

Introduced by Senator Yee

June 8, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 48—Relative to Filipino American History Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 48, as introduced, Yee. Filipino American History Month.

This measure would designate the month of October 2009, and every October thereafter, as Filipino American History Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The earliest documented proof of Filipino presence
2 in the continental United States was the date of October 18, 1587,
3 when the first “Luzones Idios” set foot in Morro Bay, California,
4 as published by Lorraine Crouchett in her book, Filipinos in
5 California (1982), which annotated John Walton Caughey’s book,
6 California (1953); and

7 WHEREAS, The Filipino American National Historical Society
8 recognizes the year of 1763 as the date of the first permanent
9 Filipino settlement in the United States in St. Malo Parrish,
10 Louisiana, which set in motion the focus on the story of our
11 nation’s past from a new perspective by concentrating on the
12 economic, cultural, social, and other notable contributions that
13 Filipino Americans have made in countless ways toward the
14 development of the United States history; and

15 WHEREAS, Efforts must continue to promote the study of
16 Filipino American history and culture, as mandated in the mission
17 statement of the Filipino American National History Society,
18 because the roles of Filipino Americans and other people of color

1 have been overlooked in the writing, teaching, and learning of
2 United States history; and

3 WHEREAS, It is imperative for Filipino American youth to
4 have positive role models to instill in them the importance of
5 education, complemented with the richness of their ethnicity and
6 the value of their legacy; and

7 WHEREAS, California is home to over half of the Filipino
8 population in the United States and the location of historic Filipino
9 communities such as in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Stockton,
10 Vallejo, Delano, San Diego, and Salinas among others; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
13 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes October 2009,
14 the 422nd anniversary of the presence of Filipinos in California,
15 as a significant time to study the advancement of Filipino
16 Americans in the history of California and the United States, as a
17 favorable time of celebration, remembrance, reflection, and
18 motivation, and as a relevant time to renew more efforts toward
19 research, examination, and promulgation of Filipino American
20 history and culture in order to provide an opportunity for all
21 Californians to learn and appreciate more about Filipino Americans
22 and their historic contributions to California and the United States;
23 and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Legislature designates October 2009, and
25 every October thereafter, as Filipino American History Month;
26 and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
28 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.