

By Senator Klein

28-1502-00

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Senate Memorial No. \_\_\_\_

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to call upon the Government of Japan to apologize for the atrocious war crimes committed by the Japanese military during World War II and to pay reparations to the victims of those crimes.

WHEREAS, our nation is founded on democratic principles that recognize the vigilance with which fundamental individual human rights must be safeguarded in order to preserve freedom, and

WHEREAS, this resolution condemns all violations of the international law designed to safeguard fundamental human rights as embodied in the Geneva and Hague Conventions, and

WHEREAS, this resolution vociferously condemns all crimes against humanity and at the same time condemns the actions of those who would use this resolution to further an agenda that fosters anti-Asian sentiment and racism, or "Japan-bashing," or otherwise fails to distinguish between Japan's war criminals and Americans of Japanese ancestry, and

WHEREAS, since the end of World War II, Japan has earned its place as an equal in the society of nations, yet the Government of Japan has failed to fully acknowledge the crimes committed during World War II, and to provide reparations to the victims of those crimes, and

WHEREAS, while high-ranking Japanese government officials have expressed personal apologies, supported the payment of privately funded reparations to some victims, and modified some textbooks, these efforts are not adequate

1 substitutes for an apology and reparations approved by the  
2 Government of Japan, and

3 WHEREAS, the need for an apology sanctioned by the  
4 Government of Japan is underscored by the contradictory  
5 statements and actions of Japanese government officials and  
6 leaders of a "revisionist" movement who openly deny that war  
7 crimes took place, defend the actions of the Japanese  
8 military, seek to remove the modest language included in  
9 textbooks, and refuse to cooperate with United States  
10 Department of Justice efforts to identify Japanese war  
11 criminals, and

12 WHEREAS, during World War II, 33,587 United States  
13 military and 13,966 civilian prisoners of the Japanese  
14 military were confined in inhumane prison camps where they  
15 were subjected to forced labor and died indescribable deaths,  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the Japanese military occupied Nanking,  
18 China, from December 1937 until February 1938, during the  
19 period known as the "Rape of Nanking," and brutally  
20 slaughtered, in ways that defy description, by some accounts  
21 as many as 300,000 Chinese men, women, and children and raped  
22 more than 20,000 women, adding to a death toll that may have  
23 exceeded millions of Chinese, and

24 WHEREAS, the people of Guam and the Marshall Islands,  
25 during the Japanese occupation from 1941 to 1944, were  
26 subjected to unspeakable acts of violence, including forced  
27 labor and marches and imprisonment by the Japanese military  
28 during its occupation of these islands, and

29 WHEREAS, three-fourths of the population of Port Blair  
30 on Andaman Islands, India, were exterminated by Japanese  
31 troops between March 1942 and the end of World War II, and

1 many were tortured to death or forced into sexual slavery at  
2 "comfort stations," and crimes beyond description were  
3 committed on families and young children, and

4 WHEREAS, at the February 1945 "Battle of Manila,"  
5 100,000 men, women, and children were killed by Japanese armed  
6 forces in inhumane ways, adding to a total death toll that may  
7 have exceeded one million Filipinos during the Japanese  
8 occupation of the Philippines, which began in December 1941  
9 and ended in August 1945, and

10 WHEREAS, at least 260 of the 1,500 United States  
11 prisoners, including many Californians, believed to have been  
12 held at Mukden, Manchuria, died during the first winter of  
13 their imprisonment and many of the 300 living survivors of  
14 Mukden claim to suffer from physical ailments resulting from  
15 their subjection to Japanese military chemical and biological  
16 experiments, and

17 WHEREAS, the Japanese military enslaved millions of  
18 Koreans, Chinese, Filipinos, and citizens from other occupied  
19 or colonized territories during World War II, and forced  
20 hundred of thousands of women into sexual slavery for Japanese  
21 troops, and

22 WHEREAS, the International Commission of Jurists, a  
23 nongovernmental organization in Geneva, Switzerland, ruled in  
24 1993 that the Government of Japan should pay reparations of at  
25 least \$40,000 for the extreme pain and suffering caused to  
26 each woman who was forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese  
27 military, yet none of these women have been paid any  
28 compensation by the Government of Japan, NOW, THEREFORE,

29  
30 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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1           That the Congress of the United States is requested to  
2 take all appropriate actions to bring about a formal apology  
3 and reparations by the Government of Japan to the victims of  
4 its war crimes during World War II.

5           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
6 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
7 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
8 House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida  
9 delegation to the United States Congress.

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