



**JOHN H. LYNCH**  
Governor

# State of New Hampshire

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June 11, 2009

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write today to express a concern I have heard from many veterans here in New Hampshire. Today, many of these dedicated men and women have gathered at the New Hampshire State House to join me as I sign Senate Bill 148, *an act establishing that the state of New Hampshire recognizes the designations of Prisoner of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) as valid descriptions of casualty status and category classification for military personnel.*

A number of veterans and other people with whom I have spoken have expressed concern about the fact that the Department of Defense no longer lists "Prisoner of War" as a designation for soldiers presumed captured by the enemy. They feel that the status "Missing/Captured" does not confer the same recognition of the sacrifice borne by our men and women in combat, and of the peril facing those who do not return home.

By signing SB 148 today, I join these men and women in asking that the words we use to describe the actions and status of the brave men and women in our military reflect the danger they face every day. Americans take pride in the fact that our soldiers, airmen, marines, and sailors leave no one behind. I ask that your administration review the recent change in policy, and direct the Department of Defense to reinstate the use of the "Prisoner of War" (POW) designation. This is extremely meaningful and important terminology for those who have given years of their lives in service to our country while imprisoned in foreign lands.

Thank you for your time and your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Lynch".

John H. Lynch  
Governor