



American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society
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November 9, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
The Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Congratulations on your election as Speaker of the House.

As president of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society (ADBC-MS), I speak for my members in welcoming a congressional leader who is familiar with the history of the American POWs of Japan.

As you may remember, your hometown, Janesville, was the hometown of the “Janesville 99.” These were the men of the 192nd Tank Battalion, Company A, which originated as the 32nd Divisional Tank Company of the Wisconsin National Guard. They fought in the defense of the Philippines from December 1941 to April 9, 1942 and suffered the infamous Bataan Death March as well as brutal internment, Hellships to Japan, and slave labor. Only 35 survived to return home. One of their officers, Capt. Fred Bruni, was burned alive with 138 other Americans on Palawan Island by their Japanese captors on December 14, 1944.

On the corner of Milwaukee and Franklin Streets in Janesville is the Lions Club WWI plaza. Joining the WWI Memorial is a stele topped with a tank “in fulfillment of a pledge by the Tank C Company boys to their comrades on Bataan” that lists both the survivors and the fallen.

The ADBC-MS represents the POWs of Japan, their families, their descendants, and researchers. This Veterans Day, the last national commander of the ADBC itself, Lester Tenney, a member of the 192nd and a friend of Capt. Bruni, will be a guest of the President at the White House.

We look forward to working with you to preserve the history and dignity of Janesville’s and all the American POWs of Japan.

Respectfully,

Ms. Jan Thompson
President

Daughter of PhM2c Robert E. Thompson USN, Bilibid & Mukden, POW# 2011