


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SENATE

P.S. Resolution No. 528

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES TO REQUEST FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE RETURN OF THE BALANGIGA BELLS AS A TOKEN OF ETERNAL FRIENDSHIP AND AS A TESTAMENT TO THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS OF OUR DEMOCRATIC STATES.

WHEREAS, July 4, known as the Philippine-American Friendship Day, marked the date the Philippines gained Independence from the United States of America;

WHEREAS, more than a century ago, in 1901, a friendship day was a far cry from the massacre that was committed by the United States Armed Forces against the civilian population of the town of Balagina, Samar in reprisal for a defeat which they suffered in the hands of Filipino guerillas;

WHEREAS, an order to shoot and kill all persons capable of bearing arms resulted in the death of thousands of Filipinos and the destruction and confiscation of private properties including the taking of the church bells of the town of Balangiga;

WHEREAS, the appalling violation of the rules of civilized warfare led to the court-martial of the commanding officer, General Jacob H. Smith;

WHEREAS, despite the event being characterized by extreme brutality and cruelty, the government of the United States still retained in it's possession the proceeds of the looting as bounties of war;

WHEREAS, the bells are now kept at American military installations in South Korea and in the mainland United States as trophies of war;

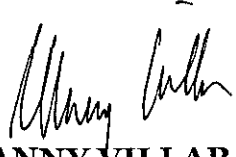
WHEREAS, these bells signify the bravery and the love of freedom by the Filipino people representing the self-evident truths as provided for the in United States Declaration of Independence, "*that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness*";

WHEREAS, in a time where the fraternal relations between our two countries are being tested by modern geo-politics, it is a high time for the United States to affirm its commitment to the ideals of liberty and democracy by

returning to the Philippines a most significant piece of its history, the Bells of Balangiga;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to request from the government of the United States of America, the return of the Balangiga Bells as a token of eternal friendship and as a testament to the fraternal relations of our democratic states.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR