

Adopting this motion to instruct will allow the conferees to make technical corrections to improve the legislation enabling Congress to move quickly to finalize a robust bill, as the construction season is already underway.

Investing in our roads, bridges, waterways and rail systems creates good-paying jobs now while making our transportation system more efficient for decades into the future. Our backlog of maintenance needs alone is staggering, and we need to address it or continue to jeopardize our economic future.

I urge my colleagues to support the motion to instruct conferees.

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE
70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATAAN
DEATH MARCH

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Bataan Death March and to recognize one of my constituents, Dr. Lester Tenney, who took part in that long and inhumane march. He and some 76,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war made the 65 mile march from Mariveles and Bagac in the Philippines to Camp O'Donnell and were eventually transported by Hell Ships to Japan during April of 1942.

Dr. Tenney is a truly remarkable individual who has dedicated his life to serving his country and his community. When he was twenty years old, Lester joined the Illinois National Guard. His Battalion arrived in the Philippines on November 20, 1941. He was at Clark Field in the Philippines on December 8th when Japanese bombers and fighters attacked within hours of the Pearl Harbor assault.

He was engaged in the first U.S. tank battle in World War II when his Battalion, the 192d Tank Battalion of the Illinois National Guard, was sent to the Lingayen Gulf on the Northern Philippine Island of Luzon where the Japanese forces landed on December 22, 1941. Overwhelmed by the invading Japanese forces, his tank company and all other U.S. troops on Luzon Island retreated into the Bataan Peninsula.

Dr. Tenney became a POW of the Japanese when the U.S. forces on the Bataan Peninsula were surrendered on April 9, 1942. The already sick and starving troops were forced to walk 65 miles in sweltering heat with virtually no food and water in what later became known as the Bataan Death March (the March). He described his experience on the March: "Day after day, on that march, I watched in utter helplessness as hundreds of my friends—many who had become brothers—were shot, bayoneted, decapitated, and in some cases buried alive. I listened to their cries, their last requests, and the unspeakable sadness that comes to a man when he realizes he will never again see his family."

Dr. Tenney suffered severe abuse while held in POW camps and was tortured when he tried to escape. He was transported to Japan on a "Hell Ship" in September of 1942. Dr. Tenney worked as a slave in a Mitsui coal mine in Ohmuta, Japan until the end of the war in August 1945. He, along with his fellow POW's, were often beaten by employees of

Mitsui and received inadequate food and little medical care. Even as he was held in one of the worst POW camps in Japan where 138 POWs died, Dr. Tenney tried to lift the spirits of his fellow POWs by organizing and producing many variety shows as camp entertainment. Even the Japanese guards came to watch.

For these shows Dr. Tenney received a special commendation award for his contribution to improving morale among his fellow POWs in addition to the Bronze Star with two oak-leaf clusters, the Purple Heart with two oak-leaf clusters, and other medals.

It was not until 1995, when Dr. Tenney published his memoir *My Hitch in Hell: The Bataan Death March*, that he was finally able to revisit his POW experience. In this book, he vividly described his horrific experience during the March, in the POW camps in the Philippines, and in his three years of slave labor in the Mitsui coal mine. But he also wrote about a Japanese exchange student whom he and his wife hosted in the late 1960s, and whom he came to love like his own son. They were so close that when the matured student married, Dr. and Mrs. Tenney accompanied them on their honeymoon.

Since his time as a POW in Japan, Dr. Tenney has worked to advance the cause of American POW's from all conflicts. He has testified repeatedly before Congress on POW issues. The peace treaty between the U.S. and Japan took away the rights of the individual POWs to sue for their very real damages. Later the State of California enacted legislation allowing the POWs to sue the Japanese companies who enslaved them. Dr. Tenney was the lead plaintiff in the first such suit. Unfortunately the U.S. State Department took a contrary position and supported the defendant companies; and the suit failed at the Supreme Court.

Then Dr. Tenney turned to the Japanese government in the person of Ambassador Fujisaki. After several meetings with Dr. Tenney, the Ambassador received permission to attend the last reunion of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, the umbrella group of the Pacific POWs. Ambassador Fujisaki apologized to the group on behalf of the Japanese Government, the first time such a thing had happened. In 2008 Dr. Tenney was able to achieve one of his goals of an official apology from the Japanese Government for the horrors of Bataan and World War II. He has also made repeated appearances at Japanese schools and universities, appearances in the Japanese media, and met with Japanese government officials to promote awareness and improve relations between the United States and Japan.

In addition to his many years of efforts to preserve the history of American POWs of the Japanese during WWII and to reach out to the Japanese people to learn that history together, Dr. Tenney started a project which he named "Care Packages from Home" in 2007. He and friends in his retirement community in Carlsbad, California, have been sending gift packages to thousands of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Having received no package from home while he was a POW, Dr. Tenney is determined to make sure that today's troops never feel like have been forgotten.

As of June of 2011, Dr. Tenney's Care Packages from Home has mailed 11,350 packages and are sending 200 more every

month. Maj. Gary Bourland, 39, a Marine who was on his fourth deployment said; "It is the best feeling in the world opening up one of these packages," Dr. Tenney believes that basic necessities such as nail clippers, foot powder, socks and wet wipes, can "make or break you out there." It also signals to our troops, many of whom are young and away from home for the first time that they are being remembered. Maj. Bourland also added, "If they know the American people are supportive, my troops will walk through fire for them."

Dr. Tenney is here in Washington, DC this week to tell his story and commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Bataan Death March. His service to the United States of America is a model to us all and I am proud to call him my constituent and my friend.

TRIBUTE TO NICK NICHOLSON

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has served as a true Kentucky leader, innovator, and businessman, Nick Nicholson. On April 18th, 2012, Nicholson announced his retirement as CEO of Keeneland. This remarkable Thoroughbred enthusiast has forever impacted the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the horse industry and most indelibly, Lexington's Keeneland Race Course. By implementing new technology, expanding racing enthusiasm, and bringing sound accounting and business management practices, Nicholson has contributed to making Keeneland the top-rated North American track for the last four years. Over the past 13 years, Nicholson and Keeneland have thrived during a time of industry contraction. I commend Mr. Nicholson on his dedicated service as the Keeneland Association's chief executive and as an astute leader in the Bluegrass.

In his youth, Nicholson developed his interest for horse racing when attending Keeneland races with his grandfather while growing up in Central Kentucky. Nicholson's early career began in Washington, DC, where he served as executive assistant to Kentucky Senator Wendell Ford. He next went on to serve as the executive vice president of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association where he was instrumental in the drafting and passage of legislation that permits interstate track wagering. In 1989, he became the executive vice president and director of the Jockey Club, an organization dedicated to the improvement of Thoroughbred breeding and racing. While employed by this organization, he most notably introduced the world's first interactive Thoroughbred registration system. In 2000, he joined the Keeneland family and became Keeneland's sixth president.

In his 13 years serving as Keeneland's president, Nicholson led the industry by introducing an all-weather surface that has made Keeneland the safest major racetrack in North America. Nicholson has also led Keeneland in setting numerous attendance and wagering records for its race meetings, including an all-time record of 250,163 attendees during its 75th Anniversary meet in October 2011, and