



FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

SEP 28 12:16

SENATE

P.S.R. No. 610

RECORDED

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" L. Pimentel, III

**A RESOLUTION  
REITERATING THE CALL FOR THE RETURN BY THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA OF THE BELLS OF BALANGIGA, SAMAR AND  
OTHER ARTIFACTS AND WAR BOOTIES OF THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN WAR  
TAKEN FROM THE PROVINCE OF SAMAR**

**WHEREAS**, on September 28, 1901, tension and hostilities between American troops and local Filipino residents led to a surprise attack on the garrison of Company C, 9th U.S. Infantry Regiment, in Balangiga, Samar now more popularly known as the "Balangiga Massacre";

**WHEREAS**, the Americans were initially driven off with heavy losses, but were able to counterattack with vengeance over the next few weeks, causing the deaths of hundreds of civilians and the total destruction of the town;

**WHEREAS**, by way of retaliation to the losses suffered by the American soldiers stationed in Balangiga from the hands of Filipino troops, Brig. General Jacob H. Smith, the American officer tasked with the pacification of Samar Island, issued a directive to subordinates that the whole of Samar Island be turned into a "howling wilderness";

**WHEREAS**, American troops took four artifacts as war trophies from Balangiga, three of which -- an English-made cannon dated 1557 and two church bells with the Franciscan Order emblems dated 1863 and 1889, respectively - are on display at the Trophy Park of the F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming;

**WHEREAS**, the fourth artifact, a small church bell with the Franciscan Order emblem dated 1896, is with the 9th U.S. Infantry Regiment in Camp Red Cloud, Korea;

**WHEREAS**, the possession of these artifacts by the U.S. Government, especially the two famous Bells of Balangiga in Wyoming, remains a source of friction between the Philippines and the United States;

**WHEREAS**, the body of one American killed in the battle, that of Hospital Corpsman Harry S. Wright, remains buried in Balangiga and needs to be recovered and returned to the United States;

**WHEREAS**, the people of Balangiga and Samar Island have unilaterally expressed forgiveness for the events following the attack of Company C, 9th U.S. Infantry Regiment, and actively seek reconciliation;

**WHEREAS**, during the Second Regular Session of the 12<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Philippines, Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. filed a resolution, P.S.R. No. 48, *A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RETURN BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OF THE BELLS OF BALANGIGA, SAMAR AND OTHER ARTIFACTS AND WAR BOOTIES OF THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN WAR TAKEN FROM THE PROVINCE OF SAMAR*;

**WHEREAS**, since the filing by Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. of P.S.R. No. 48, the Bells of Balangiga and the other artifacts and war booties of the Filipino-American War taken from the Province of Samar remain to be unreturned;

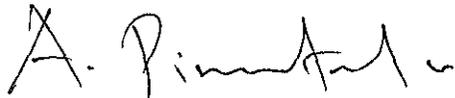
**WHEREAS**, the return of the Bells of Balangiga and the other artifacts and war booties of the Filipino-American War taken from the Province of Samar will not only mean a closure of the wounds of Filipino-American War but it will also herald a new era of peace and closer cooperation between the governments of the Philippines and of the United States;

**WHEREAS**, today September 28, 2011 marks the 110<sup>th</sup> year of the Balangiga Massacre and in commemoration of the same, it is an opportune moment for the Senate to reiterate the call for the return of the Bells of Balangiga and the other artifacts and war booties of the Filipino-American War.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that:

- a. The administration, through appropriate government agencies and with the assistance of non-government entities, shall seek to recover the remains of Hospital Corpsman Harry S. Wright and have it returned to the United States as a gesture of good faith;
- b. The administration shall likewise resume formal negotiations for the return of the war trophies taken by the US troops from Samar, especially the bells of Balangiga, namely, the two bells bearing the emblem of the Franciscan Religious Order with the dates of their manufacture as follows, 1863 and 1889 that are located at the Trophy Park of the F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and the third bell that also bears the emblem of the Franciscan Order with the date of its manufacture in 1896 and is now in the possession of the 9th US Infantry Regiment in Camp Red Cloud, Korea;
- c. The smaller bell, dated 1896 and presently in Korea, shall remain in the care of the 9th U.S. Infantry Regiment until the Regiment opts to return it to Balangiga. Should this bell be returned, the Philippines shall replace it with an exact replica as a gift of friendship to the Regiment;
- d. The 1863 bell, its provenance still doubtful, shall remain in the care of the F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming, until its provenance can be clarified and its disposition agreed;
- e. The 1889 bell, its Balangiga provenance already established, shall be returned to the Parish of Balangiga to be placed in a monument to the dead of both sides of the Balangiga conflict; and
- f. No returned artifact shall be used in such a way as to dishonor the Filipino or American dead.

Adopted,

  
AQUILINO "KOKO" L. PIMENTEL, III