

112TH CONGRESS
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H. RES. 324

Welcoming and commending the Government of Japan for extending an official apology to all United States former prisoners of war from the Pacific War and moving forward in planning to invite surviving members to Japan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 22, 2011

Mr. HONDA (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FILNER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PLATTS, and Mrs. DAVIS of California) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Welcoming and commending the Government of Japan for extending an official apology to all United States former prisoners of war from the Pacific War and moving forward in planning to invite surviving members to Japan.

Whereas the United States and Japan have enjoyed a productive and successful peace for 65 years, which has nurtured a strong and critical alliance that is vitally important to both countries, the Asia-Pacific region, and the world;

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance is based on shared interests and values and the common support for political

and economic freedoms, human rights, and international law;

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance has been maintained by the contributions and sacrifices of members of the United States Armed Forces dedicated to Japan's defense and democracy;

Whereas from December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945, the Pacific War caused profound damage and suffering to combatants and noncombatants alike;

Whereas among those who suffered and sacrificed greatly were the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who were captured by Imperial Japanese forces during the Pacific War;

Whereas many United States prisoners of war were subject to brutal and inhumane conditions and forced labor;

Whereas according to the Congressional Research Service, an estimated 27,000 United States prisoners of war were held by Imperial Japanese forces and nearly 40 percent perished;

Whereas the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor and its subsequent Descendants Group have worked tirelessly to represent the thousands of United States veterans who were held by Imperial Japanese forces as prisoners of war during the Pacific War;

Whereas, on May 30, 2009, an official apology from the Government of Japan was delivered by Japan's Ambassador to the United States Ichiro Fujisaki to the last convention of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor stating, "Today, I would like to convey to you the position of the government of Japan on this issue. As former Prime Ministers of Japan have repeatedly stated,

the Japanese people should bear in mind that we must look into the past and to learn from the lessons of history. We extend a heartfelt apology for our country having caused tremendous damage and suffering to many people, including prisoners of wars, those who have undergone tragic experiences in the Bataan Peninsula, Corregidor Island, in the Philippines, and other places”; and

Whereas in 2010, the Government of Japan through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs has established a new program of remembrance and understanding that, for the first time, includes United States former prisoners of war and their family members or other caregivers by inviting them to Japan for exchange and friendship: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) welcomes and commends the Government of
3 Japan for extending an official apology to all United
4 States former prisoners of war from the Pacific War
5 and moving forward in planning to invite surviving
6 members to Japan;

7 (2) requests that the Government of Japan not
8 hesitate in promulgating widely their historic apology
9 and their new program of reconciliation and re-
10 membrance and educate the public about these ef-
11 forts;

12 (3) expresses appreciation that the Government
13 of Japan is moving swiftly in establishing their pro-
14 gram of invitation and is seeking ways to expand the

1 program's budget so that more United States former
2 prisoners of war, their spouses, and descendants can
3 be included and that documentation of their experi-
4 ence can be conducted;

5 (4) requests that the Government of Japan re-
6 spect the wishes and sensibilities of the United
7 States prisoners of war by providing an appropriate
8 program for lasting remembrance and reconciliation
9 that recognizes their sacrifices and forced labor;

10 (5) acknowledges the work of the United States
11 Department of State in advocating for the United
12 States prisoners of war from the Pacific War; and

13 (6) applauds the persistence, dedication, and
14 patriotism of the members and descendants of the
15 American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor for
16 their pursuit of justice and lasting peace.

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