

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 6

Introduced by Assembly Members Ma, Cook, and Fong
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Eng, Furutani, Hayashi, Pan,
Williams, and Yamada)
(Coauthors: Senators Lieu, Liu, and Yee)

February 23, 2011

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 6—Relative to Filipino veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 6, as introduced, Ma. Filipino veterans.

This measure would request that the Congress and the President of the United States enact the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011 (H.R. 210).

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, At the time of World War II, Filipinos, who
2 volunteered to fight in the war, were promised full veterans'
3 benefits by the United States Government; and
4 WHEREAS, More than 250,000 Filipinos signed up to serve in
5 the war in response to this promise; and
6 WHEREAS, In 1946, President Truman signed the first
7 Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act (Public Law
8 79-301) and the second Supplemental Surplus Appropriation
9 Rescission Act (Public Law 79-391), or more commonly known
10 as the Rescission Acts of 1946, which reneged on the promise of
11 full veterans' benefits for Filipinos that fought as members of the
12 military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the

1 Philippines, recognized guerilla forces, and the New Philippine
2 Scouts; and

3 WHEREAS, This denied almost 250,000 Filipino soldiers the
4 benefits they earned serving to protect the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, The “Old” or Regular Filipino Scouts were entitled
6 to all benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs,
7 while the military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth
8 of the Philippines, recognized guerilla forces, and the New
9 Philippine Scouts were all denied the same benefits, even though
10 they fought alongside the Regular Filipino Scouts; and

11 WHEREAS, Congresswoman Jackie Speier introduced the
12 “Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011” (H.R. 210) to attempt to
13 make up for the terrible injustice that resulted after the Rescission
14 Acts of 1946 stripped the benefits promised to, and earned by, the
15 Filipino soldiers, guerilla forces, and citizens who fought
16 unwaveringly for the United States, thereby earning benefits just
17 as United States soldiers did; and

18 WHEREAS, H.R. 210 restores the average monthly pension of
19 \$1,500, medical care, burial services, and all other benefits that
20 are as of now deemed available only to United States citizens; and

21 WHEREAS, H.R. 210 would allow, for the first time, the
22 widows and widowers of the Filipino veterans, who are deceased,
23 to receive the benefits that their spouses bravely earned, but sadly,
24 did not live to receive; and

25 WHEREAS, In 2007, the Legislature unanimously approved
26 Senate Joint Resolution 5 requesting the Congress and the President
27 of the United States to enact the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of
28 2007; and

29 WHEREAS, There is a sense of urgency to pass H.R. 210
30 because approximately 50,000 Filipino veterans are still alive, and
31 with the passing of each day, more of these brave soldiers will
32 become deceased; now, therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
34 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
35 respectfully requests the Congress and the President of the United
36 States to enact the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011 (H.R.
37 210); and be it further

38 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
39 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
40 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the

- 1 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
- 2 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
- 3 States.

O