

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 25

Introduced by Assembly Member Furutani
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Block, Eng, Fletcher, Fong,
Hernandez, Hill, Ma, Salas, Torrico, Tran, and Yamada)
(Coauthors: Senators Cedillo, Ducheny, Liu, and Yee)

August 27, 2009

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 25—Relative to Filipino World War II veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 25, as introduced, Furutani. Filipino veterans: family reunification.

This measure would have the Legislature join the Congress of the United States in further acknowledging the service of Filipino World War II veterans in the Armed Forces of the United States by recognizing that these veterans should be reunited with their children during their golden years, and would request that the President and the Congress of the United States pass S. 1337 and H.R. 2412, which would exempt children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical limitations on immigrant visas, thus allowing for family reunification.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Filipinos honorably served in the Armed Forces
- 2 of the United States and aided the United States during World War
- 3 II; and
- 4 WHEREAS, On April 9, 1942, after surrendering in the Battle
- 5 of Bataan, 75,000 Filipino and United States prisoners of war force
- 6 marched a treacherous 60 miles in the Bataan Death March; and

1 WHEREAS, Some soldiers did not surrender and created
2 anti-Japanese guerilla units that were comprised of United States
3 and Filipino officers who continued to fight underground to help
4 the United States in their war victory; and

5 WHEREAS, Congress passed legislation that discriminated
6 against Filipino World War II veterans by denying them veterans
7 benefits. Filipino World War II veterans are the only group of
8 veterans negatively impacted by this legislation; and

9 WHEREAS, The Supplemental Surplus Appropriations
10 Rescission Act of 1946 denied the service of Filipino veterans in
11 the Armed Forces of the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of
13 2009 authorized payments to Filipino World War II veterans,
14 thereby finally recognizing their service in the Armed Forces of
15 the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, The Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1990
17 offered Filipino World War II veterans who had not been
18 naturalized pursuant to the Nationality Act of 1940 the opportunity
19 to obtain United States citizenship, however, those veterans were
20 still not eligible for most of the benefits provided by the United
21 States Department of Veterans Affairs; and

22 WHEREAS, Many Filipino World War II veterans filed for visa
23 petitions for their children 12 or more years ago, however, our
24 current immigration structure limits the chance for these families
25 to reunite; and

26 WHEREAS, Many Filipino World War II veterans are now in
27 their 80s and 90s and they continue to wait for their children, who
28 languish on the visa waiting list, to join them; now, therefore, be
29 it

30 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
31 *California, jointly,* That veterans of the United States Armed Forces
32 should not be separated from their children; and be it further

33 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California joins
34 the Congress of the United States in further acknowledging the
35 service of Filipino World War II veterans in the Armed Forces of
36 the United States by recognizing that these veterans should be
37 reunited with their children during their golden years; and be it
38 further

39 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California
40 respectfully requests the President and the Congress of the United

1 States to pass S. 1337 authored by Senator Akaka and H.R. 2412
2 authored by Congresswoman Hirono, which would exempt the
3 children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the
4 numerical limitations on immigrant visas, thus allowing for family
5 reunification; and be it further
6 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
7 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
8 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority
9 Leader of the Senate, and each Senator and Representative from
10 California in the Congress of the United States.

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