

Mr. Speaker, one of the names of the fallen heroes to be added to the list is Officer Rodney J. Johnson of the Houston Police Department. Officer Johnson, a 12 year veteran of the Houston Police Department, was killed September 21, 2006, while taking a suspect in custody during a traffic stop. He leaves to honor his memory his beloved wife, Houston Police Department Officer Joslyn Johnson, and five teen-age children; three daughters and two sons, ages 14 to 19.

Officer Rodney Johnson was born in Houston and served in the U.S. Army as a military police officer until being honorably discharged in 1990. He then went to work as a corrections officer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and then as a jail attendant. He graduated from the Houston police academy in 1994.

As a member of the department's Southeast Gang Task Force, Officer Rodney Johnson earned two Lifesaving Awards and one Medal of Valor from the state of Texas. In January 1998, Officer Rodney Johnson rescued a physically challenged driver trapped in rising floodwaters in January 1998 and later that year he rescued mentally challenged people trapped inside of a burning house.

Officer Rodney Johnson, who stood 6 feet 5 inches tall and weighed nearly 300 pounds, served on his union's board of directors. As Hans Marticiu, the president of Officer Johnson's union stated, "he was big and he was intimidating-looking, but he was as gentle as a baby bear."

Mr. Speaker, the number of officers killed in the line of duty last year declined nearly 8 percent from 2005, when there were 157 officer deaths. The 2006 figure was the lowest annual total since 1999, when 143 officers were lost.

Although the number of officers killed in the line of duty has declined in recent years, the fact that one officer is killed every two-and-a-half days in our country is a sober reminder that protecting our communities and safeguarding our democracy come at a heavy price. Including this year's officers, there are now 17,917 names engraved on the Memorial, representing officers from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and federal law enforcement and military police agencies.

This resolution permits the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary to sponsor a free public event, the 26th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, on the Capitol grounds on May 15, 2007. This service will honor the law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty during 2006 who have died in the line of duty, as well as the 800,000 officers who continue to serve in federal, state and local law enforcement agencies nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 124.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GUAM WORLD WAR II LOYALTY RECOGNITION ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1595) to implement the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1595

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Recognition of the suffering and loyalty of the residents of Guam.

Sec. 3. Payments for Guam World War II claims.

Sec. 4. Adjudication.

Sec. 5. Grants program to memorialize the occupation of Guam during world war II.

Sec. 6. Authorization of Appropriations.

SEC. 2. RECOGNITION OF THE SUFFERING AND LOYALTY OF THE RESIDENTS OF GUAM.

(a) RECOGNITION OF THE SUFFERING OF THE RESIDENTS OF GUAM.—The United States recognizes that, as described by the Guam War Claims Review Commission, the residents of Guam, on account of their United States nationality, suffered unspeakable harm as a result of the occupation of Guam by Imperial Japanese military forces during World War II, by being subjected to death, rape, severe personal injury, personal injury, forced labor, forced march, or internment.

(b) RECOGNITION OF THE LOYALTY OF THE RESIDENTS OF GUAM.—The United States forever will be grateful to the residents of Guam for their steadfast loyalty to the United States of America, as demonstrated by the countless acts of courage they performed despite the threat of death or great bodily harm they faced at the hands of the Imperial Japanese military forces that occupied Guam during World War II.

SEC. 3. PAYMENTS FOR GUAM WORLD WAR II CLAIMS.

(a) PAYMENTS FOR DEATH, PERSONAL INJURY, FORCED LABOR, FORCED MARCH, AND INTERNMENT.—Subject to section 6(a), after receipt of certification pursuant to section 4(b)(8) and in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall make payments as follows:

(1) RESIDENTS INJURED.—The Secretary shall pay compensable Guam victims who are not deceased before any payments are made to individuals described in paragraphs (2) and (3) as follows:

(A) If the victim has suffered an injury described in subsection (c)(2)(A), \$15,000.

(B) If the victim is not described in subparagraph (A) but has suffered an injury described in subsection (c)(2)(B), \$12,000.

(C) If the victim is not described in subparagraph (A) or (B) but has suffered an injury described in subsection (c)(2)(C), \$10,000.

