

Organization has ranked the United States number 37 among nations in this world in terms of meeting the health care needs of its people. More and more people are slipping through the cracks in the system of health care coverage in our Nation.

So what are the consequences for all of us in having tens of millions of Americans uninsured? We have a sicker population, we as a society have to assume the loss of productivity and the costs for serious medical conditions that go undiagnosed and untreated. We suffer the shame of being the richest nation on Earth that cannot provide basic health care to all of its citizens.

In just a few decades, we have put astronauts on the moon, we have created a global village united by computer technology, we have perfected travel from one end of the world to the other in mere hours, and yet 40 million of us cannot afford or cannot get health care. And there are tens of millions of Americans who have lost faith in this system, lost faith that comprehensive, quality health care will be available to them without a struggle when they need it, where they need it, and from whom they want it.

My colleagues, it is time to put health care for all at the top of our national agenda. Many people have called for it and many more believe it should happen. But universal health care will never happen until we create the national will to make it so. We know that if 40 million uninsured people found their political voice tomorrow, and spoke as one and demanded universal health care, that we would have it.

□ 1915

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in helping them find their voices. The voters in my district are tired of hearing "we cannot." They reject the cynicism of the naysayers and the keepers of the status quo. I ask these naysayers if you are not for health care for all, who would you leave behind? If you agree that everyone should have health care and affordable access to quality comprehensive health care, then let us talk about the best way to achieve that. That is why we are here tonight. Together we must reignite the debate about extending quality, affordable, comprehensive health care to everyone in our country.

JUSTICE FOR WORLD WAR II POWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KIRK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized for 60 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be here today to address the situation of our former American POWs who fought in the Pacific Theater during World War II. My commitment to addressing these issues is deep-seated. I am proud to be a co-author of the bill H.R. 1198, the Justice for U.S. Prisoners of War Act of 2001, with the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER). We are joined by 226 of our House colleagues on this bill.

I am a teacher by training, and I am not an expert on the issue of war and the atrocities that all too often accompany the prosecution of war between nations. I want to share with Members why I think it is important to pay attention to events that happened over 50 years ago.

My involvement in the pursuit of justice for American POWs stems from something that is deeply personal and uniquely American. It is a view that is held by a great many of us that are part of the new generation of Asian Americans whose parents were born in the United States.

The roots of my involvement in the POW reparation movement was embedded in me as a youth, well before I had any idea about the atrocities that some Japanese companies visited upon our servicemen during World War II.

Like many Japanese American families, my family and relatives were interned in a camp in Amache, Colorado, in 1942. We were eventually able to leave the camp because my father volunteered to serve in the Navy's military intelligence service.

Later in the 1970s and 1980s, the Japanese American redress movement focused the United States on coming to terms with the injustices of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. This shaped my desire to set the record straight.

It was once taboo in my community to discuss the internment issues. The redress movement brought the issue out into the open and allowed the healing process to begin, and this enabled many of us to put aside our bitterness and understand clearly what happened to us in our own country during World War II.

Just as the healing process began in my community, it is my great hope that this historic bill will bring some measure of closure for our brave soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who were so severely mistreated as prisoners of war while educating our Nation about what really happened during World War II so that together we can learn from the lessons of those dark times.

As we go forward, it is critical to remember that the relationship between the U.S. and Japan is important to our national interests and that nothing in this bill is intended to harm the strong friendship the United States and Japan have enjoyed for these many decades. But we cannot ignore the past and sweep the events of the past under the rug.

When I think about forgiveness, I think about a friend, Dr. Lester Tenney, an American veteran and POW who once told me as he was recalling a conversation he had with a fellow POW, his friend said I cannot forgive nor forget, and he told his friend if you cannot forgive, you are still a prisoner.

Dr. Tenney's story mirrors what many of the POWs went through. He became a prisoner of war on April 19, 1942, with the fall of Bataan in the Philippines. A survivor of the Bataan Death March, he was sent in a hell ship to Japan where he became part of the slave labor force in a Mitsui company coal mine. Dr. Tenney has stated and I quote, "I was forced to shovel coal 12 hours a day, 28 days a month for over 2 years, and the reward I received for this hard labor was beatings by the civilian workers in the mine. If I did not work fast enough or if the Americans had won an important battle, the beatings would be that much more severe."

