

WHEREAS, for more than two (2) centuries, Americans have risked and lost their own freedom to defend democracy, preserve America's liberty and values, and protect our national interests around the world. In Andersonville, or along the Yalu River, confined in Nazi stalags or enduring torture in the Hanoi Hilton, our Prisoners of War have set an extraordinary example of valor, patriotism and devotion to duty in the face of enormous hardship and adversity. The somber black and white POA/MIA flag serves as a reminder of their sacrifice and symbolizes our Nation's deep concern for a steadfast commitment to these brave Americans and their families:

WHEREAS, but, however dark and trying the ordeal of our Prisoners of War, their sacrifices did indeed serve a grand purpose. Inspired by their bravery in captivity, our nation has been resolute in its defense of liberty. Each year on "National POW/MIA Recognition Day," we acknowledge with special gratitude and profound respect those who paid for our freedom with their own, and we remember with deep sorrow those whose fate has never been resolved; and

WHEREAS, today we pay special tribute to our Nation's current and former Prisoners of War, those still listed as Missing in Action and their families. Therefore, we express our heartfelt gratitude for their many sacrifices and the ideals of a strong people and a free Nation that they have embodied.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT, do hereby PROCLAIM that Aransas County observe September 20, 2020 to be:

"NATIONAL POW/MIA DAY"

All Americans are called upon to join the Court in remembering former and current Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action who have suffered the hardships of enemy captivity. The Court also calls upon our local governments, schools and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, hereunto signed officially apply affixed the Official Seal of Aransas County on this 17th day of August, 2020.

C.H. "Burt" Mills, Jr., Aransas County Judge Y, Commissioner Pct. 1

RLES SMITH, Commissioner Pct. 3

ALERIE K AMASON, County Clerk

LESLIE CASTERLI mmissioner Pct. 2

WENDY LAUBACH, Commissioner-

