

DRAFT

SUMMARY

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

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas while they were separated, Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. sent Librada weekly love letters and \$20 in cash; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas all of Paul and Librada Ramirez’s children were ultimately able

1 to settle in the Pacific Northwest, and there are now more than 70 descend-
2 ants of Paul and Librada Ramirez living in the Portland metropolitan area;
3 and

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

6 Whereas Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr. was honored with the Congressional
7 Gold Medal, which hangs in the National Museum of American History, re-
8 minding visitors for generations to come of his remarkable wartime service;
9 and

10 Whereas the Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines in San
11 Francisco stated that “the Philippines’ independence in 1946 was made pos-
12 sible by the bravery of Mr. Ramirez and our other World War II veterans.
13 We owe a debt of gratitude to him and our veterans for the freedoms that
14 both countries enjoy today.”; and

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

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

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