

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8008**

60th Legislature  
2007 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate February 16, 2007  
YEAS 41 NAYS 0

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House March 30, 2007  
YEAS 94 NAYS 0

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8008** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8008**

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Passed Legislature - 2007 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Prentice, Rockefeller, Berkey, Weinstein, Kauffman, Marr, Oemig, Kline, Hobbs, Murray, Poulsen, Rasmussen, Kastama, Shin, Franklin, Hatfield, Sheldon, Kohl-Welles, Jacobsen, Fraser, Pridemore and Kilmer

Read first time 01/29/2007.      Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1            TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2            AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3            REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4            UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6            the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
7            represent and petition as follows:

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

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

19           WHEREAS, World War II is remembered as The Good War that President

1 Roosevelt claimed to have defended the great human freedoms against the  
2 encroachment and attack of the dark forces of despotism; and

3 WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers fought during World War II under the  
4 American flag and under the direction and control of United States  
5 military leaders pursuant to President Roosevelt's July 1941 Military  
6 Order; and

7 WHEREAS, Shortly after the war in 1946, the U.S. Congress passed  
8 the Rescission Act which specifically mandates that services rendered  
9 by Filipino World War II veterans "...shall not be deemed to have been  
10 active military, naval, or air service for the purposes of any law of  
11 the United States conferring rights, privileges or benefits..."; and

12 WHEREAS, The legislative rider appended to the 1946 Rescission Act  
13 denies U.S. military status and benefits to those veterans who fought  
14 under the command of officers of the U.S. Armed Forces in the  
15 Philippines; and

16 WHEREAS, The significant and adverse impact of the 1946 Rescission  
17 Act is its unjust discrimination against Filipino soldiers of World War  
18 II by denying them eligibility for equal benefits administered by the  
19 department of veterans affairs; and

20 WHEREAS, Filipinos are the only national group singled out for  
21 denial of full U.S. veterans status while the soldiers of more than  
22 sixty-six other U.S. allied countries, who were similarly inducted into  
23 the service of the armed forces of the United States during World War  
24 II, were granted full U.S. veterans status; and

25 WHEREAS, The United States government has yet to fully restore the  
26 rights, privileges, and benefits guaranteed, then taken away from  
27 Filipino soldiers of WWII; and

28 WHEREAS, The gallantry, loyalty, and sacrifices of Filipino  
29 veterans of WWII, who fought for freedom and democracy in the Armed  
30 Forces of the United States, deserve recognition and their honor and  
31 dignity restored; and

32 WHEREAS, There is no pending legislation in the U.S. Congress that  
33 will restore full United States veterans status to Filipino WWII  
34 veterans;

35 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
36 President and Congress of the United States during the First Session of  
37 the 110th Congress take action necessary to give priority in the  
38 issuance of immigrant visas to the sons, daughters, and grandchildren

1 of Filipino World War II veterans who are or were naturalized citizens  
2 of the United States, and amend the 1946 Rescission Act and honor our  
3 country's moral obligation to restore these Filipino veterans full  
4 United States veterans status with the military benefits that they  
5 deserve;

6 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
7 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
8 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
9 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
10 Washington.

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