
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8008

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Rockefeller, Berkey, Weinstein, Kauffman, Marr, Oemig, Kline, Hobbs, Murray, Poulsen, Rasmussen, Kastama, Shin, Franklin, Hatfield, Sheldon, Kohl-Welles, Jacobsen, Fraser, Pridemore and Kilmer

Read first time 01/29/2007. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The Philippine Islands was a territory of the United
9 States until July 4, 1946, and the United States had control over
10 Philippine nationals and its internal affairs. The Philippines
11 Commonwealth had no function in matters of foreign affairs and could
12 not declare war nor surrender its forces; and

13 WHEREAS, On July 26, 1941, U.S. President Roosevelt issued a
14 Military Order and invoked his powers under Section 2(a)(12) of the
15 Philippine Independence Act (P.L. No. 77-127 Section 10(a)) to "call
16 and order into the service of the Armed Forces of the United
17 States...all of the organized military forces of the government of the
18 Commonwealth of the Philippines"; and

19 WHEREAS, World War II is remembered as The Good War that President

1 Roosevelt claimed to have defended the great human freedoms against the
2 encroachment and attack of the dark forces of despotism; and

3 WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers fought during World War II under the
4 American flag and under the direction and control of United States
5 military leaders pursuant to President Roosevelt's July 1941 Military
6 Order; and

7 WHEREAS, Shortly after the war in 1946, the U.S. Congress passed
8 the Rescission Act which specifically mandates that services rendered
9 by Filipino World War II veterans "...shall not be deemed to have been
10 active military, naval, or air service for the purposes of any law of
11 the United States conferring rights, privileges or benefits..."; and

12 WHEREAS, The legislative rider appended to the 1946 Rescission Act
13 denies U.S. military status and benefits to those veterans who fought
14 under the command of officers of the U.S. Armed Forces in the
15 Philippines; and

16 WHEREAS, The significant and adverse impact of the 1946 Rescission
17 Act is its unjust discrimination against Filipino soldiers of World War
18 II by denying them eligibility for equal benefits administered by the
19 department of veterans affairs; and

20 WHEREAS, Filipinos are the only national group singled out for
21 denial of full U.S. veterans status while the soldiers of more than
22 sixty-six other U.S. allied countries, who were similarly inducted into
23 the service of the armed forces of the United States during World War
24 II, were granted full U.S. veterans status; and

25 WHEREAS, The United States government has yet to fully restore the
26 rights, privileges, and benefits guaranteed, then taken away from
27 Filipino soldiers of WWII; and

28 WHEREAS, The gallantry, loyalty, and sacrifices of Filipino
29 veterans of WWII, who fought for freedom and democracy in the Armed
30 Forces of the United States, deserve recognition and their honor and
31 dignity restored; and

32 WHEREAS, There is no pending legislation in the U.S. Congress that
33 will restore full United States veterans status to Filipino WWII
34 veterans;

35 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
36 President and Congress of the United States during the First Session of
37 the 110th Congress take action necessary to give priority in the
38 issuance of immigrant visas to the sons, daughters, and grandchildren

1 of Filipino World War II veterans who are or were naturalized citizens
2 of the United States, and amend the 1946 Rescission Act and honor our
3 country's moral obligation to restore these Filipino veterans full
4 United States veterans status with the military benefits that they
5 deserve;

6 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
7 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
8 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
9 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
10 Washington.

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