

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. CON. RES. 273**

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**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Reaffirming the special relationship between the  
United States and the Republic of the Philippines.



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# H. CON. RES. 273

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## **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

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

Whereas 2001 marks the 50th anniversary of the United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty, signed at Washington on August 30, 1951 (3 UST 3947);

Whereas since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, the Philippines has been among the 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 its war of self-defense 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 United States operations in Afghanistan, the Government of the Philippines has made all of its military installations available to the United States Armed Forces for transit, refueling, resupply, and staging operations;

Whereas this assistance provided by the Philippines has proved highly valuable in the prosecution of the war in Afghanistan, as acknowledged by the Commander-in-Chief of United States Forces in the Pacific;

Whereas the Philippines also faces grave terrorist threats from the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army, the National Democratic Front, and the radical Abu Sayaff group, as well as an armed secessionist movement, the Moro Islamic 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 United States citizens Martin Burnham, Gracia Burnham, and Guillermo Sobero, along with several Filipinos;

Whereas Abu Sayaff killed Mr. Sobero and continues to detain Martin Burnham and Gracia Burnham; and

Whereas the United States and the Philippines are committed to each other's security pursuant to the Mutual Defense Treaty: Now, therefore, be it

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

3            (1) expresses its deepest gratitude to the Gov-  
4            ernment and people of the Philippines for their sym-  
5            pathy and support since the September 11, 2001,  
6            terrorist attacks on the United States;

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

10           (3) affirms the commitment of the United  
11           States to the Republic of the Philippines pursuant to  
12           the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty;

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

1           (5) acknowledges the economic and military  
2           needs of the Philippines and pledges to continue to  
3           assist in addressing those needs.

          Passed the House of Representatives December 18,  
2001.

Attest:

*Clerk.*