

has repeatedly kidnapped foreigners for ransom, including numerous Americans, one of whom, Guillermo Sobero, was murdered. Americans Martin and Gracia Burnham remain captives of this terrorist group that continues to terrify many islands in the southern area of the archipelago.

Although an extension of the U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Agreement was rejected by the Philippine Senate in 1991, prompting the U.S. to withdraw our troops from the country, the Philippines and the U.S. forged a new agreement in 1999 to revive the agreement. The new agreement allows U.S. military personnel to enter the Philippines for joint training and other cooperative activities. Moreover, the agreement re-institutes U.S. military aid programs to the Philippines.

The agreement is proving very beneficial in the U.S. struggle against terrorism. The Philippine government has made all of its military bases available to the U.S. for transporting, refueling, and re-supplying troops headed toward Afghanistan. The U.S. has also made good on our commitment to eradicate terrorism within the borders of our allies by providing the Philippines with military advisors and other military assistance to defeat terrorists in the Philippines.

The U.S. and the Philippines have a strong and special relationship. This relationship encompasses more than military and economic assistance. It includes an intimate diplomatic relationship dating back over 100 years.

Filipinos were a free people until the Spaniards claimed the island nation in 1521. Despite numerous uprisings and resistance movements, Spain maintained its control over the Philippines until 1898.

In 1898 the American Navy defeated the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay and subsequently began its occupation of the Philippines. Emilio Aguinaldo, who had led a resistance movement against the Spanish, battled the U.S. when it became clear that America had no interest in granting independence to the island nation. After a two year struggle, the U.S. captured Emilio Aguinaldo. He agreed to swear allegiance to the U.S., and without its leader, the revolutionary effort to gain independence quickly came to an end in 1902.

At the end of the Philippine-American War, the U.S. declared its goal to develop a free and democratic government. The U.S. began by creating a public education system and a fair legal system. In 1907 the Philippines established its first bicameral semi-autonomous legislature, structured like the American federal government.

From 1907 to 1946, a Resident Commissioner represented the Philippines in the U.S. Congress. They had no vote and were not allowed to serve on standing committees, but were able to participate in debate on the House floor. The Philippines became fully independent in 1946, at which time the office of the Resident Commissioner was abolished.

The 1935 Tydings-McDuffie Act outlined the terms for establishing a fully independent nation. Filipinos began the ten-year transition period to independence by framing a constitution modeled after the American Constitution.

The outbreak of World War II and the subsequent Japanese occupation of the Philippines temporarily suspended Filipino dreams for independence.

During World War II, the U.S. treated Filipinos as "noncitizen nationals." It gave them

some right to self governance, but the U.S. federal government reserved the final say over the Philippine government's decisions.

Nearly 200,000 Filipinos responded to President Roosevelt's call to arms. From 1941 to 1945, Filipino soldiers fought alongside American soldiers. They responded without hesitation to defend their homeland and because they were a part of the United States. They defended Bataan and Corregidor, which helped ensure that General MacArthur could escape to Australia. Thousands of Filipino prisoners of war endured the infamous Bataan Death March, and many died in prisons.

After the fall of Bataan and Corregidor, Filipinos formed guerrilla groups. These guerrilla forces distracted attention away from U.S. troops in the Pacific region who worked to rebuild and respond to attacks against American possessions in the Pacific. Filipino veterans fought bravely in every major battle and lost their lives defending our values of justice and freedom.

After the war, the U.S. Congress enacted the Armed Forces Voluntary Recruitment Act of 1945 to establish the "New Philippine Scouts." From 1945 through 1946 the New Philippine Scouts helped defend the Philippines as the nation worked to rebuild itself.

Based on promises from the U.S. government, New Philippine Scouts, Commonwealth army veterans, and veterans in recognized guerrilla forces expected to receive their full military benefits.

In October of 1945, General Omar Bradley, then Administrator of the Veterans Administration, reaffirmed that they were to be treated like any other American veteran and would receive full benefits, but in 1946 Congress broke our promise to Filipino veterans and revoked their benefits by enacting Public Law 70-301. The Rescission Act declared that military service rendered by 200,000 Filipinos under Roosevelt's Military Order and the guerrilla forces was not official military service. The act specifically excluded Filipinos from receiving full veterans' benefits unless they had service or combat related injuries.

The U.S. government enacted the Second Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act in 1946. It repeated the provisions that eliminated Filipino veterans' benefits under the Rescission Act, and it placed similar benefit restrictions on New Philippine Scouts.

The U.S. government has restored partial benefits for some Filipino veterans living in America, but New Philippine Scouts and most veterans living in the Philippines still do not have the full benefits that were promised to them.

