



## **American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, Memorial Society Inc.**

*Including all of the Defense Forces of the Philippine Archipelago, The Asiatic Fleet, Wake Island,  
Marianna Islands, Midway Island and Dutch East Indies*

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November 25, 2013

The Vice President  
Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President:

As you meet next week with members of Japan's government to confirm the significance of the U.S.-Japan Alliance, I hope that you will share with them the importance of remembering those American veterans who became prisoners of war of the Imperial Japanese during World War II.

With the help of President Obama's Administration one aspect of Japan's reconciliation with American POWs began. In 2009, a Japanese government Cabinet-approved apology was offered and in 2010 a program of understanding and visitation to Japan was initiated for former POWs. This year it was expanded to include widows. The visitation program's success should encourage Japan to do more: educating future generations in Japan and the U.S. on the POW experience in the Pacific and its lessons for war and peace needs to be the goal.

How Japan addresses its responsibilities toward the American POWs can be a model for Tokyo on how the historical reconciliation process can proceed. The American POWs ask for respect and that history to be not revised, but preserved. They want Japan's great multi-national corporations to acknowledge their use of POW slave labor. They ask the United States Government to aid and preserve their experiences under Imperial Japan for future generations

We ask that you take a moment in your talks in Tokyo, to speak up for those veterans who defended America in the Philippines, Java, and Wake Island and how, as captives, endured the horrors of the Bataan Death March, the "Hell Ships", enslavement on the Thai-Burma Railway, and the brutal conditions in slave labor camps in Japan.

We ask that the United States Government express its strong desire for Japan to establish a permanent fund for education, remembrance, and reconciliation. The goal is to: continue the POW visitation program for former POWs, widows and descendants; a program for research, documentation, education, and people-to-people exchanges and National memorials to the POWs who slaved and died on Japanese controlled soil or aboard the "Hell Ships".

Respectfully yours,

Ms. Jan Thompson  
President

American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society  
Daughter of PhM2 Robert Thompson USN, USS Canopus, Corregidor, Bilibid & Mukden

**cc:** Senator Robert Menendez  
Senator Bob Corker  
Senator Ben Cardin  
Senator Marco Rubio  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Bernie Sanders  
Senator Richard Burr  
Congressman Ed Royce  
Congressman Eliot Engel  
Congressman Steve Cabot  
Congressman Eni Faleomavaega  
Congressman Jeff Miller  
Congressman Michael H. Michaud  
Congressman Mike Honda  
Congressman William Enyart  
Ambassador Caroline Kennedy  
Mr. Barry Jersinoski, Disabled Veterans of America