

1 [Urging passage of HR 491 and SB 1042]

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3 Resolution urging the U.S. Congress to pass and President George  
4 W. Bush to sign HR 491, Filipino Veterans Equity Act, and SB  
5 1042, Filipino Veterans Benefit Improvement Act.

6  
7 WHEREAS, President Franklin D. Roosevelt on July 26, 1941  
8 called into military service 140,000 Filipino World War II  
9 soldiers to serve under the command of American officers to  
10 defend the U.S. territory of the Philippines; and,

11 WHEREAS, American and Filipino forces under the command of  
12 Lt. Gen. Douglas MacArthur fought valiantly with great sacrifice  
13 against an overwhelming Japanese invading force, delaying the  
14 invaders' timetable by four months, thus allowing the U.S.  
15 forces to regain its military strength after the attack on Pearl  
16 Harbor; and,

17 WHEREAS, American and Filipino forces surrendered after the  
18 Battles for Bataan and Corregidor on April 9 and May 6, 1942  
19 respectively, and suffered a horrible number of casualties in  
20 the Bataan Death March, in POW camps, and in the liberation  
21 campaign where 10,000 U.S. soldiers and 250,000 Filipino  
22 soldiers and civilians perished; and,

23 WHEREAS, On February 18, 1946 the U.S. Congress passed the  
24 Rescission Act that withdrew the U.S. veterans' status of  
25 Filipino WWII soldiers and their eligibility for veterans

1 benefits that were promised to them by President Harry Truman  
2 and Gen. Douglas MacArthur; and,

3 WHEREAS, In 1990, Congress passed legislation that allowed  
4 Filipino WWII veterans who proved their honorable military  
5 service to become naturalized U.S. citizens; and,

6 WHEREAS, The majority of the 12,000 surviving Filipino  
7 veterans who are U.S. citizens live in poverty and receive  
8 minimum benefits (SSI and Medicaid), and die at a 57 percent  
9 higher rate than their American comrades because of the lack of  
10 access to VA medical facilities; and,

11 WHEREAS, The majority of Filipino veterans are denied  
12 eligibility for VA medical care and disability pensions provided  
13 by the Veterans Administration to their U.S. comrades; and,

14 WHEREAS, Rep. Benjamin Gilman and Rep. Bob Filner have  
15 sponsored the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, HR 491, and Senator  
16 Daniel Inouye has introduced the Filipino Veterans Benefits  
17 Improvement Act, SB 1042, that would restore full official  
18 recognition of surviving Filipino WWII veterans; now, therefore,  
19 be it

20 RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the City and  
21 County of San Francisco does hereby urge the U.S. Congress to  
22 pass and President George W. Bush to sign HR 491, the Filipino  
23 Veterans Equity Act, and SB 1042, the Filipino Veterans Benefit  
24 Improvement Act; and, be it

25 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
shall send copies of this resolution to President George W.

Mark Leno

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Bush, to the California congressional delegation, and to  
Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails

Resolution

File Number: 020567

Date Passed:

Resolution urging the U.S. Congress to pass and President George W. Bush to sign HR 491, Filipino Veterans Equity Act, and SB 1042, Filipino Veterans Benefit Improvement Act.

April 15, 2002 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval, Yee

File No. 020567

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on April 15, 2002 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

APR 26 2002

Date Approved

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.