

# National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day

War is a brutal act humans have carried out since learning to use sticks and stones as weapons. Prisoners of war (POWs), the people who are captured by the opposition party as prisoners during a war, often endure atrocious treatment. National Former POW Recognition Day honors those courageous fighters who had to endure.

National Former POW Recognition Day occurs on the anniversary of the Bataan Death March. On 9 April 1942, the U.S. Forces surrendered to the Imperial Japanese Army on the Bataan Peninsula. All Survivors were loaded in a box train and taken to Camp O'Donnell. During this march, POWs were physically abused and tortured, causing the death of over 500 Americans. This is why it's called the Bataan Death March. Later, this action of the Japanese Army was judged to be a war crime.

In 1984, former POWs led a movement to recognize 9 April, as the National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. On 1 April 1988, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed 9 April be set aside to recognize the brave veterans. Reagan announced

the holiday through the Presidential Proclamation 5788, and Congress agreed with the legislation. Since then, on this day, every year, government officials, veterans, civic and private organizations across the nation observe this day with ceremonies and events. The POW/MIA flag is flown on Prisoner of War Recognition Day.

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## A Short Story, Shrouded in Mystery

Larry D. showed up for his scheduled Thursday meeting to share his acquired wisdom. Not wanting to directly address the fact his hand had obviously suffered a trauma, could not be ignored. The fact he wouldn't explain, led to rumors of reported late night fight club activities. A senior wag suggested it might have been the result of a senior MMA match gone wrong.



We all ask Larry to come clean. Solera wants to know!