

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 9  
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1998 Regular Session  
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By: **The Speaker and Delegate Valderrama**  
Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1998  
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 23, 1998  
Returned to second reading: March 25, 1998  
House action: Adopted with floor amendments  
Read second time: March 26, 1998

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RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
21 General Assembly recognizes, honors, and celebrates the centennial of the special  
22 relationship between the United States and the Republic of the Philippines; and be it  
23 further

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

26 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
27 Legislative Services to the Honorable Fidel Valdez Ramos, President of the Republic  
28 of the Philippines, and to Raul Ch. Rabe, Ambassador, c/o Embassy of the Philippines,  
29 1600 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; and be it further

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

