

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4635) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the distinguished gentleman from California, Mr. FILNER. I commend my colleague for his tenacious efforts to restore benefits for Filipino veterans and for his steadfast support.

The sacrifices of all veterans during World War II deserve our recognition and respect, and this amendment addresses a group of veterans who fought alongside American soldiers in the Philippines. For almost four years, in the fight to retake the Philippine Islands from Japan, 100,000 Filipino soldiers fought alongside our armed forces. Despite the integral role Filipino soldiers played in the Allied Victory in the Pacific Theater, they were denied benefits under the 79th Congress Rescissions Act of 1946.

Mr. FILNER's amendment would attempt to address this egregious mistake by providing the necessary and deserved reparations to demonstrate the depth of our gratitude and respect for the service of these men in war. The age of the veterans and our country's late acknowledgment of their dedicated service make it imperative that these trusted veterans receive the requested emergency funding.

I support this amendment to add \$35 million to the VA-HUD Appropriations bill, H.R. 4635, so that Filipino Veterans have unrestricted access to Veterans facilities in both the Philippines and the United States, and increase the exchange rate for service-connected disability compensation. It is time we honored these servicemen and provided the benefits and compensation they deserve.

Thank you, Mr. FILNER, for your work on behalf of Filipino veterans. I urge my colleagues to support the Filner amendment.

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SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

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Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my distinguished colleague's amendment. Mr. FILNER has shown a great sense of justice by offering this amendment which provides funds for health benefits for Filipino World War II veterans. It also increases service-connected disability benefits to those vets who are living in the United States. Both these provisions will greatly improve the lives of many Filipino veterans who loyally fought with the United States in World War II.

The early months of World War II were a dark time for the United States. Our armed forces were on the defensive everywhere—nowhere more so than in the Philippines. Food, medical supplies and ammunition ran short. With sea and air links severed, there was no hope of resupply, reinforcement or escape.

In that desperate hour, approximately 200,000 Filipino soldiers under the command of General Douglas MacArthur displayed exemplary loyalty and courage in the defense of the Philippines. They fought in every major battle, including the final defense of Bataan and Corregidor. They suffered every privation. They endured every danger. They shed their blood as readily as their American comrades in arms.

Those sacrifices continued even after U.S. forces were driven from the Philippines in 1942. Thousands of courageous Filipinos took up arms as guerillas and fought enormous odds. Their bravery earned the admiration of freedom loving people throughout the world. They provided valuable intelligence to General MacArthur's forces in the Southwest Pacific, rescued downed American airmen, and diverted powerful enemy forces from deployment elsewhere. Through three long, terrible years these Filipino guerilla soldiers kept faith with America.

Now it is time for America to keep faith with Filipino veterans. Despite their equal service, our Filipino veterans do not enjoy equal benefits with the American troops with whom they

fought side by side. An estimated 60,000 to 80,000 surviving Filipino veterans are barred from the full range and extent of veterans benefits available to Americans who served against the same enemy, in the same battles, at the same time. This violates the fundamental concept of fairness, especially for those who put their lives on the line for our country.

Because America stands for justice for all, we cannot turn our backs on these veterans who have been denied their due for so long. We owe equal treatment to all who fought under our flag. America is a great nation, and we must act now to right a great wrong. We can do so by extending recognition for incomparable bravery and loyalty. It is time to offer justice to veterans in need and redeem a debt that has gone unpaid for far too long. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN SULLIVAN

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to celebrate the contributions that Mr. Kevin Sullivan, of Chino, California, has made to his community.

Mr. Sullivan was born in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. His career has been exciting and impressive taking him from a mercantile broker's office and major export company in his native Australia to the Australian Consulate-General's office in New York to numerous European cities as a member of Jack Kramer's world professional tennis tour.

In 1961, Mr. Sullivan came to Southern California when he was appointed General Manager of Jack Kramer's Los Serranos Country Club. Under Mr. Sullivan's leadership, the South Course was initiated and built and a new clubhouse was constructed. Although Mr. Sullivan stepped down from his managerial duties in 1997, he continues to serve as Secretary of the Corporation, Director and Vice President of Special Projects, and as a Trustee of the Profit Sharing Plan.

An active member of the Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Sullivan has held the prestigious positions of Director and Second Vice President, President-Elect, and President.

The Chamber's accomplishments under Mr. Sullivan's tenure as President have been numerous and impressive: the Chamber moved its offices to the historic Grey Building, the website has been redesigned and now includes an on-line membership directory, and the Chamber has awarded over \$6,000 in student scholarships and classroom mini-grants

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