

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 22, 2020

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to request that you restore the POW/MIA flag to its rightful place atop the White House. As you may be aware, last year the POW/MIA flag was removed from atop the residence and placed in a memorial on the White House Grounds during a Memorial Day event. The flag was never returned to its rightful place following that event. We ask you to ensure that the White House displays the POW/MIA flag in accordance with federal law to appropriately honor all American prisoners of war and missing service members.

On November 7, 2019, the National POW/MIA Flag Act, which we led and which received widespread bipartisan support, became law.<sup>1</sup> This law requires the POW/MIA flag to be displayed whenever the American flag is displayed on prominent federal properties to honor the nearly 82,000 Americans who are listed as Prisoners of War, Missing in Action, or otherwise unaccounted for from our nation's past wars and conflicts.<sup>2</sup> As a result, certain federal locations, including the White House, must now display both flags every day in locations that are visible to the general public.

This issue is critically important to veterans and other Americans who care deeply about the POW/MIA flag as a sign that we will never forget about the thousands of American service members who are still far from home against their will. Although the flag has been relocated to a permanent memorial on the White House grounds, the new location is not prominently visible from outside the White House grounds. We support the creation of this permanent memorial, but would like to see the flag elevated to a position more visible to the general public. The welcome addition of such a memorial does not prevent any administration from also flying the POW/MIA flag with the American flag atop the White House, in the spirit of the National POW/MIA Flag Act.

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<sup>1</sup> Public Law No. 116-67.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Defense, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Past Conflicts, <https://www.dpaa.mil/Our-Missing/Past-Conflicts/> (last updated December 31, 2020).

We ask that you take swift action to restore the flag to its place of honor atop the White House, thereby prominently recognizing the service and sacrifices of American prisoners of war, missing service members, and their families.

Sincerely,



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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



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Tom Cotton  
United States Senator



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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator