

Claimant was living on December 23, 2016, and that Imperial Japanese forces subjected Claimant to forced march, internment, or hiding to evade internment during the invasion and occupation of Guam by Japan during World War II. Claimant's sworn statements are consistent with the public record and evidence in other claims filed in this claims program, which show that Imperial Japanese forces subjected thousands of Guamanians to forced march and/or internment in 1944, and that many Guamanians hid to evade internment after the invasion.⁴ Section 1705(b)(9) of the GLRA provides that the Commission "shall treat a claim that is accompanied by an affidavit of an individual that attests to all material facts required for establishing the eligibility of such individual for payment . . . as establishing a prima facie case of the eligibility of the individual for such payment without the need for further documentation, except as the Commission may otherwise require."⁵ In the absence of rebutting evidence, Claimant's sworn statements averring that Claimant suffered one or more of these injuries are sufficient, under the statutorily promulgated standards, to establish Claimant's eligibility for compensation.⁶

A claimant who establishes a meritorious claim as a "compensable Guam victim" under Section 1704(a)(1)(C) of the GLRA for forced march, internment, and/or hiding to evade internment is entitled to a single payment of \$10,000.⁷ Claimant is thus entitled to a payment of \$10,000.

⁴ See *id.* at 17-19.

⁵ Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act § 1705(b)(9).

⁶ See Claim No. GUAM-0232, Decision No. GUAM-0001, at 17-19.

⁷ See Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act §§ 1704(a)(1)(C), 1704(c)(2); see also Claim No. GUAM-0232, Decision No. GUAM-0001, at 20-21. Although Claimant also asserts that Claimant suffered a personal injury and was subjected to forced labor by Imperial Japanese forces during the invasion and occupation of Guam, Claimant's statements in this regard do not establish the elements required for such claims under Section 1704(c)(2)(A)-(B) of the Act. Claimant's statements do not establish either a "personal injury," defined as a "discernible injury (such as disfigurement, scarring, or burns) that is more serious than a superficial injury," or a "severe personal injury," defined as "loss of a limb, dismemberment, paralysis, or any injury of a similar type or that is comparable in severity." 45 C.F.R. § 510.1 (2019). Claimant's statements also fail to establish that Claimant was compelled to perform labor in support of the Japanese military government by the "use or threatened use of physical force" and/or that Claimant was old enough to be reasonably subjected to forced labor given Claimant's age at the time the labor was allegedly performed. See Claim No. GUAM-0573, Decision No. GUAM-604, at 10.

Pursuant to the GLRA, the Commission is required to deduct, from a payment made to a compensable Guam victim, amounts paid to such victim under the Guam Meritorious Claims Act of 1945, Public Law 79-224,⁸ before the date of the enactment of the GLRA.⁹ The evidence in the record, however, does not show that the United States Government has provided Claimant any compensation under the 1945 Act. Therefore, no deduction in payment will be made from Claimant's award.

In summary, Claimant is entitled to an award of \$10,000. This amount constitutes the entirety of the compensation to which Claimant is entitled under the GLRA.¹⁰ The Commission hereby enters the following award, which will be certified to the Secretary of the Treasury for payment under Section 1705 of the GLRA.¹¹

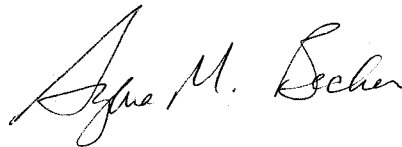
AWARD

Claimant is entitled to an award in the amount of \$10,000.

Dated at Washington, DC, September 17, 2020
and entered as the Proposed Decision
of the Commission.

**This decision was entered as the
Commission's Final Decision on**

November 10, 2020



Sylvia M. Becker, Commissioner



Patrick Hovakimian, Commissioner

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, any objections must be filed within 15 days of delivery of this Proposed Decision. Absent objection, this decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission upon the expiration of 30 days after delivery, unless the Commission otherwise orders. FCSC Regulations, 45 C.F.R. §§ 509.5 (e), (g), 510.3 (2019).

⁸ See An Act: For the relief of the residents of Guam through the settlement of meritorious claims, ch. 483, Pub. L. 79-224, 59 Stat. 582 (1945).

⁹ See Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act § 1705(b)(4).

¹⁰ Under the GLRA, interest is not available on payments made by the Commission under Section 1704. *Id.* § 1705(b)(5).

¹¹ *Id.* § 1705(b)(8).