
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 242 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY RAPP, GILLEN, SMITH, KAUFFMAN, DELLOSO, PICKETT,
BRENNAN, WEBSTER, HAMM, HADDOCK AND NEILSON, OCTOBER 16, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, OCTOBER 16, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Department of Defense, Defense POW/MIA
2 Accounting Agency to continue its arduous, noble and
3 honorable work of bringing home all prisoners of war and
4 those listed as missing in action.

5 WHEREAS, Since World War II, more than 81,000 Americans are
6 still unaccounted for and are listed as either prisoners of war
7 (POW) or missing in action (MIA); and

8 WHEREAS, Unthinkable pain remains with the loved ones of the
9 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who do not return home;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Though POWs and the men and women declared MIA
12 remain overseas for years or even decades, the Defense POW/MIA
13 Accounting Agency (agency) works tirelessly to bring all our
14 military members home; and

15 WHEREAS, On September 23, 2023, Army Sergeant Richard M.
16 Sharrow was brought home after 73 years in a procession in his
17 honor in his hometown of Marienville; and

18 WHEREAS, Sergeant Sharrow was laid to rest in Marienville on

1 September 25, 2023, with full military honors; and

2 WHEREAS, Sergeant Sharrow proudly and honorably served his
3 country with the United States Navy from November 1945 to
4 November 1947 and, after a brief visit home, he then enlisted in
5 the United States Army on February 28, 1948; and

6 WHEREAS, During the Korean War, Sergeant Sharrow was assigned
7 to F Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry
8 Division, Eighth United States Army, a ground component of the
9 United Nations Command; and

10 WHEREAS, In July 1950, during an attempt to block the enemy
11 near Yongdong, South Korea, Sergeant Sharrow's company
12 encountered the heavy presence of enemy forces, which resulted
13 in a large number of casualties; and

14 WHEREAS, On July 25, 1950, Sergeant Sharrow was reported as
15 MIA; and

16 WHEREAS, Thanks to the efforts of the agency, Sergeant
17 Sharrow's remains were recovered and identified through DNA
18 testing, providing delayed but welcome closure to the family;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The agency's work is vital to members of the armed
21 forces and to their families, providing a small comfort of
22 knowing that no military personnel will ever be left behind or
23 forgotten; and

24 WHEREAS, The agency's ongoing work should be celebrated and
25 encouraged until all POWs and those listed as MIA are accounted
26 for and back home; and

27 WHEREAS, Our country and our Commonwealth owe all POW and MIA
28 servicemen and servicewomen a debt that can never be repaid;
29 therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the

1 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the United States Department
2 of Defense, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to continue its
3 arduous, noble and honorable work of bringing home all prisoners
4 of war and those listed as missing in action; and be it further
5 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
6 the United States Department of Defense, Defense POW/MIA
7 Accounting Agency.