

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 11, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 81

Introduced by Assembly Members Chiu and Bonta

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Brough, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Perea, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

May 27, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 81—Relative to Philippine Independence Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 81, as amended, Chiu. Philippine Independence Day.

This measure would recognize June 12, 2015, as the 117th 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, 2015, the Filipino American
- 2 community will celebrate the 117th Anniversary of Philippine
- 3 Independence, and on this occasion it is appropriate to make special

1 recognition of California’s Filipino American citizens and thank
2 them for their countless contributions to our nation’s cultural,
3 economic, and political heritage; and

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

13 WHEREAS, The declaration was not recognized by the United
14 States or Spain. Spain later ceded the Philippines to the United
15 States in the 1898 Treaty of Paris that ended the Spanish-American
16 War. The United States government did not recognize Philippine
17 independence until the signing of the Treaty of Manila on July 4,
18 1946; and

19 WHEREAS, For nearly two decades, July 4 was observed in
20 the Philippines as Independence Day until President Diosdado
21 Macapagal, upon the advice of historians and the urging of
22 nationalists, signed the Republic Act No. 4166 into law on August
23 4, 1964, designating the country’s Independence Day as June 12.
24 June 12 was previously observed as Flag Day and on that day many
25 government buildings were urged to display the Philippine flag in
26 their offices; and

27 WHEREAS, As the years went on, Filipino Americans became
28 very involved in the community and made numerous contributions
29 in all aspects of American society and culture, especially in
30 California; and

31 WHEREAS, Many people of Filipino descent have contributed
32 to great movements that have helped to shape our country and its
33 role in the world, including the late Larry Dulay Itliong, labor
34 organizer and the first vice president of the United Farm Workers
35 Union, the late Philip Vera Cruz, cofounder of the United Farm
36 Workers Union, and the late Carlos Bulosan, one of the first
37 Filipino-American novelists to gain fame for his work; and

38 WHEREAS, Many Filipino Americans have served with
39 distinction as outstanding soldiers who fought as members of the

1 United States Armed Forces for over a century and have sacrificed
2 their lives in many wars, including World War II; and

3 WHEREAS, Today there are more than 3.5 million people of
4 Filipino American descent, many of whom have played vital roles
5 in the development of the United States and have paved the way
6 for Filipino Americans to continue to strengthen their roles in the
7 broader society and to contribute to American and California
8 politics, economy, and culture; now, therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
10 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature, in honor of the multitude
11 of contributions that Filipino Americans have made to make this
12 a better country and state for all people, recognizes June 12, 2015,
13 as the 117th Anniversary of Philippine Independence and calls
14 upon the people of the state to observe the month of June with
15 appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
17 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.