

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 29, 2011

Secretary Leon Panetta
Secretary of the Department of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Panetta,


As strong supporters of our nation's veterans, we were disturbed to learn in recent reports that the Department of Defense is considering ending the U.S. – Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs and by redirecting future funding away from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). Simply put, any proposal offered by this Administration to abandon the search efforts for our missing heroes overseas is unconscionable.

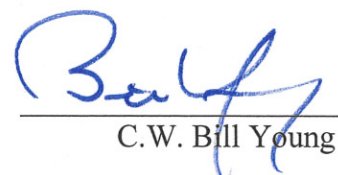
The United States is a nation of great honor and integrity. We have made a sacred promise to each and every brave member of our military who has deployed overseas in defense of this country that their sacrifice and service will never be forgotten. It is our duty to uphold our end of this promise and ensure that the search for those missing continues.

For this reason, we ask that any future proposals to redirect future funding away from JPAC be denied. By considering these proposals, the Administration is sending a dangerous message about our commitment to our current active duty military as well as our proud veterans who are still searching and holding out hope for their missing brothers and sisters overseas.

Moving forward, we must strengthen our commitment to the U.S. – Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs and ensure that JPAC has the resources necessary to achieve their core mission of bringing all unaccounted-for Americans back home.

Sincerely,


Richard B. Nugent


C.W. Bill Young

Candice S. Miller

Candice Miller

Jim McGovern

James P. McGovern

Virginia Foxx

Virginia Foxx

Roscoe Bartlett

Roscoe Bartlett

Stephen Lynch

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