



State Representative Scott Wiggam
Sponsor Testimony House Bill 254
June 21, 2017

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Lanese, and Ranking Member Craig, and members of the House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security Committee, thank you for the opportunity to discuss House Bill 254, the POW/MIA Remembrance Act.

Recently, Jim Smith, a constituent of Wayne County and member of the Rolling Thunder approached me during office hours back in the district. His organization has been spearheading a movement in Ohio to memorialize the servicemen and women who have valiantly served our nation in uniform but never made it home. Mr. Smith brought to my attention that the POW/MIA flag, the national symbol to remember these heroes, is not instructed to be flown in the state.

That is what led to House Bill 254 being drafted. Titled the POW/MIA Remembrance Act, this bill will direct certain state buildings to fly the POW/MIA flag on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, Independence Day, Flag Day, and National POW/MIA Recognition Day. This legislation is similar to federal legislation, directing federal buildings to raise the POW/MIA flag on the above-mentioned days.

We owe our freedom and the survival of this American Experiment to the sacrifice of these individuals. This legislation is a small act to recognize these individuals' service to our great nation and I would be more than happy to answer any questions at this time.