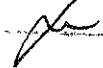


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

7 SEP 21 1975

SENATE  
P.S. Res. No. 155

RECEIVED BY 

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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A RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE STRONG SENSE OF THE SENATE TO URGE THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO EXHAUST ALL EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO, AS AN ACT OF GOODWILL AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THESE TWO NATIONS, IMMEDIATELY RETURN THE BELLS OF BALANGIGA TO THE PROVINCE OF EASTERN SAMAR

*Whereas*, September 28 is Balangiga Encounter Day which commemorates the heroism professed by many Filipinos, particularly Samarenos, as they fought American soldiers in the town of Balangiga, province of Samar, in 1901;

*Whereas*, using their ingenuity and resourcefulness, Samarenos dressed as grieving women carried coffins into the church of Balangiga, claiming that the coffins contained bodies of children who died from cholera. The coffins, however, actually contained large bolo machetes which the villagers, upon the signal from the church bells, used to attack the soldiers from Company C of the 9<sup>th</sup> US Infantry Regiment;

*Whereas*, historical events revealed that in this historic town of Balangiga,, the natives attacked, overpowered, and almost annihilated the Company C of the 9<sup>th</sup> US Infantry Regiment;

*Whereas*, in retaliation to the surprise attack done by the natives, the American soldiers turned the town of Balangiga into a killing field, with casualties reaching about 25,000. Hence, the term "Balangiga Massacre";

*Whereas*, apart from the destruction and devastation caused by the American hostilities against the residents of Balangiga and neighboring towns, the American soldiers took away the three (3) bells from Balangiga church as "war trophies". At present, two of the bells are at a trophy park in Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming and the other remains in the possession of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment at their base in South Korea;


*Whereas*, the residents of Balangiga, and the whole of the province of Samar, have long been clamoring for these church bells which not only represent the victory of their forefathers more than a century ago, but have become symbols of their hopes and aspirations;

*Whereas*, while the church bells were taken in an atmosphere of divisiveness, perhaps hatred and revenge, what is essential is that we, the Filipino people, now strive for peace and reconciliation;

*Whereas*, while there have been various efforts undertaken both here and abroad to call for the return of the Balangiga bells, this continues to be a point of contention in the relations between the Philippines and the United States as the latter still refuses to return the bells;

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED***, that the Senate strongly urges the Philippine government to exhaust all efforts to persuade the government of the United States of America to, as an act of goodwill and solidarity between the people of these two nations, immediately return the bells of Balangiga to the province of Samar.

Adopted,



**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator