



State Representative Scott Wiggam
Sponsor Testimony House Bill 254
September 13, 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 why I have introduced House Bill 254. Titled the POW/MIA Remembrance Act, this bill instructs certain state buildings that already have a flagpole on their property 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.

This past Memorial Day I watched the POW/MIA flag play a significant role in the ceremony. However, instead of being on stage, the flag and the flag bearer stood at a distance to remind us of the separation that our POW/MIA individuals would have felt when isolated from the fellow service members. This legislation is an act to recognize these individuals' service to our great nation and to ensure that their memory and sacrifice is never forgotten. I urge swift passage of H.B. 254, and would be more than happy to answer any questions at this time.