

2024 -- H 7074

LC003829

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF THE 118TH CONGRESS H.R.6121 -- THE
FILIPINO VETERANS FAIRNESS ACT OF 2023

Introduced By: Representatives Fenton-Fung, Kennedy, Azzinaro, J. Lombardi, Hull,
and Chippendale

Date Introduced: January 05, 2024

Referred To: House Veterans` Affairs

1 WHEREAS, Congressional House Resolution 6121 will amend title 38, United States
2 Code, to improve the benefits furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain
3 individuals who served in the forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States military recruited tens of thousands of Filipino
5 servicemen to fight with it in World War II. It is estimated that over 250,000 Filipino troops
6 bravely fought under United States command, and saved countless lives during their service; and

7 WHEREAS, These soldiers, who were promised full access to veterans' benefits and
8 citizenship, never saw benefits. After the war ended, the government's pledge was rescinded by
9 Congress's passage of the Rescission Act in 1946, and has only partially been fulfilled in recent
10 decades; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1990, President George H.W. Bush enacted a law granting citizenship to
12 Filipino nationals who fought in the war. In 2009, President Barack Obama signed a law granting
13 a lump sum of \$15,000 to surviving Filipino veterans who are American citizens and \$9,000 to
14 noncitizens, however, claiming these benefits has been nearly impossible and many have been
15 denied access to them due to the lack of proper documentation; and

16 WHEREAS, H.R.6121 will restore those benefits to Filipino veterans by allowing the use
17 of alternative military documentation to determine eligibility which is necessary due in part to the
18 destruction of official service records in a 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center;
19 and

1 WHEREAS, H.R.6121 will also allow a need-based death pension to be offered to
2 survivors of Filipino WWII veterans, in order to recognize their honorable and outstanding
3 service to the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, Passage of H.R.6121 will fulfill a long overdue promise for full access to
5 veterans' benefits to the remaining veterans and the families of the hundreds of thousands of
6 Filipino servicemen who fought alongside American troops under U.S. command in World War
7 II; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island strongly
9 supports and urges Congressional passage of H.R. 6121 in support of Filipinos who bravely and
10 honorably fought for the United States in WWII; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the
13 United States, and the Rhode Island Congressional delegation.

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