

House Concurrent Resolution No. 60

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE GRIFFITH.

3200H.03I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, more than 81,900 United States service members remain unaccounted for
2 from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Cold War, of which 2,298 are
3 Missourians; and

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5 **WHEREAS**, for over seventy years the families of those missing have been deprived of
6 the peace that comes with laying to rest the remains of a loved one or at least knowing that loved
7 one's fate; and

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9 **WHEREAS**, the basic principle of national honor in the Armed Forces of the United
10 States is that the United States leaves no one behind; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, the United States has an obligation to the missing and to their families to
13 enforce this principle and provide information and answers; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, in 1993, the United States Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs
16 noted in its final report that declassifying the records related to POWs and MIAs could have
17 eliminated much of the controversy and unnecessary secrecy surrounding the United States
18 government's handling of the POW/MIA issues, which bred suspicion and distrust; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, federal statutes and multiple presidential executive orders have called for
21 the declassification of records relating to POWs and MIAs, but such mandates have been limited
22 in scope, lacked enforcement mechanisms, and included broad exceptions that have been
23 routinely cited by federal agencies as justification for continued classification of documents; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, all government agencies should be directed by Congress and the Executive
26 Branch of the United States to identify, locate, review, and declassify this vital information,
27 subject to reasonable standards and limitations; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, declassification and availability of these records would allow families of
30 the missing and others in the private sector to conduct research, gain relevant information, and,
31 thereby, hold the federal government accountable; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, investigation and diplomatic efforts between the United States and wartime
34 adversaries such as Russia, China, North Korea, and countries of Southeast Asia have yielded
35 little to no public information about the status of missing American service personnel who were
36 reportedly captured alive but not returned to the United States; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, the "Bring Our Heroes Home Act", which has been introduced in the
39 United States Senate as Senate Bill 2794 (2019), sponsored by Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID), sets
40 forth an integrated process for comprehensive declassification of records pertaining to missing
41 Armed Forces personnel records, subject to legitimate limitations and exceptions:

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43 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
44 Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
45 concurring therein, hereby call on the Missouri members of the United States Senate to support
46 and contribute to the early consideration and passage of the "Bring Our Heroes Home Act"; and

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48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the Missouri General Assembly
49 hereby call on all members of the Missouri Congressional delegation to lend their influence to
50 the cause of resolving the cases of all Missourians who remain unaccounted for from past
51 conflicts; and

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53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
54 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for each
55 member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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