

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 30, 1998

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 68

Introduced by Senator Ayala

(Principal coauthors: Senators Kopp and Johannessen)

(Coauthors: Senators Brulte, Burton, Costa, Craven, Dills, Hayden, Hughes, Johnson, Kelley, Knight, Leslie, Lockyer, McPherson, O'Connell, Polanco, Rosenthal, Schiff, Sher, Solis, Thompson, Vasconcellos, Watson, and Wright)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ackerman, Baca, Baldwin, Bowen, Brown, Cardenas, Cunneen, Figueroa, Floyd, Gallegos, Kuykendall, Honda, Keeley, Knox, Kuykendall, Leach, Leonard, Machado, Margett, Migden, Morrissey, Murray, Morrow, Murray, Napolitano, Olberg, Richter, Runner, and Villaraigosa) Scott, Shelley, Strom-Martin, Villaraigosa, Wayne, and Wildman)

February 10, 1998

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 68, as amended, 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

7 WHEREAS, United States and Filipino troops
8 defending the country moved from Manila to the Bataan
9 Peninsula, which extends into Manila Bay from the coast
10 of the Island of Luzon; and

11 WHEREAS, United States and Filipino troops on the
12 Bataan Peninsula, under the command of General
13 Douglas MacArthur, held back Japanese attacks for more
14 than three months despite being cut off from outside
15 assistance, malnourished, and ill; and

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

18 *WHEREAS, The Filipino-American defense of Bataan*
19 *was hampered by many factors, including a shortage of*
20 *food, ammunition, medicine, and trucks and other*
21 *vehicles; and*

22 WHEREAS, On April 9, 1942, the United States and
23 Filipino troops defending the Bataan Peninsula were
24 forced to surrender, although some soldiers continued to
25 resist the Japanese from nearby Corregidor Island until
26 May 6 of that year; and

27 WHEREAS, The Japanese required the troops to walk
28 approximately 65-80 miles to prison camps, ~~a journey even~~
29 *though American trucks were available to transport*
30 *them; and*

31 *WHEREAS, That journey is known as the “Bataan*
32 *Death March” because of the high number of prisoners*
33 *who died; and*

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

37 ~~WHEREAS, The prisoners experienced hardship and~~
38 ~~death at the camps; and~~

39 *WHEREAS, Approximately 1,600 Americans died in*
40 *the first 40 days in Camp O’Donnell, and almost 20,000*



1 *Filipinos died in the first four months of captivity there;*
2 *and*

3 WHEREAS, Approximately 22,000, or 85 percent of all
4 Americans taken prisoner during World War II, were
5 taken in the Philippines; and

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 5,135 American prisoners
7 of war died or were killed in captivity in the Philippines,
8 *a rate far higher than that suffered by the prisoners of war*
9 *who were held by Germany;* and

10 WHEREAS, The Philippine Islands were not
11 recaptured from the Japanese until 1945; now, therefore,
12 be it

13 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the*
14 *Assembly thereof concurring,* That the valor of the men
15 and women of the United States and the Philippines who
16 served on the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island
17 during World War II be recognized and commended; and
18 be it further

19 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit a
20 ~~copy~~ *copies* of this resolution to the author for
21 appropriate distribution.

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23 CORRECTIONS

24 **Heading — Line 10.**

25 **Text — Page 2.**

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