



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the sacrifice and service of America's armed forces, including the many who became prisoners of war or who are still missing in action, have preserved our nation's cherished way of life and brought freedom to millions around the world; and

Whereas, those who have served in the various branches of our military placed the causes of freedom, democracy, and global peace before their own well-being, many of them suffering unimaginable hardships as prisoners of war, while remaining steadfast in their devotion to America and the ideals upon which it was founded; and

Whereas, with deep respect and solemn appreciation, we recognize those who paid the greatest price, among them our prisoners of war and those still missing in action long after the fighting has ended; their courage and devotion to duty, honor, and country are inspirational to all Americans; and

Whereas, we are mindful that, in previous wars, more than 140,000 American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines suffered harsh, illegal, and inhumane treatment as prisoners of war; and

Whereas, tens of thousands of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines remain unaccounted for, including: 73,515 from World War II; 7,844 from the Korean War; 1,627 from the Vietnam War; 126 from the Cold War era; and six from Iraq and other conflicts; and

Whereas, the families of prisoners of war and those missing in action have suffered immeasurably, enduring long periods of uncertainty and emotional trauma in the absence of their loved ones; and

Whereas, we have a duty as Americans to remember and recognize with honor those outstanding patriots who went to war and never returned home, and to reflect upon the pain and anguish that lingers with their families and friends; it is fitting to join this annual tribute to honor all Americans who remain missing and unaccounted for as a result of their service in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim September 18, 2015 as

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fifteenth day
of September in the year two thousand fifteen.