

Resolution No. 2025-

RESOLUTION OF THE SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 19, 2025, AS NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY IN SOLANO COUNTY

WHEREAS, when military men and women take an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States, they do so knowing that they may be called upon to make great sacrifices to ensure and sustain our shared values. These patriots accept those risks and rush to fulfill the mission, no matter how harsh or dangerous the conditions. They embody the best of the American spirit; and

WHEREAS, more than 81,000 service members and civilians remain unaccounted for from conflicts dating back to World War II. The accounting for these individuals rests with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and their work continues today in cooperation with 45 host nations. Since 1973, the DPAA has accounted for nearly 1,000 American service members from World War II, over 450 from the Korean War and more than 1,000 from the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, on POW/MIA Recognition Day, we remember the debt we owe to them and to their families. We pay tribute to our former prisoners of war and recommit to the difficult but essential task of seeking out answers for the families of those still missing. We will always remember and honor our Nation's prisoners of war and those still missing in action, and keep faith with our promise as a Nation to bring all of our heroes home; and

WHEREAS, nearly 30 current or former Solano County residents have been identified as prisoners of war. In addition, scores of prisoners of war and the remains of those missing in action have come through Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California before being transported to their home base. However, the solemn flightline ceremonies at Travis Air Force Base that welcomed home recovered MIA's ended in 1997 when recovered missing-in-action remains began being placed on more direct commercial flights back to family members; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Peace Accords of 1973 famously led to Operation Homecoming, an airlift operation that spanned nearly two months, and during which 600 prisoners of war were released from Hanoi, Vietnam. Of those, 258 airmen, soldiers, sailors, and marines came home through Travis Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, since at least 1982, National POW/MIA Recognition Day events have been held in Vacaville. In 1986, the Brotherhood of Vietnam Veterans dedicated the Solano County Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Vacaville City Hall. For decades, this has been the site of National POW/MIA Recognition Day events. Its earliest champions were Military Officers Association of America members Lt. Col. Earl von Kaenel and Lt. Col. Bill Bryan, a POW from World War II, and Col. Fred Pelser, a POW from the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, the Vacaville Veterans Organizations (which today include: American Legion Post 165 and American Legion Auxiliary Post 165, AMVETS Post 1776, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 84, Marine Corps League Detachment 1486, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7244 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Post 7244) began coordination of National POW/MIA Recognition Day events in the mid-1990's. With the exception of 2017-2022, when the National POW/MIA Recognition Day event was held at Travis Air Force Base at the request of active duty members of the 621st CRW, the Vacaville Veterans Organizations has led the event and continue to organize it annually. This year's event will take place at 10 a.m., Sept. 19, 2025 at the Solano County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 650 Merchant Street, Vacaville; and

WHEREAS, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency continues to investigate and recover the remains of service members from the Vietnam War, as well as other combat operations. At present, more than 81,000 Americans remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Out of the more than 81,000 missing, 75 percent of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea; and

WHEREAS, and every day, the iconic black and white flag — a powerful symbol in recognition of the heroism and sacrifice of American POWs and MIAs — is flown in front of the Solano County Administration Center. Each day, this flag flies over memorials and cemeteries, on military installations, at local post offices, and on the front lawns of homes across the nation. This flag remains a symbol of America's commitment to honor the sacrifices of all those who serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Solano County Board of Supervisors do hereby observe September 19, 2025, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day in Solano County, and we encourage all residents to join us in honoring the bravery and perseverance of former prisoners of war, and those still missing, and their families.

Dated this 9th day of September, 2025

MITCH H. MASHBURN, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
BILL EMLIN, Clerk
Solano County Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Alicia Draves, Chief Deputy Clerk