

the POW-MIA flag and that's the reason for this bill. Take a look at line 24 on page 2. It does not grant permissive authority to building administrators, it requires building administrators to fly this flag if there is a request from anyone to do so that I know of. Now unless there has been a change on the first committee amendments, then I don't see them. I've put up an amendment to separate the two issues. If people aren't getting an American flag when they are being buried, terrific, section 2 should pass. Section 3 and 4 says that we're going to have a POW-MIA flag flown on basically any public building, that would be fair to say, any public building in which an individual makes a request for doing so. Philosophically this is the beginning of a slippery slope. You've seen it on license plates, you've seen it everywhere else where we start taking out of the American population certain factions to give special honor to. Do they deserve special honor? Undoubtedly. But there are lots of groups that deserve special honor. This flag, it seems to me, is the one and only symbol by which we all should unite and to require us to fly this flag to the right, underneath, in all public settings at the request of anybody will begin a race to get special recognition and honor. I don't mind if there are building administrators out there that want authority so that if they want to, and their building chooses to, maybe a National Guard Armory, maybe the like who might want to fly the flag to do so. I am uncomfortable by state law requiring every school building, which this covers, every courthouse, which this covers, to fly a second flag by state law. The American flag should be sufficient. It is the symbol for all sacrifice including the sacrifice of POWs and MIAs and people who are veterans and people who are not veterans and people who stay at home and suffer during war time and the like. That is the flag we should require to be unfurled and flown across this state and no other, and no other. It's not because there isn't a good reason to recognize and honor POWs and MIAs, but let us not get into the business of having separate flags flown for different parts of this society. Ernie Chambers is going to want a separate flag, isn't he? Aren't there going to be lots of other individuals in this country who say, look, there is a special recognition for us, this is the beginning, the first day of the slippery slope. If you want to stop this from happening, you have to pass this amendment. I offer it right now at now eight minutes till lunch in the hopes that we're all spending enough time thinking about what we're doing to stop this moment from happening.