

SENATE RESOLUTION 333—RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF SUSTAINED IMMIGRATION FROM THE PHILIPPINES TO THE UNITED STATES AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR FILIPINO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY TO OUR COUNTRY OVER THE LAST CENTURY

Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 333

Whereas the peoples of the Philippine archipelago have a long and proud history, and today, as the Republic of the Philippines, embrace democracy, occupy a central strategic position in Asia and the Pacific, and nurture a rich and diverse cultural heritage;

Whereas the United States and the Philippines have enjoyed a long and productive relationship, including the period of United States governance between 1898 and 1946, and the period post-independence starting in 1946, during which the Philippines has taken its place among the community of nations and has been one of our country's most loyal and reliable allies internationally;

Whereas the bonds between our 2 countries have been strengthened through sustained immigration from the Philippines to the United States;

Whereas the 2000 census counted almost 2,400,000 Americans of Filipino ancestry living in all parts of our country, including the top 2 States, California, with almost 1,100,000 Filipino Americans, and Hawaii, with some 275,000;

Whereas the contributions of Filipino Americans to the United States include achievement in all segments of our society, including, to name a few, labor, business, politics, medicine, media and the arts;

Whereas Filipino Americans have especially served with distinction in the Armed Forces of the United States throughout the history of our long relationship, from World Wars I and II through the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and today in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas within the United States, Filipino Americans retained many of their country's proud cultural traditions and contribute immeasurably to the diverse tapestry of today's American experience;

Whereas Filipino Americans have also maintained close ties to their friends and relatives in the Philippines and in doing so play an indispensable role in maintaining the strength and vitality of the United States-Philippines relationship;

Whereas both the Filipino experience in the United States and the resultant ties between our 2 great countries began in earnest in 1906, when 15 Filipino contract laborers arrived in the then-Territory of Hawaii to work on the islands' sugar plantations, the beginnings of an emigration from the Philippines to Hawaii which, during the subsequent century, has sometimes exceeded 60,000 a year, making Filipinos the largest immigrant group from the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas 1906 also saw the first class of 200 "pensionados" arrive from the Philippines to obtain United States educations with the intent of returning, although many later became United States citizens and helped form the foundation of today's Filipino-American community;

Whereas the story of America's Filipino-American community is little known and rarely told, yet is the quintessential immigrant story of early struggle, pain, sacrifice,

and broken dreams, leading eventually to success in overcoming ethnic, social, economic, political, and legal barriers to win a well-deserved place in American society;

Whereas our Filipino-American community will recognize a century of achievement in the United States in 2006 through a series of nationwide celebrations and memorials honoring the centennial of sustained immigration from the Philippines; and

Whereas this centennial is for all Americans of whatever ethnic origin to celebrate both with and in order to understand and appreciate our Filipino-American community, but also as a remembrance of the struggles and triumphs of all of our predecessors and in honor of our common national experience: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the centennial of sustained immigration from the Philippines to the United States;

(2) acknowledges the achievements and contributions of Filipino Americans over the past century; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe this milestone with appropriate celebratory and educational programs, ceremonies and other activities.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 69—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A DAY OF HEARTS, CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT DAY IN ORDER TO INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT CONGENITAL HEART DEFECTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. ISAKSON submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 69

Whereas congenital heart defects are structural problems with the heart that are present at birth;

Whereas such defects range in severity from simple problems, such as "holes" between chambers of the heart, to very severe malformations, such as the complete absence of one or more chambers or valves of the heart;

Whereas more than one million Americans have some form of a congenital heart defect and such defect is the number one cause of death in infants;

Whereas out of 1000 births, eight babies will have some form of a congenital heart disorder, and approximately 35,000 babies are born with such defects each year;

Whereas twice as many children die each year from congenital heart disease compared with childhood cancers, yet funding for pediatric cancer research is five times higher than such funding for congenital heart disease;

Whereas cardiovascular disease is the Nation's leading killer in both men and women among all racial and ethnic groups;

Whereas the United States has a severe shortage of cardiac centers that are fully equipped to provide care for adults living with complex heart defects;

Whereas almost one million Americans die of cardiovascular disease each year, resulting in up to 42 percent of all deaths in the United States;

Whereas the presence of a serious congenital heart defect often results in an enormous emotional and financial strain on young families who are already in a vulnerable stage of their lives;

Whereas severe congenital heart disease requires that families dedicate extensive fi-

nancial resources for assistance and care both within and outside of a hospital environment;

Whereas congenial heart defects exceed more than \$2.2 million a year for inpatient surgery alone; and

Whereas February 14, 2006 would be an appropriate day to recognize A Day of Hearts: Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress supports the goals and ideals of A Day of Hearts: Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day to—

(1) increase awareness about congenital heart defects;

(2) encourage research with respect to the disease; and

(3) support the millions of Americans who are affected by this disease.

AUTHORITIES FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to hold a hearing on Wednesday, December 14 regarding EPA's Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure program, specifically the issues addressed by proposed rule and guidance document issued Friday, December 2.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet in open Executive Session during the session on Wednesday, December 14, 2005, 11 a.m., to consider the nominations of Antonio Fratto, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Public Affairs, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC; David M. Spooner, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC; Vincent J. Ventimiglia, Jr., to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Legislation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC; Richard T. Crowder, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, Washington, DC; Jeffrey Robert Brown, to be Member of Social Security Advisory Board, Social Security Administration, Baltimore, MD; and David Steele Bohigian, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Market Access and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent Jon Miles of my staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's session.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that John Haffner and Molly Askin, legal interns in my