

Introduced by Senator Yee
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Bonta)

March 4, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20—Relative to Leyte Landing Commemoration Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 20, as introduced, Yee. Leyte Landing Commemoration Day.

This measure would designate October 20, 2013, and each 20th day of October thereafter, as Leyte Landing Commemoration Day in recognition of the significance of the Leyte landing in liberating the Philippines from Japanese occupation, helping to establish the independence of the Philippines, and fostering closer ties between the Philippines and the United States.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Leyte Gulf Landing on October 20, 1944, led
- 2 by General Douglas MacArthur that commenced on the eastern
- 3 Philippine island of Leyte is remembered as the liberation of the
- 4 Philippines during World War II; and
- 5 WHEREAS, After General MacArthur had been evacuated from
- 6 the Philippines in March 1942, all of its islands fell under the
- 7 Japanese occupation from mid-1942 until mid-1944, which was
- 8 harsh, accompanied by atrocities, and with large numbers of
- 9 Filipinos pressed into slave labor; and
- 10 WHEREAS, When General Douglas MacArthur was ordered
- 11 to leave he had already established a strong rapport with the
- 12 Filipino people and the guerillas; he vowed, "I shall return" to

1 liberate them and the fulfillment of his promise is the reason that
2 General MacArthur was declared a hero; and

3 WHEREAS, During the war the efforts of Filipino and American
4 defenders during the Battle of Bataan were widely covered by the
5 press, as were the actions of the 100th Infantry and the 442nd
6 Infantry, including the 1951 film “Go for Broke!” portraying their
7 endeavors; and

8 WHEREAS, By contrast, the activities of the Filipino Infantry
9 Regiment and its sister units were largely unpublicized and it was
10 not until the documentaries “Unsung Heroes” and “An Untold
11 Triumph” that any significant visual media covered the history of
12 the regiment; and

13 WHEREAS, During the American reconquest of the Philippines,
14 the Filipino guerrillas began to strike openly against Japanese
15 forces, carried out reconnaissance activities ahead of the advancing
16 regular troops, and took their places in battle beside the advancing
17 American divisions; and

18 WHEREAS, One of the outcomes of the Leyte liberation was
19 the arrival of GI war brides coming home from the Philippines
20 after World War II to the United States, thus enlarging the growth
21 of a new generation of first and second generation Filipino
22 American-born offspring in the United States, a new milestone in
23 the population growth of Filipinos in the United States; now
24 therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
26 *thereof concurring*, That October 20, 2013, and each 20th day of
27 October hereafter, is hereby designated and commemorated as
28 Leyte Landing Commemoration Day; and be it further

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