

"The Japanese needed slave labor," said Lankford. "I worked on farms, in steel mills, tool and dye plants, tanning plants, foundries."

The day his personal march into hell began, Lankford made a promise to himself: "I said I would never give up, I would survive," he said. "I would take whatever they threw at me."

That was a fairly easy deduction for a fellow who was already down to eating horse, iguana and mule meat to survive.

"When you get hungry," says Lankford, "you will eat anything."

The soldiers who had survived Japanese bombardment were already listless from four months of half rations, then no food at all. They suffered from malaria and dysentery. Lankford had a severe case of malaria and malnutrition with sores around his mouth, nose and eyes.

"Our fighting men were zombies," he said.

He marched from the south in Mariveles, at the very tip of Bataan Peninsula in the South China Sea, north to San Fernando and then to Camp O'Donnell, a former Philippine Army training camp.

Along the way, historians believe some 10,000 Filipino soldiers died at the hands of Japanese guards. About one of every six on the march would die from brutality, murder, dehydration, beatings, starvation or other atrocities.

Of the 70,000 who began the march, some figures cite that 54,000 reached O'Donnell.

Lankford was bayoneted in the right shoulder because he was not moving fast enough or had infuriated his Japanese guard. He never knew why he had been bayoneted. He just was.

Lankford marched 65 miles in five days in the broiling sun. The only time the prisoners were allowed to rest—standing, not sitting—was at a change of Japanese guards. They were allowed no food, no water. If they dropped to the ground, they were shot. If they fell behind, they were shot.

If they cried out in agony, they were shot—or worse.

"If they heard a soldier screaming, they would cut his head off," said Lankford.

"The first day, we lost maybe 50. The second day, we lost 200. The third day, we lost another 300," said Lankford.

"Shortly after we started the march, a truck would come through, and if you didn't get out of the way, it would just run over you. There were bodies all over the road.

"At times, you walked on human flesh. It was like walking on jelly," said Lankford.

"We marched day and night. What I tried to do was to stay as far to the right side of the road as I could. Trucks filled with Japanese soldiers would come by, and they would bayonet you or hit you with bamboo rods," he said.

"It never crossed my mind that I would die, but you never knew what was going to happen to you."

Like being stuffed into narrow French-made boxcars on a narrow-gauge railroad.

The boxcars were big enough for maybe 50 men. Hundreds were jammed inside. The steel cars had no windows, no ventilation. There was no air, and it was pitch dark. Lankford said they were fast using up what oxygen there was in the railcar.

"Some of the men who were claustrophobic went stark raving mad," said Lankford. "Others died standing up."

When the cars were unloaded at one of the designated stops before arriving at Camp O'Donnell, the dead fell out.

He was at Camp O'Donnell until he was moved to Manila in November 1942. While at O'Donnell, he was placed on burial detail, bringing bodies to graves that were dug by POWs from sunup to sundown.

He had to transport his best friend to a grave.

"He had just given up and passed away," said Lankford, as if talking about a wisp of air that passes by and is gone.

During the O'Donnell ordeal, if an escape was attempted, the guards would take prisoners out and execute them, Lankford said, as an example to the others.

After working at other camps, Lankford was eventually put aboard a ship.

He and 1,500 other prisoners were forced down into the ship's hold, which had been used to transport horses and cattle. Filthy straw, with scattered piles of manure and the strong stench of urine, was everywhere, he says.

"We were suffering from dysentery, and some men went mad."

Men began dying immediately. They were fed a thin gruel of fish-head soup and a handful of rice twice a day.

They were sailing from Manila to Korea. U.S. naval vessels and submarines were hunting Japanese ships. The POW ships were unmarked and were attacked by the American vessels of war with impunity, never knowing that U.S. POWs were aboard. Thousands of American POWs died an ignominious death below decks in horse manure, human waste, vomit and stacks of the already dead.

It took his ship one month to go from Manila to Pusan, Korea. When the ship arrived, Lankford was among the 175 men in the worst condition.

He was taken to a racing track being used for a hospital. The remainder of the men he had traveled with were sent to Mukden, Manchuria.

"Each morning I would wake up, and there would be dead men on my left and right," he said.

The day he arrived in Mukden, he was given a big bowl of stew. Being from Alabama, he loved beef stew.

"This was dog meat. It tasted mighty good," said Lankford.

"You didn't see many stray dogs around there."

When he arrived in the Army Air Corps back in 1941, he had weighed about 150 pounds. In Manchuria at liberation, he weighed 60 pounds.

The Russians arrived, he said, and things became rather chaotic.

"I'll never forget it. These Russians were front-line troops. They were plenty rough. The Russians would make raids every night.

