

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 17, 1999

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 14, 1999

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 7, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 27**

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**Introduced by Assembly ~~Member Honda~~ Members *Honda, Cardenas, Cunneen, Firebaugh, Granlund, Strom-Martin, and Wildman***

*(Coauthors: Senators Johnston and Speier)*

June 22, 1999

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 27—Relative to the war crimes committed by the Japanese military during World War II.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 27, as amended, Honda. War crimes: Japanese military during World War II.

This measure would urge the Government of Japan to *finally bring closure to concerns relating to World War II* by formally ~~issue~~ *issuing* a clear and unambiguous apology for the atrocious war crimes committed by the Japanese military during World War II and ~~to~~ immediately ~~pay~~ *paying* reparations to the victims of those crimes. This measure would also call upon the United States Congress to adopt a similar resolution and would urge the President of the United States to take all appropriate action to bring about a formal apology and reparations by the Government of Japan.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 ~~WHEREAS, During World War II, the Governments of~~  
2 *WHEREAS, Our nation is founded on democratic*  
3 *principles that recognize the vigilance with which*  
4 *fundamental individual human rights must be*  
5 *safeguarded in order to preserve freedom; and*  
6 *WHEREAS, This resolution condemns all violations of*  
7 *the international law designed to safeguard fundamental*  
8 *human rights as embodied in the Geneva and Hague*  
9 *Conventions; and*  
10 *WHEREAS, This resolution vociferously condemns all*  
11 *crimes against humanity and at the same time condemns*  
12 *the actions of those who would use this resolution to*  
13 *further an agenda that fosters anti-Asian sentiment and*  
14 *racism, or Japan “bashing,” or otherwise fails to*  
15 *distinguish between Japan’s war criminals and Americans*  
16 *of Japanese ancestry; and*  
17 *WHEREAS, Since the end of World War II, Japan has*  
18 *earned its place as an equal in the society of nations, yet*  
19 *the Government of Japan has failed to fully acknowledge*  
20 *the crimes committed during World War II and to*  
21 *provide reparations to the victims of those crimes; and*  
22 *WHEREAS, While high ranking Japanese government*  
23 *officials have expressed personal apologies, supported the*  
24 *payment of privately funded reparations to some victims,*  
25 *and modified some textbooks, these efforts are not*  
26 *adequate substitutes for an apology and reparations*  
27 *approved by the Government of Japan; and*  
28 *WHEREAS, The need for an apology sanctioned by the*  
29 *Government of Japan is underscored by the*  
30 *contradictory statements and actions of Japanese*  
31 *government officials and leaders of a “revisionist”*  
32 *movement who openly deny that war crimes took place,*  
33 *defend the actions of the Japanese military, seek to*  
34 *remove the modest language included in textbooks, and*  
35 *refuse to cooperate with United States Department of*  
36 *Justice efforts to identify Japanese war criminals; and*  
37 *WHEREAS, During World War II, 33,587 United States*  
38 *military and 13,966 civilian prisoners of the Japanese*



1 *military were confined in inhumane prison camps where*  
2 *they were subjected to forced labor and died*  
3 *unmentionable deaths; and*

4 *WHEREAS, The Japanese military invaded Nanking,*  
5 *China, from December 1937 until February 1938, during*  
6 *the period known as the “Rape of Nanking,” and brutally*  
7 *slaughtered, in ways that defy description, by some*  
8 *accounts as many as 300,000 Chinese men, women, and*  
9 *children and raped more than 20,000 women, adding to*  
10 *a death toll that may have exceeded millions of Chinese;*  
11 *and*

12 ~~Japan and Germany flagrantly violated the Geneva and~~  
13 ~~Hague Conventions and committed atrocious crimes~~  
14 ~~against humanity; and~~

15 ~~WHEREAS, The Government of Germany has~~  
16 ~~formally apologized to the victims of the Holocaust and~~  
17 ~~gone to great lengths to provide financial compensation~~  
18 ~~to victims and to provide for their needs and recovery;~~  
19 ~~and~~

20 ~~WHEREAS, By contrast, the Government of Japan has~~  
21 ~~refused to fully acknowledge the crimes it committed~~  
22 ~~during World War II and to provide reparations to the~~  
23 ~~victims of those crimes; and~~

24 ~~WHEREAS, 33,587 members of the United States~~  
25 ~~Armed Forces and 13,966 American civilians were~~  
26 ~~captured by the Japanese military in the Pacific Theater~~  
27 ~~during World War II, many of whom were current or~~  
28 ~~former residents of the State of California; and~~

29 ~~WHEREAS, Many of the United States military and~~  
30 ~~civilian prisoners of the Japanese military during World~~  
31 ~~War II were confined in inhumane prison camps and~~  
32 ~~subjected to forced labor and died unmentionable deaths;~~  
33 ~~and~~

