

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 202

Printed pursuant to Senate Interim Rule 213.28 by order of the President of the Senate in conformance with pre-session filing rules, indicating neither advocacy nor opposition on the part of the President (at the request of Senate Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness for Representative Janeen Sollman)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Recognizes and honors Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. for his service to United States during World War II.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1  
2       Whereas Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. was born on November 26, 1911, to Sabas Ramirez and Cecilia  
3 Laruya; and

4       Whereas Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. grew up in Agoo, La Union, Philippines, along with eight  
5 siblings; and

6       Whereas in the early 1930s, Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. at 18 years of age decided to emigrate to  
7 the United States with his cousins Rosendo and Henry; and

8       Whereas Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. and his cousins worked as farmers near Sacramento,  
9 California; and

10       Whereas Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. also worked as a busser for a local restaurant; and

11       Whereas after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. and his  
12 cousin Rosendo enlisted in the U.S. Army; and

13       Whereas Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. served in the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment, initially at Camp  
14 Beale near Sacramento; and

15       Whereas Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. was deployed to New Guinea and Southern Luzon,  
16 Philippines, specializing as a cook; and

17       Whereas Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. served in the military forces commanded by General Douglas  
18 MacArthur upon his return to the Philippines in 1944; and

19       Whereas Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. served in the U.S. Army with honor and distinction for three  
20 and a half years; and

21       Whereas Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. received numerous medals and commendations for his wartime  
22 leadership and service, including the Bronze Star, World War II Victory Medal, Philippine Liber-  
23 ation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and American Campaign Medal;  
24 and

25       Whereas Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. met Librada, the love of his life, at a party during his de-  
26 ployment to the Philippines, and they were married shortly thereafter on May 14, 1945, in Angeles  
27 City, Pampanga, Philippines; and

28       Whereas in late 1945, Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. had to return to the United States when his  
29 deployment ended; and

30       Whereas while they were separated, Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. sent Librada weekly love letters

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 and \$20 in cash; and

2 Whereas in February 1946, Paul and Librada Ramirez had their first child, Lydia, and they had  
3 10 more children together: Paul, Danilo, Elizabeth, Maria Vicky, Alex, Jose, Bernard, Fidel, Crisanta  
4 and Andy; and

5 Whereas after the war ended, Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. returned to the Philippines to live with  
6 his family; and

7 Whereas during his life in the Philippines, Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. was a fisherman, carpenter  
8 and owner of a “sari-sari” sundry store; and

9 Whereas due to his community involvement and leadership, Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. was elected  
10 as a capitan del barrio (neighborhood leader); and

11 Whereas Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. received U.S. citizenship due to his military service, which  
12 also distinguished his children as U.S. citizens and allowed them to emigrate to the United States;  
13 and

14 Whereas because Librada’s sister was already an inhabitant of Portland, Oregon, many members  
15 of Paul and Librada Ramirez’s family settled in northeast Portland; and

16 Whereas all of Paul and Librada Ramirez’s children were ultimately able to settle in the Pacific  
17 Northwest, and there are now more than 70 descendants of Paul and Librada Ramirez living in the  
18 Portland metropolitan area; and

19 Whereas U.S. Senator Ron Wyden saluted the bravery and sacrifices of Paul Laruya Ramirez  
20 Sr. during World War II; and

21 Whereas Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, which hangs  
22 in the National Museum of American History, reminding visitors for generations to come of his re-  
23 markable wartime service; and

24 Whereas the Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines in San Francisco stated that  
25 “the Philippines’ independence in 1946 was made possible by the bravery of Mr. Ramirez and our  
26 other World War II veterans. We owe a debt of gratitude to him and our veterans for the freedoms  
27 that both countries enjoy today.”; and

28 Whereas the Consulate General further stated that the legacy of Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr.  
29 “serves as an example for generations to come to learn about how ordinary individuals can be called  
30 upon to do extraordinary things. He represents the best of the Filipino nation and his heroism shall  
31 forever be remembered and honored.”; now, therefore,

32 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

33 That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor Paul Laruya  
34 Ramirez Sr. for his heroism and extraordinary service to the United States during World War II.

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