

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

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By: **Delegates Valderrama, Ali, Anderson, Barkley, Barnes, Bates, Beidle, Beitzel, Benson, Braveboy, Bromwell, Burns, Carter, V. Clagett, Davis, Dumais, Dwyer, Feldman, Frank, Gilchrist, Gutierrez, Guzzone, Haynes, Healey, Heller, Holmes, Howard, Hucker, Ivey, Kelly, Kramer, Krysiak, Kullen, Lafferty, Lawton, Lee, Levi, Love, Manno, Mathias, McComas, McConkey, McIntosh, Miller, Mizeur, Montgomery, Nathan-Pulliam, Niemann, O'Donnell, Pena-Melnyk, Ramirez, Rice, Rosenberg, Ross, Schuler, Shank, Shewell, Simmons, Smigiel, Stifler, Stukes, Tarrant, Taylor, F. Turner, Vallario, Vaughn, Waldstreicher, and Walker**

Introduced and read first time: March 5, 2007

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Filipino World War II Veterans**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the U.S. Congress to pass the Filipino Veterans Equity Act
4 of 2007; and acknowledging the important role played by Filipino veterans in
5 World War II.

6 WHEREAS, It has been 60 years since at least 142,000 Filipino veterans fought
7 in World War II when President Franklin Roosevelt called them into active service
8 under the United States flag; and

9 WHEREAS, The Philippines is strategically located and thus was vital to the
10 defense of the United States during World War II; and

11 WHEREAS, The military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines were
12 called into the United States armed forces during World War II by Executive Order
13 and were put under the command of General MacArthur by General Marshall; and

14 WHEREAS, Filipino World War II veterans were ipso facto American nationals
15 when they were called into the United States armed forces; and



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1 WHEREAS, The participation of the military forces of the Commonwealth of the
2 Philippines in the battles of Bataan and Corregidor and in other smaller skirmishes
3 delayed and disrupted the initial Japanese effort to conquer the Western Pacific; and

4 WHEREAS, That delay and disruption allowed the United States the vital time
5 to prepare the forces which were needed to drive the Japanese from the Western
6 Pacific and to defeat Japan; and

7 WHEREAS, After the recovery of the Philippine Islands from Japan, the
8 United States was able to use the strategically located Commonwealth of the
9 Philippines as a base from which to launch the final efforts to defeat Japan; and

10 WHEREAS, President Truman in 1946 promised veterans benefits to Filipino
11 veterans; however, the 79th Congress passed the Recision Act, which drastically
12 limited veterans benefits for Filipino American veterans but which did not limit
13 benefits for any other allied national who served under the American flag; and

14 WHEREAS, Based on their military service, Filipino veterans were given the
15 right to become United States citizens under 1942 and 1960 immigration laws; and

16 WHEREAS, Many of the surviving Filipino veterans of the United States armed
17 forces are disabled and live in poverty; and

18 WHEREAS, Every American should know about the important contribution
19 that the military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines made to the outcome
20 of World War II; and

21 WHEREAS, The Filipino World War II veterans deserve recognition and honor
22 for their important contribution to the outcome of World War II; and

23 WHEREAS, In the words of a Washington Post editorial printed on December
24 13, 1997, "it's demeaning to Americans as well as Filipinos for the United States to
25 continue denying benefits that were pledged at the highest level then abundantly
26 earned on the battlefield, then denied, then withheld through decades of Filipino
27 entreaty"; now, therefore, be it

28 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,** That the
29 General Assembly acknowledges and appreciates the important role played by Filipino
30 veterans in World War II; and be it further

31 **RESOLVED,** That the General Assembly urges the United States Congress to
32 pass the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007 without delay; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urges President Bush to take a more
2 active role in calling for the passage of the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007; and
3 be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
5 Legislative Services to President George W. Bush, the White House, Washington, D.C.
6 20500 and to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Barbara A. Mikulski
7 and Benjamin L. Cardin, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and
8 Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, III, John P.
9 Sarbanes, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Jr., Elijah E.
10 Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington, D.C.
11 20515.