

SCOMM

149:11

Alaska State Legislature

Alaska State Capitol



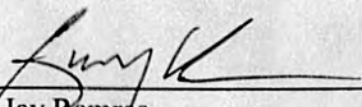
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Date: April 3, 2007

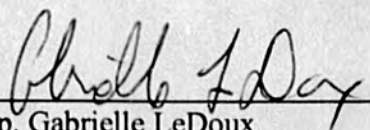
Re: HJR 15

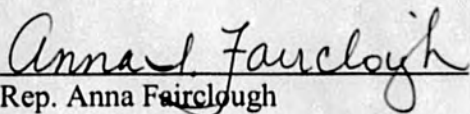
We the undersigned agree to waive HJR 15 from House Special Committee on Military & Veterans' Affairs Committee and onto House State Affairs. Signature and agreement to waive does not constitute support or opposition to the bill, nor obligate the member to a specific vote on the House Floor.

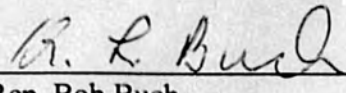

Rep. Bob Roses, Chair

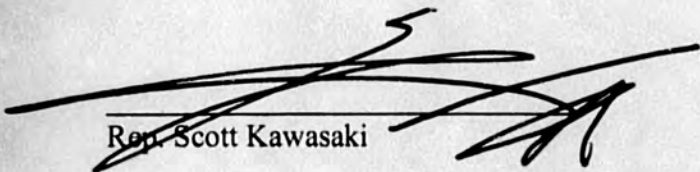

Rep. Jay Ramras


Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom


Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux


Rep. Anna Fairclough


Rep. Bob Buch


Rep. Scott Kawasaki

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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Representative Gabrielle LeDoux

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 15 Supporting the Filipino Veterans Equity Act and Filipino Veterans Reunification Act

This resolution from the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the United States Congress to pass the Filipino Veterans Equity Act and the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act.

From 1898 until 1946, the Philippine Islands were considered a territory of the United States. During World War II the military forces of the Philippines were drafted into service under the command of American officers in the United States armed forces in the Far East to fight against the Japanese invasion. Filipino and American soldiers fought side by side in such battles as Corregidor. Many died during the 65-mile Bataan Death March, and those who survived were imprisoned under inhumane conditions.

Filipino World War II veterans were promised military benefits, but after the War the United States Congress passed the Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act of 1946. The act considered the services of Filipino World War II veterans not to be active service. This status change had the effect of denying Filipino World War II veterans the rights, privileges and benefits that American World War II veterans received.

There have been several attempts to reverse this injustice. In 1990, Filipino World War II Veterans were allowed to immigrate to the U.S. Many of them did and petitioned for their immediate families. In 2000, they were provided with military burial benefits and in 2003 they were provided long overdue medical and nursing home care from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

The Filipino Veterans Equity Act and the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act would correct a terrible injustice by: 1) providing veterans the full benefits they were denied; and 2) providing immediate relief for those veterans and their families who have waited for more than a decade with approved immigration petitions.

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Representative Gabrielle LeDoux

MEMO

TO: HOUSE MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATIVE BOB ROSES, CO-CHAIR

FROM: REPRESENTATIVE GABRIELLE LEDOUX *Gabrielle LeDoux*

SUBJECT: HEARING REQUEST FOR HJR 15

SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF A FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY ACT AND A
FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACT

DATE: 4/3/07

I respectfully request that HJR 15 be scheduled for a hearing in the House Military & Veterans Affairs Committee.

Attached you will find:

- HJR 15
- Sponsor statement

My staff member assigned to this legislation is Christine R. Marasigan at 465-8872.

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