

By Senator Bullard

39-2218-03

1 Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_

2 A resolution supporting the safe return of  
3 America's Women Prisoners of War/Missing in  
4 Action (POW/MIA) held in "Operation Iraqi  
5 Freedom."

6  
7 WHEREAS, more than 200,000 women are currently serving  
8 in the armed forces, constituting 15 percent of both the  
9 enlisted ranks and the officer corps, making up more than 15  
10 percent of the Army, 14 percent of the Navy, 6 percent of the  
11 Marine Corps, and 19 percent of the Air Force, and

12 WHEREAS, in 1994 the so-called Risk Rule was lifted,  
13 opening nearly 90 percent of all military jobs to women, which  
14 means that women must now follow their male counterparts into  
15 hostile zones, and

16 WHEREAS, on March 23, the 507th Maintenance Battalion  
17 based at Fort Bliss, Texas, ran into a heavily armed Iraqi  
18 combat unit, which included two tanks and automatic weapons,  
19 near the city of An Nasiriyah, Iraq, and

20 WHEREAS, Private First Class Jessica Lynch, 19, of  
21 Palestine, West Virginia, first believed missing in action,  
22 then found to have become a prisoner of war, was safely  
23 rescued on April 1, and

24 WHEREAS, Private First Class Lori Ann Piestewa, 22, of  
25 Tuba City, Arizona, a Hopi Indian, was missing in action since  
26 being ambushed while on a supply mission, and is now confirmed  
27 killed in action, and

28 WHEREAS, Specialist Shoshana Nyree Johnson, 30, of El  
29 Paso, Texas, remains a prisoner of war since the ambush, an  
30 African-American, single mother with a 2-year-old daughter,  
31 who is a cook, and

1           WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives  
2 unanimously passed a resolution on March 27 demanding that  
3 Iraq obey the Geneva Conventions, condemning violations of  
4 those rules to date, and calling for the Red Cross to have  
5 access to Americans held captive, and

6           WHEREAS, we express pride and support for the women of  
7 the Armed Forces as they respond to the call to duty and  
8 bravely answer their country's call to serve, NOW, THEREFORE,

9  
10 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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12           That this legislative body proudly honors and supports  
13 the women of our Armed Forces for their valor, unselfish  
14 sacrifices, and dedication to duty, and calls upon this state  
15 and the people of Florida to remember these women in their  
16 thoughts and prayers as we await their safe rescue and return  
17 to United States soil.