
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, prior to World War II, the Philippines was a
2 United States commonwealth; and
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4 WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers earned full veterans benefits
5 when they joined the Philippine Commonwealth Army to prepare
6 against the potential threat of Japanese aggression; and
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8 WHEREAS, thousands of Filipino men and women risked their
9 lives against the invading and occupying Japanese forces and
10 assisted our nation in its efforts to liberate the Philippines;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers and guerrillas fought bravely
14 beside American troops to restore liberty and democracy to their
15 homeland; and
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17 WHEREAS, exhibiting great courage in the battles of
18 Corregidor and Bataan, and in the eventual liberation of the
19 Philippines, Filipino soldiers and guerrillas contributed to the
20 Allied victory that ended World War II; and
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22 WHEREAS, Filipinos who served in the Philippine
23 Commonwealth Army were made eligible for full United States
24 veterans benefits for their active duty service; and
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26 WHEREAS, in 1946, by congressional act and upon the
27 granting of full independence to the Philippines, these same
28 Filipino veterans were denied eligibility for United States
29 veterans benefits, including health care, disability pensions,
30 and burial expenses; and
31



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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 a one-time, lump sum payment to eligible Filipino veterans in
8 lieu of a pension; and
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10 WHEREAS, restoring benefits denied to Filipino veterans and
11 fulfilling and expediting any pending claims would honor those
12 Filipino veterans who served with our armed forces so
13 courageously; now, therefore,
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
17 of 2018, that the President of the United States and the United
18 States Congress are urged to grant full veterans benefits to
19 Filipino veterans who fought in World War II but were
20 subsequently denied the benefits to which they were entitled;
21 and
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests that full
24 veterans benefits apply to the veterans groups commonly referred
25 to as the "Old" Philippine Scouts, the Philippine Commonwealth
26 Army, the Recognized Guerrilla Forces, the "New" Philippine
27 Scouts, and the United States Armed Forces in the Far East under
28 General MacArthur (USAFFE); and
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that spouses and children of these
31 veterans would qualify for the same Dependency and Indemnity
32 Compensation that spouses and children of United States veterans
33 receive; and
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that providing these benefits would
36 not correct the injustice and discrimination that occurred more
37 than sixty years ago, but would represent a small step toward
38 making reparations; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
42 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of



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1 the United States House of Representatives, Hawaii's
 2 congressional delegation, the United States Secretary of
 3 Veterans Affairs, the Director of the Hawaii Office of Veterans'
 4 Services, the President of the Republic of the Philippines, and
 5 the Philippine Consul General in Hawaii.

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