It is important to stress that this legislation we have introduced, H.R. 1198, is by no means an instrument to further anyone's agenda that fosters anti-Asian sentiments, racism, or Japan bashing. What this bill will do is to give our veterans their long-awaited day in court, restore some measure of dignity to them, and set the record straight. Our intention in pushing for this bill, the Justice for U.S. Prisoners of War Act of 2001, is to support our former prisoners of war held in Japan during World War II. These heroes survived the Bataan Death March only to be transported to Japan in death ships, forced to work for private companies under the most horrendous and horrific conditions.

Private employees of these companies tortured and physically abused our GIs while the corporations withheld essential medical and even the most minimal amounts of food.

After the war, approximately 16,000 POWs returned, all battered and nearly starved to death, many permanently disabled, all changed forever. More than 11,000 POWs died in the hands of the Japanese corporate employers, among the worst records of physical abuse of POWs in recorded history.

Now, like many other victims of World War II era atrocities, the remaining survivors and their heirs are seeking justice and historical recognition of their ordeal. The former POWs do not seek any action or retaliation against the current Japanese Government or against the Japanese people, nor do they seek to portray Asian Americans in any sort of negative light. Rather, they simply seek just compensation from the Japanese companies who were unjustly enriched by the slave labor and sufferings.

The main problem these POWs face today has been the way in which the peace treaty with Japan has been interpreted by our State Department. To date, the State Department has asserted that former POWs can claim no benefits due to the State Department's

interpretation of the terms of the peace treaty.

However, other countries such as the Netherlands, Spain, and even the former Soviet Union, have helped their nationals in receiving benefits, and Japan has extended more favorable peace treaty settlement terms with those countries, and has continued to settle war claims by nationals of other countries.

The United States State Department has stood in the way of our POWs' efforts to obtain their measure of justice by the State Department's reading of the peace treaty.

In the face of these obstacles, Congress passed a resolution, S. Con. Res. 158, in the final days of the 106th Congress, calling upon the State Department to put forth its best efforts to facilitate discussions designed to resolve all issues between the former members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were prisoners of war forced into slave labor for the benefit of the Japanese companies during World War II and the private companies who profited from this slave labor.

Today, the State Department has apparently taken no significant actions to resolve this matter. It is, therefore, up to this Congress to press this issue firmly and fairly. Our bill is a balanced and fair response to the situation. H.R. 1198 would, one, pursue justice through the U.S. court system as any former employee of a private company can; two, allows States such as California to extend the statute of limitations applicable to these claims for a period of up to 10 years; and, three, require any U.S. Government entity to provide the Department of Veterans Affairs any medical records relating to chemical or biological tests conducted on any POW and make those available to the POW upon request.

Since the end of World War II, the Japanese corporations that abused these former POWs profited from their forced labor have prospered enormously. Many of these companies are household names in the United States. As an ethical and moral matter, they long ago they should have voluntarily reached out to their victims and settled this injustice.

On the eve of America's entrance into World War II, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, Sr., once asked, "What constitutes an American? Not color, nor race, nor religion. Not the pedigree of his family, nor the place of his birth. Not the coincidence of his citizenship. Not his social status, nor his bank account. Not his trade, nor his profession.

"An American is one who loves justice and believes in the dignity of man. An American is one who will fight for his freedom and that of his neighbor. An American is one who will sacrifice property and security in order that he and his children may retain the rights of free men. An American is one in whose heart is engraved the immortal second sentence of the Declaration of

Independence: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.'

"Americans have always known how to fight for their rights and their way of life. Americans are not afraid to fight. They fight joyously in the pursuit for a just cause."

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand here today in the House of Representatives and give you my word that I will continue to fight joyously in the just cause of America's World War II POWs. We must remember these men, these men of our Nation's greatest generation. They volunteered to serve our country and some were only 17, 18, 19 years old. They were young, strong, and spirited. They survived the ordeal of a forced surrender in the Philippines. They survived the cruelties of the Bataan Death March, the hell ships, and being POWs in Japan. They survived the tortures of slavery. And today, they are surviving our justice system.

