

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Contact: Ms. Jan Thompson**

[janithompson@gmail.com](mailto:janithompson@gmail.com)  
<http://www.dg-adbc.org/>

### WHITE HOUSE INVITES FORMER POW OF JAPAN TO BE PRESENT AT HISTORIC EVENT

**San Antonio, Texas, May 23, 2016/ American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society (ADBC-MS)/** -- The White House asked today for a former POW of Japan who is medically fit for travel to be present at the Hiroshima Peace Park on May 27 during President Obama's historic trip to Hiroshima, Japan, the site of the first use of an atomic bomb.

ADBC-MS President Jan Thompson was contacted Saturday, May 21, the last day of the organization's annual convention being held in San Antonio, Texas by National Security Council Assistant Press Secretary Lieutenant Colonel Myles B. Caggins III.

The ADBC-MS Board of Directors has identified Mr. Daniel W. Crowley, 94, of Simsbury Connecticut as a candidate to travel to Hiroshima. Mr. Crowley was a sergeant with the U.S. Army Air Corps in the Philippines. He fought on Bataan with the Provisional Air Corps Infantry Regiment and then with the U.S. Marines on Corregidor becoming a prisoner of Japan on May 6, 1942. He was sent to Japan in early 1944 to be a slave laborer mining copper ore for Furukawa Kogyo (today's Furukawa Company Group) at the [Ashio POW Camp Tokyo 9-B](#) until he was liberated on September 3, 1945.

Ms. Thompson welcomed this invitation to include a POW in the visit. She said, "This is wonderful news. It sends a powerful messages that the perpetrators and victims of Japan's cruel war can come together at Hiroshima to encourage the world to have the courage to pursue peace."

Ms. Thompson notes that this is the third recognition by President Obama of the American POWs who have long felt abandoned by their government. In 2010, the Obama Administration persuaded the Japanese Government to establish the POW Friendship Program for American former POWs and descendants to visit Japan. In 2015, former ADBC National Commander Lester Tenney was invited to the President's annual Veterans Day breakfast

Travel details are being arranged and will be announced as soon as they are confirmed.

**Until more information is provided by the White House there will be no more interviews.**

The ADBC-MS, a leading voice for Pacific War veterans, represents former POWs of Japan, their families, and scholars.

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