

SENATE RESOLUTION
8701

By Senators Regala, Honeyford, Rolfes, Ranker, King, and Prentice

WHEREAS, The State of Washington has previously recognized the proud history of Filipino-Americans; and

WHEREAS, The earliest documented proof of Filipino presence in the continental United States was the date of October 18, 1587, when the first "Luzones Indios" set foot in Morro Bay, California; and

WHEREAS, The Filipino-American National Historical Society recognizes the year of 1763 as the date of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States in St. Malo, in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Washington State contributed to this history with the recognition of the 1888 documents of Port Blakely on Bainbridge Island, Washington, at the time the largest lumber mill in the world, as listing a "Manilla," the first known employee from the Philippines in the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, These events set in motion the focus on the story of our nation's past from a new perspective by concentrating on the economic, cultural, social, and other notable contributions that Filipino-Americans have made in countless ways toward the development of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Efforts must continue to promote the study of Filipino-American history and culture, as mandated in the mission statement of the Filipino-American National Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative for Filipino-American youth to have positive role models to instill in them the importance of education, complemented with the richness of their ethnicity and the value of their legacy; and

WHEREAS, Washington State is home to Filipinos, one of the largest Asian/Pacific Islander populations found in the state, and is the location of historic Filipino-American communities; and

WHEREAS, Filipinos have served with special distinction in all of the United States military branches; and

WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of the Philippines continue to hold a special bond;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Washington recognize October 2012 as the 425th anniversary of the presence of Filipinos in the United States, as a significant time to study the advancement of Filipino-Americans in the history of the State of Washington, and celebrate October 2012 as Filipino-American history month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Washington State Senate to Rey Pascua, President of the Filipino-American Community of the Yakima Valley for further distribution to the Filipino-American National Historical Society, Pacific Islander organizations, and the superintendent of public instruction.