

1 [Supporting Filipino Veterans Fairness Act]

2  
3 **Resolution supporting the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011, House of**  
4 **Representative Bill 210.**

5  
6 WHEREAS, A significant number of Filipino nationals, estimated at over 250,000,  
7 served in support of United States combat operations in the Pacific Theatre during World War  
8 II; and

9 WHEREAS, Such service has been universally recognized as an important contribution  
10 to our eventual victory over Axis forces in the Pacific during that conflict, and many promises  
11 were made to both soldiers and civilians, in return for their support of war efforts at the time;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Such promises included recognition of the military service of Filipinos,  
14 including but not limited to the "Philippine Scouts" and the Philippine Commonwealth Army  
15 under direct command of the US military, as fully eligible for benefits identical to members of  
16 the US military at the time; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1946, in contradiction to the granting of benefits to veterans of the 66  
18 countries who allied with our World War II military efforts, the US Congress passed the  
19 Rescission Act, which effectively reneged on previous promises and stripped only Filipino  
20 veterans of their benefits; and

21 WHEREAS, Government tracking figures indicate that there are currently less than  
22 50,000 surviving Filipino veterans of World War II service, and of the 10,000 who currently  
23 reside in the U.S., most of whom have long since attained U.S. citizenship; and

24 WHEREAS, Despite the fact that the US Government has, as part of the American  
25 Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, initiated payment of some benefits to qualifying

1 Filipino veterans, a significant number of such veterans have been denied benefits simply  
2 because they are not in possession of Official Discharge documents from the US military; and

3 WHEREAS, Congresswoman Jackie Speier has recently introduced a bill, H.R. 210,  
4 that goes a long way toward bringing justice to this situation, and despite the fact that time is  
5 running out for those affected, there are still a number of Filipino veterans who currently  
6 reside in San Francisco, and who could potentially benefit from passage of this legislation;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Congresswoman Speier's legislation, titled the Filipino Veterans Fairness  
9 Act of 2011, is unique in that it does not introduce a new schedule of benefits for Filipino  
10 veterans, but rather simply offers an amendment to the existing VA schedule of benefits to  
11 direct the Secretary of the Veterans Administration to "take into account any alternative  
12 relevant documents regarding the service (of Filipino veterans)"; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors fully supports and urges the  
14 passage of said legislation, in an effort to bring some measure of justice to the Filipino  
15 veterans who fought valiantly with US military in World War II; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board  
17 to send a copy of this resolution to Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Congresswoman Jackie  
18 Speier of the United States House of Representatives.



**City and County of San Francisco**  
**Tails**  
**Resolution**

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

**File Number:** 110601

**Date Passed:** May 17, 2011

Resolution supporting the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011, House of Representative Bill 210.

May 17, 2011 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Avalos, Chiu, Chu, Cohen, Elsbernd, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Mirkarimi and Wiener  
Excused: 1 - Campos

File No. 110601

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/17/2011 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Edwin Lee

5/27/11

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

Date: May 27, 2011

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.

Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

File No.  
110601