

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Americans have defended freedom throughout its history, and thousands have been captured in their efforts to protect our democratic way of life; and

**WHEREAS**, many American prisoners endured great pain and suffering at the hands of their captors, including more than 100,000 during World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, April marks the 63rd anniversary of the first return of American POWs from North Korea during Operation Little Switch; and

**WHEREAS**, April also marks the 43rd anniversary of the end of Operation Homecoming in which our Vietnam Era POWs returned to freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been 25 years since the release of our Gulf War I POWs; and

**WHEREAS**, this country has suffered the pain and sorrow of sons and daughters taken as prisoners of war, and felt relief as they witnessed the liberation of some of these brave soldiers who had been captured; and

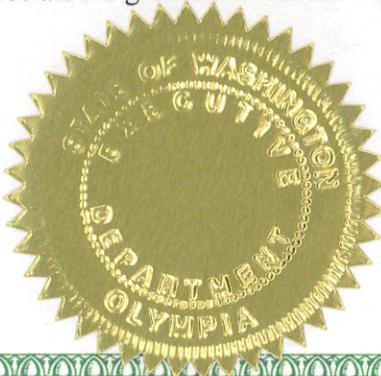
**WHEREAS**, the families of the current prisoners of war and the former prisoners of war also suffer psychological pain because of their loved ones imprisonment; and

**WHEREAS**, we must ensure that our former prisoners of war receive caring, appropriate treatment for the physical and emotional scars that resulted from their confinement;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2016 as

### ***Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day***

in Washington State, and I urge all people to join me in this special observance to recognize and appreciate the great contributions made by those who gave so much, so freely.



Signed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee