

Exhibit No. 3
Date 2/20/2013
Bill No. HB 214

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

I'm here to ask for your support of House Bill 214 as originally introduced by Representative Wagoner.

In May of 2012 my wife and I, and other veterans from Montana rode motorcycles back to Washington D.C. Along the way, we joined veterans riding across the U.S. to participate in a ceremony that has taken place on Memorial Day weekend for the last 25 years.

Part of that weekend is a peaceful demonstration ride from the Pentagon to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The purpose is to continue to raise awareness of the POW/MIA issue.

After a humble call to action in 1988 with 2,500 participants, last year there were almost 700,000 motorcycles and approximately 1 million people lining the route or taking part in the ride. That is like the entire population of Montana standing outside our Capitol building. Give each one of them an American flag or a POW/MIA flag and you would see a very impressive, solemn gathering.

The one thing that got my attention both riding to D.C. and back home to Montana, was the number of states flying the POW/MIA flag with the flag of the United States of America. It was more than just the Memorial Day weekend that the flags were flown. I felt very proud of the patriotism shown by the people in those states. They did not forget.

There are almost 83,400 veterans unaccounted for since WWII. That is a lot of families waiting to hear what happened to their loved one(s). Many thousands of those are considered buried at sea and unrecoverable. There are still 55 veterans from Montana unaccounted for: 8 from WWII; 28 from the Korean War; 18 from Vietnam; 1 from the Cold War. Perhaps you or someone you know is waiting for news of a veteran from one of these wars. They will not be forgotten.

In 1998, Section 1082 of the Defense Authorization Act – codified as Title 36, Section 902 of the U.S. Code – mandated that the POW/MIA flag be flown over the Capitol, the White House, the Korean and Vietnam Veterans

Memorials, the offices of the secretaries of State, Defense and Veterans Affairs, of the Selective Service System, and on the grounds or in the lobbies of every major military installation, every post office and all VA Medical Centers and national cemeteries.

Unfortunately, amending the original House Bill 214, takes us back to 1998. The language change made by the House committee offers nothing new. It has been amended to recommending instead of requiring the POW/MIA flag to be displayed with the flag of the United States of America at specified locations. Another change: The POW/MIA flag may be displayed, instead of must be displayed. The Defense Authorization Act already allows us the privilege of flying the POW/MIA flag. Let's not have people say: Montana has forgotten.

Since 1998, several states have voted to do more than the Federal government requires. POW/MIA's deserve to be remembered every day, until they are accounted for or until they come home. Just this month the remains of 3 Korean War Veterans were brought home and laid to rest in the state of Washington.

The POW/MIA flag is flying at a few locations in the Helena area: The Montana State Veterans Cemetery and the Parade grounds in front of the VA Hospital; the 1st Special Forces Service Memorial in Memorial Park; the American Legion Post #2 on Custer Ave.; and my front yard. Not much of a showing for what should be an important issue to everyone.

I've been told by a US Postal employee that the POW/MIA flag is flown all the time, at some smaller post offices north of Great Falls.

This is Montana's opportunity to show our concern and commitment to achieving the fullest possible accounting of U.S. military personnel who are or may in the future become POW, MIA or otherwise unaccounted for as a result of hostile action.

Montanans have a duty to honor their service every bit as much as we honor those who most recently served or are still serving today. We would be joining some of our neighboring states: Oregon, Washington, Arizona &

Idaho and several others across this great nation. Hopefully in the not too distant future, every state will join in flying the POW/MIA flag. We will never forget.

I'm old enough to know that without leadership, a volunteer project will not get done. And this Bill as amended is a volunteer project – a recommend/may project. Was it really worthy of a standing ovation in the House?

I respectfully request your leadership. Amend this Bill to its original version. I would suggest the following time schedule: Memorial Day 2013 for all government buildings listed, that have flag poles tall enough to fly both flags and Memorial Day 2014 for those that would need to install a taller pole.

Costs of displaying the POW/MIA flag could possibly be funded by veteran's organizations and other service clubs in counties that might need to replace a flag pole. I believe this bill is important enough that all veterans and their families will proudly step up and offer support.

Thank you for allowing me to present my views to this committee. I appreciate your support of House Bill 214.

I want the Montana 63rd Legislature to say, "You are not forgotten"

Then there will be a vote worthy of a standing ovation.

Dick Juvik

2/20/2013