

1 [Filipino World War II veterans.]

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3 **Resolution urging State Legislators to support Filipino World War II veterans by**
4 **passing legislation to recognize Filipino combatants as American veterans.**

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6 WHEREAS, Filipino veterans, many of whom live in California and are now United
7 States citizens, say that President Delano Roosevelt pledged to give them citizenship and full
8 benefits for fighting alongside American troops during World War II; and,

9 WHEREAS, President Roosevelt's promise was made in 1941 when the Philippines
10 was a United States colony; and,

11 WHEREAS, Nearly 200,000 Filipinos were drafted to fight under General Douglas
12 MacArthur; and,

13 WHEREAS, In 1946, a year after the Japanese surrender, Congress passed the
14 Recision Act reneging on the pledge; and,

15 WHEREAS, In 1990, Congress granted the veterans citizenship rights, but they have
16 continued to battle for veterans' benefits; and,

17 WHEREAS, The Filipino veterans are still awaiting legislation that would overturn the
18 Recision Act and restore their classification as American soldiers; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges State Legislators to support Filipino
20 World War II veterans by passing legislation to recognize Filipino combatants as American
21 veterans.