

Whereas, on February 20, 1946, then President Harry Truman affirmed the status of these Filipino veterans as "nationals of the United States" who "fought, as American nationals, under the American flag, and under the direction of our military leaders";

Whereas, President Truman likewise recognized that they "fought with gallantry and courage under most difficult conditions";

Whereas, regrettably, on 18 February and 17 May 1946, the First and Second Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Acts, collectively known as the Rescission Acts of 1946, were enacted, preventing our veterans from receiving benefits which were previously granted to them;

Whereas, our veterans have been fighting for more than six decades for the restoration of their honor and the recognition of their dignity as soldiers who fought with the Americans during World War II;

Whereas, previous administrations, starting from former President Elpidio Quirino, including Philippine Ambassadors to the United States, have continuously exerted collective efforts for the realization of this goal;

Whereas, on June 2007, members of the United States Congress expressed their support for the passage of a legislative measure reversing, the ill effects the Rescission Acts of 1946 and granting pension benefits to our veterans then pending in the US Congress;

Whereas, these legislators, however, intimated their concern that upon the passage of this US bill, the benefits currently granted to our veterans would be revoked, as provided under RA 6948, amended by RA 7696;

Whereas, to address this concern and to grant full benefits to our veterans which they rightfully deserve, Republic Act No. 9499, otherwise known as the Filipino World War II Veterans Pensions and Benefits Act of 2008, was signed into law on 9 April 2008;

Whereas, the law paved the way for the approval by the United States Senate and House of Representatives of the proposed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, otherwise known as the Economic Stimulus Bill, with the valiant and unfaltering support of Senators Daniel K. Inouye, Harry Reid and Daniel Akaka, and Representatives Robert Filner, Mike Honda and Nancy Pelosi, among other legislators;

Whereas, on 13 February 2009, both Houses of the US Congress approved the Conference Report on the Economic Stimulus Bill, with 60 affirmative votes and 38 negative votes;

Whereas, United States President Barack Obama is scheduled to sign the Economic Stimulus Bill in Denver, Colorado, on 17 February 2009, the eve of the 63rd anniversary of the enactment of the First Rescission Act;

Whereas, the end of the decades-long suffering of our veterans is now within reach, for when the Economic Stimulus Bill is enacted into law, our surviving veterans can claim up to Fifteen Thousand Dollars (USD 15,000) in lump-sum benefits, not as monetary compensation for their gallantry during World War II, but as recognition of their honor for risking life and limb for our allies and our country. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To express the sense of the Senate to commend Senator Daniel K. Inouye and the United States Congress for the approval of the Conference Report on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which provides the amount of One Hundred Ninety-eight Million Dollars (USD 198,000,000) for the benefit of eligible Filipino Veterans.

POM-14. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of New Mexico memorializing a request that Congress be urged to

hold hearings on a new management system for the Valles Caldera National Preserve; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE MEMORIAL NO. 32

Whereas, the Valles Caldera National Preserve is one of New Mexico's most spectacular places and important wildlife habitats, consisting of eighty-nine thousand acres of forest, high-mountain grassland and clear streams nestled into the caldera of an ancient volcano; and

Whereas, hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation are important parts of the way of life in New Mexico; and

Whereas, accessible and protected public lands benefit local economies by offering a higher quality of life that attracts tourism and high-wage jobs; and

Whereas, the current management experiment at the Valles Caldera National Preserve is based on a system set up for the Presidio, an urban area located in San Francisco, California; and

Whereas, it has become clear that the experimental management system for the Valles Caldera National Preserve will never generate adequate funding without developing, and thereby destroying, the Valles Caldera itself; and

Whereas, the current experimental management system has failed to provide adequate access to the public for responsible use and enjoyment of the area; and

Whereas, a new management system would improve opportunity for the public to responsibly enjoy the Valles Caldera National Preserve, thereby benefiting all residents and helping the local economy; and

Whereas, a new management system would expand access to hunting, fishing and outdoor recreational opportunities for all residents regardless of financial means; and

