

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 23, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

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: *Assembly Members Block, Brownley, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Hagman, Hernandez, Hill, Jones, Knight, Lieu, Ma, Monning, 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 amended, 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

1 WHEREAS, On April 9, 1942, after surrendering in the Battle
2 of Bataan, 75,000 Filipino and United States prisoners of war force
3 marched a treacherous 60 miles in the Bataan Death March; and

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

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

12 WHEREAS, The Supplemental Surplus Appropriations
13 Rescission Act of 1946 denied the service of Filipino veterans in
14 the Armed Forces of the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of
16 2009 authorized payments to Filipino World War II veterans,
17 thereby finally recognizing their service in the Armed Forces of
18 the United States; and

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

25 WHEREAS, Many Filipino World War II veterans filed for visa
26 petitions for their children ~~12 or more years ago~~ *shortly after*
27 *passage of the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1990,*
28 however, our current immigration structure limits the chance for
29 these families to reunite; and

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

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

37 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California joins
38 the Congress of the United States in further acknowledging the
39 service of Filipino World War II veterans in the Armed Forces of
40 the United States by recognizing that these veterans should be

1 reunited with their children during their golden years; and be it
2 further

3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California
4 respectfully requests the President and the Congress of the United
5 States to pass S. 1337 authored by Senator Akaka and H.R. 2412
6 authored by Congresswoman Hirono, which would exempt the
7 children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the
8 numerical limitations on immigrant visas, thus allowing for family
9 reunification; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
11 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
12 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority
13 Leader of the Senate, and each Senator and Representative from
14 California in the Congress of the United States.

O