34 ~~WHEREAS, The Japanese military invaded Nanking,~~  
35 ~~China, from December 1937 until February 1938, during~~  
36 ~~the period known as the “Rape of Nanking,” and brutally~~  
37 ~~slaughtered more than 300,000 Chinese men, women, and~~  
38 ~~children and raped more than 20,000 women; and~~

39 ~~WHEREAS, The people of Guam and the Marshall~~  
40 ~~Islands, during the Japanese occupation from 1941–1944,~~



1 were subjected to unmentionable acts of violence,  
2 including forced labor and marches, and imprisonment  
3 by the Japanese military during its occupation of these  
4 islands; and

5 WHEREAS, Three-fourths of the population in Port  
6 Blair on Andaman Islands, India, were exterminated by  
7 Japanese troops between March 1942 and the end of  
8 World War II; many were tortured to death or forced into  
9 sexual slavery at “comfort stations,” and crimes beyond  
10 description were committed on families and young  
11 children; and

12 WHEREAS, At the February 1945 “Battle of Manila,”  
13 100,000 men, women, and children were killed by  
14 Japanese armed forces in inhumane ways, adding to a  
15 total death toll that may have exceeded one million  
16 Filipinos during the Japanese occupation of the  
17 Philippines, which began in December 1941 and ended in  
18 August 1945; and

19 WHEREAS, At least 260 of the 1,500 United States  
20 prisoners, including many Californians, believed to have  
21 been held at Mukden, Manchuria, died during the first  
22 winter of their imprisonment and many of the 300 living  
23 survivors of Mukden claim to suffer from physical  
24 ailments resulting from their subjection to Japanese  
25 military chemical and biological experiments; and

26 WHEREAS, The Japanese military enslaved millions of  
27 Koreans, Chinese, Filipinos, and citizens from other  
28 occupied or colonized territories during World War II,  
29 and forced hundreds of thousands of women into sexual  
30 slavery for Japanese troops; and

31 WHEREAS, The International Commission of Jurists, a  
32 nongovernmental organization (NGO) in Geneva,  
33 Switzerland, ruled in 1993 that the Government of Japan  
34 should pay reparations of at least \$40,000 for the “extreme  
35 pain and suffering” caused to each woman who was  
36 forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese military  
37 (referred by the Japanese military as “comfort women”),  
38 yet none of these women have been paid any  
39 ~~compensation by the Government of Japan; and~~



1 ~~WHEREAS, At the February 1999 meeting of the~~  
2 ~~Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District~~  
3 ~~Council of the Japanese American Citizens League~~  
4 ~~(JACL), the council approved a resolution, sponsored by~~  
5 ~~the Florin JACL Chapter, that supported reparations for,~~  
6 ~~and a clear apology to, the innocent civilian victims of~~  
7 ~~Japan's wartime atrocities; and~~

8 ~~WHEREAS, At the March 1999 meeting of the~~  
9 ~~Sacramento Jewish Community Relations Council, a~~  
10 ~~service of the Sacramento Jewish Federation, the council~~  
11 ~~approved a resolution supporting reparations for, and a~~  
12 ~~clear apology to, the innocent civilian victims of Japan's~~  
13 ~~wartime atrocities; now, therefore, be it compensation by~~  
14 ~~the Government of Japan; now, therefore, be it~~

15 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of*  
16 *California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of*  
17 *California urges the Government of Japan to ~~do~~ finally*  
18 *bring closure to concerns relating to World War II by*  
19 *doing both of the following:*

20 (1) Formally ~~issue~~ *issuing* a clear and unambiguous  
21 apology for the atrocious war crimes committed by the  
22 Japanese military during World War II.

23 ~~(2) Immediately pay reparations to the victims of~~  
24 ~~those crimes, including United States military and civilian~~

25 (2) *Immediately paying reparations to the victims of*  
26 *those crimes, including, but not limited to, United States*  
27 *military and civilian prisoners of war, the people of Guam*  
28 *and the Marshall Islands, who were subjected to violence*  
29 *and imprisonment, the survivors of the "Rape of*  
30 *Nanking" from December 1937 until February 1938, and*  
31 *the women who were forced into sexual slavery and*  
32 *known by the Japanese military as "comfort women"; and*  
33 *be it further*

34 *Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California*  
35 *calls upon the United States Congress to adopt a similar*  
36 *resolution that follows the spirit and letter of this*  
37 *resolution calling on the Government of Japan to issue a*  
38 *formal apology and pay reparations to the victims of its*  
39 *war crimes during World War II; and be it further*



1     *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
2 requests that the President of the United States take all  
3 appropriate action to further bring about a formal  
4 apology and reparations by the Government of Japan to  
5 the victims of its war crimes during World War II; and be  
6 it further

7     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
8 transmit copies of this resolution to the Japanese  
9 Ambassador to the United States, the President of the  
10 United States, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of  
11 the House of Representatives, and each California  
12 Member of the Senate and the United States House of  
13 Representatives.

