

*THE STATE OF WISCONSIN*

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of our state recognize and appreciate the sacrifices of those brave Wisconsinites who suffered in captivity at the hands of the enemy, and;

**WHEREAS**, April 9 marks the start of the infamous Bataan Death March in the Philippines where thousands of American prisoners of war and their Filipino comrades died or were killed, and;

**WHEREAS**, in each of the nation's conflicts, American prisoners of war endured tremendous physical and mental hardships as well as long separation from their loved ones back home in the cause of freedom around the world, and;

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 25,000 former prisoners of war are still alive in the United States, with about 500 in Wisconsin, and;

**WHEREAS**, in the midst of current conflict in the Middle East (Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan), as in recent past conflicts in Vietnam, the Middle East Crisis, Panama, Somalia, Bosnia, and the Persian Gulf War, brave servicemembers have continued on at the risk of being captured as Prisoners of War, and;

**WHEREAS**, former prisoners of war have not been forgotten, and;

**WHEREAS**, we gratefully acknowledge the sacrifices of those brave Wisconsin citizens who endured the hardship of captivity as prisoners of war and helped preserve freedom throughout the world, and;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 2001 Wisconsin Act 20, the State of Wisconsin has designated April 9<sup>th</sup> of each year as Prisoners of War Remembrance Day, to recognize the sacrifices of those persons who suffered captivity in foreign countries while in active service with the U.S. armed forces, with some portion of the day be used for solemn contemplation on the plight of members of the U.S. armed forces who have been held prisoners of war, and;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim **April 9, 2007**

**PRISONERS OF WAR REMEMBRANCE DAY**

in the State of Wisconsin as a tribute to former POWs and their families and I commend this observance to all citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this sixth day of April in the year two thousand seven.

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JIM DOYLE

By the Governor

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DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State