

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 170

Introduced by Assembly Member Bonta

April 14, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 170—Relative to Philippine Independence Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 170, as introduced, Bonta. Philippine Independence Day.

This measure would recognize June 12, 2016, as the 118th 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, 2016, the Filipino American
2 community will celebrate the 118th 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, located in the Philippine province of Cavite, when
10 Filipino revolutionary forces, under the leadership of General
11 Emilio Aguinaldo, publicly read the Act of Declaration of
12 Independence proclaiming the sovereignty and independence of
13 the Philippine Islands from the colonial rule of Spain, after

1 American and Filipino revolutionary forces defeated Spain at the
2 Battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War; and
3 WHEREAS, The declaration was not recognized by the United
4 States or Spain. Spain later ceded the Philippines to the United
5 States in the 1898 Treaty of Paris that ended the Spanish-American
6 War. The United States government did not recognize Philippine
7 independence until the signing of the Treaty of Manila on July 4,
8 1946; and

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Many people of Filipino descent have contributed
22 to great movements that have helped to shape our country and its
23 role in the world, including the late Larry Dulay Itliong, labor
24 organizer and the first vice president of the United Farm Workers
25 union, the late Philip Vera Cruz, cofounder of the United Farm
26 Workers union, and the late Carlos Bulosan, one of the first
27 Filipino-American novelists to gain fame for his work; and

28 WHEREAS, Many Filipino Americans have served with
29 distinction as outstanding soldiers who fought as members of the
30 Armed Forces for over a century and have sacrificed their lives in
31 many wars, including World War II; and

32 WHEREAS, Today there are more than 3.5 million people of
33 Filipino American descent, many of whom have played vital roles
34 in the development of the United States and have paved the way
35 for Filipino Americans to continue to strengthen their roles in the
36 broader society and to contribute to American and California
37 politics, economy, and culture; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
39 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature, in honor of the multitude
40 of contributions that Filipino Americans have made to make this

1 a better country and state for all people, hereby recognizes June
2 12, 2016, as the 118th Anniversary of Philippine Independence
3 and calls upon the people of the state to observe the month of June
4 with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities; and be it
5 further

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

O