

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines

Senate

Manay City

Fourteenth Congress

First Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 54

RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE TO ESTABLISH A SEPARATE GRAVE SITE OR A MEMORIAL IN THE *LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI* TO HONOR THE HEROISM OF ALL THE FILIPINO SOLDIERS WHO COURAGEOUSLY FOUGHT IN THE PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR

WHEREAS, on February 4, 1899, or one hundred and six (106) years ago., American Sentry Private William W. Grayson haplessly fired at two Filipinos (one of whom was identified as Anastacio Felix), who were innocently passing along Calle Sosiego;

WHEREAS, that day marks the beginning of the Philippine-American War, a fourteen-year bloody struggle between the Filipinos and Americans;

WHEREAS, for almost a century, the Philippine-American War has been dismissed by the Westerners as the "Philippine Insurrection", in an effort to paint a false picture of a second-class people, barely unable to stand up against their white colonizers;

WHEREAS, it was only in 1979 that the inaccurate term "Philippine Insurrection" was officially designated as the "Philippine-American War" by the United States Library of Congress;

WHEREAS, during the Philippine-American War, Filipino soldiers, though limited in rifles and ammunition and armed mostly with bolos and bamboo spears, bravely risked their lives to achieve independence;

WHEREAS, General Emilio Aguinaldo, Macario Sakay and General Mariano Lukban are among the familiar names which come to mind as Filipino heroes during the Philippine-American War;

WHEREAS, less popular characters such as Juan Cailles, Martin Lardizabal and Ciriaco Vida, as well as almost 16,000 names of Filipino soldiers who selflessly laid down their lives during the Philippine-American War remain lost in Philippine history books and, sadly, in the memories of the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, the heroism and patriotism of the Filipino men and women, who refused to succumb to American rule, but fought for freedom to the point of death, should not be lost in historical amnesia;

WHEREAS, the heroes and heroines of the Philippine-American War, especially those not identified in the scrolls of history, should be honored for their courage and self-sacrifice, and remembered as a testament of the Filipino people's love for their country, especially in these times of national crisis;

WHEREAS, it is important that the heroic deeds and patriotism of the Filipino heroes and heroines during the Philippine-American War be honored and immortalized in the hearts and minds of the Filipino people, especially the youth, who can draw inspiration from the ideals and the patriotism, and even learn from the mistakes, of the Filipino men and women who fought for Philippine independence;

WHEREAS, the *Libingan ng mga Bayani* is a public memorial cemetery for the gallant Filipino men and women

who brought honor to the country and who fought for the sake of freedom;

WHEREAS, the *Libingan ng mga Bayani* does not have a separate grave site designated, nor a memorial structure established in honor of the valiant Filipino soldiers who fought in the Philippine-American War;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1076 issued on January 26, 1977, the Department of National Defense is the agency tasked with the "administration, maintenance and development" of the *Libingan ng mga Bayani*:
Now, therefore be it

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved, That the Senate of the Philippines urge the Department of National Defense to establish a separate grave site or a memorial in the *Libingan ng mga Bayani* to honor the heroism of all the Filipino soldiers who courageously fought in the Philippine-American War;

Resolved, further, That the Senate of the Philippines calls on the Department of Education and the National Historical Institute to conduct, using the Filipino's own perspective, studies and research on the personalities involved and the events which transpired during the Philippine-American War, and to popularize and inculcate among Filipinos, especially the students, the heroism of the Filipinos during such important period of Philippine history.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 4, 2008.


EMMA LIRIO-REYES
Secretary of the Senate