

BY: Senator BROOKS

COMMEMORATING September 20, 2019, as National
POW/MIA Recognition Day

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to join the members of Vietnam Veterans of America in commemorating Friday, September 20, 2019, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day; and

WHEREAS, Throughout our Nation's history, the men and women of America's Armed Forces have preserved our freedom, protected our security and upheld our democratic values; and

WHEREAS, From the battles of the American Revolution through the crucible of two world wars to the war on terrorism today, our men and women in uniform have stood proudly in defense of the United States and in the cause of liberty; since our Nation's birth, more than a million have paid the price of that liberty with their lives; and

WHEREAS, Joining the ranks of these heroes are the thousands who have been prisoners of war or whose fates have never been resolved; many have been lost in the chaos of battle, the grief of their loss made more acute for their families and their fellow Americans because of the inability to determine whether they perished or survived; captive Americans, cruelly stripped of their freedom, treated with contempt and brutality, or used as pawns by their captors, have fought long, lonely battles against despair, physical and psychological torture, and the ultimate fear of being forgotten; and

WHEREAS, We also remember our fellow Americans who continue to suffer the uncertainties of wartime; the families, friends and supporters of those Missing in Action (MIAs) and Prisoners of War (POWs) who continue to suffer deep anguish and grave concern for the plight of their loved ones who are numbered among the MIAs and POWs who, because of the uncertainty surrounding their fates, are not afforded the recognition which they, indeed, have earned for the sacrifices they have made and the heroism they have displayed; and

WHEREAS, At the end of the Vietnam War, there reportedly were 2,583 unaccounted for American prisoners, missing or killed in action, their bodies not recovered; and

WHEREAS, The sacrifices of Americans still missing and unaccounted for and their families are deserving of special recognition and support for continued priority efforts to determine the fate of those missing Americans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and respectfully commemorate September 20, 2019, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and to urge all citizens of the State of New York to display the Nation's flag that week out of respect for the POWs and the MIAs of this great Empire State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be submitted to Vietnam Veterans organizations throughout the State of New York.