

House Concurrent Resolution No. 88

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BARINGER.

6454H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, more than 82,000 American service members remain unaccounted for from
2 World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Cold War, of which 2,311 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 America's Armed Forces is that the
10 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 a Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs noted in its final
16 report that declassifying the records related to POWs and MIAs could have eliminated much of
17 the controversy and unnecessary secrecy surrounding the United States Government's handling
18 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 to identify, locate, review, and declassify this vital information, subject to reasonable
27 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**, the government of Vietnam is now offering unprecedented support to the
34 United States POW/MIA recovery efforts, and diplomatic efforts with other involved countries
35 continue; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, the "Bring Our Heroes Home Act", S. 120, 115th Cong. (2017), which has
38 been introduced in the United States Senate, sets forth an integrated process for comprehensive
39 declassification of records pertaining to missing Armed Forces personnel records, subject to
40 legitimate limitations and exceptions:

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42 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the Missouri House of
43 therein, hereby call on the Missouri members of the United States Senate to support and
44 contribute to the early consideration and passage of S. 120; and

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

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

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