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Don't Miss

Public Affairs

with Awee Abayari

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Congressman Filner Honors American and Filipino POWs!

Washington, DC – Congressman Bob Filner expressed his gratitude to American and Filipino prisoners of war by recently supporting legislation to award a congressional gold medal to those who were forced to participate in the Bataan Death March during World War II.

"The Bataan Death March resulted in the death of thousands of POWs, and forever affected the lives of those who survived this dark episode of war," said Congressman Filner. "American and Filipino soldiers showed extraordinary courage as they were subjected to unspeakable atrocities, and deserve our undying honor and respect."



On April 9, 1942, approximately 12,000 American soldiers at Bataan, suffering from a lack of supplies, malnutrition, malaria, and starvation, were forced to surrender to Japanese forces. American and Filipino troops together accounted for nearly 80,000 total POWs.

Immediately following their capture, the troops endured a torturous 65-mile, five-day march in tropical heat without food or water. Thousands perished along the way, and those who survived were held as prisoners of war in squalid encampments for over three years.

In captivity, the soldiers were made to do hard manual labor, given inadequate medical treatment and nutritional rations, and often threatened and beaten. Today, there are only a few dozen remaining survivors.

H.R. 3712 would award a gold medal to collectively honor the troops from the United States and the Philippines who defended Bataan, Philippines, and were subsequently prisoners of war, in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service to their country during World War II. The medal would be housed at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and would also be available upon request for ceremonies and events.

For more interviews: www.youtube.com/user/AweeAbayari • aweababayari.com

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† THOUGHT FOR THE DAY †

Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Colossians 3:9