



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

July 3, 2001

Motion 11232

Proposed No. 2001-0319.1

Sponsors Nickels, von Reichbauer, Phillips,
Fimia, Hague, Gossett, McKenna,
Pelz, Irons, Pullen and Thomas

1 A MOTION requesting President Bush and the Congress of
2 the United States take action necessary to amend the 1946
3 Rescission Act and honor our country's moral obligation to
4 restore Filipino veterans to full United States veteran status
5 with the military benefits that they deserve.

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WHEREAS, the Philippine Islands was a territory of the United States until July
4, 1946, and the United States had control over Philippine internal affairs and its
nationals. The Philippines Commonwealth had no function in matters of foreign affairs
and could not declare war nor surrender its forces, and

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WHEREAS, on July 26, 1941, United States President Roosevelt issued a
Military Order and invoked his powers under Section 2(a)(12) of the Philippine
Independence Act (P.L. No. 77-127 Section 10(a)) to "call and order into the service of
the Armed Forces of the United States . . . all of the organized military forces of the
government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines," and

17 WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers fought during World War II under the American
18 flag and under the direction and control of United States military leaders pursuant to
19 President Roosevelt's July 1941 Military Order, and

20 WHEREAS, shortly after the war in 1946, the United States Congress passed the
21 Rescission Act, which specifically mandates that services rendered by Filipino World
22 War II veterans “. . . shall not be deemed to have been active military, naval or air
23 service for the purposes of any law of the United States conferring rights, privileges or
24 benefits . . . ,” and

25 WHEREAS, the legislative rider appended to the 1946 Rescission Act denies
26 United States military status and benefits to those veterans who fought under the
27 command of officers of the United States Armed Forces in the Philippines, and

28 WHEREAS, the significant and adverse impact of the 1946 Rescission Act is its
29 unjust discrimination against Filipino soldiers of World War II by denying them
30 eligibility for equal benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and

31 WHEREAS, Filipinos are the only national group singled out for denial of full
32 United States veterans status while the soldiers of more than sixty-six other United
33 States-allied countries, who were similarly inducted into the service of the armed forces
34 of the United States during World War II, were granted full United States veterans status,
35 and

36 WHEREAS, the United States government has yet to fully restore the rights,
37 privileges, and benefits guaranteed, then taken away from Filipino soldiers of World War
38 II, and

39 WHEREAS, the gallantry, loyalty and sacrifices of Filipino veterans of World
40 War II, who fought for freedom and democracy in the Armed Forces of the United States,
41 deserve recognition and their honor and dignity restored, and

42 WHEREAS, there is now pending legislation in the United States Congress that
43 will restore full United States veterans status to Filipino World War II veterans;

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

45 That the King County council respectfully requests that the President and
46 Congress of the United States take action necessary to amend the 1946 Rescission Act

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47 and honor our country's moral obligation to restore these Filipino veterans full United
48 States veterans status with the military benefits that they deserve.
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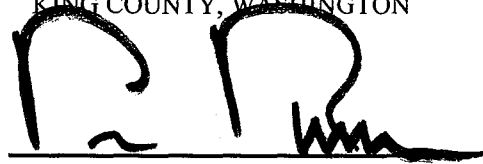
Motion 11232 was introduced on 6/18/01 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/2/01, by the following vote:

Yes: 12 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Fimia, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz, Mr. McKenna, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Nickels, Mr. Pullen, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Irons

No: 0

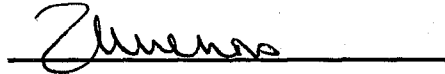
Excused: 1 - Ms. Miller

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Pete von Reichbauer, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None