

service members received at the time. Underpaid, having been denied benefits and lacking proper recognition, General MacArthur's words truly depict the plight of the remaining Filipino veterans today as they did half a century ago.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 191 and consider this resolution as a commitment toward future legislation to fully recognizing the contributions and recognize status of Filipino World War II veterans.

To the many fine residents of Guam are members of the Philippine Scouts: I salute you. Your service should not be forgotten and will not be forgotten.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to not only recognize the leadership of the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL], but to recognize that a lead cosponsor was the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER], whose remarks you heard, and thank the gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD] for his very salient remarks.

Additionally, I wanted to mention that the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP], and the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY], original cosponsors, along with the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN], the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL], the gentleman from California [Mr. BILBRAY], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. FLANAGAN], the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. TALENT], the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI], the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE], the gentlewoman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. EVANS], the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER], and the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. GUTIERREZ].

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution to provide long-delayed recognition to persons considered to be members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army veterans and members of the Special Philippine Scouts—by reason of service with the Allied Armed Forces during World War II.

We must correct the grave injustice that has befallen this brave group of veterans, since their valiant service, on behalf of the United States, during the Second World War.

On July 26, 1941, President Roosevelt issued a military order, pursuant to the Philippines Independence Act of 1934, calling members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army into the service of the United States Forces of the Far East, under the command of Lt. Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

For almost 4 years, over 100,000 Filipinos, of the Philippine Commonwealth Army fought alongside the Allies to reclaim the Philippine Islands from Japan. Regrettably, in return, Congress enacted the Rescission Act of 1946.

This measure denied the members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army the honor of being recognized as veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

A second group, the Special Philippine Scouts called New Scouts who enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces after October 6, 1945, primarily to perform occupation duty in the Pacific, have also never received official recognition.

I believe it is time to correct this injustice and to provide the official recognition long overdue for members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and the Special Philippine Scouts that they valiantly earned for their service to the United States and the Allied cause during World War II.

These members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and the Special Philippine Scouts served just as courageously and made the same sacrifices as their American counterparts during the Pacific war. Their contribution helped disrupt the initial Japanese offensive timetable in 1942, at a point when the Japanese were expanding almost unchecked throughout the Western Pacific.

This delay in the Japanese plans bought valuable time for scattered Allied Forces to regroup, reorganize, and prepare for checking the Japanese in the Battles of the Coral Sea and Midway.

It also earned those who were unfortunate enough to be captured the wrath of their Japanese captors. As a result, these Filipino prisoners joined their American counterparts in the Bataan Death March, along with suffering inhumane treatment which redefined the limits of human depravity.

During the next 2 years, Filipino Scout units, operating from rural bases, tied down precious Japanese resources and manpower through guerilla warfare tactics.

In 1944, Filipino forces provided valuable assistance in the liberation of the Philippine Islands which in turn became an important base for taking the war to the Japanese homeland. Without the assistance of Filipino units and guerilla forces, the liberation of the Philippine Islands would have taken much longer and been far costlier than it actually was.

In a letter to Congress dated May 16, 1946, President Harry S. Truman wrote:

The Philippine Army veterans are nationals of the United States and will continue in that status after July 4, 1946. They fought under the American flag and under the direction of our military leaders. They fought with gallantry and courage under the most difficult conditions during the recent conflict. They were commissioned by us, their official organization, the Army of its Philippine Commonwealth was taken into the Armed Forces of the United States on July 26, 1941. That order has never been revoked and amended. I consider it a moral obligation of the United States to look after the welfare of the Filipino veterans.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution that corrects this grave injustice and provides recognition to members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and the members of the Special Philippine Scouts, which they fully deserve.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my support to the recognition of the Philippine Commonwealth Army veterans who stood beside the United States servicemembers during the Second World War. The efforts of these members of the Philippine Army were essen-

tial in operations that helped free the nation of the Philippines from Japanese aggression and resulted in the defeat of Japan's expansion efforts. Nearly 100,000 Filipino soldiers endured more than 4 years of battle that left over 1 million Philippine civilians, soldiers, and guerilla fighters dead.

In 1946, Congress passed a Rescission Act that declared that the service provided by these brave people did not qualify them for veteran's benefits. These veterans were called to duty under the command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur and they were U.S. soldiers. The Philippine Scouts, who served after October 6, 1945, were also United States soldiers. House Concurrent Resolution 191 restores the recognition these brave soldiers deserve.

This recognition is long overdue. We long ago promised these veterans the benefits they earned and we turned our backs on them. After ignoring the injustice of this country's bias so long, I am pleased that we can now provide a first step toward correcting this longstanding oversight. These veterans deserve the same rights and benefits as members of the U.S. services. It is only right that we fulfill our promises and recognize these deserving servicemembers.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 191.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 191.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

□ 1530

SUPPORTING A RESOLUTION OF THE CRISIS IN KOSOVA

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 155) concerning human and political rights and in support of a resolution of the crisis in Kosova, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 155

Whereas the Constitution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, adopted in 1946 and the amended Yugoslav Constitution adopted in 1974, described the status of Kosova as one of the 8 constituent territorial units of the Yugoslav Federation;

Whereas the political rights of the Albanian majority in Kosova were curtailed when