"It was like the Fourth of July every night. Everybody was shooting at everybody else."

Lankford was set free of his Japanese ordeal Aug. 20, 1945. The Russians put the POWs aboard a train and sent them back toward American lines.

He arrived in Port Arthur, Manchuria, and ran into an old navy chief who asked him what he'd like to eat.

"I told him I wanted some ice cream," said Lankford. "But I couldn't eat it. The chief said he'd just put it up for me with my name on it. I could have all the ice cream I wanted."

Eventually he was returned to Manila, put aboard a Danish ship and sent home.

"We were heading home," said Lankford. "We were so happy."

In the state of Washington, he boarded a hospital train. There he was given slippers and pajamas for the first time in four years.

"We crossed the big, ol' U.S.A.," he said, his face beaming with pride.

He was able to meet his family in Atlanta and spent about an hour with them before leaving for Augusta, Ga. Unlike most, Lankford had been able to let his family know by 1944 that he was a POW. They just

didn't know where he was or under what conditions he had survived.

"I was lucky. Most of the POW families never knew their soldiers were alive until they got back to America."

He took six months to recover in an Augusta hospital. After a short time at home, Lankford decided to make the Air Force a career.

Today, a building at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base is named for Lankford. It houses all of his medals, and he plans to be buried there. The tombstone is already up.

But he is at peace now.

"For the first four or five years after I came home, I hated the Japanese," he said.

"Then I got to thinking about it. Why should I hate them? It didn't have anything to do with the war."

He and his wife, Edna, of 59 years, returned to Japan in 2001.

"It was no problem, really," he said. "I feel very fortunate that I got to speak to the Japanese people again."

But that hasn't stopped the nightmares. He still sees the brutal guards and their nicknames in his dreams. "The Bull," was one, he said.

"We knew who to stay away from."

Some nights in the early months after his return, said Edna, her husband would scream out and grab her by the throat.

And then Paul Lankford would wake up. He was back home and not in Manchuria, dodging the Bull.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS IN WARSAW, POLAND

#### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of a Resolution which I cosponsored, and which was introduced today, recognizing the establishment of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, Poland. This museum celebrates 900 years of Jewish life in Poland and commemorates the millions of Polish Jews killed during World War II.

The Holocaust proved to be one of the most horrendous offenses against humanity. In total, an estimated 6,000,000 Jews, more than 60 percent of the pre-World War II Jewish population of Europe, were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators in Poland and throughout Europe.

As the epicenter for European Jewish culture and arts, Poland was home to 3.3 million Jews prior to World War II. The Nazis established their largest concentration camp in Poland at Auschwitz. At a minimum, 1.3 million people were deported to the camp between 1940 and 1945, and at least 1.1 million were murdered there.

I applaud and commend the Government of Poland's support of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, and its commitment to Holocaust education. In addition, the philanthropic efforts by a number of companies and organizations cannot be ignored.

Mr. Speaker, we must never forget the tragic events that led up to the Holocaust and we must urge all countries and all peoples to strengthen their efforts to fight against racism, anti-Semitism and intolerance around the globe.

If we do not remain committed to teaching the lessons of the Holocaust for future generations, then history will be doomed to repeat

itself. The Museum of the History of Polish Jews serves as an important element to ensure future generations will remember the 900 years of Jewish culture in Poland and their sacrifices.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NOURED-  
DINE BOULOHA, NEW AMER-  
ICAN CITIZEN

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Noureddine Boulouha on becoming a U.S. citizen.

Mr. Boulouha, who took his citizenship oath on June 1, 2005, came to the United States from Morocco 6 years ago. He quickly established himself as a valuable member of the local community. In addition to pursuing academic studies, he holds the position of Senior Vice President for Marketing and Operations at Amena Consulting. His engaging personality and impressive knowledge of American politics make him a popular figure at the Monocle Restaurant on Capitol Hill. He and his wonderful wife, Catherine, have just purchased their first home.

Mr. Speaker, we are all fortunate to live in this land of opportunity, and Noureddine Boulouha embodies the qualities that have made our Nation great: a spirit of entrepreneurship, industriousness, devotion to family and love of country. It is a pleasure to welcome him as a fellow American citizen.

NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the commemoration of the 16th annual National Recovery Month this September. National Recovery Month serves as an important reminder of the benefits of treating alcohol and drug use. It promotes the message that recovery from alcohol and drug use disorder in all its forms is possible and lauds the collective effort that goes into achieving such recovery.

