

SENATE RESOLUTION

8709

By Senators Honeyford, Hasegawa, and Conway

1 WHEREAS, The state of Washington has recognized the proud history
2 of Filipino Americans since 2010; and

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

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, It is imperative for Filipino American youth to have
23 positive role models to instill in them the importance of education,

1 complemented with the richness of their ethnicity and the value
2 of their legacy; and

3 WHEREAS, Washingtonians who have made a national
4 contribution to American culture and society include Filipino
5 Americans Carlos Bulosan, Roy Baldoz, Harry Bucsit, Jose
6 Calugas, Fred and Dorothy Cordova, Pio DeCano Sr., Trinidad
7 Rojo, Bob Santos, Delores Sibonga, Silvestre Tangalan, Bernie
8 Reyes Whitebear, Velma Veloria, Rey Pascua, and many others; and

9 WHEREAS, Filipinos are one of the largest Asian/Pacific
10 Islander communities in Washington State, and in the United
11 States; and

12 WHEREAS, Washington State is the location of historic
13 Filipino American communities, including Wapato, Seattle,
14 Bainbridge Island, Tacoma, Auburn, Bremerton, Pateros, and
15 others; and

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

18 WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of the
19 Philippines continue to hold a special bond, which is supported
20 by the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of the Pacific Northwest;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, The national office of the Filipino American
23 National Historical Society is located in the city of Seattle,
24 Washington; and

25 WHEREAS, Filipino community-based organizations such as the
26 Filipino Community of Seattle, the Filipino American Community
27 organizations of the Yakima Valley, South Puget Sound, Kitsap
28 County, Spokane, Tri-Cities, and others provide important
29 community services and serve as a center for the Filipino
30 community;

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
32 Senate celebrate October 2016 as the 429th anniversary of the
33 presence of Filipinos in the now United States and as part of an
34 ongoing opportunity to study the advancement of Filipino
35 Americans in the history of the State of Washington; and

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
37 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Rey
38 Pascua, President of the Filipino American Community of the

1 Yakima Valley; Sheila Burris, Executive Director of the Filipino
2 Community of Seattle; Alex Borrromeo, President of the Filipino
3 Chamber of Commerce of the Pacific Northwest; and Velma Veloria,
4 former Washington State Representative for the 11th district,
5 for further distribution to the Filipino American National
6 Historical Society, to the Wing Luke Asian Museum and other
7 Asian and Pacific Islander organizations, to other historical
8 societies and civil entities, and to the Superintendent of
9 Public Instruction.

10 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
11 do hereby certify that this is a true and
12 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8709,
13 adopted by the Senate
14 February 22, 2016

15 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
16 Secretary of the Senate