

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sean Garballey

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to half-staff notifications.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>5/8/2017</i>

HOUSE No.

By Mr. Garballey of Arlington, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Sean Garballey relative to flying the flag of the Commonwealth at half-staff annually to honor certain veterans and POWs/MIAs. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to half-staff notifications.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 6A of Chapter 2 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 official edition is
2 hereby amended by adding at the end the following paragraph:-

3 (h) All military service members (Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy,
4 National Guard, and Reserves) residing in Massachusetts, and performing military duty under
5 official orders, who are killed while in an active duty status, will be honored by having flags
6 throughout the Commonwealth flown at half-staff from the day of death until sunset of the day
7 of interment in accordance with such orders or instructions as may be issued by, or at the
8 direction of the governor. The remains of POWs/MIAs repatriated within the Commonwealth
9 shall have the flag half-staffed on the day of arrival within the Commonwealth through the day
10 of internment. Additionally, flags will be half-staffed each year on national POW/MIA Day,
11 observed across the nation on the third Friday of September, from sunrise to sunset.