

WASHINGTON – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) is seeking proper recognition for a group of World War II veterans held as prisoners of war at an infamous Nazi labor camp.

Bachus has published in the Congressional Record a tribute to U.S. soldiers detained at the Berga camp in Germany in 1945. Wallace Carden, who now lives in Vestavia Hills, is one of the 13 remaining survivors of the ordeal.

“Their story is an integral part of the history of World War II, and their conduct under the most extreme and trying conditions an enormous credit to themselves and their country,” Bachus wrote.

A group of 350 American soldiers were deported to Berga after being captured during the Battle of the Bulge. They were

poorly fed, heavily worked, beaten, and even killed. 70

soldiers perished during the death march to Berga.

When Allied forces liberated the camp, they found many of their fellow soldiers in an emaciated condition.

“But confronted with such inhumanity, these American soldiers persevered. They gave each

other support, equally shared what little food they had, held faith in their country and God, and never allowed their spirit to be consumed by the evil and hate surrounding them,” Bachus noted.

Bachus is a cosponsor of a congressional resolution (H. Res. 883) that has been introduced to formally acknowledge the sacrifice and service of the soldiers held at Berga.

Mr. Carden will be honored during the Blue Star Salute ceremony at The American Village on Memorial Day.

The complete text of  
Congressman Bachus'  
statement in the Congressional  
Record follows.

# **CONGRESSMAN SPENCER BACHUS**

# **CONGRESSIONAL RECORD**

# MAY 22, 2008



***On Memorial Day  
2008, let us take time  
to reflect on the  
courage and  
indomitable will of a  
special group of  
World War II veterans:  
the survivors of the  
Berga POW camp.***



***Wallace Carden of Vestavia Hills in Alabama's Sixth District was one of the soldiers imprisoned in a cruel camp that***

***simultaneously  
showed the worst of  
man's inhumanity –  
and the  
transcendent ability  
of the human spirit  
to endure and  
ultimately triumph.***



***Berga was a  
German  
concentration  
camp. 350  
American soldiers  
were sent there***

***after being  
captured during the  
Battle of the Bulge.***

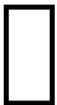


***Some were exiled  
there because they  
were Jewish.***



***Wallace Carden,  
then just 19 years***

***old, was detained  
simply because  
Nazi officers  
thought he looked  
Jewish.***



***The soldiers were  
ill fed, heavily  
worked, and badly  
beaten; some  
were even killed.□  
By day, they were  
forced to dig***

***underground  
tunnels for  
weapons  
factories; by  
night, they  
shivered in  
squalid  
conditions,  
emaciated from***

***hunger.***



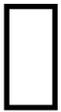
***But confronted  
with such  
inhumanity, these  
American soldiers  
persevered.***



***They gave each***

***other support,  
equally shared  
what little food  
they had, held  
faith in their  
country and God,  
and never allowed  
their spirit to be  
consumed by the***

***evil and hate  
surrounding them.***

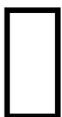


***Though  
physically  
separated from  
their brothers on  
the battlefield,  
the Berga  
soldiers honored  
America with  
their***

***determination  
and will to  
survive. In the  
decades since,  
Wallace Carden  
and his fellow  
soldiers have  
provided  
important***

***personal  
testimonials  
about Nazi  
brutality and  
prejudice, so that  
succeeding  
generations  
never forget the  
Holocaust and***

***fully appreciate  
what it took for  
freedom to  
triumph during  
World War II.***



***Congressional  
Resolution H.  
Res. 883 rightly  
recognizes the  
service and  
sacrifice of the***

***U.S. soldiers  
imprisoned at  
Berga, and I am  
a proud  
cosponsor. The  
ir story is an  
integral part of  
the history of***

***World War II,  
and their  
conduct under  
the most  
extreme and  
trying  
conditions an  
enormous credit***

***to themselves  
and their  
country.***



***For my part, I  
want to thank  
Wallace Carden  
for his service  
to his  
community and***

***country. □ Alaba  
ma is proud of  
him, and it is  
appropriate that  
on this  
Memorial Day  
due recognition  
is being***

***bestowed on  
Mr. Carden as  
well as an  
entire group of  
American  
soldiers whose  
soaring spirit  
should***

***continue to  
inspire all of us.***