Following the Second World War, America provided assistance as the Philippines struggled to create a democratic nation. As promised, the Philippines became an independent nation on July 4, 1946.

In 1986 the people of the Philippines led a peaceful uprising that ousted Ferdinand E. Marcos and installed Corazon Aquino as president. Throughout the late 1980's President Corazon Aquino re-established fundamental values found in America, including civil liberties, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and a free press.

Today, over 1.8 million Filipinos reside in the U.S. Many of these individuals can trace their ancestry back to the over 100,000 Filipinos who migrated to Hawaii between 1910 and 1941 to serve as laborers on sugar plan-

tations. Even though many of them returned to the Philippines, thousands stayed in Hawaii to become one of the state's major ethnic groups.

Filipinos are the third largest racial group in Hawaii. There are currently 275,730 people who listed full or partial Filipino ancestry in the 2000 Census, including Governor Benjamin Cayetano and State Supreme Court Justices Mario Ramil and Simeon Acoba. The following members of the state legislature are Filipino: Senator Robert Bunda, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Senator Lorraine Inouye, Representative Felipe Abinsay, Representative Benjamin Cabrerios, Representative Willie Espero, Representative Nestor Garcia, Representative Michael Magaoay, and Representative David Pendleton.

2001 marks the 50th anniversary of the United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty. During this anniversary we must celebrate the deep relationship that ties our nations together.

I urge all Members to support H. Con. Res. 273 to acknowledge the Philippines as an important partner in our defense of freedom in the Pacific region.

IN HONOR OF BRIAN C. DOHERTY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge the many accomplishments of my good friend, Brian C. Doherty, whose life was commemorated and celebrated on Thursday, January 24, at the Boys and Girls Club of Hudson County's annual dinner at the Liberty House Restaurant in Jersey City, New Jersey. It was fitting and appropriate that the Boys and Girls Club's gymnasium was named in recognition of Mr. Doherty's commitment to the youth of Jersey City.

Mr. Doherty was the sole sponsor of the Boys and Girls Club's Competitive Basketball Program from its inception in 1987 until 1998. He also strongly supported St. Anthony's High School Basketball program in Jersey City; the Jersey City Recreation Basketball Tournaments; and his own Men's League basketball team in the Jersey Shore Basketball League in Belmar, New Jersey. Thanks to the guidance of Mr. Doherty, many of the participants of these programs went on to play professional basketball.

A veteran of the National Guard, he was Executive Secretary to Mayor Paul T. Jordan of Jersey City from 1975 until 1977. In 1995, he became partner of the law firm of Schumann, Hanlon, Doherty, McCrossin, and Paolino.

Mr. Doherty, an active member of the American Bar Association and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, graduated from the New School for Social Research in Manhattan, New York, and earned his law degree from Seton Hall University Law School in 1977.

Mr. Doherty was a dedicated husband to Rosemary T. McFadden and cherished son of Bernice and Eugene Doherty.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Brian C. Doherty for his generosity, kind spirit, and work on behalf of the community. I am very proud to have called Brian my

friend. He was a true gentleman, who touched many lives, and will be greatly missed by all those who knew him, including myself.

IN HONOR OF HONORABLE DENNIS
P. COLLINS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge the many accomplishments of Dennis P. Collins, who will be recognized Friday, January 25th, at Ireland's 32nd annual dinner dance to be held at the Hi-Hat Club in Bayonne, New Jersey.

Before becoming an elected official, Mr. Collins served in the United States Army; worked for the Tidewater Oil Company; the Edward F. Clarke Real Estate and Insurance Agency; and the Bayonne Water-Sewer Utility. He is a former Assistant Secretary Director of the New Jersey Real Estate Commission.

In 1962, Mr. Collins was elected to his first of three terms on the Municipal Council, two of which he served as Council President. He succeeded the late Mayor Francis G. Fitzpatrick in 1974 and served four terms as Mayor. He is the first individual to serve seven four-year consecutive terms in elective office and four consecutive four-year terms as Mayor in the history of Bayonne's municipal government.

Former Mayor Collins served as an aide to former Governor Tom Kean, United States Representative Dominic Daniels, Frank Guarini, and also served on my staff as a friend and trusted advisor. Since 1988, he served as an aide to Mayor Joseph V. Doria Jr. He has remained a part of Bayonne's public life for more than forty years.

Dennis Collins and the former Mary Bray celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on October 19, 2001; they have three lovely children as well as three wonderful grandchildren.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dennis P. Collins for his friendship, dedication, and enormous contributions on behalf of the residents of New Jersey.