
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS TO COVER THE COSTS OF TRANSPORTING THE REMAINS
OF FILIPINO-AMERICAN VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II TO THE
PHILIPPINES AND FOR FUNERAL AND BURIAL SERVICES IN THE
PHILIPPINES.

1 WHEREAS, during World War II, the Philippines was a
2 Commonwealth of the United States, and, for four years, nearly
3 100,000 soldiers of the Philippine Commonwealth Army fought
4 alongside the United States and Allied forces to defend and
5 reclaim the Philippine Islands from foreign aggression; and
6

7 WHEREAS, these valiant Filipino soldiers fought, suffered,
8 and died in some of the bloodiest battles of World War II,
9 defending beleaguered Bataan and Corregidor, and thousands of
10 them became prisoners of war, enduring the infamous Bataan Death
11 March and years of captivity; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the sacrifices of these Filipino soldiers played a
14 vital role in the Allied victory in the Pacific as their
15 numerous guerrilla actions provided United States forces with
16 time to build and prepare for the Allied counterattack; and
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18 WHEREAS, these Filipino soldiers fought side-by-side with
19 United States forces to secure their island nation as the
20 strategic base from which the final effort by Allied forces to
21 bring an end to World War II was launched; and
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23 WHEREAS, the United States promised these Filipino soldiers
24 pay and benefits for their military service under the United
25 States Armed Forces and for their oath of allegiance to the
26 Constitution of the United States; however, soon after the war
27 ended, legislation was passed that wrongfully took away the
28 benefits and recognition they had earned; and



1
2 WHEREAS, because these World War II veterans had suffered a
3 great wrong, and recognizing that for those with family in the
4 Philippines, the return of their remains to the Philippines is a
5 profound and fervent wish, the Legislature in 2003 enacted a law
6 requiring the Office of Veterans' Services to pay up to \$2,500
7 for the transport of their remains to the Philippines and
8 funeral and burial services in the Philippines; and
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10 WHEREAS, funding, however, has not been provided to fulfill
11 this statutory requirement; and
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13 WHEREAS, in the early 2000s, the United States also enacted
14 legislation requiring the Veterans Administration to pay the
15 full cost of burial benefits to the survivors of these World War
16 II veterans; however, this legislation failed to address
17 coverage of the costs of transport to and services in the
18 Philippines; and
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20 WHEREAS, though many years have transpired since World War
21 II, the words of United States President Harry S. Truman, in
22 1946, remain the honest truth: "I consider it a moral
23 obligation of the United States to look after the welfare of
24 Philippine Army veterans."; and
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26 WHEREAS, for the small number of World War II Filipino-
27 American veterans who are still living, this moral obligation of
28 the United States should extend to fulfilling their wish for a
29 resting place in the Philippines among their loved ones, for
30 this is an entitlement that they have clearly sacrificed for and
31 earned; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
35 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that Congress is urged
36 to cover the costs of transporting the remains of eligible
37 Filipino-American veterans of World War II to the Philippines
38 and funeral and burial services in the Philippines; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
42 United States, Speaker of the United States House of



H.C.R. NO. 179

1 Representatives, President of the United States Senate, Hawaii's
 2 Congressional delegation, and the Director of the Office of
 3 Veterans' Services.
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OFFERED BY:

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