
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS TO GRANT VETERANS BENEFITS TO FILIPINO VETERANS
WHO FOUGHT IN WORLD WAR II BUT WERE SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED THE
BENEFITS TO WHICH THEY WERE ENTITLED.

1 WHEREAS, during World War II, the Philippines was a United
2 States commonwealth; and

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4 WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers volunteered their services after
5 being promised full veterans benefits to volunteer to fight for
6 the United States against the potential threat of Japan; and

7
8 WHEREAS, thousands of Filipino men and women risked their
9 lives against the invading Japanese forces and assisted our
10 nation in its efforts to liberate the Philippines; and

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12 WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers fought bravely beside American
13 troops to restore liberty and democracy to their homeland; and

14
15 WHEREAS, exhibiting great courage at the battles of
16 Corregidor and Bataan, Filipino soldiers contributed to the
17 Allied victory that ended World War II; and

18
19 WHEREAS, in 1941, by executive order, Filipinos who
20 volunteered for the Philippine Commonwealth Army and Philippine
21 Scouts were made eligible for full United States veterans
22 benefits for their active service during the war; and

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24 WHEREAS, in 1946, by congressional act and upon the
25 independence of the Philippines, these same Filipino veterans
26 were denied eligibility for United States veterans benefits,
27 such as health care, disability pensions, and burial expenses;
28 and



H.C.R. NO. 41

1 WHEREAS, over the years, Congress has considered
 2 legislation to restore the benefits denied to Filipino veterans;
 3 and
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5 WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
 6 included a provision that called for the release of funding for
 7 lump sum payments to Filipino veterans in lieu of pensions; and
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9 WHEREAS, restoring benefits denied to Filipino veterans and
 10 fulfilling and expediting any claims that are still pending
 11 honors those Filipino veterans who served our nation so
 12 courageously; now, therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 15 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 16 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the President of
 17 the United States and the United States Congress are urged to
 18 grant veterans benefits to Filipino veterans who fought in World
 19 War II but were subsequently denied the benefits to which they
 20 were entitled; and
 21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that providing these benefits does
 23 not correct the injustice and discrimination done over 60 years
 24 ago, but is a small step in making reparations; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
 28 United States, President Pro Tempore of the United States
 29 Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
 30 Hawaii's Congressional delegation, Secretary of the United
 31 States Department of Veterans Affairs, Director of the Hawaii
 32 Office of Veterans Services, President of the Republic of the
 33 Philippines, and Philippine Consul General in Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY:

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