

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 6

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 42

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 6—Relative to Filipino veterans.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 6, 2012.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 6, Ma. Filipino veterans.

This measure would request that the Congress and the President of the United States enact the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011 (H.R. 210).

WHEREAS, At the time of World War II, Filipinos, who volunteered to fight in the war, were promised full veterans' benefits by the United States Government; and

WHEREAS, More than 250,000 Filipinos signed up to serve in the war in response to this promise; and

WHEREAS, In 1946, President Truman signed the first Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act (Public Law 79-301) and the second Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act (Public Law 79-391), or more commonly known as the Rescission Acts of 1946, which reneged on the promise of full veterans' benefits for Filipinos that fought as members of the military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, recognized guerilla forces, and the New Philippine Scouts; and

WHEREAS, This denied almost 250,000 Filipino soldiers the benefits they earned serving to protect the United States; and

WHEREAS, The "Old" or Regular Filipino Scouts were entitled to all benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, while the military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, recognized guerilla forces, and the New Philippine Scouts were all denied the same benefits, even though they fought alongside the Regular Filipino Scouts; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Jackie Speier introduced the "Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011" (H.R. 210) to attempt to make up for the terrible injustice that resulted after the Rescission Acts of 1946 stripped the benefits promised to, and earned by, the Filipino soldiers, guerilla forces, and citizens who fought unwaveringly for the United States, thereby earning benefits just as United States soldiers did; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 210 restores the average monthly pension of \$1,500, medical care, burial services, and all other benefits that are as of now deemed available only to United States citizens; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 210 would allow, for the first time, the widows and widowers of the Filipino veterans, who are deceased, to receive the benefits that their spouses bravely earned, but sadly, did not live to receive; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, the Legislature unanimously approved Senate Joint Resolution 5 requesting the Congress and the President of the United States to enact the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007; and

WHEREAS, There is a sense of urgency to pass H.R. 210 because approximately 50,000 Filipino veterans are still alive, and with the passing of each day, more of these brave soldiers will become deceased; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully requests the Congress and the President of the United States to enact the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011 (H.R. 210); and be it further

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