In the beginning of this year, there were only 5,300 surviving POWs, but we are losing these men on a daily basis. For the sake of these men, for the sake of reconciliation, for the sake of our future, we must do right by these men. Let us give these heroes their day in court.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER).

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, let me draw Members' attention to the job that the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is doing for these noble Americans. He did not have to do this, but he has put enormous energy into this bill to bring justice to the survivors of the Bataan Death March. He has my respect, and I am very, very proud to be working with the gentleman on this issue.

I could not help but think as he read the definition of what is an American, that the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) himself represents the essence of what he was reading: an American is someone who stands for justice first and foremost. Thank goodness we have people who are taking time to care about those people who defended our country.

Eisenhower once said that any country that forgets its defenders will itself soon be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, there are no greater heroes that we have today than those heroes that survived the Bataan Death March. There is no group of survivors of any war to whom we owe a greater thanks; but yet who we have done a great injustice through our inaction, through our unwillingness as a government to step up to do what was right by them.

□ 1930

There are many such causes around, good causes. This is one good cause.

I got personally involved in this because this issue happens to touch my

family. My wife's father passed away about 10 years ago, and when we were married 5 years ago, at our wedding my wife was given away by Uncle Lou, now the great male patriarch of our family, because my father has passed away as well.

Uncle Lou is a survivor of the Bataan Death March. What he told me surprised me. I was totally surprised when I heard about what had happened.

First of all, and I went to several of the reunions they have of the Mukden survivors. The Mukden survivors are the people who survived the Bataan Death March and then were sent on to Manchuria where, I might add, they not only were worked as slave laborers, but many times used for experiments and many of them were brutally murdered by their Japanese guards.

What he told me is that originally, of course, they felt that they had been betrayed by their countrymen, or at least had been hung out to dry, as you say, by our fellow Americans who they believed in. My Uncle Lou was unfortunate enough, like these other Bataan Death March victims and survivors, to be stationed in the Philippines just prior to the Japanese attack in December of 1941. They fought hard and they retreated back to the Bataan Peninsula, where they were able to hold out for months against overwhelming odds. And their relief never came. It just never came. They were supposed to hold out until the Americans came forward.

Now, could we have saved them? We had a tremendous attack on Pearl Harbor that eliminated much of our strength in the Pacific. Maybe we were not able to. Maybe with the ships and planes we had available, if we tried a rescue mission, we would not have succeeded. Maybe that was the right decision to make by our military, not to go there to rescue these men.

Then as they went through this horrific death march and captivity, which we will discuss in a moment, and then sent off to work as slave labor, those who were fit for slave labor duty in Japan and Manchuria.

After the war again they believe they were hung out to dry, because again, rather than coming to their assistance and their aid, the United States decided to cut a deal, and that is what the treaty with Japan in 1951, the peace treaty, represents, a deal that was cut with the leadership in Japan and of the way we would handle ourselves in a peaceful world.

It was a peace treaty. But instead of including in the peace treaty a consideration for these brave heroes, who had never been compensated by the Japanese or given an apology, not even an official apology issued for the way they were treated, instead of holding out for at least letting them have some modicum of justice, we cut the deal.

The deal in the treaty says that they would not be able to sue. They would

not be able to sue for compensation for the crimes committed against them. This was part of an overall thing, that nobody is going to be able to sue.

Well, guess what? There is another portion of the treaty, because that portion that I just mentioned of the treaty is always held up by the State Department and they say, oh, we cannot let these Bataan Death March survivors sue the Japanese corporations that worked them as slave labor because that would violate the treaty. All of a sudden it would open up a Pandora's box. It would just destabilize the entire relationship we have with Japan.

But, no, there is another part of the treaty, and that part of the treaty says, and I do not have the quote right here in front of me, but it says that if any rights are given to the people of any other country by Japan that are not included in this treaty as rights of Americans, then those rights that Japan has given to the other people automatically also become the rights of the Americans.

Well, guess what? Japan has permitted their companies in their country to be sued by others who were victimized during the Second World War. The Dutch and most recently Chinese citizens are able to sue, and I believe they received \$85,000 apiece in compensation.

This clearly then suggests by this section of the treaty that the Americans should have a right to sue for those crimes and those losses and to compensate them for those losses and crimes against them during the war. But instead, our State Department continues, continues, to hold that, no, this would destabilize our relationship with Japan, ignoring that portion of the treaty that permits Americans to have the very same rights, legal rights, that other citizens are granted by the Japanese.

