

1 [Supporting Filipino Veterans Equity Act]

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3 **Resolution urging the President and the Congress of the United States of America to**
4 **honor the contributions of Filipino World War II veterans by passing the Filipino**
5 **Veterans Equity Act, specifically HR 4574.**
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7 WHEREAS, On July 26, 1941, when the Philippines was under the sovereignty of the
8 United States of America, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order,
9 pursuant to the Philippines' Independence Act, that called all organized military forces of the
10 Philippines into the service of the United States; and
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12 WHEREAS, President Roosevelt's executive order enabled over 200,000 Filipino
13 soldiers to be inducted into the United States Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFFE); and
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15 WHEREAS, On December 8, 1941, just 10 hours after Japan attacked the United
16 States at Pearl Harbor, Japan bombed United States military bases located in the Philippines
17 and consequently brought the Filipino people into World War II; and
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19 WHEREAS, On March 27, 1942, the United States Congress passed Title 8 of the
20 Second War Powers Act granting non-citizens who served in the United States Armed Forces
21 during the war United States citizenship status and subsequently providing every member of
22 the USAFFE, certain individuals who served in the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines,
23 and certain Philippine Scouts equal treatment under the law as provided by the Fourteenth
24 Amendment to the United States Constitution; and
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1 WHEREAS, On April 9, 1942, the United States surrendered the Philippines to Japan
2 which led 75,000 USAFFE, Commonwealth Army of the Philippines, Philippine scouts, and
3 other soldiers on the Bataan Death March, whereby nearly 10,000 Filipino soldiers perished in
4 route to internment; and

5 WHEREAS, On September 2, 1945, Japan surrendered the Philippines back to the
6 United States and effectively ended World War II on the islands of the Philippines; and

7 WHEREAS, Despite the promise to provide citizenship status and equal protection
8 under the Fourteenth Amendment, in November 1945, the United States State Department
9 and the United States Immigration and Naturalization Services placed a moratorium on all
10 applications for naturalization by Filipino war veterans; and

11 WHEREAS, One month after the start of the moratorium, Congress passed the
12 Rescissions Act of 1946, which proclaimed that the service of the Filipino veterans in World
13 War II who served under President Roosevelt's Executive Order were no longer deemed to
14 have been active military, naval, or air service for the purposes of any law of the United
15 States; and

16 WHEREAS, In October 1990, nearly 45 years after the passage of the Rescissions Act,
17 the Congress passed and President George H.W. Bush signed into law, the 1990 Immigration
18 and Naturalization Act which finally granted United States citizenship status to all Filipino
19 veterans; and

20 WHEREAS, Despite being granted citizenship status, surviving Filipino-American
21 veterans have not been provided equal treatment, recognition, or benefits for their service, as
22 Filipino-American veterans do not receive disability pension, home buying assistance, and
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1 many other privileges that are attached to veterans status; and

2 WHEREAS, As of September 2004, the number of surviving Filipino-American veterans
3 was approximately 28,000 (8,000 of whom live in the United States) with a large population
4 living in California; however, this total is less than one-half of Filipino-American veterans
5 estimated to be living just four years ago and the numbers continue to decline rapidly as
6 nearly all of the veterans are in their 70s and 80s; and

7 WHEREAS, Many of these veterans are disabled, low income, and in desperate need
8 of existing services available to other veterans and that was promised to them approximately
9 60 years ago; and

10 WHEREAS, These Filipino-American veterans served the United States during World
11 War II and came to our aid in a time of need and the failure to pay these benefits reflects
12 poorly on the honor of our country; and

13 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors salutes and honors the braves
14 sacrifices of the Filipino WWII veteran's and is a beacon of hope and leadership so that their
15 plight for equity is respected and their campaign for equity is supported; and

16 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 051371 in
17 August 2005 supporting HR302 and S 146 which has been changed to HR 4574; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby formally endorses the
20 Filipino Veterans Equity Act, HR 4574; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the President
22 and the Congress of the United States to honor the contributions of our Filipino World War II
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1 Veterans and to immediately pay them the veterans benefits as promised by passing Filipino
2 Veterans Equity Act, HR 4574; and, be it

3 FINALLY RESOLVED, Copies of this resolution be presented to the President of the
4 United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to the President
5 Pro Tempore of the Senate, and to each member of the California Congressional Delegation.
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