

Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs

December 13, 2019

Dear Senators Crapo and Shaheen:

We write to congratulate and applaud your efforts in introducing S-2794, the *Bring Our Heroes Home Act*. For decades, families of American POW/MIAs have waited to learn the fate of their missing loved ones. All too often, efforts to get answers have been thwarted by an inability to gain access to important information. Documents such as prisoner debriefings, live sightings and other pertinent Intelligence reports that could shed light on a serviceman's fate have remained classified. Freedom of Information Act requests sometimes go unanswered for years. Many significant documents exist unbeknownst to families and other researchers.

For these reasons, and many more, the *BOHHA* is long overdue. This legislation will be a valuable tool in the hands of families and others who seek the fullest possible accounting for missing American service personnel.

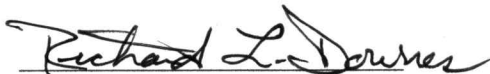
Of note is the fact that this legislation will create an Independent Review Board, tasked with oversight of what will be a mandated declassification process. Government agencies will be required to proactively locate, review and declassify information, subject to specific exceptions.

Declassification of documents pertaining to POW/MIAs has never before been taken as a whole and scrutinized for compliance. We believe the *BOHHA* will change the course of the POW/MIA accounting effort in remarkable ways.

With this in mind, the Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs offers its unfettered support for the *Bring Our Heroes Home Act*, S-2794. We urge other senators to support and co-sponsor the bill as a demonstration of commitment to the men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces. Let us truly work to leave no one behind.

Thank you for your dedication to bringing this bill forward.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Downes, President



Donna D. Knox, Legislative Liaison