Resolution commending the significant efforts of the San Francisco Veterans Equity Center (SFVEC), for providing social, educational, legal, recreational and other services to over 800 Filipino veterans and urging the Mayor to allocate $250,000 as an annual budget line item beginning with the Fiscal Year 2001-02 to support the continued operations of the Filipino Veterans Equity Center.

WHEREAS, On July 26, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt drafted 140,000 Filipino soldiers into military services who fought side by side with their American comrades in the battles of Bataan and Corregidor, endured the Bataan "Death March" and many of them later became guerrillas who harassed the Japanese invaders and helped pave the way to freedom and democracy during World War II; and,

WHEREAS, Despite the courage and sacrifices of the Filipino soldiers, the U.S. Congress passed the 1946 Rescission Act that singled out and excluded Filipino World War II veterans from receiving full U.S. veterans benefits; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, the U.S. Congress finally passed legislation that allowed surviving Filipino World War II Veterans who could prove their military service to become U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS, about 30,000 Filipino Veterans have become U.S. citizens and about 3,000 of them have since settled in the Bay Area and are current San Francisco residents, particularly in the Tenderloin, South of Market and Mission districts; and

SUPERVISOR GAVIN NEWSOM, SANDOVAL, DALY, PESKIN
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, The Filipino Veterans are in their late 70s and 80s, many of them are in
deteriorating health with little or no family support, and are often dependent on SSI and
volunteer assistance; and

WHEREAS, The courage, service and sacrifices of Filipino Veterans of W.W.II who
fought for freedom and democracy has never been recognized in the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, In May 1999, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution
supporting the creation of the San Francisco Veterans Equity Centers to address the special
needs of these Filipino veterans and to provide culturally sensitive and linguistically
appropriate services to Filipino World War II Veterans and allocated funds for its support; and

WHEREAS, The SFVEC has since received commendation for its effective delivery of
services by the State of California Community Services and Development Department and
had approved a grant of $50,000 to augment services that are needed by the Filipino
Veterans; and

WHEREAS, The funding granted by the City and County of San Francisco in 1999 had
been totally depleted and that the SFVEC runs the risk of closing its operation if no additional
support is granted by the City and County of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The SFVEC has been known nationally as the only direct service agency
specifically addressing the needs of the Filipino Veterans and that with the creation of the
SFVEC in San Francisco contributed to the restoration of the honor and dignity of these war
veterans by addressing their immediate needs; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance and
significance of maintaining the SFVEC, a community-based center that will continue to
provide culturally competent and linguistically appropriate services to the Filipino Veterans
and their families; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
support and endorses the continuing operations of the San Francisco Veterans Equity
Center, which will continue to coordinate community efforts to provide case management,
health education/assessment, legal, recreational, social, vocational and other services to the
Filipino World War II veterans and their families; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
Francisco urges the Mayor to allocate $250,000 as an annual budget line item beginning with
the Fiscal Year 2001-02 to support the continued operations of the San Francisco Filipino
Veterans Equity Center.
Resolution commending the significant efforts of the San Francisco Veterans Equity Center (SFVEC), for providing social, educational, legal, recreational and other services to over 800 Filipino veterans and urging the Mayor to allocate $250,000 an annual budget line item beginning with the Fiscal Year 2001-02 to support the continued operations of the Filipino Veterans Equity Center.

April 23, 2001 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 6 - Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Peskin
Absent: 5 - Ammiano, Leno, Newsom, Sandoval, Yee