



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** Res 1197-2005, **Version:** \*

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Res. No. 1197

Resolution in support of H. Res. 313, which urges the President to authorize the transfer of ownership of one of the bells taken from the town of Balangiga on the island of Samar, Philippines in 1901, and currently displayed at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming, to the people of the Philippines.

By Council Members Sears, Barron, Liu, Weprin and Jackson

Whereas, The United States of America and the citizens of the Republic of the Philippines have shared historic and political ties since the island was ceded to United States by Spain at the conclusion of the Spanish-American War in 1898; and

Whereas, After the United States acquired the Philippines, armed conflict occurred between American Forces and the Filipinos that resulted in the Philippine-American War, which was fought between 1899 and 1902; and

Whereas, During one of the battles of the Philippine-American War that took place in the Town of Balangiga on the island of Samar on September 28, 1901, the town's church bells were rung in order to signal to the Filipinos that an attack against the American Forces had begun; and

Whereas, During the battle in the Town of Balangiga, members of the United States Armed Forces confiscated the church bells and brought them to the United States as war trophies; and

Whereas, The church bells of Balangiga are currently located at the F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming; and

Whereas, Representative Robert Filner has recently introduced H. Res. 313, which urges the President to authorize the transfer of ownership of one of the bells taken

from the town of Balangiga back to the people of the Philippines; and

Whereas, According to H. Res. 313, the church bells of Balangiga should more properly serve as a symbol of friendship and cooperation between the United States and the Philippines and not the conflict that occurred during the Philippine-American War; and

Whereas, According to H. Res. 313, the United States holds supportable legal title to the bells recognizable under international law and the United States government has final disposition over the church bells of Balangiga; and

Whereas, According to H. Res. 313, the Republic of the Philippines has repeatedly requested the return of the church bells; and

Whereas, According to H. Res. 313, a proposal has been put forth that provides a means for both countries to mutually share in the heritage that the church bells of Balangiga represent, enabling both countries to retain an original and a duplicate bell; and

Whereas, The United States is home to a large Philippine population, who have made many contributions to the economic and cultural viability of our nation and our City; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York supports H. Res. 313, which urges the President to authorize the transfer of ownership of one of the bells taken from the town of Balangiga on the island of Samar, Philippines in 1901, and currently displayed at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming, to the people of the Philippines.

LS#  
10/5/2005  
RB/RA