Resolution urging President Bush and the United States Congress to amend the 1946 Rescission Act to provide equity for Filipino veterans of World War II.

WHEREAS, The Philippine Islands was a territory of the United States until July 4, 1946 and the United States had control over Philippine nationals and the country's internal affairs; and

WHEREAS, The Philippines Commonwealth had no function in matters of foreign affairs and could not declare war or surrender its forces; and,

WHEREAS, On July 26, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued a Military Order and invoked his powers under section 2(a)(12) of the Philippine Independence Act (P.L. No. 77-127 Section 10(a)) to "call and order into the service of the Armed Forces of the United States ... all of the organized military forces of the government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines"; and

WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers fought during World War II under the American flag and under the direction and control of United States military leaders pursuant to President Roosevelt's July 1941 Military Order; and

WHEREAS, Shortly after the war in 1946, the U.S. Congress passed the Rescission Act which specifically mandates that services rendered by Filipino World War II veterans "shall not be deemed to have been active military, naval or air service for the purposes of any law of the United States conferring rights, privileges or benefits..."; and

WHEREAS, The legislative rider appended to the 1946 Rescission Act denies U.S. military status and benefits to those veterans who fought under the command of officers of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Philippines; and
WHEREAS, The significant and adverse impact of the 1946 Rescission Act is its unjust
discrimination against Filipino soldiers of World War II by denying them eligibility for equal
benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Filipinos are the only national group singled out for denial of full U.S.
veterans status while the soldiers of more than 66 other U.S. allied countries, who were
similarly inducted into the service of the Armed Forces of the United States during World War
II, were granted full U.S. veterans status; and

WHEREAS, The United States Government has yet to fully restore the rights,
privileges and benefits guaranteed, then taken away from Filipino veterans of World War II;
and

WHEREAS, The gallantry, loyalty and sacrifices of Filipino veterans of World War II,
who fought for freedom and democracy in the Armed Forces of the United States, deserves
recognition and their honor and dignity deserves restoration; and

WHEREAS, There is no pending legislation in the U.S. Congress that will restore full
U.S. veterans' status to Filipino World War II veteran; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the correction of
the grievous act of institutional injustice and discrimination leveled against Filipino World War
II veterans by amending the 1946 Rescission Act; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the
ongoing campaign of the last twelve years for full equity and justice for Filipino World War II
veterans in a coordinated effort among Filipino American veterans, community leaders and all
who believe in the justness of this cause, by advocating and working for equity through a
comprehensive legislative, judicial and public education campaign; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to his Honor, the
Mayor, with a request that he transmit copies to President Bush and members of the United
States Congress representing San Francisco, with a request that they act swiftly to correct this injustice.
Resolution urging President Bush and the United States Congress to amend the 1946 Rescission Act to provide equity for Filipino veterans of World War II.

February 5, 2001 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Leno, Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval, Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on February 5, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.