WHEREAS, thousands of Americans, including 4,184 Illinoisans, are still missing or unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, the Korean War, the Cold War, WWII and other conflicts, though some are presumed lost at sea; and,

WHEREAS, the families and friends of these heroes still await certainty regarding the fates of their loved ones; and,

WHEREAS, successive administrations have reinforced solid commitment to accounting for our Nation’s POW/MIA’s as a matter of highest national urgency for the United States; and,

WHEREAS, it is the priority of the state of Illinois to serve our military families and our nearly 650,000 veteran residents, honoring our obligations to the people who so valiantly sacrificed for their communities to know peace; and,

WHEREAS, that duty includes every action possible to account for those who held in faith that the people, places, and values here at home were worth fighting for; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Congress and President Carter passed resolutions authorizing POW/MIA Recognition Day in the summer of 1979, a date that in subsequent years was moved to the third Friday of September; and,

WHEREAS, federal and state administrations of all political leanings have recognized and honored our collective duty to account as fully as possible for Americans still missing and unlocated from our nation’s past wars and conflicts;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, recognizes September 20, 2019, as POW/MIA Recognition Day in honor of the brave Americans still missing and unaccounted for from the wars of the last century.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield, this TWENTIETH day of SEPTEMBER, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and NINETEEN, and of the State of Illinois, FIRST

done signed

SECRETARY OF STATE

GOVERNOR