(2) SURVIVORS OF RESIDENTS WHO DIED IN WAR.—In the case of a compensable Guam de-

cedent, the Secretary shall pay \$25,000 for distribution to eligible survivors of the decedent as specified in subsection (b). The Secretary shall make payments under this paragraph after payments are made under paragraph (1) and before payments are made under paragraph (3).

(3) SURVIVORS OF DECEASED INJURED RESIDENTS.—In the case of a compensable Guam victim who is deceased, the Secretary shall pay \$7,000 for distribution to eligible survivors of the victim as specified in subsection (b). The Secretary shall make payments under this paragraph after payments are made under paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) DISTRIBUTION OF SURVIVOR PAYMENTS.—Payments under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a) to eligible survivors of an individual who is a compensable Guam decedent or a compensable Guam victim who is deceased shall be made as follows:

(1) If there is living a spouse of the individual, but no child of the individual, all of the payment shall be made to such spouse.

(2) If there is living a spouse of the individual and one or more children of the individual, one-half of the payment shall be made to the spouse and the other half to the child (or to the children in equal shares).

(3) If there is no living spouse of the individual, but there are one or more children of the individual alive, all of the payment shall be made to such child (or to such children in equal shares).

(4) If there is no living spouse or child of the individual but there is a living parent (or parents) of the individual, all of the payment shall be made to the parents (or to the parents in equal shares).

(5) If there is no such living spouse, child, or parent, no payment shall be made.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

(1) COMPENSABLE GUAM DECEDENT.—The term "compensable Guam decedent" means an individual determined under section 4(a)(1) to have been a resident of Guam who died or was killed as a result of the attack and occupation of Guam by Imperial Japanese military forces during World War II, or incident to the liberation of Guam by United States military forces, and whose death would have been compensable under the Guam Meritorious Claims Act of 1945 (Public Law 79-224) if a timely claim had been filed under the terms of such Act.

(2) COMPENSABLE GUAM VICTIM.—The term "compensable Guam victim" means an individual determined under section 4(a)(1) to have suffered, as a result of the attack and occupation of Guam by Imperial Japanese military forces during World War II, or incident to the liberation of Guam by United States military forces, any of the following:

(A) Rape or severe personal injury (such as loss of a limb, dismemberment, or paralysis).

(B) Forced labor or a personal injury not under subparagraph (A) (such as disfigurement, scarring, or burns).

(C) Forced march, internment, or hiding to evade internment.

(3) DEFINITIONS OF SEVERE PERSONAL INJURIES AND PERSONAL INJURIES.—The Foreign Claims Settlement Commission shall promulgate regulations to specify injuries that constitute a severe personal injury or a personal injury for purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, of paragraph (2).

SEC. 4. ADJUDICATION.

(a) AUTHORITY OF FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foreign Claims Settlement Commission is authorized to adjudicate claims and determine eligibility for payments under section 3.

(2) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—The chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission shall prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to enable it to

carry out its functions under this Act. Such rules and regulations shall be published in the Federal Register.

(b) CLAIMS SUBMITTED FOR PAYMENTS.—

(1) SUBMITTAL OF CLAIM.—For purposes of subsection (a)(1) and subject to paragraph (2), the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission may not determine an individual is eligible for a payment under section 3 unless the individual submits to the Commission a claim in such manner and form and containing such information as the Commission specifies.

(2) FILING PERIOD FOR CLAIMS AND NOTICE.—All claims for a payment under section 3 shall be filed within one year after the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission publishes public notice of the filing period in the Federal Register. The Foreign Claims Settlement Commission shall provide for the notice required under the previous sentence not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. In addition, the Commission shall cause to be publicized the public notice of the deadline for filing claims in newspaper, radio, and television media on Guam.

(3) ADJUDICATORY DECISIONS.—The decision of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission on each claim shall be by majority vote, shall be in writing, and shall state the reasons for the approval or denial of the claim. If approved, the decision shall also state the amount of the payment awarded and the distribution, if any, to be made of the payment.

(4) DEDUCTIONS IN PAYMENT.—The Foreign Claims Settlement Commission shall deduct, from potential payments, amounts previously paid under the Guam Meritorious Claims Act of 1945 (Public Law 79-224).

