

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

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By: **Senators Lee, Bates, Montgomery, Nathan–Pulliam, and Ready**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

### **Honoring the Surviving Human Trafficking Victims of Asia and the Pacific Islands During World War II**

FOR the purpose of extending the profound hope of the General Assembly of Maryland that the historical record of the crimes against the “ianfu” or “comfort women” of World War II will serve as a lasting reminder to the world that crimes against humanity will not be condoned or tolerated; providing that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to certain individuals; and generally relating to honoring the surviving victims of human trafficking in Asia and the Pacific Islands during World War II.

WHEREAS, The government of Japan, during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II, commissioned the acquisition of young women, estimated to number more than 200,000, for the sole purpose of sexual slavery to the Imperial Armed Forces, who became known to the world as “ianfu” or “comfort women”; and

WHEREAS, Many of the survivors have testified that they were kidnapped by Imperial Japanese soldiers and forced to serve as prostitutes, often enduring cruelty such as gang rape, forced abortions, humiliation, and sexual violence, resulting in mutilation, permanent health damage, death, or suicide; and

WHEREAS, The people of Maryland honor the surviving victims who are now at the end of their lives, but were victimized at the beginning of their lives when they were too young to consent to prostitution and were ostracized even though they were clearly victims; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly is determined to combat human trafficking in modern times through all appropriate legislative action, education initiatives, and commemorations to the victims of this horrible injustice and crime that has been perpetrated against so many people throughout history; now, therefore, be it



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RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General Assembly of Maryland hereby extends its profound hope that the historical record of the crimes against the “ianfu” or “comfort women” of World War II will serve as a lasting reminder to the world that crimes against humanity will not be condoned or tolerated; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.