So what we have is a travesty. America's greatest war heroes, and their greatest adversary is not the Japanese, but, instead, their own government.

Yesterday in a court in California these Bataan Death March survivors again attempted to state their case and to bring their case against a Japanese corporation which had worked them during the Second World War. It is a travesty that representatives of their government, of us, of us, the United States of America, U.S., our representatives, paid for by our tax dollars, were in that court, not to pay homage to these great Americans who sacrificed so much for our freedom, but instead to offer a brief to the court, to offer their own testimony to the court, of why the court should not even consider the case of these brave Americans.

Talking about adding insult to injury. The movie *Saving Private Ryan* and *The Code Talkers* and all these other movies that are now at last coming forward to show not just action-adventure type movies we had in the '50s or '60s, but instead to demonstrate the true heroism of that generation of

Americans that saved us during the Second World War, we have those movies, and the American people feel that we owe that generation a great debt, and we do. But what kind of debt do we have when we sit and let our government, our government, using our tax dollars, thwart the efforts of the greatest of the heroes of that war to receive some sort of justice for the crimes that were committed against them?

Do not tell me about *Saving Private Ryan*. Do not tell me about *The Code Talkers* and the rest of these, how they made you cry, when we have got people who are our heroes and went through that savagery and took the blows for us, who are now being thwarted in their attempt for justice by our own government.

The gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) and I have tried to do our best to put at least the legislative branch of government on record, to be on the side of these Bataan Death March survivors. We have tried our best. I will have to say that the President, I do not know if he even knows about this issue, but I will say that he should, and if he hears about it tonight, he should intervene and make sure that his State Department, the people who he has appointed there, do not continue on this insult and this attack on the dignity and honor of the Bataan Death March survivors.

But at least we have tried here in the legislative branch. We have 227 bipartisan cosponsors of this legislation, of H.R. 1198. The gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) has worked hard on this, as I say, and I have worked hard, and we have done our best on this legislation, and that is that over half the Members of Congress are cosponsors of this bill to bring justice to the Bataan Death March survivors.

Who can stand against it, you ask? Well, we have not yet been able to get a hearing on this bill. We have yet to get the committee chairman, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), I might add, to agree to have a hearing on this bill. There is always a reason, of course. There is an excuse. But the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) could have a hearing on this bill, if he so chooses. But we do not.

I would suggest that the leadership of the House has not stepped forward to try to put pressure on those that are getting in the way of this bill, to make sure we get a hearing on this bill. I would think that those people who are reading the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD or listening tonight might want to call the White House and ask the President to make sure that we do right by the Bataan Death March survivors and we quit assigning members of the State Department to go into court to undercut their efforts to sue the people who tortured them and worked them as slave labor in World War II. I would suggest even calls to the leadership of the House, or to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) might

be an appropriate thing to see if we can move this legislation forward.

But we did not wait just for this legislation. There was another attempt that the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) and I worked out of how we might be able to get a vote on this, even though we were being thwarted in getting this bill to the floor.

Last year when the appropriations bills were going through, we wrote an amendment to the Commerce, State and Justice appropriations bill that stated that no one in the State Department could use the funds in that bill in order to thwart the efforts of American citizens to sue the Japanese corporations that had worked them as slave labor during the war for compensation for that slave labor. So we basically were putting the essence of H.R. 1198 into the appropriations bill as a limitation so that no money could be used for that, meaning they could not pay the salary of anybody, they could not send them out, because that was using money, appropriated money, for that end.

That amendment caused a great deal of stir in this body, because we had at last got something on the floor. Some people thought that it was going to be ruled out of order. In fact, I believe the leadership felt it was going to be ruled out of order. But the person who was occupying the Chair when someone was asked to rule whether or not the amendment was in order, the person in the Chair took a look at it and said no, that is in order, and the shock waves could be felt all over the world.

