

When that legislation was amended in 1962, Guam again was not included in that legislation. And so let me express the anomaly in terms of my family.

My name is ROBERT UNDERWOOD. My grandfather is from North Carolina. He came to Guam in the year 1902 as a Marine. He mustered out in Guam, and he married a Chamorro woman and he thereby established a line of Underwoods in Guam who fully considered themselves, as I do, indigenous inhabitants of Guam.

My grandfather was taken by the Japanese and put in a prison camp for civilians in, Kobe, Japan. As a result of the War Claims Act of 1948, my grandfather was compensated for his time of internment in Japan. His family, his wife, my grandmother, his children, my father and my aunts and my uncles, could not submit any claim, even though it could be argued and certainly, my grandfather felt this way before he died, they suffered more than he did. But because the War Claims Act only recognized the activities of U.S. citizens who were subsequently taken to Japan, the people of Guam were not included.

There were some people of Guam who worked for Pan American Airlines who worked in Wake Island. These people were drafted, in a sense, by the U.S. Marine Corps to help defend the island against Japanese invaders. These people from Guam were taken, captured by the Japanese, some were killed, eventually recognized as World War II veterans, went to prison camp in China. As a result of the War Claims Act of 1948, they were given a certain level of compensation for their forced labor and for their internment. Their families, which were back in Guam, who suffered a similar fate, were not allowed to submit the same claim. So, in a sense, we have a situation that cries out for justice. And outlining that history only helps make the case.

But there is more to it than that. In 1950, the people of Guam were made United States citizens by a congressional act called the Organic Act of Guam. In 1951, the United States signed a peace treaty with Japan, officially ending the Pacific War. In that treaty, the United States forgave or foreclosed or made impossible any claim for any war action by the Japanese by any American citizen or American national. So the peace treaty, in effect, foreclosed the opportunity for the people of Guam to be allowed the opportunity to make a war claim to Japan.

So what we have today is that the people of Guam cannot make a war claim against Japan, nor are they included in the war claims legislation that has been passed by Congress. So what we have today is a situation that is intolerable, that is unconscionable, and cries out for some justice.

Fortunately, with the collaboration of Senator DANNY INOUE over in the

Senate, he and I have introduced legislation to grant the people of Guam the opportunity to submit war claims for death and injury and for forced march and forced labor. In order to validate these claims, we are proposing that in the future, we will establish a commission to validate the existence of these claims and certainly to review the tortured history of the claims situation in regards to the people of Guam.

The one other irony is that, as I mentioned earlier in this speech, is that in anticipation of a Japanese invasion of the Aleutian Islands, the civilians who lived in the Aleutian Islands were evacuated. In anticipation of Japanese war action in Guam, the only civilians that were evacuated were U.S. citizens. The people of Guam who were not citizens obviously were not evacuated. Legislation was granted to compensate those for property damages and for damages claimed as a result of the Japanese occupation to illusion islanders, but no such similar legislation has been passed for the people of Guam.

It is painful sometimes to talk about such issues because sometimes people think that we are talking about money issues. In one sense, we are. But we are not asking for what we do not deserve, and we are only asking for the same treatment as other American citizens and nationals who experienced exactly the same kind of condition.

In trying to bring honor and closure to the World War II experience, we have done many things in this country. We are establishing a World War II memorial on the mall. The original design of that World War II memorial called for 50 columns to commemorate each of the 50 States and one more for the District of Columbia. Incredibly, a place like Guam was left out of the memorial.

Fortunately, through a lot of conversation and personal appearances and letters and everything else, we have been able to rectify that so that Guam will be given the same kind of prominence in that memorial as any other State or territory, because, based on what I have told my colleagues this evening, its contribution to the war effort was not only great in terms of winning the war against Japan, but enormous in terms of the suffering of individuals and their families.

So it is in their name, it is in the name of the people of Guam that we ask that consideration be given to this legislation, that it be widely supported. It is in their name that I ask that we bring some closure to this war experience for those who have survived to this age. Certainly, most people have passed on. Most of the people who experienced World War II as mature adults have passed on from Guam, and it is a way, it is a tragic circumstance because so many of them that suffered during the Japanese occupation will never see any kind of compensation or recognition for their efforts.

Every single family in Guam has some connection to the war experience. I always do not like to talk about it in those terms, but sometimes those are the terms that most people understand.

□ 1915

My parents have 11 children. I am the only one that was born after World War II, and all the rest were born either during the war or prior to the war. Three of them died during the war.

For my parents, for my father while he was still alive, and for my mother who still lives today as a very energetic 85-year-old woman, there is no concern and there was never any concern about war restitution or the legislation or seeking any legislative initiative.

In fact, I will have to say that for most of the people who experience it, they barely mention it. It is really part of our attempt, for those of us who come from the generation who profited from their experience, it is our attempt to help make whole what must have been a horrific experience and to try to bring some closure and honor to their experience.

So today, even though we are one day late and actually in Guam time we are two days late, I want to again congratulate all the Marines and sailors and airmen and soldiers who participated in the battle for Guam.

There are so many out there. I am in strong communication with several of them. If they have not gone back to Guam, they should go back to Guam and see what they helped make possible. For those people who came down from the hills, the Chamorro people of Guam, who endured the Japanese occupation, let us never forget that they made their contribution to liberty and they made their contribution to American ideals as well.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. UNDERWOOD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, July 28.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EHRLICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, for 5 minutes, July 29.

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TIAHRT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KOLBE, for 5 minutes, July 29.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, July 26.