

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such record votes, if postponed, will be taken on tomorrow.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMITMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE
RECOVERY AND ACCOUNTING
FOR AMERICANS WHO ARE PRISONERS
OF WAR OR MISSING

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 18) recognizing the historic commitment of the United States to the recovery of and full accounting for Americans who are prisoners of war or in a missing status.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 18

Whereas the surrender during World War II on the Bataan Peninsula, in the Philippines, in April 1942 led to the capture of more than 75,000 American and Filipino military prisoners of war;

Whereas American, Filipino, and Allied prisoners of war endured the 65-mile Bataan Death March through the jungles of the Philippines and were subjected to brutal abuse from which many hundreds of Americans and many thousands of Filipinos died;

Whereas thousands more American and Filipino civilians were interned across the region;

Whereas General Douglas MacArthur, the Allied commander for the Southwest Pacific area, including the Philippine Islands, committed forces under his command to make every effort, as quickly as possible, to liberate prisoner of war camps and internment camps as Allied forces began retaking territory;

Whereas in the fulfillment of that commitment, United States Army units, together with various Filipino guerilla groups, successfully conducted several operations that liberated thousands of innocent civilians, prisoners of war, and Filipino citizens;

Whereas in February 1945, elements of the 11th Airborne Division, particularly the 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment of that division, and the 672nd Amphibious Tractor Battalion conducted a particularly brave and daring mission behind enemy lines to rescue over 2,000 people at Los Banos internment camp; and

Whereas the United States has an historic commitment to the recovery of and full accounting for Americans who are prisoners of war or in a missing status: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress—

(1) recognizes the rescue missions carried out by units of the United States Army, including the 11th Airborne Division, 60 years ago in the Philippines during World War II as sterling examples of that commitment; and

(2) recognizes the bravery and courage of the soldiers and the Filipino guerrillas who participated in those rescue missions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS).

□ 1400

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.J. Res. 18, the legislation under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

When the Philippines fell in April of 1942, more than 75,000 American and Filipino servicemen and countless civilians became prisoners of war. This number was decimated during the brutal Bataan Death March, which saw the death of over 16,000 POWs. Many soldiers survived the march, only to find themselves facing murderous treatment in prisoner-of-war camps scattered throughout the island.

When General MacArthur began his campaign to retake the Philippines in 1945, he made it a priority to liberate soldiers and civilians who were interned in these camps. This commitment was particularly important, since it was widely believed that captives would be killed by their retreating captors if measures were not undertaken to liberate them in advance of the main campaign.

General MacArthur's commitment to the civilian internees and prisoners of war on the island manifested itself in a particularly heroic way in the Allied raid on the prison camp at Los Banos. It was here that Filipino guerrilla forces and the men of the 511th parachute infantry regiment of the 11th Airborne division worked in concert to organize a multipronged assault with elements attacking from land, air and sea to liberate the prisoners of the camp.

The Allied forces took great risks to free their fellow soldiers and civilians who had fallen behind enemy lines. These truly heroic acts serve not only as examples of the humanitarian compassion of American servicemen and -women but also as an example of our Nation's longstanding commitment to leave no fellow soldier, living or dead, in enemy hands.

Mr. Speaker, as we have military personnel spread throughout the world today, many of whom are daily risking

capture and torture at the hands of brutal terrorists, it is more important now than ever to recognize and honor the heroism and willing sacrifice of those soldiers who risked their own safety not to take a strategic objective, but simply to bring a comrade home.

Our soldiers, marines, airmen and sailors must be able to take a small measure of comfort that whatever happens to them in battle, that this Nation will always have the will and the resolve to find and repatriate all of those who were lost while on duty.

Mr. Speaker, evil has aggressively manifested itself in many forms throughout human history, and for the last 200 years, whether fighting totalitarian evil of monarchial, fascist or fanatical roots, American servicemen have made a habit of putting themselves squarely in evil's way. They have done so, secure in the knowledge that if they fall into the hands of the enemy, they will not be forgotten. Indeed, every effort possible will be undertaken to bring them home.

Mr. Speaker, this is the 60th anniversary of the liberation of over 2,000 prisoners from the camp at Los Banos, and at a time when our military is deployed in harm's way around the globe, let us recognize those individuals who sacrificed to bring their brothers and sisters home, and let us honor the heroic actions of the past by officially reaffirming our Nation's commitment to leave no fighting man or woman in enemy hands at any time, now or in the future.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Resolution 18, introduced by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS), my friend and colleague on the House Committee on Armed Services.

This resolution today recognizes our Nation's commitment to the recovery and full accounting of Americans who are prisoners of war or who are in a missing status from current and previous conflicts, and in particular, it recognizes the actions of the 11th Airborne division and the Filipino guerrillas who participated in the liberation of an internment camp in the Philippines during World War II.

Following the United States surrender on the Bataan Peninsula in April of 1942, thousands of Americans and Filipinos and Europeans, both military and civilian, were taken as prisoners of war by the Japanese. In the town of Los Banos, on the island of Luzon, over 2,000 civilians, including men, women and children, and 12 American Navy nurses, were held as captives. From May 14, 1943, until they were freed by Angels on February 3, 1945, they were held captive at the