



HR0316

LRB098 11947 MST 45323 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize William Grahame
4 Wilkin III for creating the original artwork that is featured
5 on the now iconic POW/MIA flag; and

6 WHEREAS, William Wilkin III was a junior at Glenbard South
7 High School in 1983 when he created the artwork for a contest
8 he entered and took 3rd place; unbeknownst to him, the artwork
9 was appropriated for use on the POW/MIA flag when congress
10 voted to make it an official flag of the United States in
11 1988-1989; and

12 WHEREAS, The artwork is based on the Apostle Paul's
13 writings while incarcerated; if the artwork is spun from 12
14 o'clock to 3:15, the tower becomes 3 crosses on the hill; the
15 silhouette is looking down and away in self pity or looking
16 away from God; the circle is all of the worldly things keeping
17 him from turning to God; and the flag is black, a symbol of
18 lost hope; and

19 WHEREAS, William Wilkin III's original phrase accompanying
20 the artwork was "I believe they are alive"; the flag now reads
21 "We will never forget"; and

1 WHEREAS, William Wilkin III is married to Jodi and they
2 have 2 daughters, Madalyne and Alexandra; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we recognize William Wilkin III for creating the original
6 artwork for the POW/MIA flag and thank him for his contribution
7 to his country; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to William Wilkin III as an expression of our esteem
10 and respect.