[Urging the United States Congress to pass and President George W. Bush to sign into law the Filipino Veterans Bills H.R. 677 and S. 88.]

Resolution urging United States Congress to pass and President George W. Bush to sign into law the Filipino Veterans Bills H.R. 677 and S. 88.

WHEREAS, President Franklin D. Roosevelt on July 26, 1941, called into military service 140,000 Filipino World War II soldiers as loyal U.S. nationals under the command of American officers to defend the U.S. territory of the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, American-Filipino forces under the command of General Douglas MacArthur fought valiantly against overwhelming Japanese troops, delaying the invaders' timetable by three months, thus allowing the U.S. to regain her military strength after the Pearl Harbor attack; and,

WHEREAS, American-Filipino forces surrendered after the Battles of Bataan and Corregidor on April 9 and May 6, 1942, respectively, and suffered a horrible number of casualties in the Bataan Death March and the POW camps; and,

WHEREAS, On February 18, 1946, the U.S. Congress passed the "Recission Act" that withdrew the U.S. veterans' status of Filipino WWII soldiers and their eligibility for veterans benefits as promised by President Harry Truman; and,

WHEREAS, In 1990, the U.S. Congress passed, and President George H.W. Bush enacted legislation that allowed Filipino WWII veterans with honorable U.S. military service to become naturalized U.S. citizens and in later years enacted legislation partially restoring their benefits; and,

WHEREAS, The majority of Filipino WWII veterans who reside in the U.S. live in poverty, receive public assistance such as SSI and Medicaid, die at a 57 percent higher rate.
than their American comrades, and need desperately the VA pension to raise their incomes
above the poverty level; and,

WHEREAS, The majority of the 8,000 Filipino veterans residing in the U.S. and the
20,000 in the Philippines are denied VA disability pensions that are available to their U.S.
comrades who fought with them in WW II, as noted by the American Legion, which has 2.7
million members and supports both bills; and,

WHEREAS, Rep. Randy Cunningham (R-CA) introduced the “Filipino Veterans Equity
Act,” H.R. 677, which now has 677 co-sponsors, and Senator Daniel Inouye
(D-HI) introduced the “Filipino Veterans Benefits Improvement Act,” S. 58, with 22 co-
sponsors, including Senator John F. Kerry, that recognizes the U.S. military service of Filipino
veterans and provides them with disability pensions; and,

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush, on December 6, 2003, signed into law the “VA
Health Care” bill, H.R. 2357 (P.L. 108-170) that provided partial official recognition and VA
medical care to U.S.-based Filipino veterans, but offered no VA pensions; and,

WHEREAS, The leaders of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans (ACFV), a
national non-partisan and no-profit organization of 4,000 members of affiliated groups, have
campaigned since 1996 to win equitable benefits for their quickly diminishing number of living
heroes who deserve honor and dignity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the United States
Congress to pass and President George W. Bush to sign into law the Filipino Veterans Bills
H.R. 677 and S. 88.

**Supervisor Sandoval**
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
File Number: 041482  Date Passed:

Resolution urging United States Congress to pass and President George W. Bush to sign into law the Filipino Veterans Bills H.R. 677 and S. 88.

October 26, 2004  Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Gonzalez, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Peskin, Sandoval

File No. 041482

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on October 26, 2004 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

Mayor Gavin Newsom