(5) INTEREST.—No interest shall be paid on payments awarded by the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission.

(6) REMUNERATION PROHIBITED.—No remuneration on account of representational services rendered on behalf of any claimant in connection with any claim filed with the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission under this Act shall exceed one percent of the total amount paid pursuant to any payment certified under the provisions of this Act on account of such claim. Any agreement to the contrary shall be unlawful and void. Whoever demands or receives, on account of services so rendered, any remuneration in excess of the maximum permitted by this section shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than 12 months, or both.

(7) APPEALS AND FINALITY.—Objections and appeals of decisions of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission shall be to the Commission, and upon rehearing, the decision in each claim shall be final, and not subject to further review by any court or agency.

(8) CERTIFICATIONS FOR PAYMENT.—After a decision approving a claim becomes final, the chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission shall certify it to the Secretary of the Treasury for authorization of a payment under section 3.

(9) TREATMENT OF AFFIDAVITS.—For purposes of section 3 and subject to paragraph (2), the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission shall treat a claim that is accompanied by an affidavit of an individual that attests to all of the material facts required for establishing eligibility of such individual for payment under such section as establishing a prima facie case of the individual's eligibility for such payment without the need for further documentation, except as the Commission may otherwise require. Such material facts shall include, with respect to a claim under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 3(a), a detailed description of the injury or other circumstance supporting the claim in-

volved, including the level of payment sought.

(10) RELEASE OF RELATED CLAIMS.—Acceptance of payment under section 3 by an individual for a claim related to a compensable Guam decedent or a compensable Guam victim shall be in full satisfaction of all claims related to such decedent or victim, respectively, arising under the Guam Meritorious Claims Act of 1945 (Public Law 79-224), the implementing regulations issued by the United States Navy pursuant thereto, or this Act.

(11) PENALTY FOR FALSE CLAIMS.—The provisions of section 1001 of title 18 of the United States Code (relating to criminal penalties for false statements) apply to claims submitted under this subsection.

SEC. 5. GRANTS PROGRAM TO MEMORIALIZE THE OCCUPATION OF GUAM DURING WORLD WAR II.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to section 6(b) and in accordance with this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall establish a grants program under which the Secretary shall award grants for research, educational, and media activities that memorialize the events surrounding the occupation of Guam during World War II, honor the loyalty of the people of Guam during such occupation, or both, for purposes of appropriately illuminating and interpreting the causes and circumstances of such occupation and other similar occupations during a war.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior may not award to a person a grant under subsection (a) unless such person submits an application to the Secretary for such grant, in such time, manner, and form and containing such information as the Secretary specifies.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) GUAM WORLD WAR II CLAIMS PAYMENTS AND ADJUDICATION.—For purposes of carrying out sections 3 and 4, there are authorized to be appropriated \$126,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2012, to the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission. Not more than 5 percent of funds made available under this subsection shall be used for administrative costs.

(b) GUAM WORLD WAR II GRANTS PROGRAM.—For purposes of carrying out section 5, there are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2012.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include additional material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1595, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act; and I thank Chairman NICK RAHALL and Ranking Member DON YOUNG for their leadership on this issue and their assistance in bringing this bill to the floor today.

I also want to thank Majority Leader STENY HOYER and Chairman JOHN CON-

YERS of the House Committee on the Judiciary for their support of this bill and for their assistance in expediting its consideration today.

H.R. 1595 implements the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission, which was authorized by Public Law 107-333 to review the war claims program for Guam, which Congress provided for following the occupation of Guam from December 8, 1941 to July 21, 1944. The review commission, appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, in September of 2003, was mandated to determine whether there was parity of war claims paid to the residents of Guam under the Guam Meritorious Claims Act as compared with awards made to similarly affected United States citizens or nationals in territory occupied by the Imperial Japanese military forces during World War II.

Further, the review commission was mandated to advise on any additional compensation that may be necessary to compensate the people of Guam for death, personal injury, forced labor, forced march and internment. In accomplishing its task, the review commission held two days of hearings on Guam in December of 2003 to receive testimony from survivors of the occupation of Guam. The review commission also held hearings here in Washington, D.C. and consulted with a panel of experts in this field of law. The review commission completed its work and reported to Congress its findings and recommendations on June 9, 2004. The review commission found that there was a lack of parity between the war claims program authorized for Guam versus the programs authorized for all other Americans similarly affected and recommended that Congress remedy this injustice.

