

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 986



Introduced by REP. TEDDY BRAWNER BAGUILAT

**AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-
WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF IFUGAO TO COMMEMORATE THE
“PHILIPPINE NATIONAL VICTORY AND LIBERATION DAY”**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 2nd day of September 1945 is a significant date in the history not only of Ifugao but also of the country. On this day Japanese Imperial Army General Tomoyuki Yamashita, the Head of the Japanese 14th Army (the Army Division ordered to invade and occupy the Philippines), and the highest Commander of the Japanese Imperial Army in the Philippines surrendered to Filipino and American Forces in the Municipality of Kiangan, Province of Ifugao. On that same date, the remaining Japanese Forces in the Philippines also formally surrendered. The Philippines was finally liberated.

Yet liberation came with a cost as history highlights that when the hearts and minds of man move towards the road of war and aggression it results in immense pain and suffering. The Second World War (WWII) has created an indelible mark on the World and on the country. It has led to the deaths of more than 40 million people around the world. In that count one million are Filipinos, which includes the people of Ifugao.

These irrefutable facts of history should never be forgotten. For we always need to be reminded that we should keep in our hearts and minds the precepts of peace and harmony.

The framers of the 1987 Constitution have recognized this importance hence Article II Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “The Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy, adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land and adheres to the policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation, and amity with all nations.”

Thus, as an expression of the 1987 Constitution and a requirement of patriotism, I am submitting this bill as a Memorial to those who died during the war, to those people who valiantly defended our

country and to the innocent victims of war. This will be a memorial that will allow people to ponder on the evils of war and the graces of peace especially in the province of Ifugao where it all ended.

Further, this Bill was filed in the Fifteenth Congress as House Bill No. 2936 and was approved on third reading by this Chamber on 22 August 2011. However, the Senate was not able to pass the same before the expiration of the Fifteenth Congress.

For all these reasons, it is most respectfully urged that this bill be approved.



TEDDY BRAWNER BAGULAT

Lone District, Ifugao

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress Assembled:

Section 1. September 2 of every year is hereby declared a special nonworking holiday in the Province of Ifugao to celebrate the "Philippine National Victory and Liberation Day".

Section 2. The Provincial Government of Ifugao, in coordination with the Municipal Government of Kiangang, the National Historical Institute (NHI), the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO), the Military Shrines Services (MSI), Department of Education (DepED), and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall lead appropriate and meaningful commemorative programs and activities to be participated in by officials and employees of the national, provincial and municipal government agencies and instrumentalities, and civic, religious, nongovernment, business and civil society organizations, in order to give significance and honor the heroes and heroines who contributed to the Philippine's National Victory and Liberation.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,