

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 91

Expressing deep gratitude to the government and the people of the Philippines for their sympathy and support since September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 10, 2001

Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. HAGEL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing deep gratitude to the government and the people of the Philippines for their sympathy and support since September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United States and the Republic of the Philippines have shared a special relationship of mutual benefit for more than 100 years;

Whereas, since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, the Philippines has been among the world's most steadfast friends of the United States during a time of grief and turmoil, offering heartfelt sympathy and support;

Whereas, after the United States launched Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan on October 7, 2001, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo immediately

announced her government's unwavering support for the operation, calling it "the start of a just offensive";

Whereas, during the United States operations in Afghanistan, the government of the Philippines has made all of its military installations available to the Armed Forces of the United States for transit, refueling, resupply, and staging operations;

Whereas this assistance provided by the Philippines has proved highly valuable in the prosecution of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan;

Whereas the Philippines also faces terrorist threats from the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front and the radical Islamic Abu Sayaff group, as well as armed secessionist campaigns by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and elements of the Moro National Liberation Front;

Whereas the Abu Sayaff group has historical ties to Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaeda network, and has engaged in hundreds of acts of terrorism in the Philippines, including bombings, arson, and kidnappings;

Whereas, in May 2001, Abu Sayaff kidnapped American citizens Martin Burnham, Gracia Burnham and Guillermo Sobero, along with several Filipinos;

Whereas Abu Sayaff has killed Guillermo Sobero and still detains Martin Burnham and Gracia Burnham; and

Whereas, the United States and the Philippines are committed to each other's security in the Mutual Defense Treaty, signed at Washington August 30, 1951 (3 UST 3947): Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) expresses its deepest gratitude to the gov-
4 ernment and the people of the Philippines for their
5 sympathy and support since September 11, 2001;

6 (2) expresses its sympathy to the current and
7 recent Filipino victims of terrorism and their fami-
8 lies;

9 (3) affirms the commitments of the United
10 States to the Philippines as expressed in the Mutual
11 Defense Treaty, signed at Washington August 30,
12 1951 (3 UST 3947);

13 (4) supports the government of the Philippines
14 in its efforts to prevent and suppress terrorism; and

15 (5) acknowledges the economic and military
16 needs of the Philippines and pledges to continue to
17 assist in addressing those needs.

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