I want to quote the first finding of the review commission's report for the benefit of all of my colleagues: "The review commission finds that there is a moral obligation on the part of our national government to pay compensation for war damages in order to ensure to the extent possible that no single individual or group of individuals bears more than a just part of the overall burden of war."

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Today, Mr. Speaker, we consider a bill that would fulfill this moral obligation on the part of our National Government to a group of citizens, the people of Guam, most of whom were indigenous Chamorros, who bore the burden of a brutal occupation. The people of Guam were brutalized through public executions, beheadings, rape and severe injury, forced labor, forced march and internment in concentration camps.

H.R. 1595 is called the Loyalty Recognition Act because the loyalty of the people of Guam to the United States during this 32-month enemy occupation should be honored. It is a tragic injustice of history that, following liberation, Congress did not provide for war

claims for the people of Guam in the same manner and with the same opportunities that were afforded to other Americans.

The people who carried a disproportionate burden of the war were given less than other Americans when it came time to make our Nation whole, and those who gave more in blood got less in recognition. Over and over at the hearings on Guam, people said, "We just want to be recognized. We just want to be treated with respect. We just want to receive the same restitution that other Americans received."

I want to acknowledge the excellent work of the Guam War Claims Review Commission chaired by Mauricio Tamargo, with Members Robert Lagomarsino, a former Member of Congress; Ms. Ruth Van Cleve, Director of the Office of Territories in the Department of Interior; former Chief Justice Ben Benjamin J. Cruz of the Guam Supreme Court; and Senator Antonio Unpingco of the Guam legislature. Their report provided the basis for today's bill, and their contributions are greatly appreciated.

I also want to acknowledge the efforts of my predecessors to bring the war claims issue to the attention of Congress, beginning with our very first Delegate to Congress, the late Mr. Antonio B. Won Pat, followed by the efforts of our second Delegate to Congress, retired Marine Brigadier General Ben Blaz, who is here with us today on the floor to witness this discussion, and my immediate predecessor, Congressman Robert A. Underwood, whose legislation in the 107th Congress created the review commission. Our work today, and the historic progress of the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act, is possible only because of the foundation that each of these contributed to this bipartisan effort.

The issue of Guam war claims has been studied and examined by this body over the past 24 years. Several hearings have been held, and the record is replete with testimony from survivors, legal experts, historians and scholars. Committee staff members have played a valuable role in this process by ensuring the right questions were asked, that Members were briefed, and that the issue was thoroughly examined.

I want to thank Jim Zoia, Staff Director of the Natural Resources Committee, and Tony Babauta, Staff Director of the Insular Affairs Subcommittee. Tony is a Chamorro from Guam, whose insights have been invaluable. I also acknowledge the counsels to the committee, Jeff Petrich, Brian Modeste, Lisa Pittman and Rich Stanton, who have worked very hard on this legislation.

This afternoon, we stand on the brink of a historic moment for the people of Guam. I regret, Mr. Speaker, that many survivors of the occupation of Guam did not live to see this day, and I fear that some will pass away before

this bill completes its legislative journey. But we have this moment to recall why we fight this fight, on whose behalf we are speaking today and why it is so vitally important to our Nation that we recognize the incredible sacrifices of the people of Guam during World War II.

I very much doubt that any foreign power will ever again occupy American soil and place American citizens under subjugation. The story of the people of Guam will thus be a unique story, less known than the bombing of Pearl Harbor and other heroic stories of World War II. It is a story of faith in our Nation, of hope in our God and of love for our families.

If I could vote, Mr. Speaker, on final passage of this bill, it would be my greatest honor to recognize the people of Guam by voting to pass this bill. But since I cannot vote as a Delegate, I offer all of my colleagues the honor of recognizing their fellow Americans and passing this bill today.

