

11-0002-5107

INFORMATION TECH. & GOVT. AFFAIRS

RESOLUTION

JUL 06 2011

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles has a strong, vibrant Filipino community, with residents of Filipino decent; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, the Philippines was a commonwealth of the United States and Filipino soldiers in the US Armed Forces were, in effect, US Nationals and these soldiers fought for the United States in the Pacific theater, joining General Douglas MacArthur in depending against the invading Japanese forces; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Filipino soldiers sacrificed their lives fighting on behalf of the United States Armed Forces during World War II; and

WHEREAS, the United States government promised Filipino soldiers the same health and pension benefits as American soldiers, but after World War II ended, President Truman signed Public Law 70-301, known as the Rescission Act of 1946, which states that the service of Filipinos "shall not be deemed to be or have been service in the military or national forces of the United States or any component thereof or any law of the United States conferring rights, privileges or benefits." This law spurned the Filipino veterans who had put their lives on the line on behalf of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Rescission Act of 1946 deemed some Filipino veterans citizens, and entitled them to all benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. However, the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines, the Recognized Guerilla Forces and the New Philippine Scouts were all denied the same benefits, even though they fought side-by-side with American forces and other Filipino veterans who were later given citizenship; and

WHEREAS, House Resolution 210 (H.R. 210) the "Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011 Joint Resolution" introduced by Congressman Jackie Speier aims to make up for the terrible injustice that resulted after the Rescission Act of 1946, stripping the benefits of the Filipino veterans who fought with other US Soldiers, unwaveringly, to defend the United States and put their lives on the line; and

WHEREAS, the "Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011 Joint Resolution" would restore benefits to those who have been ignored and their families by reinstating the average monthly pension of \$1,500 and providing medical care, burial services and all other benefits that are right now available to "American" citizens; and

WHEREAS, "Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011 Joint Resolution" would also allow for widows of those who are no longer with us to receive, for the first time, the benefits their husbands bravely earned; and

WHEREAS, Assemblymembers Fiona Ma and Paul Cook introduced Assembly Joint Resolution 6 (AJR 6) in support of the "Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011 Joint Resolution" (H.R. 210);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles includes in its 2011-2012 Federal Legislation Program SUPPORT for the "Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011 Joint Resolution" (H.R. 210, Speier); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles includes in its 2011-2012 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for Assembly Joint Resolution 6 (Ma - Cook), in support of H.R. 210.

JUL - 6 2011 [Handwritten signature]

PRESENTED BY [Signature]  
RICHARD ALARCÓN  
Councilmember, 7<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY [Signature]

ORIGINAL