Of course, it did not come up for a few days, and during that time period, the Japanese lobby went into full gear, and I am sorry to say that many Americans who you would never believe would take money to undercut America's heroes, people who, yes, it does bring tears to their eyes when they see movies like *Saving Private Ryan*, people who have made their whole lives helping the veterans, signed on to the effort of the Japanese companies to undermine that effort on our part to amend the appropriations bill, and, I might add, to undercut the bill of the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) and myself, H.R. 1198.

□ 1945

There was enormous pressure brought, but when the bill came to the floor in the House, we won overwhelmingly. It was an overwhelming vote. Only 33 votes were against us.

Well, it also passed the United States Senate, the appropriations vote in the United States Senate. Senator BOB SMITH from New Hampshire put forward the very same amendment, exact wording; so we had on both sides, the United States Senate by a majority and in the House by a huge majority, voted for that very same language to make sure that our tax dollars were not being used to undermine the rights of the Bataan Death March survivors. And guess what happened?

We have a process here, which is if there is any difference between the Senate appropriations bill and a House appropriations bill, they meet in a conference committee. The rules are supposed to be that they only make changes in those parts of the bills that have a difference. Those are the rules. But, of course, who cares for the rules when they have lobbyists paying millions of dollars in order to make just one point, or when they are going to have some argument: Oh, we have to protect the stability of the relationship between Japan and the United States, because everything will just go to pieces if we permit these Americans, these heroes, to sue the Japanese corporations that worked them as slave labor.

Of course, the Japanese relations with the Chinese and with the Dutch have not gone to pot. No, only with Americans would that be considered an insult, for us to stand up for our people over these Japanese companies, huge multinational companies, huge Japanese corporations worth billions of dollars. Yes, they cannot afford to do justice by these people whom they treated like animals during the Second World War.

So behind the scenes in a conference committee where we are only supposed to change the things that are different between the House and the Senate, someone stepped forward to take out this provision. These were provisions that passed on the floor of both Houses. Now, somebody is negating the democratic process here. Somebody, I do not know who, somebody is negating the democratic process on an issue that concerns America's greatest heroes; and we need to step up to the plate and make sure that it does not happen again.

Those listening or those reading the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD should know that the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) and I are planning again to offer this same amendment to the appropriations bill, but this time, we are going to draw the bead of the American people. We are going to focus people's attention on the conference committee so that behind closed doors, we will find out who it is that takes away the rights of the Bataan Death March survivors for their justice. We will find out who intercedes to negate the democratic process and behind closed doors, do this dirty deed to America's greatest heroes. We will find that out, and we will come to this floor, and we will make sure that the American people know exactly who it is that is doing this. Because the American people need to know if the democratic process is going to be thwarted, who it is here who is doing that, especially at the expense of these brave, brave men.

That will probably be in the next few months. I am not sure when the appropriations bill will be coming, it probably will be coming sometime in September, but we will be drawing people's

attention to it, and I hope that people pay attention to this issue. It is only if we mobilize American opinion that we are going to be able to thwart those who are trying to thwart democracy.

Let us take a look at that. Let us take a look at it. How many people are we talking about? After the war, approximately 16,000 POWs returned. These were people that returned, some of them were turned into walking skeletons; most of them had had the most traumatic times in their lives, both physically and mentally. They had seen their friends murdered in front of them, butchered. Sixteen thousand returned, and 11,000 POWs died in the hands of their Japanese corporate employers. These Japanese companies and the Japanese government had the worst record of abuse of their prisoners in World War II, and that is saying a lot.

Unfortunately, of the 16,000 that returned, only 2,000 remain alive today. It is up to us to set the record straight and to do what is right and to bring justice to these 2,000 men, if for nothing else, in memory of those many other thousands that have died waiting for justice, and the many thousands who died before them at the hands of these Japanese corporations and the Japanese prison guards.

Uncle Lou, my wife's great uncle, told me of his capture in the Bataan Death March at Bataan and details of the Bataan Death March and of the Filipino people who were watching this from the side. By the way, the Bataan Death March had many, many Filipinos as well, not just American soldiers, but Filipino soldiers. We are about to do justice to those Filipino soldiers, by the way, for the first time, thanks to the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) from San Diego, and some others of us; I am sure the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is on this bill as well. We promised the Filipinos who served with us that they would get veterans' benefits, the same veterans' benefits as the Americans who served in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, this is a black mark on our government again. We just betrayed them. We just took them out of the loop. I think it was in 1948 that we reneged on that promise. But these Filipino soldiers who were with us, they died by the thousands as well. The Filipino people, the citizens would see these poor people coming by, these brave Americans and Filipinos who were being treated in this way, by the sword-swirling Japanese who were cutting their heads off if they dropped out of line, and they had no water, and the Americans with the heat; it was a horror story, the Bataan Death March.