God bless Guam. God bless the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the majority has adequately explained the bill, and we have no further comment.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA). (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1595, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act. I commend my good friend and colleague, the gentlelady from Guam, for introducing this legislation designed to address the lack of parity in the war claims paid to the residents of the people of Guam as compared to other U.S. citizens or nationals who were similarly affected during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, every Guam Delegate to Congress has spoken about the deficiencies in making Guam whole after World War II. Our former colleagues Antonio Won Pat, General Ben Blaz, and former Congressman Robert Underwood had raised the issue throughout their service in the Congress.

Through the efforts of Congressman Robert Underwood, a commission was established in the 107th Congress to review the historical record of addressing Guam's war claims. After completing its work, the Guam War Claims Review Commission found that a lack of parity existed in the case of war claims for the people of Guam.

These were some of the key findings of the commission:

That the U.S. has a moral obligation to pay proper compensation for war damages.

That there is a lack of parity in war claims for Guam when compared to

other war claims programs established by the U.S. Congress.

That Guam was erroneously excluded from coverage under Title II of the War Claims Act.

This legislation is vitally important because it addresses these long-standing inequities against the people of Guam by implementing the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission. It recognizes the sacrifices made by the people of Guam and their steadfast loyalty to the United States in the face of this adversity. It allows claims for death, personal injury, forced labor, forced marches and internment. It allows compensation to certain survivors of the deceased from the war; and it authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award grants in support of activities to remember Guam's occupation.

I strongly support this legislation.

I submit to my colleagues, our Nation committed a grave injustice some 60 years ago against the people of Guam. For some unknown and mysterious reason, Mr. Speaker, the native Guamanians, who are U.S. Nationals, U.S. Nationals, meaning owing permanent allegiance to the United States, were not evacuated along with U.S. citizens at the time that they were living in Guam before the arrival of the Japanese forces.

As a result, these patriotic Americans were left to fend for themselves, to contend with the Japanese takeover of the territory of Guam, and for nearly 3 years, the people of Guam were interned and were subjected to extreme tortures, even executions by public, beatings, rapes, forced labor, forced marches.

A good example is right here in our midst, Mr. Speaker, my good friend and former Member of Congress representing the territory of Guam, retired Brigadier General Ben Blaz, at that time was a youth and was part of this forced evacuation. He personally witnessed some of the atrocities that were committed against his people by Japanese military forces.

Our former colleague, Congressman Bob Underwood, also reiterated to our colleagues that some of his close relatives were beheaded in the presence of other people of Guam when this took place for some 3 years, some 3 years. And I can never forget the words echoed by my good friend, the general from Guam, when he said this, "we are equal in war but not in peace."

Why, for the life of me, Mr. Speaker, it has taken all these years in simply trying to make this inequity fair and just for the benefit of the people of Guam I do not understand. It is as if these people were aliens or not members of the American family. We have had Guam for how many years? It was a territory of the United States, and this is what we did against these good people of Guam at the time of the war. Why we never evacuated them along with other U.S. citizens to this day is still a question. Why the Navy never

took them out of there before the arrival of the Japanese.

I appeal to my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that we pass this bill. It is long overdue. For the sake of justice, pass this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Again, I thank the good lady from Guam for her leadership and sponsorship of this bill.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire if the majority has any more speakers?

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for a colloquy.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, it has been said among some of the critics of this legislation, saying that the people of Guam were properly compensated already. I am sure the gentlelady has the correct information so that we can inform our colleagues this is not true.

The way the whole thing has been presented, the procedures that were followed and the war claims that were made for the U.S. citizens left out the people of Guam. For some reason or another, I think our colleagues need to understand this a little more clearly.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, did the gentlelady just not state that she had no more speakers?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct. The gentlewoman from Guam nevertheless had time remaining and did not yield it back.

Ms. BORDALLO. That was my understanding at the time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I understood that she had not yielded her time. With 7 minutes remaining, I requested that there be a colloquy between myself and the gentlelady from Guam. Is there anything wrong with that?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Guam has 6 minutes remaining.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, in answer to the questions raised, let me just put it this way: There are several categories in the bill to pay for compensation. One is for living survivors of the occupation; \$15,000 for rape or severe personal injury, such as loss of limb, dismemberment or paralysis; \$12,000 for forced labor or personal injury that is less severe in nature, such as disfigurement, scarring or burns; \$10,000 for forced march, internment or hiding to evade internment.

