors the sacrifice of those soldiers and marines whose whereabouts are still unknown. Prisoners of war and those who are missing in action are very important veterans, but they aren't able to speak for themselves. Therefore, we must be their voice.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Meadows; Pat Kerr, Support Your Troops; and Nathan Gwynn.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst