

House Resolution 142 (AM)

By: Representatives Birdsong of the 123rd, Murphy of the 18th, Tillman of the 173rd, Hudson of the 156th, Bunn of the 74th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Government of Japan to formally acknowledge and issue an apology for the war
2 crimes committed by the Imperial Japanese military during World War II and to pay
3 reparations to the victims of those crimes; requesting that the President of the United States
4 and the United States Congress take all appropriate action to further bring about a formal
5 apology and reparations by the Japanese Government; and for other purposes.

6 WHEREAS, 33,587 men and women in the United States military and 13,966 United States
7 civilians were captured by the forces of the Empire of Japan in the Pacific Theater during
8 World War II, confined in brutal prison camps, and subjected to severe shortages of food,
9 medicine, and other basic necessities; and

10 WHEREAS, many of the United States military and civilian prisoners of the Imperial
11 Japanese Government during World War II were forced to work in coal, copper, lead, and
12 zinc mines; steel plants; shipbuilding yards; and other private Imperial Japanese industries;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, many of the United States military and civilian prisoners of the Imperial
15 Japanese Government were starved and beaten to death or executed by beheading, firing
16 squads, or immolation, while working for Japanese business entities that have become some
17 of the largest multinational companies in the world today; and

18 WHEREAS, approximately 1,100 people from the State of Georgia suffered in prison camps
19 or were forced to work in Japanese industries during World War II; and

20 WHEREAS, the Federal Republic of Germany has formally apologized to the victims of the
21 Holocaust and provided financial compensation to its victims; and

22 WHEREAS, the United States Government, in 1988, acknowledged the unfairness of its
23 policy of detaining and interring Japanese-Americans during World War II; and

1 WHEREAS, while Japanese Government officials have expressed personal apologies and
2 supported the payment of privately funded reparations to some victims, the Japanese
3 Government has refused to fully acknowledge the crimes Imperial Japan committed during
4 World War II and to provide reparations to its victims; and

5 WHEREAS, similar resolutions have been introduced or adopted by other states and
6 introduced in the United States House of Representatives.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
8 this body urges the Government of Japan to formally acknowledge and issue an apology for
9 the war crimes committed by the Imperial Japanese military during World War II and to pay
10 reparations to the victims of those crimes.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests that the President of the United States
12 and the United States Congress take all appropriate action to further bring about a formal
13 apology and reparations by the Japanese Government.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
15 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Japanese Ambassador to
16 the United States, the President of the United States, the President of the United States
17 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the
18 Georgia Congressional Delegation.