Category two is for death claims, \$25,000 to a spouse or children of a Gua-

manian who died during the occupation.

Category three for descendants of deceased survivors; \$7,000 to descendants of injured or interned survivors who have passed away, irrespective of the injury or the harm sustained.

The total of this legislation, we are asking \$126 million for claims and \$5 million for grants for the Department of Interior to promote activities related to the occupation.

Also another question, if I could answer, why is the U.S. paying for this instead of Japan? The United States inherited the obligation of reparations due to the treaty of peace with Japan which ended hostilities with Japan. It is the standard practice that citizens make claims to their own government arising from hostilities. It is the responsibility of the United States to make the people of Guam whole. Guamanians were U.S. nationals at the time of the occupation by Japan.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I ask the gentlelady, were there any provisions where it required the Japanese Government to restore or to provide some form of compensation as part of this treaty arrangement?

Ms. BORDALLO. Not to my knowledge. The U.S. inherited this.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. So the Japanese Government just simply said, well, don't ask us; ask the United States Government to provide this.

Ms. BORDALLO. Due to the treaty of peace.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. So there was never any compensation or any support even from the Japanese Government to make whole what they did against the people, the residents of Guam?

Ms. BORDALLO. That is correct. It is the United States responsibility to make Guam whole.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I thank the gentlelady.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support legislation that has been introduced by my colleague, Congresswoman BORDALLO. H.R. 1595, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act, would honor the residents of Guam for their loyalty and compensate them for the atrocities they suffered during the Japanese occupation of Guam.

During World War II, Guam was invaded, seized and occupied by Imperial Japanese forces for nearly three years. The war destroyed much of Guam, including housing, public buildings, utilities and infrastructure. In addition, the people of Guam suffered many deaths and an untold number of acts of brutality. This ruthless brutality has left a lasting impact on the survivors of the war and the descendants of victims.

In 1947, the Secretary of the Navy commissioned a civilian committee on the Naval Administration of Guam and American Samoa to prepare a report with specific recommendations. The report became known as the Hopkins Report and was submitted to the Secretary of the Navy in 1947. Among other things, the report addressed deficiencies in the war claims process for Guam immediately after the war ended. In the cover letter submitted with the report, the committee stated,

"Only so can justice be done to a valiant group of Americans who at great cost to themselves remained steadfastly loyal during the war . . . in so special a case this government could well be very generous in method of distributing its relief as well as generous in amount awarded. It has been neither."

Many decades later, the 107th Congress authorized the Guam War Claims Review Commission to determine if the people of Guam received parity in claims as compared to other Americans who experienced losses and damages during the war. In 2004, the Commission submitted their final report to Congress and found that Guam's residents were inequitably treated.

There has been legislation to address this inequitable treatment in every Congress since 1985. Two hearings have been held, one in the 108th Congress and one on in the 109th Congress. It is time to follow the recommendations made by both the Hopkins report and the Guam War Claims Review Commission by providing adequate reparations for the people of Guam. It is time to honor them for their sacrifices.

Congresswoman BORDALLO has done a fantastic job over the years to create the most fair and equitable legislation that Congress can pass. I hope the people of Guam know that this issue is being addressed and the people have not been forgotten.

I urge my colleagues to support the people of Guam and vote for final passage.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise this today in strong support of the passage of H.R. 1595—the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act. I also commend the gentlelady from Guam for her leadership on this issue. This legislation has bipartisan support and is being considered today because of her determination to seek justice.

We are here this afternoon, taking a significant step forward to close a very painful chapter in Guam's history. From the time that Guam had been granted a delegate to Congress in the 1970's, throughout the service of our former colleagues—Mr. Won Pat, Mr. Blaz, and Mr. Underwood—this House has been made aware and constantly reminded that Guam and her people suffered unimaginable atrocities during its occupation by Japan during World War II. For nearly three years, the idyllic paradise became a land of panic, horror, suffering, and death.

The personal testimonies of survivors of Guam's occupation has a strong history with the Committee on Natural Resources. They are emotional, sad, and graphic. Many of those survivors who appeared before the Committee to re-tell and, in essence, re-live the pain of occupation have since passed on. There are very few of the estimated 22,000 Guamanians alive today who survived this era, and it is my hope that we can give them closure before none remain.