Whereas, a new management system would improve natural resource management at the Valles Caldera National Preserve and put it on more solid financial footing, ensuring that this spectacular place can be enjoyed by present and future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Mexico, That Congress be urged to hold hearings as soon as possible on the establishment of a new management system for the Valles Caldera National Preserve, in which the United States Forest Service, the National Park Service or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service provide management to improve responsible public access, expand hunting, fishing and outdoor recreational opportunities for the public and place the Valles Caldera National Preserve on firm financial footing so that present and future generations can enjoy and experience this spectacular place and benefits to the economy can be fully realized; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be transmitted to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation and the Chief Clerks of the United States House of Representatives and Senate for distribution to the appropriate committees.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 689. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of church pension plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 690. A bill to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to reauthorize the Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

S. 691. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in southern Colorado region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 692. A bill to provide that claims of the United States to certain documents relating to Franklin Delano Roosevelt shall be treated as waived and relinquished in certain circumstances; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 693. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for the training of graduate medical residents in preventive medicine; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 694. A bill to provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. KOHL, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 695. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to reduce the matching requirement for participants in the Hollings Manufacturing Partnership Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 696. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to include a definition of fill material; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 697. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to help individuals with functional impairments and their families pay for services and supports that they need to maximize their functionality and independence and have choices about community participation, education, and employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 698. A bill to ensure the provision of high-quality health care coverage for uninsured individuals through State health care coverage pilot projects that expand coverage and access and improve quality and efficiency in the health care system; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 699. A bill to provide for the construction by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of a full service hospital in Far South Texas; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 700. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to phase out the 24-month waiting period for disabled individuals to become eligible for Medicare benefits, to eliminate the waiting period for individuals with life-threatening conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 701. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access of Medicare beneficiaries to intravenous immune globulins (IVIG); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ENSIGN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 702. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow long-term care insurance to be offered under cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements and to provide additional consumer protections for long-term care insurance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 703. A bill to provide for health care for every American and to control the cost and enhance the quality of the health care system; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 704. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the use of Civil Air Patrol personnel and resources to support homeland security missions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. KAUFMAN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 705. A bill to reauthorize the programs of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 706. A bill to increase housing, awareness, and navigation demonstration services (HANDS) for individuals with autism spectrum disorders; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 707. A bill to enhance the Federal Telework Program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 708. A bill to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians, to provide a process for the reorganization of a Native Hawaiian government and the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 709. A bill to better provide for compensation for certain persons injured in the course of employment at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory in California; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

S. 710. A bill to prohibit unfair or deceptive acts or practices relating to gift certificates, store gift cards, and other general-use prepaid cards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 711. A bill to require mental health screenings for members of the Armed Forces who are deployed in connection with a contingency operation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. Res. 85. A resolution congratulating the Rocky Mountain College Battlin' Bears for winning the 2009 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Men's Basketball National Championship; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 277

At the request of Mr. KAUFMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 277, a bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 277, supra.

S. 355

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 355, a bill to enhance the capacity of the United States to undertake global development activities, and for other purposes.

S. 475

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 475, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to guarantee the equity of spouses of military personnel with regard to matters of residency, and for other purposes.

S. 476

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 476, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the minimum distance of travel necessary for reimbursement of covered beneficiaries of the military health care system for travel for specialty health care.

S. 491

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 493

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 493, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the establishment of ABLE accounts for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 511

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from South Da-

kota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 511, a bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an exemption of pharmacies and pharmacists from certain Medicare accreditation requirements in the same manner as such exemption applies to certain professionals.

S. 527

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 527, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the issuance of permits under title V of that Act for certain emissions from agricultural production.

S. 546

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation.

S. 547

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 547, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to reduce the costs of prescription drugs for enrollees of Medicaid managed care organizations by extending the discounts offered under fee-for-service Medicaid to such organizations.

S. 614

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 614, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots ("WASP").

S. 622

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 622, a bill to ensure parity between the temporary duty imposed on ethanol and tax credits provided on ethanol.

S. 631

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 631, a bill to provide for nationwide expansion of the pilot program for national and State background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or providers.

S. 654

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care.