

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1302

To authorize the payment of a gratuity to members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the United States who performed slave labor for Japan during World War II, or the surviving spouses of such members, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2001

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. HATCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the payment of a gratuity to members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the United States who performed slave labor for Japan during World War II, or the surviving spouses of such members, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO PAY GRATUITY TO MEMBERS
2 OF THE ARMED FORCES AND CIVILIAN EM-
3 PLOYEES OF THE UNITED STATES FOR SLAVE
4 LABOR PERFORMED FOR JAPAN DURING
5 WORLD WAR II.

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
7 ings:

1 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to rec-
2 ognize, by the provision of compensation, the heroic con-
3 tributions of the members of the Armed Forces and civil-
4 ian employees of the United States who were captured by
5 the Japanese military during World War II and denied
6 their basic human rights by being made to perform slave
7 labor by the Imperial Government of Japan or by Japa-
8 nese corporations during World War II.

9 (c) PAYMENT OF GRATUITY AUTHORIZED.—The Sec-
10 retary of Veterans Affairs may pay a gratuity to a covered
11 veteran or civilian internee, or to the surviving spouse of
12 a covered veteran or civilian internee, in the amount of
13 \$20,000.

14 (d) COVERED VETERAN OR CIVILIAN INTERNEE DE-
15 FINED.—In this section, the term “covered veteran or ci-
16 vilian internee” means any individual who—

17 (1) was a member of the Armed Forces, a civil-
18 ian employee of the United States, or an employee
19 of a contractor of the United States during World
20 War II;

21 (2) served in or with United States combat
22 forces during World War II;

23 (3) was captured and held as a prisoner of war
24 or prisoner by Japan in the course of such service;
25 and

1 (4) was required by the Imperial Government of
2 Japan, or one or more Japanese corporations, to
3 perform slave labor during World War II.

4 (e) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PAYMENTS.—Any
5 amount paid a person under this section for activity de-
6 scribed in subsection (d) is in addition to any other
7 amount paid such person for such activity under any other
8 provision of law.