

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2018-4675, by Representative Chandler

1 WHEREAS, The earliest documented proof of Filipino presence in
2 the continental United States was on October 18, 1587, and they have
3 contributed to the cultural, economic, social, and political life of
4 the state of Washington, the Pacific Northwest, and the entire
5 country; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States Congress, in 2016, passed the Filipino
7 Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015, now
8 enshrined as Public Law 114-265; and

9 WHEREAS, On October 25, 2017, the United States Congress held a
10 national celebration in Washington, D.C., where for the first time,
11 they recognized the service and sacrifice of Filipino and American
12 veterans of World War II who fought under active status in the Far
13 East, and awarded the United States Congressional Gold Medal to the
14 veterans or their surviving families; and

15 WHEREAS, The Congressional Gold Medal is one of the highest
16 civilian awards bestowed by the United States, and represents a
17 public expression of the U.S. Congress' gratitude on behalf of the
18 nation for the distinguished contributions of 260,000 Filipino
19 soldiers and guerrillas during World War II in the Philippines; and

20 WHEREAS, The recognition and celebration of these Filipino and
21 American heroes is continuing, defined by the work of the Filipino
22 Veterans Recognition and Education Project Region 8, the Washington
23 State Department of Veterans Affairs, the Washington State Commission

1 on Asian Pacific American Affairs, other Filipino American
2 organizations, and others, in awarding the Gold Medals to eligible
3 veterans; and

4 WHEREAS, The Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project
5 Region 8 has set ceremonies in Olympia on April 14, 2018, and in
6 Renton on April 15, 2018, to recognize Filipino and American Veterans
7 of World War II for the states of Washington, Alaska, Idaho, and
8 Oregon;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
10 congratulate the recipients of the medal, honor and thank them for
11 their service to our country and encourage all Washingtonians to join
12 in celebration of these American heroes.

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