

1 [Supporting Filipino Veterans Fairness Act]

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

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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.

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