

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SM 1728

SPONSOR: Senator Wise

SUBJECT: Captain M. Scott Speicher

DATE: March 30, 2003

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Vickers</u>	<u>Kassack</u>	<u>RC</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This memorial urges the United States Congress to take all actions necessary to resolve the fate of Captain M. Scott Speicher, United States Navy, who is considered missing in action-captured.

II. Present Situation:

Biographical information on Captain Speicher:

Name: Michael Scott Speicher

Rank at Loss: Lieutenant Commander

Current Rank: Captain

Branch: US Navy

Unit: Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 81 (aboard USS Saratoga)

Aircraft: F/A-18C Hornet

Age at Loss: 33

Date of Birth: 12 July 1957

Current Age: 45

Home of Record: Jacksonville, Florida

Date of Loss: 17 January 1991

Country of Loss: Iraq

Original Status: MIA

Status Changed to KIA/BNR: May 1991

Status Changed Back to MIA: 11 January 2001

Status Changed to POW: 11 October 2002 (Missing/Captured)

Records show that Michael Speicher was 33 years old, married with two children, and his home of record is Jacksonville, Florida at the time of shoot-down. Prior to joining the U.S. Navy, he received his degree in accounting and management from Florida State University, after having graduated from Forrest High School in Jacksonville, Florida.

Lieutenant Commander Michael Scott Speicher, U. S. Navy, was shot down over Iraq in his F/A-18 Hornet fighter stationed aboard the USS Saratoga on January 17, 1991, the first night of Desert Storm.

In October 2002, the Navy changed the status of Capt. Speicher to "missing in action, captured." It was the second time since 2001 that the Navy changed the downed pilot's status. He was initially declared killed in action after the F-18 jet he was flying was shot down over Iraq in January 1991. That was later changed to "missing in action" in 2001 and finally to "missing/captured."

President Bush signed legislation into law in October 2002, aimed at helping to resolve Capt. Speicher's case. The Persian Gulf War POW/MIA Accountability Act amended earlier law on missing military personnel. The new legislation gives the attorney general the power to grant refugee status to any Iraqi or Middle East national who "personally delivers into the custody of the United States government a living American Persian Gulf War POW/MIA."

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This memorial urges the United States Congress to take all actions necessary to resolve the fate of Captain M. Scott Speicher, U.S. Navy, who is considered missing in action-captured.

Copies of the memorial are to be sent to the United States President, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Florida's congressional delegation.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
