

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.2003-4654, by Representatives Hinkle, Hunter, McCoy, Blake, Delvin, Orcutt, Morris, Buck, Clibborn, Hatfield, Clements, Bush, Ahern, Tom, Cairnes, McDonald, Rockefeller, Mastin, Mielke, McMahan, Schoesler, Boldt, Woods, Holmquist, O'Brien, McDermott, Sehlin, Benson, Cox, Skinner, Pearson, Anderson, Upthegrove, Quall, Chase, Lantz, Armstrong, Kristiansen, Alexander, Sump, Kirby, Carrell, Pettigrew and Cooper

WHEREAS, The Governor has declared Wednesday, April 9th to be "Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day"; and

WHEREAS, Americans have fought in many wars over the years and thousands have been captured by hostile forces in their efforts to defend our independence, our freedoms, our constitutional republic, our way of life, and our families and friends; and

WHEREAS, American prisoners have frequently endured great pain, suffering, and humiliation at the hands of their captors; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of our military personnel currently find themselves in harms way as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Several members of the United States Armed Forces participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom have been captured and are being held by enemy forces in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Elements of the 507th Maintenance Company of the United States Army were ambushed near Nasarieya, Iraq on March 23, 2003; and

WHEREAS, These elements fought heroically before being overwhelmed by Iraq's forces; and

WHEREAS, Fifteen members of the 507th Maintenance Company were captured, wounded, or killed in the ambush; and

WHEREAS, Certain Iraqi citizens of good heart put their personal safety at risk by providing Coalition forces with information as to the whereabouts of company members; and

WHEREAS, United States Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine personnel bravely rescued Pfc. Jessica Lynch and recovered the bodies of her fellow soldiers; and

WHEREAS, The families and friends of current and former prisoners of war also suffer because of the imprisonment of their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, We must ensure that our prisoners of war receive the necessary and appropriate care and treatment they are entitled to as a result of their confinement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the state of Washington extend its heartfelt sympathies to the families and friends of those who are or have been either prisoners of war, killed in action, or missing in action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the state of Washington honor former prisoner of war, Pfc. Jessica Lynch, for her fierce bravery under fire and her firm determination in captivity, and for all former prisoners of war who have once again received their freedom; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the state of Washington extend its sincere gratitude for the service and sacrifice made by those participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom and specifically to the members of our Armed Forces who participated in the daring rescue of Pfc. Jessica Lynch; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the state of Washington pray for a speedy and successful end to these hostilities and the safe and speedy return of our troops; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the state of Washington encourage all citizens to join in the special observance of "Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day" on Wednesday, April 9th and to remain vigilant in their thoughts and prayers for the safe return of those currently being held as prisoners of war.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
Resolution 4654 adopted by the House of Representatives
April 9, 2003

Cynthia Zehnder, Chief Clerk