

JUL 06 2011

RESOLUTION

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"; 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, but 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, this portion of the history of the United States is not well known to students or adults in the United States and is not currently part of the regular curriculum in grades 7-12 in social science classes in California, making Filipino veterans largely forgotten in the pages of history books or classroom teaching; and

WHEREAS, with every passing year, there are fewer remaining Filipino WWII veterans who deserve to have their courageous feats on record along with the American soldiers they served with side by side; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 199 (AB 199) introduced by Assemblymembers Fiona Ma and Paul Cook express the encouragement of the California State Legislature that instruction in social sciences includes the role of Filipinos in World War II; and

WHEREAS, AB 199 specifically encourages instruction to include a component drawn from personal testimony, especially in the form of oral and video histories of Filipinos who were involved in World War II and those men and women who contributed to the war effort on the home front; and

WHEREAS, AB 199 does not mandate instruction, but simply helps ensure that our children and future generations learn of the contributions and sacrifices of the brave Filipino soldiers in World War II;

WHEREAS, in 2006, the City of Los Angeles unveiled the first monument dedicated to the 250,000 Filipino and 7,000 Filipino American soldiers who fought for the United States in World War II and the monument, located in Lake Street Park in the heart of Los Angeles' Historic Filipinotown, consists of five slabs of polished black granite and commemorates the history of the Filipino veterans, from World War II to immigration to their subsequent fight for equality; and

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 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for Assembly Bill 199 (Ma - Cook) and encourages teachers in LAUSD to include the history of Filipino veterans in World War II as part of social science lesson plans.

*Handwritten initials and date: MB - 6 2011*

PRESENTED BY *Richard Alarcón*  
RICHARD ALARCÓN  
Councilmember, 7<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY *[Signature]*

*Vertical stamp: ON*