Substance abuse and substance dependence create substantial health risks not only to the individual, but also to other community members in that individual's life. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as many as 63 percent of Americans admit that addiction to alcohol or illicit drugs has had an impact on them at some point in their lives. This may include either their own personal addiction or that of a friend or family member. In 2003, an estimated 22.2 million Americans age 12 or older were considered in need of treatment for an alcohol or drug use disorder. Substance abuse is not only linked to chronic health problems, but also with other problems such as unemployment, crime, homelessness, and the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

These disorders can be treated, and the treatments leading to recovery are as suc-

cessful as treatments to other medical conditions such as high blood pressure or asthma. Recovery, or the process of initiating and maintaining abstinence from drug use, requires persistent and often multiple courses of treatment, including behavior based therapies and for some, medication. Unfortunately, many people who are in need of treatment do not receive it.

National Recovery Month 2005 heightens awareness of the need to improve the process of assessing abuse problems and referring people to appropriate treatment. It is imperative that families are provided with the support services they need, that appropriate treatment is affordable, and that access to treatment options are more readily available.

Addiction is a real and complex disease, one which impacts the individual, family, and community. Our esteemed former colleague, Congressman Michael Forbes, was directly impacted by the substance abuse of a beloved family member, one of my constituents. Carri-Forbes of Hastings-on-Hudson is a courageous young woman who overcame her addiction problems and successfully rebuilt her life. Her recovery serves as an example of the importance of treatment and the need to support more programs and initiatives to help our friends, family, and members of our community.

HONORING DAVID J. RUDIS

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. David J. Rudis on his being honored by the Jewish Community Centers of Chicago at their annual Hall of Fame Heritage Society Luncheon.

David Rudis is a distinguished resident of Glencoe and has contributed greatly to the Chicago area Jewish community through his entrepreneurship, energy, and warm heart. His ability to fulfill the dual role of business leader and philanthropist is truly remarkable, and he has worked tirelessly to enhance the effectiveness of local civic, educational, and cultural organizations.

As the president of Personal Financial Services at LaSalle Bank, David is highly regarded in Chicago's business community. He sits on a number of important committees for the bank, which is among the largest in the nation. He also oversees strategic growth and development for LaSalle Bank.

David's contributions extend far beyond his business acumen. He is tirelessly devoted to the future and vitality of his community and actively participates in many charitable organizations.

He has held leadership positions at a wide array of community organizations, from the Merit School of Music to the Standard Club of Chicago. David has always been a strong supporter of Chicago Public Radio. He is a former chairman of the Governing Board of WBEZ, and he is currently a member of the WBEZ Executive Board. He is also a well-respected and active member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois I thank David J. Rudis

for his many outstanding contributions to our community. His efforts have had a profound impact on the lives of his co-workers, friends, and family. I wish him continued success in his business and philanthropic endeavors.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL  
AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE  
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-  
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 27, 2005*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Congress debated and passed H.R. 3045, the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA). I voted in opposition to the trade agreement because of my concerns regarding the full ramifications of its passage and because I am a proponent of trade policies that enhance the welfare of participating countries. Any free trade agreement entered into by the United States should be fair. CAFTA, however, is neither free nor fair. CAFTA will cost American jobs, is unfair to American workers and exploits cheap foreign labor.

As we consider future trade agreements, I believe it is particularly relevant that we learn the lessons from NAFTA. We have learned that the promises of U.S. economic prosperity, curbed undocumented immigration, robust markets and massive job creation went unfulfilled. I fear that NAFTA is a precursor for what can be expected under CAFTA.

NAFTA promised millions of new jobs and a trade surplus for the United States that was never realized. Instead the U.S. has lost over one million jobs to Mexico and Canada. More specifically, the rise in the U.S. trade deficit with Canada and Mexico through 2004 has caused the displacement of production that supported over one million U.S. jobs since NAFTA was signed in 1993. Jobs have been displaced in most states and many industries in the United States. In my home state of Texas alone, more than 170,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost. The loss of these jobs has contributed significantly to the expanding burdens of unemployed workers in our state.

Why do these trade agreements cost us American jobs? Free trade agreements can create an environment that encourages corporations to relocate and take American jobs with them. By making it easier for the Central American countries to export certain products and because they have cheaper labor and weaker labor rights protections, CAFTA would encourage U.S. businesses to relocate. Though supporters tout Central America as a market for U.S. goods, it is not. CAFTA amounts to nothing more than an outsourcing agreement.

Adding insult to injury, Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) programs designed to help those who lose their jobs due to trade agreements remain underfunded and ineffective. Congress has not provided adequate funding for this program to meet the needs of thousands upon thousands of workers who have been displaced by trade. You cannot have trade agreements like NAFTA and CAFTA that