There now have been two federally appointed Commissions that have reviewed the implementation and the parity treatment of Guam's experience—the Hopkins Commission in 1947, and the Review Commission in 2004. Both concluded that the people of Guam were either misinformed or mistreated. Either way, their recommendations to Congress—be it in 1947 or in 2004—are that something needs to be done to make this right.

The weight of history now falls on the shoulders of this House, nearly sixty-three years

after Guam's liberation. We have the opportunity by passing H.R. 1595 to correct a great injustice for those patriotic Americans who withstood brutal occupation.

The issue has been studied to exhaustion and the recommendations have remained the same. We should never forget their sacrifice for our country, nor should we allow for this inequity to continue.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 1595—the Guam World War II Loyalty Act.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1595, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act and urge my colleagues to support its passage. I want to begin by commending my colleague and friend from Guam, the Honorable MADELEINE BORDALLO, for her steadfast and dedicated efforts towards enactment of this bill. Congresswoman BORDALLO has been singularly focused—since arriving in the House—on the enactment of legislation to provide compensation for those of her constituents who suffered unspeakable acts of horror during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Guam who were subject to public executions by beheading, personal injury, forced labor, forced march, rape and internment at the hands of the Japanese, have waited much too long for just compensation. The Guam War Claims Review Commission found that Guam's residents were inequitably treated under the Guam Meritorious Claims Act and subsequent Federal laws meant to address WWII personal injury claims.

This Commission, which was established pursuant to legislation sponsored by our former colleague from Guam, Robert Underwood, recommended that Congress enact legislation providing for additional compensation to Guam's residents. Thus the bill we are discussing today.

The struggle for fair compensation for the people of Guam has been on-going for more than 60 years now. Sadly many of the Chamorros who suffered these atrocities have passed away but we must not let their suffering, largely due to the steadfast loyalty to the United States, be in vain. Passage of H.R. 1595 is long overdue and by doing so today, we will honor their memories and provide compensation to these brave Americans.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1595.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1595, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

□ 1500

COLUMBIA-PACIFIC NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 407) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing the Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area in the States of Washington and Oregon, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 407

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area Study Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term "Heritage Area" means the Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) STUDY AREA.—The term "study area" means—

(A) the coastal areas of Clatsop and Pacific Counties (also known as the North Beach Peninsula); and

(B) areas relating to Native American history, local history, Euro-American settlement culture, and related economic activities of the Columbia River within a corridor along the Columbia River eastward in Clatsop, Pacific, Columbia, and Wahkiakum Counties.

SEC. 3. COLUMBIA-PACIFIC NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the managers of any Federal land within the study area, appropriate State and local governmental agencies, tribal governments, and any interested organizations, shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of designating the study area as the Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the study area—

(1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed through partnerships among public and private entities and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;

(2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklore that are a valuable part of the national story;

(3) provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features;

(4) provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities;

(5) contains resources important to the identified theme or themes of the Study Area that retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(6) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State governments that are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants, including the Federal Government, and have demonstrated support for the concept of a national heritage area;

(7) has a potential local coordinating entity to work in partnership with residents,

business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State governments to develop a national heritage area consistent with continued local and State economic activity; and

(8) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

(c) PRIVATE PROPERTY.—In conducting the study required by this section, the Secretary shall analyze the potential impact that designation of the area as a national heritage area is likely to have on land within the proposed area or bordering the proposed area that is privately owned at the time that the study is conducted.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out the study, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Secretary with respect to the study.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 407, sponsored by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD), would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of designating a national heritage area in western Washington State. Specifically, the study would examine coastal areas in Clatsop and Pacific Counties at the mouth of the Columbia River, as well as inland areas along the river in two adjacent counties. The bill includes standard criteria for national heritage area studies, and requires completion of the study 3 years after the date funds are made available.

Mr. Speaker, the area included in this proposed study is not only beautiful, but is rich in Native American and European history. The area was a busy stop on European trade routes many years before Lewis and Clark famously visited the west coast. Representative BAIRD is to be commended for his hard work on behalf of this legislation. We look forward to working with him on the designation of a national heritage area should the study support such an action.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 407 for both procedural and substantive reasons. I am very dismayed that this bill has been