But the Filipino people would throw little packets of food or little containers of water on them. If they did, they knew that if the Japanese guards saw them, that they would be murdered, but they took that chance to help these brave souls, these heroic people. They did that at such great

risk that some of them lost their lives when the Japanese guards would come right over and bayonet them to death.

Do we not have the courage to do something? We are not going to lose our lives. Do we not have the courage to step forward, or the caring in our heart to step forward to help these heroes as they march by?

This is a black mark on this Congress that we permitted that provision to be taken out behind closed doors in that conference committee. It is a black mark that this bill that the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) and I have worked on, H.R. 1198, has not been brought to the floor. This is a black mark. This is a shameful episode.

We can make it right, Mr. Speaker, but we have to have the support of the American people to do so. In the months ahead when we bring this forward and try to put this amendment on the Commerce, State, and Justice appropriations bill, we need to have everyone there focused on this issue. I would hope the veterans' organizations, which they were the last time around, will join us.

By the way, one other reason I feel so deeply about this is that my father also served in the Philippines as one of the liberators after the war. He too had a very high opinion of the Filipino people, and he flew DC-3s up and down the battle areas as we liberated the Philippines from the Japanese. And it was a very bloody battle, and many people risked their lives and many people lost their lives. Many people remained. That truly was, that generation truly was the great generation.

So we have a chance now to repay that debt. We have now a chance to send the message that we believe in justice and even if it is justice delayed, we will do our part to try to bring this honor, this honor that these men, the survivors of the Bataan Death March who were the heroes of all of those people, like my father who went after them, it was their courage that inspired my father and others to be involved.

Let us know this: This is not an anti-Japanese piece of legislation. The gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) would be the last person who would come forward and try to do something anti-Japanese. The fact is that many people in Japan, and I would say if not most of the people in Japan, understand that there were things that were done wrong in World War II.

As we know, our own Japanese Americans who joined up in our own military were some of the most decorated war heroes in World War II. Of course, they used them in Italy and in the European theater, but they were heroic. So we know that. This is not against the Japanese Americans and it is not against the Japanese people, because we know that they would like to make it right and move on.

After all, the Germans, after World War II and in the decades since, tried to make it right, some of the evil

things that they did. And they knew that it was not them, they did not do wrong; it was another generation of Germans that did that. But they have not run away from their history.

Mr. Speaker, there are many people in Japan who want to shut the book. Let these Japanese corporations, if they do not want us to go through this, let them step forward and make a settlement with the Bataan Death March survivors. Let them make a settlement. But we are not going to stand by and let them just be tortured with silence after they had been tortured and worked as slave laborers during the war. We will not let the indignity of the crime against them, and the indignities that they had to suffer, we will not let that continue and go without being addressed.

As I say, there are many Japanese who would like to see the book closed, and I would plead with the powers in Japan to step forward and just close this book, get it over with.

□ 2000

This will not disrupt American-Japanese relations. Those people who are suggesting that, they are just using lala words, meaningless phrases and words, to try to say something that would justify the insult that they are giving to America's greatest war heroes; or perhaps they have been lobbied by someone, someone who they respect or they owe a special favor to, who told them not to vote for this, or to oppose it in some way.

This is not going to disrupt American-Japanese relations. The corporations that we are talking about are worth billions of dollars. They can afford to compensate these men who they treated as animals and dogs, and beat. They can afford it. In fact, it would be money well spent, because it would establish a tie, a bond between all of us, knowing that they were willing to do it. There would be no disruption of American relations. It is ludicrous to say that.

So tonight we draw attention to this bill, to this piece of legislation that has not been permitted on the floor, or that the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) has not seen fit to have a hearing on. We draw attention to the Japanese people; let us work together and bring justice and close this book. Let us honor these American heroes and recognize that the Japanese people are not the same people who had been brainwashed, as they were; the Japanese had been brainwashed for generations to react the way they did to orders during World War II.

