

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 9

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1998 Regular Session
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By: **Delegate Valderrama**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1998

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Philippines Centennial**

3 FOR the purpose of recognizing and honoring the centennial of the special
4 relationship between the United States and the Republic of the Philippines.

5 WHEREAS, 1998 is the centennial of the birth of the relationship between the
6 United States and the Philippines; and

7 WHEREAS, The Philippine Islands were discovered in 1521 by Ferdinand
8 Magellan, a Portuguese explorer, and named after Prince Philip of Spain; and

9 WHEREAS, The Filipino spirit of independence was revealed by Magellan's
10 slaying by Lapu Lapu, a native chief; and

11 WHEREAS, The Philippines remained Spanish colonies until the conclusion of
12 the Spanish-American War, which, by the Treaty of Paris in 1898, gave control of the
13 Philippines to the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, American colonization, though turbulent at times, greatly aided the
15 educational and economic development of the Philippines and planted the seeds for a
16 long-lasting close relationship between the peoples and governments of the
17 Philippines and the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, English is the official language of the Philippines and the
19 government of the Philippines is democratic with a structure that separates powers in
20 a manner similar to the government of the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, During World War II, the Japanese invaded the Philippines but
22 were defeated by American and Filipino soldiers fighting side by side under General
23 Douglas MacArthur; and

24 WHEREAS, The colonial era ended on July 4, 1946, when Manuel Roxas became
25 the first president of an independent Republic of the Philippines; and

26 WHEREAS, Filipinos immigrated to the United States in large numbers, first
27 arriving in Louisiana in 1765 and Hawaii in the 1850's as laborers on sugar
28 plantations; and

1 WHEREAS, By the late 1920's, Filipinos were the largest ethnic group on the
2 west coast and today Filipinos account for more than 20% of Asian Americans and
3 immigration to the United States remains high; and

4 WHEREAS, Filipino communities in the United States are vibrant and diverse
5 with a greater than 75% labor participation rate, the highest among all Asian
6 Americans, including many Filipino immigrants who are highly skilled professionals
7 including lawyers, doctors, and nurses; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 36% of Filipino Americans hold bachelor's degrees or
9 higher and Filipino communities value education, family, and hard work therefore
10 Filipino immigration adds a unique and valuable dimension to American
11 multiculturalism; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
13 General Assembly recognizes, honors, and celebrates the centennial of the special
14 relationship between the United States and the Republic of the Philippines; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly acknowledges and hallows the historic
17 ties between the peoples of the United States and the Philippines; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
19 Legislative Services to the Honorable Fidel Valdez Ramos, President of the Republic
20 of the Philippines, and to Raul Ch. Rabe, Ambassador, c/o Embassy of the Philippines,
21 1600 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
23 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;
24 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
25 the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.