

I am introducing the resolution today, June 12th, because of the historical significance of this date to 85 million Filipinos. It is the 109th yearly celebration of Philippine Independence from Spain. The introduction of this resolution will bring hope for the return of the church bells, especially to the parishioners of Balangiga.

It was a result of a conflict, between Filipino and American soldiers in 1901 in the town of Balangiga on the island of Samar, Philippines, that the bells in the Balangiga church were taken to the United States as war trophies where they have been on display ever since at F.E. Warren Air Force Base.

I am introducing this resolution because of a vote by the Wyoming Veterans Commission in favor of the return of the bells to the church in Balangiga.

The citizens of Balangiga have erected a memorial that includes the names of the Filipino and American soldiers who lost their lives in the 1901 incident, and the town honors these war dead, both those from the Philippines and those from America, on September 28 each year. Filipino people have requested the return of the bells to the original setting in the Balangiga Parish where they could ring again, after 106 years of muteness, as a symbol of this bond.

The acts of conflict that surrounded the Bells of Balangiga are not consistent with the friendship that is an integral part of the relationship between the Republic of the Phil-

ippines and the United States. Filipino soldiers have fought side by side with American troops in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and the bells should more properly serve as a symbol of friendship and not of conflict.

For this reason, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 168.

IN HONOR OF GERALD "JERRY"  
FRY

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2007*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a man committed to serving his country and community. Gerald "Jerry" Fry, former mayor of the city of Monterey, passed away on May 24, 2007. With a profound love for his city, Jerry devoted his career to improving the community around him. Jerry was a great example of the impact one man can have on so many people's lives, and without him the world is a bit dimmer. I offer his wife Mary, children Lisa, Luke, Terri, and Leslie, and the rest of Jerry's family my deepest condolences.

Jerry grew up in Pacific Grove and attended Pacific Grove High School. After graduating from Santa Clara University, Jerry joined the Marines and served during the Korean war.

After his time in the military, Jerry returned to his home on the Monterey Bay where he met his future wife, Mary. Upon his return to the peninsula, Jerry began managing a taxi company and also a stationary store. His long and dedicated career of service to the city, however, did not begin until 1963 when a position on the city council opened and Jerry was elected to fill the remaining 2 years in the position.

Jerry was first elected as mayor of the city of Monterey in 1977 and went on to win two more reelections. He began to shine as an outstanding mayor and great leader the instant he was in office. Friends described Jerry as "one of the best mayors I think we've ever had." His ability to listen and to acknowledge everyone's desire to be heard was a gift and was what defined him in his 20 years on the Monterey City Council.

After serving on the city council, Jerry still remained very interested in city politics and would enjoy discussing controversial issues with his friends. The city always remained close to Jerry's heart even long after he was out of office.

Madam Speaker, Gerald "Jerry" Fry was a remarkable figure in our community, and he will live on in the memory of many people whose lives he has touched. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for his commitment to the city of Monterey.