But that has to be recognized, that there were crimes in World War II, and acknowledged and forgiven and forgotten, because there are so many things; and we have such close ties with the Japanese people now, and it is a wondrous thing.

Certainly Japanese-Americans, again, have proven their patriotism,

just with their honor and courage. And the fact that the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is one of the leaders in this demonstrates again just how willing they are to step up to the plate and be patriotic Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I just close with this thought about my father, and the many fathers who fought in the Philippines and who fought in that generation. Some of them are lost to us now. We will do what is right by them, and we will honor them by doing what is right. What is right is not to forget the Bataan Death March survivors while any of them survive. Two thousand survive. Let us not let them pass away until we have done justice by them.

In this way, we will do honor by them; but we will make sure that our own country stands for liberty and justice and freedom, and these things that the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) just mentioned a few moments ago. If we are Americans, we are going to stand for these things, and we are going to stand together. Sometimes that means overpowering certain special interest groups that maybe have influence here. But no interest group can stand up to the American people if they are motivated and if they understand what the issues are.

So let us join together and let us make sure we do what is right by the survivors, to the survivors of the Bataan Death March, and let us pass H.R. 1198. Let us make sure that bill gets to the floor, and let us make sure that our amendment on the Commerce-State-and-Justice appropriations bill is passed and remains in the bill, and is not taken out behind closed doors this time.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), for his passion, for his conviction, and for his understanding of what it is that we need to do, and for his precise words that hopefully, as in church we say, convicts us to move and do the right thing.

A couple of words I would like to close with. One is "spirit" and the other is "reconciliation."

The spirit that I have learned in this process is the spirit of the victims, the ex-POWs, the spirit that was exhibited by Dr. Lester Tenney, by Mr. Frank Bigelow from Florida, who at 6-4, as a young man hunched over in the tunnels of the coal mines in Japan, had his leg broken by a boulder that fell down and shattered his leg; no medical facilities, no medical attention.

In a couple of days they realized that his leg was gangrenous, and they needed to do something in order to save his life. The choice was, do we amputate his leg and take the chance that he may die because of that, or do we allow the gangrene to continue and know that he will die? And he said, take it, and they took it with a pocket knife and a hacksaw and no anesthesia.

Yet today, both Dr. Tenney and Frank Bigelow have the spirit and the

grace to say that they forgive what had happened to them, and what they seek today is just justice in their own court system.

The other word is "reconciliation." We just left a millennium of wars and atrocities, of the inhumanity of one person against another for many reasons. We have an opportunity in the new millennium to make this the millennium of reconciliation, of forgiveness, of healing.

I believe if this bill is passed and considered by our committees that is supported by over 226 Members of this House, that would move right through our committees if heard, that would move right to the President's desk, and to be signed by him would be the stroke that would allow our Members, the generation that we consider the greatest generation of our time in this country, to be able to attain the measure of dignity, the recapturing of justice, that they would seek and would attain when they have their day in court.

That is all we are seeking. We are not seeking to predetermine the outcome of the court action, but we are seeking their right for their day in court.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank my distinguished colleague Mr. HONDA for organizing this special order to raise awareness of the former POW's who were used as slave laborers in Japan during World War II. This is a particularly important veteran's issue to me and my constituents because of the significant role that New Mexicans played in the South Pacific during World War II. I am very glad to have this opportunity to come here tonight to honor those brave soldiers who battled in Bataan.

Shortly after the United States formally declared their entry into World War II, American forces stationed in Bataan, Luzon, and Corregidor on the southern coast of the Philippines began their valiant six-month defensive struggle against overwhelming Japanese military forces. Included in these American and Philippine forces were New Mexico's 200th and 515th Anti-Aircraft Coast Artillery units. In fact, when the Japanese bombed Clark Field and Fort Stotsenberg, Philippine Islands on December 8, 1941, eight hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the 200th Coast Artillery was the first to fire on the enemy.

The superior numbers of Japanese forces, however, compelled these brave American and Philippine forces to surrender on April 9th, 1942, and then forced them to commence the horrifying 85-mile Death March to the now infamous Japanese prison camps north of Manila. It is estimated that during the march over 10,000 American and Filipino soldiers died as a result of malnutrition and torture. Following the march, the thousands of men fortunate enough to survive were subsequently placed on "hell ships" and transferred to Japan, Taiwan, Manchuria, and Korea to perform slave labor in support of the Japanese war industry.

