

Today, as Chairman Emeritus of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I introduced a bipartisan resolution honoring United States veterans who were held as prisoners of war during World War II.

The resolution commemorates the courageous and faithful men and women who were taken as U.S. POWs in the Pacific. It also commends the Government of Japan for the steps it has taken to provide some justice to former U.S. POWs, recognizes America's strong alliance with Japan and calls on the private Japanese companies that profited from U.S. POW labor to apologize and support programs for lasting remembrance and reconciliation.

I have long felt that Congress has a moral obligation to honor the men and women who suffered grave injustices during World War II. With fewer than 500 surviving POWs alive today, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in making this small, but significant, gesture to show these brave men and women that Congress has not forgotten about their experience and sacrifice, and that we appreciate Japan for the steps it has taken.

During World War II, an estimated 27,000 men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces were captured by Imperial Japan's military. These American POWs were subjected to brutal and inhumane conditions and forced labor, and nearly 40 percent perished.