

Introduced by Senator Corbett

February 3, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 78—Relative to Philippine Independence Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 78, as introduced, Corbett. Philippine Independence Day.

This measure would recognize June 12, 2014, as the 116th Anniversary of Philippine Independence, and would call upon the people of the state to observe the month of June with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On June 12, 2014, the Filipino American
2 community will celebrate the 116th Anniversary of Philippine
3 Independence, and on this occasion it is appropriate to make special
4 recognition of California's Filipino American citizens and thank
5 them for their countless contributions to our nation's cultural,
6 economic, and political heritage; and

7 WHEREAS, The Philippine Declaration of Independence took
8 place on June 12, 1898, in the town of Cavite el Viejo (now known
9 as Kawit) in the province of Cavite in the Philippines when Filipino
10 revolutionary forces under the leadership of General Emilio
11 Aguinaldo publicly read the Act of Declaration of Independence
12 proclaiming the sovereignty and independence of the Philippine
13 Islands from the colonial rule of Spain, after United States and
14 Filipino revolutionary forces defeated Spain at the Battle of Manila
15 Bay during the Spanish-American War; and

1 WHEREAS, The declaration was not recognized by the United
2 States or Spain. Spain later ceded the Philippines to the United
3 States in the 1898 Treaty of Paris that ended the Spanish-American
4 War. The United States government did not recognize Philippine
5 Independence until the signing of the Treaty of Manila on July 4,
6 1946; and

7 WHEREAS, For nearly two decades, July 4 was observed in
8 the Philippines as Independence Day until President Diosdado
9 Macapagal, upon the advice of historians and the urging of
10 nationalists, signed the Republic Act No. 4166 into law on August
11 4, 1964, designating the country's Independence Day as June 12.
12 June 12 had previously been observed as Flag Day and on that day
13 many government buildings had been urged to display the
14 Philippine flag in their offices; and

15 WHEREAS, As the years went on, Filipino Americans became
16 very involved in the community and made numerous contributions
17 in all aspects of American society and culture, especially in
18 California; and

19 WHEREAS, Filipino Americans have also played a major role
20 in California politics. There have been city mayors and other public
21 officials who have shaped the development of California over the
22 years who have been of Filipino descent; including, Tita Alice
23 Bulos, also known as the Godmother of Filipino American politics,
24 our very own Chief Justice of California Tani Cantil-Sakauye,
25 Mona Pasquil, former acting Lieutenant Governor of California,
26 the Mayor of Milpitas Jose Esteves, Union City Council Members
27 Jim Navarro and Pat Gacoscas, Daly City Vice Mayor Ray
28 Buenaventura, Daly City Council Member Mike Guingona, and
29 Alameda Vice Mayor Rob Bonta; and

30 WHEREAS, Many people of Filipino descent have contributed
31 to great movements that have helped to shape our country and its
32 role in the world, including the late Larry Dulay Itliong, labor
33 organizer and the first vice president of the United Farm Workers
34 Union; and the late Philip Vera Cruz, cofounder of the United
35 Farm Workers Union; and

36 WHEREAS, Many Filipino Americans have served with
37 distinction as outstanding soldiers who fought as members of the
38 United States Armed Forces for over a century and have sacrificed
39 their lives in many wars, including World War II; and

1 WHEREAS, Today there are 3.4 million people of Filipino
2 American descent, many of whom have played vital roles in the
3 development of the United States and have paved the way for many
4 Filipino Americans to continue to strengthen their roles in the
5 broader society, and to contribute to American and California
6 politics, economy, and culture; now, therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
8 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature, in honor of the multitude
9 of contributions that Filipino Americans have made to make this
10 a better country and state for all people, recognizes June 12, 2014,
11 as the 116th Anniversary of Philippine Independence and calls
12 upon the people of the state to observe the month of June with
13 appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities; and be it further

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

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