

PRESS RELEASE

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AMERICAN POW OF JAPAN NOT GOING TO HIROSHIMA WITH THE PRESIDENT DISAPPOINTED

Makanda, Illinois, May 25, 2016/ American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society (ADBC-MS)/ -- A former POW of Japan, who President Barack Obama's staff reached out to accompany the President on his historic trip to Hiroshima, has been informed that he will not be among the group of veterans who will be present at the Peace Park. No reasons were given.

The White House Spokesman for Asia on the National Security Council, had contacted ADBC-MS President Jan Thompson on Saturday, May 21 at their annual convention in San Antonio, Texas asking her to identify a former POW able to travel to Japan on short notice to be included in the President's visit to the Hiroshima Peace Park.

Mr. Daniel W. Crowley, 94, of Simsbury Connecticut was selected. Mr. Crowley, a sergeant with the U.S. Army Air Corps in the Philippines, fought on Bataan with the infantry against invading Japanese forces. He avoided the Bataan Death March by escaping to Corregidor Island where he continued the fight with a Marine Corps unit. He became a prisoner of Japan with the fall of Corregidor on May 6, 1942. He was sent to Japan on a "hell ship" in early 1944 to be a slave laborer mining copper ore for Furukawa Kogyo (today's [Furukawa Company Group](#)) at the [Ashio POW Camp Tokyo 9-B](#).

Mr. Crowley who had been waiting in San Antonio for promised White House travel arrangements was disappointed and stated, "I think it was ludicrous to reach out to me and then not include me."

Ms. Thompson said, "Mr. Crowley, who fought in the first battles of World War II, would have been a powerful symbol of heroism, resilience, non-combatant suffering, and reconciliation. This is a loss for the Administration, the country and the U.S.-Japan alliance."

Ms. Thompson also stated, "We appreciate all of the support from the citizens of Japan and the Japanese media over the last few days for their interest in having the voices of the POWs heard. This is what an alliance is about."

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