

***I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2007 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Resolution No. 24 (LS)**

As amended by the author.

Introduced by:

James V. Espaldon

A. R. Unpingco

J. T. Won Pat

Frank F. Blas, Jr.

Edward J.B. Calvo

Mark Forbes

Judith Paulette Guthertz

Frank T. Ishizaki

J. A. Lujan

Tina Rose Muña Barnes

A. B. Palacios, Sr.

v. c. pangelinan

R. J. Respicio

David L.G. Shimizu

Ray Tenorio

**Relative to recognizing the heroic efforts of Filipino-American Veterans of World War II, to supporting passage of the "Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007", and to petitioning the 110<sup>th</sup> United States Congress to pass said Act together with a companion measure introduced as Senate Bill No. 57.**

1           **BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN**  
2 **GUÅHAN:**

3           **WHEREAS**, the “Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007” was introduced  
4 in the 110th Congress as Senate Bill No. 57 on January 4, 2007, and House  
5 Resolution No. 760 was introduced on January 31, 2007; and

6           **WHEREAS**, HR No. 760, along with its companion Bill, S. 57, seeks “To  
7 amend Title 38, United States Code, to deem certain service in the organized  
8 military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines  
9 and the Philippine Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits  
10 under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs”; and

11           **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the  
12 Philippine Government estimated, in January of 2007, that there were five  
13 thousand (5,000) Filipino World War II veterans living throughout the United  
14 States and on Guam, and approximately fifteen thousand (15,000) living in  
15 their homeland of the Philippines; and

16           **WHEREAS**, these veterans, though soldiers of the Philippine  
17 Commonwealth Army before the outbreak of WWII, were American  
18 Nationals and were drafted, as directed by President Franklin Roosevelt, into  
19 the United States Military service effective July 26, 1941; and

20           **WHEREAS**, before the Rescission Act (Public Law 79-301, now U.S.  
21 Code Title 38, Sec. 107) was enacted on February 18, 1946, Filipino veterans  
22 were considered U.S. veterans by the U.S. Veterans Administration because  
23 they were nationals of the United States who fought shoulder to shoulder  
24 with American soldiers under the U.S. flag under the direction of U.S. military

1 leaders through July 4, 1946, the date of the creation of the Republic of the  
2 Philippines; and

3       **WHEREAS**, despite signing the Rescission Act, President Harry S.  
4 Truman expressed displeasure with those provisions that limited the  
5 availability of veterans' benefits to soldiers of the Philippine Army who were  
6 drafted by the United States. Truman stated at the signing, "Enactment of  
7 (the) legislation (does) not release the United States from its moral obligation  
8 to provide for the heroic Philippine Army veterans who sacrificed so much for  
9 the common cause during the war"; and

10       **WHEREAS**, on May 18, 1946, President Truman transmitted to  
11 Congress a draft Bill that sought to restore veterans' benefits to the affected  
12 Filipino soldiers; the Bill was passed by the Senate but foundered in the  
13 closing days of the Seventy-ninth (79th) Congress; the President resubmitted  
14 the Bill on July 1, 1947, but to no avail; and

15       **WHEREAS**, sixty-one (61) years have passed since this recognized  
16 injustice stripped the affected Filipino soldiers of their rightfully earned  
17 benefits; and

18       **WHEREAS**, in 1990, as a result of their individual military service with  
19 the United States during WWII, some twenty-four thousand (24,000) Filipino-  
20 American Veterans were naturalized as U.S. citizens under Section 405 of the  
21 "Immigration & Nationality Act of 1990"; and

22       **WHEREAS**, in the year 2000, pursuant to U.S. Public Law 106-419,  
23 Filipino-American Veterans of WWII were made eligible for burial with full

1 military honors in national cemeteries as recognized veterans of the United  
2 States; and

3 **WHEREAS**, U.S. Public Law 108-170 authorizes Filipino-American  
4 Veterans to receive patient care in hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes  
5 administered by the U.S. Veterans Administration; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, originally introduced in  
7 1993 in the 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress by the Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Senator from  
8 Hawaii, in the Senate and the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Congresswoman from  
9 California in the House, has been reintroduced in every subsequent Congress;  
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, veterans affected by the Rescission Act, estimated at one  
12 hundred twenty thousand (120,000), were Filipino-American heroes of WWII,  
13 who endured atrocities such as the storied Bataan Death March while  
14 remaining loyal to the United States; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the survivors of these men of valor are today well into their  
16 eighties (80's) and the number of Filipino-American Veterans of WWII is  
17 declining as they fall to the march of time; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Members of Congress have clearly recognized the need to  
19 rectify this injustice through reintroduction of the Filipino Veterans Equity  
20 Act, beginning with the 103<sup>rd</sup> and each succeeding Congress; the inclusion of  
21 Section 405 of the "Immigration & Nationality Act of 1990"; the passage of  
22 P.L. 106-419; and the passing of P.L. 108-170, that affords Filipino-American  
23 Veterans care in VA hospitals; thus illustrating the obligation for Congress to

1 honor the unfulfilled promise by the United States of America to these loyal  
2 and honorable veterans; now, therefore, be it

3 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does  
4 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the heroism of Filipino-  
5 American Veterans of World War II; and be it further


6 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does  
7 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, express its wholehearted support for  
8 passage of the "Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007"; and be it further

9 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does  
10 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, petition the 110<sup>th</sup> United States  
11 Congress to pass House Resolution 760 and its companion measure, Senate  
12 Bill 57; and be it further

13 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the  
14 Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be  
15 thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Congressman Bob Filner, (D,  
16 California) Chairman, U.S. House of Representatives Veterans' Affairs  
17 Committee and Sponsor of HR 760; to the Honorable Senator Daniel Inouye,  
18 (D, Hawaii), Member, Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and Sponsor of S.B.  
19 57; to the Honorable Congressman Steve Buyer, (R, Indiana) Ranking  
20 Member, House Veterans' Affairs Committee; to the Honorable Senator  
21 Daniel K. Akaka, (D, Hawaii) Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans'  
22 Affairs; to the Honorable Senator Larry Craig; (R, Idaho) Ranking Member,  
23 Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee; to the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker  
24 of the United States House of Representatives; to the Honorable Robert C.

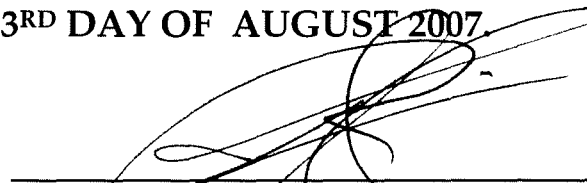
1 Byrd, President Pro Tempore, United States Senate; to the Honorable R. James  
2 Nicholson, U.S. Secretary of Veterans' Affairs; to the Honorable George W.  
3 Bush, President of the United States of America; to the Honorable Madeleine  
4 Z. Bordallo, Guam's Congressional Delegate, U. S. House of Representatives;  
5 and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2007.**



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**MARK FORBES**  
Speaker



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**RAY TENORIO**  
Senator and  
Secretary of the Legislature