The American soldiers captured on Bataan, Luzon, and Corregidor endured a longer captivity—over three and a half years—than any other POW's in World War II. Of the approximately 36,000 U.S. soldiers who were captured by the Japanese during World War II,

only 21,000 survived to return to the U.S. at the end of the war. Of the 1,800 men deployed in New Mexico's 20th and 515th Coast Artillery Regiments, fewer than 900 returned to the United States after the three and a half years of captivity.

Today, the men forced to perform slave labor in the Japanese corporations still await their just and overdue compensation and recognition for the labor performed. Recently, however, a California law was enacted that enables these men to seek damages up to the year 2010 against responsible Japanese companies. Seventeen lawsuits have been filed on behalf of former POWs, but their claims are currently pending in the California State court system and have been since they were filed in 1999.

Over the past few years, the U.S. government has helped facilitate the resolution of claims for thousands of individuals who were forced to perform slave labor for German companies during World War II. However, the U.S. State Department and the Department of Justice have been opposing, rather than supporting, the claims of the U.S. POWs who were forced to perform slave labor in Japan.

I am a cosponsor and strongly support the important legislation introduced by several Members present at this special order today, H.R. 1198. "The Justice for U.S. POWs Act of 2001," will allow POW suits against Japanese companies to go forward without interference from the Department of State. This legislation has broad bipartisan support and I am hopeful that we can soon bring this legislation before the full House for consideration to help bring compensation and recognition for the hardship these POWs endured at the hands of their captors.

Finally, I would like to invite my colleagues here as well as anyone else to visit the recently dedicated Bataan Memorial Park in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This touching memorial is a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by both the living and the dead for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Again, thank you Mr. HONDA for organizing this special order. I look forward to working with you further to bring H.R. 1198 to the floor for passage.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. ROSS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. ROSS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MEEKS of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SOLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INSLEE, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. BISHOP) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mrs. BIGGERT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, July 18.

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. BISHOP) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. NUSSLE, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. McDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 997. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct research, monitoring, management, treatment, and outreach activities relating to sudden oak death syndrome and to establish a Sudden Oak Death Syndrome Advisory Committee; to the Committee on Agriculture.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.J. Res. 87. A joint resolution approving the site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for the development of a repository for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

H.R. 2362. An act to establish the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission.

H.R. 3971. An act to provide for an independent investigation of Forest Service firefighter deaths that are caused by wildfire entrapment or burnover.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, July 12, 2002, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7827. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Increase in the Minimum Size Requirement for Area No. 2 [Docket No. FV02-948-1 FR] received June 17, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7828. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Nectarines Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV02-916-2 IFR] received June 25, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7829. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Raisins Produced From Grapes Grown in California; Addition of a New Varietal Type and Quality Requirements for Other Seedless-Sulfured Raisins [Docket No. FV02-989-1-IFR] received June 20, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7830. A letter from the Administrator, Cotton Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of User Fees for 2002 Crop Cotton Classification Services to Growers [Docket No. CN-02-001] (RIN: 0581-AC04) received June 20, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7831. A letter from the Administrator, Cotton Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Cotton Board Rules and Regulations: Adjusting Supplemental Assessment on Imports, (2002 Amendments) [Docket No. CN-02-002] received June 20, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7832. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, Government of the District of Columbia, transmitting a report of two violations of the Antideficiency Act by the District of Columbia, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

7833. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the Department of the Navy's multiyear procurement for F/A-18E/F aircraft engines for fiscal year 2002 through FY 2006, as authorized in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2002 (P.L. 107-117) and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (P.L. 107-107); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7834. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Sodium Copper Chlorophyllin [Docket No. 00C-0929] received June 20, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7835. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Status of Certain Additional Over-the-Counter Drug Category II and III Active Ingredients [Docket No. 80N-0280] (RIN: 0910-AA01) received June 20, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7836. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Food Additives: Food Contact Substance Notification System [Docket No. 99N-5556] (RIN: 0910-AB94) received June 20, 2002, pursuant to