



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number: 16-5287

Agenda Item Number: 21.

Agenda Date: 10/13/2016

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Government and Public Affairs, Office of Military Affairs

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Jeff Coyle, Government and Public Affairs; Juan G. Ayala, Director, Office of Military Affairs

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S) IMPACTED: City Wide

SUBJECT:

Resolution honoring Filipino WWII Veterans

SUMMARY:

This item is to request the City Council's support in officially proclaiming the City of San Antonio's recognition and gratitude for Filipino Veterans of World War II. The proclamation will honor these brave Veterans' dedication to duty, gallantry under fire, and service to the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America. In addition, the City's support is also requested in officially proclaiming their endorsement of the legislation to award these Veterans the Congressional Gold Medal.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 1941, more than 200,000 Filipino Soldiers responded to President Roosevelt's call-to-arms and later fought under the American flag during WWII. Filipino soldiers served in the most grueling conditions during World War II in the defense of their homeland, bravely fighting in the Battles of Corregidor, Manila and Luzon, and endured the brutal hardships of the infamous Bataan Death March. Filipino soldiers were initially assigned to the Philippine Scouts, the Philippine Commonwealth Army, new Philippine Scouts, Filipino Civilian Volunteers

who served with United States Army and the Guerilla Services; later, they served in the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment, the 2nd Filipino Infantry Battalion, and the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion. Filipino Scouts, Civilian Volunteers and those assigned to the Guerillas Services provided intelligence, logistics and communications support to allied forces which were essential to the liberation of the Philippines. Such was their effectiveness that by the end of World War II, Japan controlled only 12 of the 48 Philippine provinces. Many of the descendants of these brave men would not only serve in the Korean and Vietnam wars, but also in the current Middle East military conflicts. This unselfish call to military duty is a gift that service members of Filipino descent have given to the United States during times of war for over 100 years. The Filipino Veterans Recognition & Education Project (FilVetREP) has submitted legislation to recognize these brave Veterans through the Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015 under the S.B. 1555 and H.R. 2737 (114th Congress).

Councilmember Nirenberg filed a Council Consideration Request in June 2016 to initiate consideration of a resolution to recognize Filipino World War II veterans and support federal legislation to award these veterans collectively with a Congressional Gold Medal. The Governance Committee considered the request on September 21, 2016 and unanimously recommended it move to the full City Council.

ISSUE:

In the past, City Council has approved other proclamations honoring the brave men and women who have served our country in uniform throughout the nation's history.

ALTERNATIVE:

City Council could decide to honor Filipino WWII Veterans in a different manner such as a Proclamation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the Resolution by City Council