

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 28

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 80

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 28—Relative to Filipino war veterans.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 24, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 28, Ducheny. Filipino war veterans.

This measure would memorialize and urge the President and Congress of the United States to enact House Resolution 836, to provide full benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans who served in the Philippine Commonwealth Army and the Special Philippine Scouts during World War II.

WHEREAS, During World War II, the military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines were drafted to serve in the United States armed forces by Executive Order of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt of July 26, 1941; and

WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers defended the American flag in the battles of Bataan and Corregidor; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of Filipino prisoners of war died during the 65-mile Bataan Death March, and those who survived were imprisoned under inhumane conditions, suffered numerous casualties, and endured four long years of occupation; and

WHEREAS, The soldiers who escaped capture, together with Filipino civilians, valiantly fought against the occupation forces, their guerrilla attacks foiling the plans of the Japanese for a quick takeover of the region, and allowing the United States the time needed to prepare forces to defeat Japan; and

WHEREAS, Despite the vital participation of the Filipino soldiers in the outcome of the war, the 79th United States Congress voted after the war ended to deny benefits and recognition to the Filipino World War II veterans, in what was known as the Rescissions Act of 1946; and

WHEREAS, On February 26, 1997, House Resolution 836, a bill to provide full benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans who served in the Philippine Commonwealth Army, and the Special Philippine Scouts, was introduced in the House of Representatives of the United States Congress by Representative Benjamin Gilman of New York, and Representative Bob Filner of this state; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California commends the

heroic acts of Filipino war veterans, and honors these individuals for their contributions to the United States armed forces; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes and urges the President and Congress of the United States to enact House Resolution 836; 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, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

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