



**American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor  
Memorial Society**

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OBON SOCIETY  
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September 22, 2019

To whom it may concern,

The American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society (ADBCMS) look forward to collaborating with OBON SOCIETY in the effort to reunite the Japanese family with the flag from the New Mexico Military Museum.

At the beginning of World War II the Imperial Japanese Army attacked the Philippines on the same day they attacked Pearl Harbor. Although the American military fought gallantly they were forced to surrender. The surrender of the Philippines was the largest surrender in United States Military History. American soldiers on the Bataan Peninsula endured an infamously horrendous experience now known as the "Bataan Death March." During this forced March of 60,000 prisoners of war over 11,000 American and Filipino soldiers died either by bayonet, beheading or being buried alive. Those that survived the March were used as slave labor throughout Japan and China until the end of the war. The survival rate of American POWs of Imperial Japan was nearly 1 in 2. This experience was so traumatic that the men who survived the ordeal suffered lifelong medical problems, and remained emotionally troubled, for the remaining years of their lives. The POW's trauma defined the lives of their wives and children, who "vicariously shared" the deep scares of their father's experience. They simply grew up immersed in their father's animosity towards Japanese people or anything related to Japanese culture.

The ADBCMS is an educational non-profit whose main mission is to preserve and remember the POWs of Japan. The organization has been working over the last ten years sending former POWs and their families back to Japan for reconciliation. We see this meaningful co-effort with OBON SOCIETY as a natural step in the growth and the direction of our organization towards remembrance and reconciliation.

On behalf of our members I would like to ask you to help us support OBON SOCIETY because of their proven track record in bringing emotional closure for every one of us, both friend and foe alike, who suffered so much in this unique World War II theatre.

Most respectfully,

Jan Thompson, President