

1 [Urging the United States Congress to pass and President George W. Bush to sign into law
2 the Filipino Veterans Bills H.R. 677 and S. 88.]

3 **Resolution urging United States Congress to pass and President George W. Bush to**
4 **sign into law the Filipino Veterans Bills H.R. 677 and S. 88.**
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6 WHEREAS, President Franklin D. Roosevelt on July 26, 1941, called into military
7 service 140,000 Filipino World War II soldiers as loyal U.S. nationals under the command of
8 American officers to defend the U.S. territory of the Philippines; and

9 WHEREAS, American-Filipino forces under the command of General Douglas
10 MacArhtur fought valiantly against overwhelming Japanese troops, delaying the invaders'
11 timetable by three months, thus allowing the U.S. to regain her military strength after the Peal
12 Harbor attack; and,

13 WHEREAS, American-Filipino forces surrendered after the Battles of Bataan and
14 Corregidor on April 9 and May 6, 1942, respectively, and suffered a horrible number of
15 casualties in the Bataan Death March and the POW camps; and,

16 WHEREAS, On February 18, 1946, the U.S. Congress passed the "Recission Act" that
17 withdrew the U.S. veterans' status of Filipino WW II soldiers and their eligibility for veterans
18 benefits as promised by President Harry Truman; and,

19 WHEREAS, In 1990, the U.S. Congress passed, and President George H.W. Bush
20 enacted legislation that allowed Filipino WW II veterans with honorable U.S. military service to
21 become naturalized U.S. citizens and in later years enacted legislation partially restoring their
22 benefits; and,

23 WHEREAS, The majority of Filipino WW II veterans who reside in the U.S. live in
24 poverty, receive public assistance such as SSI and Medicaid, die at a 57 percent higher rate
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1 than their American comrades, and need desperately the VA pension to raise their incomes
2 above the poverty level; and,

3 WHEREAS, The majority of the 8,000 Filipino veterans residing in the U.S. and the
4 20,000 in the Philippines are denied VA disability pensions that are available to their U.S.
5 comrades who fought with them in WW II, as noted by the American Legion, which has 2.7
6 million members and supports both bills; and,

7 WHEREAS, Rep. Randy Cunningham (R-CA) introduced the “Filipino Veterans Equity
8 Act,” H.R. 677, which now has 677 co-sponsors, and Senator Daniel Inuoye

9 (D-HI) introduced the “Filipino Veterans Benefits Improvement Act,” S. 58, with 22 co-
10 sponsors, including Senator John F. Kerry, that recognizes the U.S. military service of Filipino
11 veterans and provides them with disability pensions; and,

12 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush, on December 6, 2003, signed into law the “VA
13 Health Care” bill, H.R. 2357 (P.L. 108-170) that provided partial official recognition and VA
14 medical care to U.S.-based Filipino veterans, but offered no VA pensions; and,

15 WHEREAS, The leaders of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans (ACFV), a
16 national non-partisan and no-profit organization of 4,000 members of affiliated groups, have
17 campaigned since 1996 to win equitable benefits for their quickly diminishing number of living
18 heroes who deserve honor and dignity; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the United States
20 Congress to pass and President George W. Bush to sign into law the Filipino Veterans Bills
21 H.R. 677 and S. 88.

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