



Legislative Committee Meeting

Committee
Supervisor Erin Hannigan (Chair)
Supervisor John M. Vasquez

Staff
Michelle Heppner

June 18, 2018

1:30 p.m.

**Solano County Administration Center
Sixth Floor Conference Center, Room 6003
675 Texas Street
Fairfield, CA 94533**

AGENDA

- i. **Introductions** (Attendees)
- ii. **Public Comment** (Items not on the agenda)
- iii. **Federal Legislative update** (Paragon Government Relations)
 - Status Report – Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations
 - Cannabis Legislation
 - Immigration Reform
 - Family Separation at Border
 - Farm Bill Reauthorization
- iv. **Update from Solano County Legislative Delegation** (Representative and/or staff)
- v. **State Legislative and State Budget Update** (Karen Lange)

Action Items

 - Request for support for naming a state highway, rest area, and interchange in remembrance of referenced veterans
- vi. **Future Scheduled Meetings:** July 6, 2018
- vii. **Adjourn**

Vallejo Veterans Memorial Building Council
420 Admiral Callaghan Lane, Vallejo, CA 94591

April 5, 2018

Senator Bill Dodd
State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Tim Grayson
State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0014

Dear Senator Dodd and Assemblymember Grayson:

On behalf of the eight Veterans Service Organizations of the Vallejo Veterans Memorial Building Council, www.VallejoVetsBuilding.org, we are writing to provide our support for:

1. Senate Concurrent Resolution XXX designating the Interstate-780 and Interstate 80 highway interchange as "Filipino World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Memorial Interchange." The United States remains forever indebted to the bravery, valor, and dedication that the Filipino Veterans of World War II displayed, and their commitment and sacrifice demonstrates a highly uncommon and commendable sense of patriotism and honor.
2. Assembly Concurrent Resolution XXX renaming the Interstate 80 rest area to "Purple Heart Trail Safety Roadside Rest Area." The Purple Heart Medal was the first United States Armed Forces service medal and it is now specifically awarded to Servicemembers and Veterans who have been wounded-in-action or paid the ultimate sacrifice in combat for our great Nation.
3. Assembly Concurrent Resolution XXX designating Interstate 780 as "Women's Purple Heart Trail." Throughout our great American history, women have served with valor in combat zones and nearly 1,000 have been awarded the Purple Heart - the exclusive medal for our wounded or killed-in-action - for their personal courage from World War II to Operation Enduring Freedom.

It is with great honor that we support the above Senate Concurrent Resolution and Assembly Concurrent Resolutions which will honor and memorialize our Servicemembers and Veterans for serving our great United States of America with honor, dedication, and distinction.

Sincerely and Very Respectfully,

American Legion Post 104

American Legion Post 550

American Legion Post 603

Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 21

Filipino-American Retired U.S. Armed Forces Association

Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 8

United States Submarine Veterans, Mare Island Base

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1123

Robert S. Matheson
Robert S. Matheson
Robert S. Matheson
William G. Alexander
William G. Alexander
Gary C. Black
William C. Black
William C. Black

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. xxx

CHAPTER xxx

Relative to the Filipino World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Memorial Interchange.

[Filed with Secretary of State Month Day, Year.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR xxx, Dodd. Filipino World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Memorial Interchange.

This measure would designate the interchange of Interstate Routes 80 and 780 in the County of Solano as the Filipino World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Memorial Interchange. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

DIGEST KEY

Fiscal Committee: yes

BILL TEXT

WHEREAS, On July 26, 1941, as tensions with Japan rose in the Pacific, President Franklin D. Roosevelt used his authority vested in the Constitution of the United States and the Philippine Independence Act to “call into service of the United States all of the organized military forces of the Government of the Philippines;” and

WHEREAS, On December 8th, 1941, not even 24 hours after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Japanese Imperial forces attacked bases of the United States Army in the Philippines, and in the spring of 1942, the Japanese 14th Army overran the Bataan Peninsula, and, after a heroic but futile defense, more than 78,000 members of the United States Armed Forces were captured, specifically 66,000 Filipinos and 12,000 service members from the United States, and the Japanese transferred the captured soldiers from Bataan to Camp O’Donnell, in what is now known as the infamous Bataan Death March, and forced to march the 70-mile distance in one week, without adequate food, water, or medicine, nearly 700 members of the United States Armed Forces and an estimated 6,000 to 10,000 Filipinos perished during the journey; and

WHEREAS, Japanese intelligence reports reveal that from the time the Japanese invaded until the return of the United States Armed Forces in the summer of 1944, an estimated 300,000 Filipinos continued to

fight against Japanese forces, and Filipino resistance against the Japanese was so strong that, in 1942, the Imperial Army formed the Morista Butai, a unit designated to suppress guerrillas; and

WHEREAS, Because Philippine guerrillas worked to restore communication with United States forces in the Pacific, General MacArthur was able to use the guerrillas in advance of a conventional operation and provided the headquarters of General MacArthur with valuable information, and guerrillas captured and transmitted to the headquarters of General MacArthur the Japanese naval plans for the Central Pacific, including defense plans for the Mariana Islands, and intelligence derived from guerrillas relating to aircraft, ship, and troop movements allowed for Allied forces to attack Japanese supply lines and guerrillas and even directed United States submarines where to land agents and cargo on the Philippine coast; and

WHEREAS, On December 20, 1941, President Roosevelt signed the Selective Training and Service Amendments Act (Public Law 77-360; 55 Stat. 844) which, among other things, allowed Filipinos in the United States to enlist in the United States Armed Forces, and in February 1942, President Roosevelt issued the Second War Powers Act (Public Law 77-507; 56 Stat. 176), promising a simplified naturalization process for Filipinos who served in the United States Armed Forces, and subsequently, 16,000 Filipinos in California alone decided to enlist; and

WHEREAS, The mobilization of forces included the activation and assumption of command of the First Filipino Infantry Battalion on April 1, 1942, at Camp San Luis Obispo, California, and orders were issued to activate the First Filipino Infantry Regiment and Band at Salinas, California, effective July 13, 1942, and the activation of the Second Filipino Infantry Regiment occurred at Fort Ord, California, on November 21, 1942, and nearly 9,000 Filipinos and Filipino Americans fought in the United States Army 1st and 2nd Filipino Infantry Regiments; and

WHEREAS, Soldiers of the 1st and 2nd Infantry Regiments participated in the bloody combat and mop-up operations at New Guinea, Leyte, Samar, Luzon, and the Southern Philippines, and in 1943, 800 men were selected from the 1st and 2nd Regiments and shipped to Australia to receive training in intelligence gathering, sabotage, and demolition, and reorganized as part of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, this group was sent to the Philippines to coordinate with major guerrilla armies in the Islands, and members of the 1st Regiment were also attached to the United States 6th Army "Alamo Scouts," a reconnaissance group that traveled 30 miles behind enemy lines to free Allied prisoners from the Cabanatuan death camp on January 30, and in 1945, according to the 441st Counter Intelligence Unit of the United States Armed Forces, Philippine guerrillas provided "very important information and sketches of enemy positions and installations" for the liberation of the Santo Tomas prisoner of war camp, an event that made front page news across the United States; and

WHEREAS, In March 1944, members of the 2nd Filipino Infantry Regiment were selected for special assignments, including intelligence missions, and reorganized as the 2nd Filipino Infantry Battalion (Separate), and the 2nd Filipino Infantry Battalion (Separate) contributed to mop-up operations as a civil affairs unit, and Filipinos participated in the war out of national pride, as well as out of a commitment to the Allied forces struggle against fascism, and 57,000 Filipinos in uniform died in the war effort, and estimates of civilian deaths range from 700,000 to upwards of 1,000,000, or between 4.38 to 6.25 percent of the prewar population of 16,000,000; and

WHEREAS, Because Filipinos who served in the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines were originally considered a part of the Allied struggle, the military order issued by President Roosevelt on July 26, 1941, stated that Filipinos who served in the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines were entitled to full veterans benefits, and the guarantee to pay back the service of Filipinos through veterans benefits was reversed by the Rescission Acts of 1946 (Public Laws 79-301 and 79-391; 60 Stat. 6 and 60

Stat. 221), which deemed that the wartime service of the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines and the new Philippine Scouts was not considered active and, therefore, did not qualify for benefits; and

WHEREAS, The loyal and valiant Filipino Veterans of World War II fought, suffered, and, in many instances, died in the same manner and under the same commander as other members of the United States Armed Forces during World War II; and

WHEREAS, The Filipino Veterans of World War II fought alongside, and as an integral part of, the United States Armed Forces, and the Philippines remained a territory of the United States for the duration of the war and, accordingly, the United States maintained sovereignty over Philippine foreign relations, including Philippine laws enacted by the Philippine Government, and Filipinos who fought in the Philippines were not only defending or fighting for the Philippines, but also defending, and ultimately liberating, sovereign territory held by the United States Government; and

WHEREAS, The United States remains forever indebted to the bravery, valor, and dedication that the Filipino Veterans of World War II displayed, and their commitment and sacrifice demonstrates a highly uncommon and commendable sense of patriotism and honor; and

WHEREAS, The Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–265; 130 Stat. 1376) was enacted on December 14, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor the United States can bestow.

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates the interchange of Interstate Routes 80 and 780 in the County of Solano as the Filipino World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Memorial Interchange; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the costs of erecting the appropriate signs, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering the cost, to erect those signs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author for appropriate distribution.