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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2017

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.
P.O. Box 44625
Jacksonville, FL 32222

Dear Board Members,

Our military is the backbone of our country's freedom and far too many brave citizens become prisoners of war or remain missing. Jacksonville takes pride in its military community and is home to nearly 150,000 veterans. It would be fitting for Jacksonville to become home to a national memorial for prisoners of war and those missing in action.

The POW/MIA Memorial would serve to honor those who fought selflessly and tirelessly to preserve our American values and way of life. This monument would be a haven of reverence, so we may remember them and pay respects to our nation's heroes.


For this project to become a reality, it needs the support of the City of Jacksonville. The POW/MIA Memorial already has the support of prominent political figures at the national level, including from Senators John McCain, Bill Nelson, and Marco Rubio. As such, I am proud to add my full backing in seeing this mission through.

In addition to the establishment of the memorial, there is also an effort to rename the road that will bring visitors to the park from New World Avenue to POW/MIA Memorial Highway. What a fitting way to expand the reach of this cause to the residents of Jacksonville and beyond.

Every generation has fought to preserve our freedom and defend life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and every generation has lost servicemen and women in that defense. We must never forget the sacrifice our veterans and their families have made and honor them in all we do. This is especially true for our military members who become POW or MIA and need the

steadfast and unwavering support of their country. This memorial is a way to honor their unique sacrifices on behalf of our freedom.
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Al Lawson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping loop at the end of the word "Lawson".

Al Lawson, Jr.
Member of Congress