

Introduced by Senator Ayala

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February 10, 1998

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 68—Relative to World War II.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 68, as introduced, Ayala. World War II: Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island.

This measure would recognize and commend the valor of the men and women of the United States and the Philippines who served on the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island during World War II.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In World War II, which began in 1939 and
2 ended in 1945, the Philippines were allied with the United
3 States against Japan and other Axis powers; and

4 WHEREAS, Japanese troops began invading the
5 Philippines on December 10, 1941, just days after the
6 bombing of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii; and

1 WHEREAS, United States and Filipino troops
2 defending the country moved from Manila to the Bataan
3 Peninsula, which extends into Manila Bay from the coast
4 of the Island of Luzon; and

5 WHEREAS, United States and Filipino troops on the
6 Bataan Peninsula, under the command of General
7 Douglas MacArthur, held back Japanese attacks for more
8 than three months despite being cut off from outside
9 assistance, malnourished, and ill; and

10 WHEREAS, In March of 1942, General MacArthur was
11 ordered to duty in Australia and left the Philippines; and

12 WHEREAS, On April 9, 1942, the United States and
13 Filipino troops defending the Bataan Peninsula were
14 forced to surrender, although some soldiers continued to
15 resist the Japanese from nearby Corregidor Island until
16 May 6 of that year; and

17 WHEREAS, The Japanese required the troops to walk
18 approximately 65 miles to prison camps, a journey known
19 as the “Bataan Death March” because of the high number
20 of prisoners who died; and

21 WHEREAS, The prisoners were then loaded onto rail
22 cars bound for Camp O’Donnell, near Tarlac, or a camp
23 at Cabanatuan, outside of Manila; and

24 WHEREAS, The prisoners experienced hardship and
25 death at the camps; and

26 WHEREAS, Approximately 22,000, or 85 percent of all
27 Americans taken prisoner during World War II, were
28 taken in the Philippines; and

29 WHEREAS, Approximately 5,135 American prisoners
30 of war died or were killed in captivity in the Philippines;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, The Philippine Islands were not
33 recaptured from the Japanese until 1945; now, therefore,
34 be it

35 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the*
36 *Assembly thereof concurring,* That the valor of the men
37 and women of the United States and the Philippines who
38 served on the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island
39 during World War II be recognized and commended; and
40 be it further



1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit a
2 copy of this resolution to the author for appropriate
3 distribution.

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