

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 481

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty and the vitality of the overall bilateral relationship.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 5, 2012

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WEBB, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. INOUE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty and the vitality of the overall bilateral relationship.

Whereas Filipinos and Americans fought together in World War II, and an estimated 1,000,000 Filipinos gave their lives to defend freedom;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of the Philippines signed the United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty in 1951;

Whereas the Philippines and the United States are long-standing allies, as demonstrated by the Mutual Defense Treaty, cooperation in conflicts since World War II, and the United States designation of the Philippines as a Major Non-NATO Ally;

Whereas the Clark Veterans Cemetery in the Philippines is the final resting place for the remains of thousands of United States and Filipino veterans from the United States Army, United States Marines Corps, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Coast Guard, Philippine Scouts, and their dependents from seven wars since 1900;

Whereas the United States Government administered and cared for the Clark Veterans Cemetery from 1900 to 1991;

Whereas the United States Government seeks to maintain an alliance with the Government of the Philippines that promotes peace and stability in Southeast and East Asia, rule of law and human rights, economic growth, counter-terrorism efforts, and maritime security;

Whereas United States naval ships visit Philippines' ports, and the United States and Philippines' military forces participate in combined military exercises under the Visiting Forces Agreement established in 1998;

Whereas the people and Governments of the United States and the Philippines share a common interest in maintaining freedom of navigation, unimpeded lawful commerce, and transit of people across the seas and subscribe to a rules-based approach in resolving competing claims in maritime areas through peaceful, collaborative, multilateral, and diplomatic processes within the framework of international law;

Whereas the Philippines has served ably for the past three years as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) country coordinator for the United States;

Whereas the United States Government and the Government of the Philippines work closely together in the struggle against terrorism to make local communities safer and help establish an environment conducive to good governance and development;

Whereas the navy of the Government of the Philippines has received a United States Coast Guard cutter and assistance in establishing a coastal radar system to enhance its monitoring of its waters, with a second cutter due to be transferred soon;

Whereas the United States Government works closely with the Government of the Philippines on humanitarian and disaster relief activities, and in the past has provided prompt assistance to make United States troops, equipment, assets, and disaster relief assistance available;

Whereas the Mutual Defense Board and the Security Engagement Board serve as important platforms for the continuing stability of the long-standing alliance between the Philippines and the United States in a rapidly changing global and regional environment;

Whereas the Bilateral Security Dialogue is an important policy venue for setting the policy direction and providing guidance for all aspects of the alliance relationship;

Whereas Philippines military forces have supported over the years many United Nations peacekeeping operations worldwide;

Whereas the United States ranks as one of the Philippines' top trading partners, with 11 percent of the Philippines' imports coming from the United States and 15 percent of exports from the Philippines delivered to the United States in 2010;

Whereas total United States foreign direct investment in the Philippines was approximately \$7,000,000,000 at the end of 2009;

Whereas the Philippines is one of four countries that has been invited to participate in the new Partnership for Growth Initiative, which promotes broad-based economic growth in emerging markets;

Whereas many Americans and Filipinos have participated in people-to-people programs such as the Peace Corps, the International Visitor Leadership Programs, the Aquino Fellowship, Eisenhower Fellowships, and the Fulbright Scholar Program;

Whereas an estimated 4,000,000 people living in the United States are of Filipino ancestry, over 300,000 United States citizens live in the Philippines, and an estimated 600,000 United States citizens travel to the Philippines each year;

Whereas the U.S.-Philippines Society was recently established to broaden and expand interaction between and understanding of the United States and the Philippines in the areas of security, trade, investments, tourism, the environment, history, education, and culture;

Whereas the alliance between the United States and the Philippines is founded on core values that aim to promote and preserve democracy, freedom, peace, and justice, and is fortified by the two nations' partnerships in defending these values;

Whereas the Government of the Philippines seeks to improve governance, strengthen the rule of law, and further develop accountable, democratic institutions that can better

safeguard human rights, secure justice, and promote equitable economic development;

Whereas His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III, President of the Republic of the Philippines, is scheduled to visit the United States in June 2012; and

Whereas Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta met with their Philippine counterparts in Washington, D.C. on April 30, 2012, and reaffirmed that the United States and the Philippines are longstanding allies, that the United States Government is fully committed to honoring mutual obligations with the Philippines, and that the alliance continues to serve as a pillar of the Philippines-United States relationship and a source of stability in the region: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the Senate—

3 (A) celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the
4 United States-Philippines Mutual Defense
5 Treaty and the vitality of the overall bilateral
6 relationship;

7 (B) confirms the alliance’s centrality and
8 enduring value as one of the key pillars of
9 peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pa-
10 cific region and as a key tool in addressing the
11 emerging security environment in the region;
12 and

13 (C) encourages both countries to continue
14 high-level consultations; and

1 (2) it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (A) the United States Government should
3 use the U.S.-Philippines Bilateral Security Dia-
4 logue and the Mutual Defense Board and Secu-
5 rity Engagement Board to promote greater alli-
6 ance cooperation and enhance bilateral security
7 ties, including support for Philippine defense
8 modernization, for the rotational presence of
9 United States Armed Forces in the Philippines
10 and for increased humanitarian and disaster re-
11 lief preparedness activities;

12 (B) the United States Government should
13 redouble efforts to expand and deepen the eco-
14 nomic relationship with the Government of the
15 Philippines toward achieving broad-based eco-
16 nomic development in that country, including by
17 working on new bilateral initiatives that support
18 the efforts of the Government of the Philippines
19 to reform its economy and enhance its competi-
20 tiveness, and through trade-capacity building;

21 (C) the Government of the Philippines
22 should continue its efforts to strengthen its
23 democratic institutions to fight corruption, cur-
24 tail politically motivated violence and

1 extrajudicial killings, expand economic oppor-
2 tunity, and tackle internal security challenges;

3 (D) after close consultation with the Gov-
4 ernment of the Philippines, the United States
5 Government should designate an appropriate
6 United States entity to be responsible for mak-
7 ing necessary arrangements to ensure ongoing
8 maintenance of Clark Veterans Cemetery in the
9 Philippines; and

10 (E) the United States Government should
11 continue efforts to assist the Government of the
12 Philippines in the areas of maritime security,
13 maritime domain awareness, humanitarian as-
14 sistance and disaster relief, and related commu-
15 nications infrastructure to enable enhanced in-
16 formation-sharing and overall military
17 professionalization.

