

1 [Equity for Filipino Veterans of World War II.]

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3 **Resolution urging President Bush and the United States Congress to amend the 1946**
4 **Rescission Act to provide equity for Filipino veterans of World War II.**

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6 WHEREAS, The Philippine Islands was a territory of the United States until July 4,
7 1946 and the United States had control over Philippine nationals and the country's internal
8 affairs; and

9 WHEREAS, The Philippines Commonwealth had no function in matters of foreign
10 affairs and could not declare war or surrender its forces; and,

11 WHEREAS, On July 26, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued a Military
12 Order and invoked his powers under section 2(a)(12) of the Philippine Independence Act
13 (P.L. No. 77-127 Section 10(a)) to "call and order into the service of the Armed Forces of the
14 United States ... all of the organized military forces of the government of the Commonwealth
15 of the Philippines"; and

16 WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers fought during World War II under the American flag and
17 under the direction and control of United States military leaders pursuant to President
18 Roosevelt's July 1941 Military Order; and

19 WHEREAS, Shortly after the war in 1946, the U.S. Congress passed the Rescission
20 Act which specifically mandates that services rendered by Filipino World War II veterans
21 "shall not be deemed to have been active military, naval or air service for the purposes of any
22 law of the United States conferring rights, privileges or benefits..."; and

23 WHEREAS, The legislative rider appended to the 1946 Rescission Act denies U.S.
24 military status and benefits to those veterans who fought under the command of officers of
25 the U.S. Armed Forces in the Philippines; and

1 WHEREAS, The significant and adverse impact of the 1946 Rescission Act is its unjust
2 discrimination against Filipino soldiers of World War II by denying them eligibility for equal
3 benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

4 WHEREAS, Filipinos are the only national group singled out for denial of full U.S.
5 veterans status while the soldiers of more than 66 other U.S. allied countries, who were
6 similarly inducted into the service of the Armed Forces of the United States during World War
7 II, were granted full U.S. veterans status; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Government has yet to fully restore the rights,
9 privileges and benefits guaranteed, then taken away from Filipino veterans of World War II;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The gallantry, loyalty and sacrifices of Filipino veterans of World War II,
12 who fought for freedom and democracy in the Armed Forces of the United States, deserves
13 recognition and their honor and dignity deserves restoration; and

14 WHEREAS, There is no pending legislation in the U.S. Congress that will restore full
15 U.S. veterans' status to Filipino World War II veteran; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the correction of
17 the grievous act of institutional injustice and discrimination leveled against Filipino World War
18 II veterans by amending the 1946 Rescission Act; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the
20 ongoing campaign of the last twelve years for full equity and justice for Filipino World War II
21 veterans in a coordinated effort among Filipino American veterans, community leaders and all
22 who believe in the justness of this cause, by advocating and working for equity through a
23 comprehensive legislative, judicial and public education campaign; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to his Honor, the
25 Mayor, with a request that he transmit copies to President Bush and members of the United

1 States Congress representing San Francisco, with a request that they act swiftly to correct
2 this injustice.

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City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 010178

Date Passed:

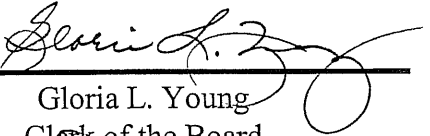
Resolution urging President Bush and the United States Congress to amend the 1946 Rescission Act to provide equity for Filipino veterans of World War II.

February 5, 2001 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Leno, Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval, Yee

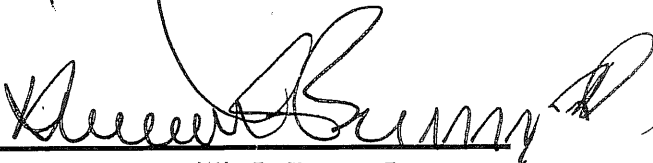
File No. 010178

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on February 5, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.


Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

FEB 16 2001

Date Approved


Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.