

House Memorial No. 429

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to take all actions necessary to resolve the fate of Captain M. Scott Speicher.

WHEREAS, the Armed Forces of the United States fought admirably, bravely, and successfully during Operation Desert Storm, and

WHEREAS, M. Scott Speicher, then a lieutenant commander and now a captain in the United States Navy, flew a Navy FA-18 in a bombing mission over Iraq on January 17, 1991, and

WHEREAS, then-Lieutenant Commander Speicher failed to return to his carrier following that mission and was erroneously declared killed in action, and

WHEREAS, since that time, intelligence has determined that Captain Speicher ejected from his aircraft, and

WHEREAS, in January 2001, in an unprecedented action, Captain Speicher's designation was changed from "Killed in Action" to "Missing in Action," and

WHEREAS, the former executive chairman of the United Nations Special Commission, a renowned expert on Iraq, testified before the United States Senate in July 2002 that "we should not give up" on Captain Speicher, and

WHEREAS, in October 2002, based upon intelligence confirming that he had been taken captive by the Iraqi government, Captain Speicher's designation was changed from "MIA" to "MIA-Captured," and further intelligence reports make it clear that Iraq is in a position to resolve questions regarding Captain Speicher's fate, and

WHEREAS, this nation has pledged to the members of our armed services that they will not be abandoned, and the State of Florida renews that pledge to Captain Speicher, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the Congress of the United States is requested to take all actions necessary to resolve the fate of Captain M. Scott Speicher, United States Navy, MIA-Captured.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 23, 2003.