

SENATE RESOLUTION

8697

By Senators Honeyford, Miloscia, Rolfes, Hasegawa, Saldaña, Dhingra, Pedersen, Fortunato, Chase, Keiser, Kuderer, Palumbo, and Wagoner

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 October 18, 1587, when the first  
5 "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, at the time the largest lumber mill in the world, as listing  
12 a "Manilla," the first known employee from the Philippines in the  
13 Pacific Northwest; and

14 WHEREAS, Filipinos are one of the largest Asian/Pacific Islander  
15 communities in Washington State, and the third largest in the United  
16 States; and

17 WHEREAS, Washington State is the location of historic Filipino  
18 American communities, including Wapato, Bainbridge Island, Seattle,  
19 Auburn, Bremerton, Tacoma, Pateros, and others; and

20 WHEREAS, Washingtonians who have made a national contribution to  
21 American culture and society include Filipino Americans Carlos  
22 Bulosan, Roy Baldoz, Harry Bucsit, Jose Calugas, Fred and Dorothy  
23 Cordova, Pio DeCano Sr., Trinidad Rojo, Box Santos, Delores Sibonga,

1 Silvestre Tangalan, Bernie Reyes Whitebear, Velma Veloria, Rey  
2 Pascua, and others; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States Congress, in 2016, passed the  
4 Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act  
5 of 2015; and

6 WHEREAS, The Congressional Gold Medal is one of the highest  
7 civilian awards bestowed by the United States, and represents a  
8 public expression of the United States Congress' gratitude on  
9 behalf of the nation for the distinguished contributions of two  
10 hundred sixty thousand Filipino soldiers and guerrillas during  
11 World War II in the Philippines; and

12 WHEREAS, The recognition and celebration of these Filipino  
13 and American heroes is continuing, defined by the work of the  
14 Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project Region 8,  
15 the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, the  
16 Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs,  
17 other Filipino American organizations, and others, in awarding  
18 the Gold Medals to eligible veterans; and

19 WHEREAS, The Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education  
20 Project Region 8 has set ceremonies in Olympia on April 14,  
21 2018, in Renton on April 15, 2018, and in Wapato on April 28,  
22 2018, to recognize Filipino and American Veterans of World War  
23 II for the states of Washington, Alaska, Idaho, and Oregon;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
25 Senate call on all Washingtonians to observe and celebrate April  
26 14, 15, and 28, 2018, as "UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL  
27 FOR FILIPINO AND AMERICAN WORLD WAR II VETERANS RECOGNITION  
28 DAYS"; and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
30 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Rey  
31 Pascua, president of the Filipino-American Community of the  
32 Yakima Valley, for further distribution to the Filipino American  
33 National Historical Society, to Asian and Pacific Islander  
34 organizations, to other historical societies and government  
35 entities, and to the superintendent of public instruction.

36 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,  
37 do hereby certify that this is a true and

1 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8697,  
2 adopted by the Senate  
3 February 22, 2018

4 BRAD HENDRICKSON  
5 Secretary of the Senate