

1 [Urging the American Legion Post of San Francisco to determine the authenticity of a flag in  
2 the War Memorial that may be the flag unfurled by General Emilio Aguinaldo during the  
3 proclamation of Philippine independence on June 12, 1898.]

4 **Resolution Urging the American Legion Post of San Francisco to determine the**  
5 **authenticity of a flag in the War Memorial that may be the flag used by General Emilio**  
6 **Aguinaldo during the proclamation of Philippine independence on June 12, 1898.**

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8 WHEREAS, A flag that is likely to have been used during the declaration of Philippine  
9 independence by General Emilio Aguinaldo on June 12, 1898, has turned up in a cabinet in  
10 the War Memorial Building in San Francisco; and

11 WHEREAS, The story of the first flag of the Philippines intersects with San Francisco's  
12 role in the Spanish-American War of 1898 and the Philippine-American War of 1899-1913;  
13 and,

14 WHEREAS, Emilio Aguinaldo was a Philippine General, politician and independence  
15 leader who fought with the United States in 1898 to end Spanish occupation of his native  
16 country; and,

17 WHEREAS, Philippine and U.S. relations became frayed at the end of the Spanish-  
18 American War when U.S. forces continued to occupy the Philippines; and,

19 WHEREAS, Emilio Aguinaldo declared Philippine independence on June 12, 1898,  
20 from his balcony in Kawit, Cavite, and unfurled the national flag, which was then called the  
21 "Sun and Stars," for the first time; and,

22 WHEREAS, The "Sun and Stars" flag was designed by Emilio Aguinaldo himself during  
23 his exile in Hong Kong; and,

24 WHEREAS, The "Sun and Stars" flag was sewn in Hong Kong by Marcela Agoncillo  
25 with the help of her daughter, Lorenza, and Delfina Herbosa de Natividad; and,

1           WHEREAS, The “Sun and Stars” flag was sewn from excellent satin purchased from a  
2 store on Powell Street in the Wabgchai District of Hong Kong; and,

3           WHEREAS, Emilio Aguinaldo was elected president of the Philippines by the Philippine  
4 Constitutional Convention on January 1, 1899; and,

5           WHEREAS, President Aguinaldo, responding to clashes between U.S. and Philippine  
6 troops, declared war on the United States on February 4, 1899; and,

7           WHEREAS, President Aguinaldo fought against U.S. troops until he—and, historians  
8 believe, the “Sun and Stars” flag—was captured by American forces on March 23, 1901; and,

9           WHEREAS, General Frederick Funston of the United States Army, who orchestrated  
10 the capture of President Aguinaldo, was sent by President Theodore Roosevelt to the Presidio  
11 of San Francisco in July of 1902; and,

12           WHEREAS, General Funston’s widow donated war memorabilia—including, possibly,  
13 the “Sun and Stars” flag—to San Francisco’s American Legion Post in the 1930s; and,

14           WHEREAS, The authentication of the flag in the War Memorial cabinet is of great  
15 historical interest in the Philippines and of great importance to the Philippine-American  
16 community in San Francisco; and,

17           WHEREAS, The National Historic Institute of the Philippines in December of 2004 sent  
18 a letter to Rudy Ascercion of the Veterans War Memorial Commission stating the Institute’s  
19 belief that the flag is “most likely authentic”; now, therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the San Francisco  
21 American Legion Post to fully investigate the authenticity of the flag recently discovered in the  
22 War Memorial cabinet to determine if it is the “Sun and Stars” flag unfurled by Emilio  
23 Aguinaldo on June 12, 1898, as he declared independence for the Philippines.  
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