



HR0843

LRB098 20342 MST 55843 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Filipino Americans have served in the United
3 States Armed Forces with distinction and honor in all wars and
4 military engagements since World War II and, as such, are
5 deserving of full veterans' benefits; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1946, Congress passed the Rescission Act which
7 stripped Filipino veterans of full benefits, granting them only
8 half instead, despite their U.S. citizenship and legal
9 permanent residency; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2001, Congress passed a law granting full
11 veteran benefits to U.S. citizen or U.S. legal permanent
12 resident Filipino veterans who served in World War II, provided
13 they resided in the U.S; and

14 WHEREAS, Filipino veterans who served during World War II
15 included units of the Philippine Commonwealth Army under U.S.
16 command, the New Philippine Scouts, and recognized guerrilla
17 forces; and

18 WHEREAS, The 2001 Congressional authorization did not
19 stipulate a specific residency requirement, yet the U.S.
20 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) instituted one which
21 resulted in a determination to cut benefits by half if it was

1 not met; and

2 WHEREAS, Filipino veterans are the only group of veterans
3 subject to the VA residency requirements despite their valiant
4 service to our country, receiving only half of their
5 well-earned benefits if they reside outside the U.S. for more
6 than 60 consecutive days or more than 183 days in a calendar
7 year; and

8 WHEREAS, The benefits which are affected include
9 service-connected disability care, dependency and indemnity
10 compensation, education benefits for their children, survivor
11 benefits, and burial allowance; and

12 WHEREAS, Filipino veterans must submit documentation of
13 any travel outside the country, including copies of their
14 passport visas and reentry permits with entrance and exit date
15 stamps, to have their benefits reinstated to which they are
16 entitled yet often their case determination is pending in a
17 backlog of cases in the Manila Office of the VA; and

18 WHEREAS, U.S. citizen and legal permanent resident
19 veterans should not be held to a stricter residency standard in
20 order to receive their benefits when non-veteran legal
21 permanent residents are able to travel outside of the country
22 for a year before it negatively affects their immigration

1 status; and

2 WHEREAS, The Benefits Fairness for Filipino Veterans Act,
3 introduced by U.S. Senator Dick Durbin as S.1559 and by U.S.
4 Representatives Luis Gutierrez, Tammy Duckworth, William
5 Enyart and Cheri Bustos as H.R.3207, would do away with the
6 restrictive VA residency requirements and instead institute a
7 residency requirement aligned with that for permanent legal
8 residents of one year, affording them equal treatment with the
9 rest of the U.S. population; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
11 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we encourage the Illinois Congressional Delegation, as well as
13 all members of the United States Congress, to support H.R.3207
14 and S.1559 to afford Filipino veterans equal treatment and full
15 veterans' benefits in honor for their service and sacrifice;
16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
18 presented to all members of the Illinois Congressional
19 Delegation.