

## **Resolution No. 418**

### **PROTECT POW/MIA FULL ACCOUNTING MISSION FUNDING**

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is deeply committed to achieving the fullest possible accounting of 83,000 missing Americans that include approximately 73,000 from World War II, 7,700 from the Korean War, 1,600 from the Vietnam War, 126 from the Cold War, and 6 post-Vietnam that include Operations Eldorado Canyon (1), Desert Storm (2) and Iraqi Freedom (3); and

WHEREAS, public-private partnerships are expanding the overall mission's ability to be at more sites, including previously unreachable sites, as is increasing the number of DPAA field offices into areas closer to major battlefields; and

WHEREAS, DPAA has strong bipartisan support on Capitol Hill, which will be necessary should additional funding be required to support recovery operations in North Korea, which have been interrupted since 2005 due to U.S. safety and security concerns; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that DPAA remain fully funded. Recovering fallen Americans from long-ago battlefields is demanding and often dangerous work for investigation and recovery teams, but it is the most sacred of missions. It is our government's fulfillment of a soldier's pledge to never leave a fallen comrade on the battlefield, which is a promise that spans all generations; and

WHEREAS, without full and reliable funding, DPAA has been forced to postpone, restrict, or cancel recovery missions and delay recovery of difficult sites in favor of more productive locations, such as mass burials or multi-crewman aircraft crashes, in order to meet their legally required number of annual recoveries. Full funding enables DPAA to efficiently plan, resource and accomplish its worldwide mission to recover, identify and return to their families all missing American service members from all wars and conflicts; and

WHEREAS, Congress has adopted nine Continuing Resolutions in the last ten years and caused three shutdowns since 2013, which hinder operational planning and slow recoveries; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon Congress to fully fund the requested amounts for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and all supporting organizations involved in the Full Accounting Mission.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Congress must pass advanced appropriations to prevent a slowdown in recoveries and allow for budget carry-over allowing DPAA to plan multi-year operations.

Submitted by Commander-in-Chief  
To Committee on NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS