

1 [Supporting Filipino Veteran's 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 **Veteran's Equity Act, specifically HR 302 & S 146.**  
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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, The Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2005, S 146 and HR 302 – currently  
8 pending before the US Congress – addressing the injustice to the Filipino veterans of World  
9 War II by reclassifying them as US veterans provide for an amendment to Title 38 of the  
10 United States Code by reconsidering Filipino veterans service during WWII as active military  
11 service thereby making them eligible for all veterans benefits under programs administered by  
12 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

13 WHEREAS, These Filipino-American veterans served the United States during World  
14 War II and came to our aid in a time of need and the failure to pay these benefits reflects  
15 poorly on the honor of our country; now, therefore, be it,

16 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby formally endorses the  
17 Filipino Veterans Equity Act, HR 302 and S 146; and be it,

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the President  
19 and the Congress of the United States to honor the contributions of our Filipino World War II  
20 Veterans and to immediately pay them the veterans benefits as promised by passing Filipino  
21 Veterans Equity Act, HR 302 and S146; and, be it,

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