
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE FILIPINO
AMERICAN VETERANS EQUITY ACT OF 2007 BY ADOPTING H.R. 760
AND S. 57, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION, TO PROVIDE FEDERAL
VETERANS BENEFITS AND SERVICES TO WORLD WAR II FILIPINO AND
FILIPINO AMERICAN VETERANS.

1 WHEREAS, on July 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt
2 issued Military Order No. 81, placing the Philippine
3 Commonwealth Armed Forces and the Special Philippine Scouts
4 under the United States Armed Forces command to join the
5 military assault against the Japanese forces in defense of
6 America's democracy; and
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8 WHEREAS, throughout 1941-1946, tens of thousands of
9 Filipino soldiers were held as prisoners, risking their lives
10 and the lives of their families while maintaining underground
11 battles against the invading Japanese forces and boldly
12 assisting the United States Armed Forces in its campaign to
13 liberate the Philippines; and
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15 WHEREAS, Filipino wartime veterans, many of whom were
16 permanently disabled and honorably discharged from the military
17 after serving more than ninety days on active duty military
18 service during World War II are eligible for federal veterans
19 benefits and services; and
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21 WHEREAS, former President Bill Clinton on October 17, 1996,
22 President George W. Bush on July 26, 2001, and the United States
23 Congress by H.R. 622/S. 387 on September 13, 2006, recognized
24 and proclaimed the vital role that the Filipino wartime soldiers
25 played in assisting the United States Armed Forces to defeat the
26 invading Japanese forces in defense of freedom; and
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28 WHEREAS, despite these formal acknowledgements of Filipino
29 and Filipino American veterans' contributions to the cause of



1 the United States during World War II, they have not received
 2 veterans benefits and services from the federal government, a
 3 long standing moral injustice that needs to be corrected; now,
 4 therefore,

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 6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 7 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 8 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the United States
 9 Congress and United States President George W. Bush are
 10 respectfully requested and urged to enact the Filipino Veterans
 11 Equity Act of 2007, also known as H.R. 760 and S. 57, or similar
 12 legislation, to provide federal veterans benefits and services
 13 to Filipino World War II veterans; and

14
 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
 17 United States, the Secretary of Defense, the Majority and
 18 Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and
 19 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives,
 20 and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

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 23 OFFERED BY:

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