

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 2**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Dymally**

December 4, 2006

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 2—Relative to benefits for Filipino Americans who fought in World War II.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 2, as introduced, Dymally. Filipino veterans: benefits.

This measure would request that the Congress and the President of the United States enact legislation granting veteran benefits to the Filipino Americans who fought in World War II in the United States Armed Forces, and that efforts be made to expedite the reunification of families of World War II Filipino veterans who are awaiting immigration visas in the Philippines.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Philippines is a colony of the United States,  
2 and as a result, the United States government possesses authority  
3 over the islands; and

4 WHEREAS, On July 26, 1941, in anticipation of war with Japan,  
5 President Roosevelt issued an Executive Order calling over 200,000  
6 Filipino soldiers to serve in the United States Armed Forces in the  
7 Far East (USAFFE); and

8 WHEREAS, Ten hours after Pearl Harbor was attacked, the  
9 United States military bases in the Phillipines were bombed,  
10 causing the war to spill onto the Filipino people; and

11 WHEREAS, On March 27, 1942, Congress passed Title 8 of  
12 the Second War Powers Act, which provided that noncitizens who

1 served in active duty in the United States Armed Forces during  
2 World War II shall be granted United States citizenship, meaning  
3 that every USAFFE soldier had the right to equal treatment under  
4 the law; and

5 WHEREAS, On April 9, 1942, the United States surrendered  
6 the Philippines, leaving 75,000 USAFFE and regular soldiers to  
7 the Bataan Death March where close to 10,000 died along the  
8 drudge to P.O.W. camps; and

9 WHEREAS, Even after the American surrender, Filipinos  
10 continued to resist, gathering thousands more soldiers and forming  
11 guerilla units, who, in coordination with United States command,  
12 conducted operations, collected intelligence, and helped prepare  
13 for the American return; and

14 WHEREAS, On September 2, 1945, Japanese military command  
15 surrendered the Philippines back to American forces ending World  
16 War II on the islands, and Philippine nationals who served in the  
17 war began filing for naturalization at the United States Embassy  
18 in Manila; and

19 WHEREAS, Filipino men and women served courageously in  
20 the fight for freedom and democracy during World War II, under  
21 the leadership of General Douglas MacArthur; and

22 WHEREAS, After the war, the New Philippine Scouts were  
23 formed to help reestablish United States authority in the Pacific,  
24 causing thousands more Filipino soldiers to be called to serve the  
25 United States; and

26 WHEREAS, In November of 1945, adjudication of applications  
27 for naturalization of Filipino veterans were stopped, per order of  
28 the United States Department of State and the Commissioner of  
29 the Immigration and Naturalization Service; and

30 WHEREAS, In December of 1945, Congress passed legislation  
31 amending the immigration and naturalization law, setting a deadline  
32 of December 1946 for Filipino veterans applying for citizenship;  
33 and

34 WHEREAS, On February 18, 1946, Congress enacted the 1946  
35 Rescission Act, which denied World War II Filipino veterans,  
36 including the USAFFE, the guerillas, and the New Philippine  
37 Scouts equal status as American veterans, which stripped them of  
38 equal recognition, compensation, and benefits; and

39 WHEREAS, In October of 1990, the 1990 Immigration Act was  
40 passed, granting United States citizenship to Filipino veterans,

1 which allowed 24,000 Filipino World War II veterans, in their 70s  
2 and 80s to receive citizenship, but who were still denied equal  
3 status as American veterans; and

4 WHEREAS, Congress passed Section 405 of the Immigration  
5 Act of 1990, which was authored by Congressman Dymally; and

6 WHEREAS, Most families of Filipino World War II veterans  
7 who are residing in the United States, have been longing to reunite  
8 with their sons, daughters, and minor grandchildren whom they  
9 left behind, between 1990 and 1995, when they were naturalized  
10 and finally established residence in the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, A new opportunity was opened with the  
12 introduction of bills in Congress, that would grant special  
13 immigrant status to the sons, daughters, and minor grandchildren  
14 of World War II Filipino veterans who are now United States  
15 citizens; now therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
17 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
18 respectfully requests the President and Congress of the United  
19 States to enact legislation granting veteran benefits to the Filipino  
20 Americans who fought in World War II in the United States Armed  
21 Forces, and that efforts be made to expedite the reunification of  
22 families of World War II Filipino veterans who are currently  
23 awaiting immigration visas in the Philippines; and be it further

24 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
25 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
26 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the  
27 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and  
28 Representative from California in the Congress of the United  
29 States.

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