

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

20th Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL No. 4635

Introduced by HON. MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to officially declare September 3 henceforth as a Special Non-Working Commemorative Holiday to be called National Victory and Liberation Day in the Philippines.

In many cases, Filipinos commemorate their defeats such as the fall of Bataan, the fall of Manila, the death of Rizal, and the assassination of Senator Benigno Aquino, but rarely do they celebrate their victories. September 3 is one such day of triumph, marking not only victory but also liberation.

On September 2, 1945, Lieutenant General Tomoyuki Yamashita, the "Tiger of Malaya" and Supreme Commander of all Japanese Forces in the Philippines, after being hemmed in for months by USAPHIL NL Forces in his last defensive enclave in Ifugao, surrendered at Kiangang. He was then brought to Baguio City where, on September 3, he signed the documents of formal surrender, thus ending World War II in the Philippines.

This historic date ended the darkest interlude in Philippine history from 1941 to 1945, when Filipinos were plunged into the lowest depths of deprivation and suffering caused by brutal atrocities committed especially against helpless civilians. It also put an end to the painful suppression of democratic institutions and processes under a foreign militaristic oppressor.

At the same time, it ushered in a new era of hope, unity, and patriotism. It symbolized the unleashing of peace that would bring about the realization of democratic principles, the affirmation of human rights, the dignity of self-respect among nations, and socio-economic and political freedom long aspired

for during centuries of colonial domination. The recognition of September 3 as a solemn day of national remembrance is a way of honoring the sacrifices of our forebears during World War II. Declaring it a special non-working holiday will allow Filipinos, especially in Baguio City, to meaningfully commemorate the end of Japanese occupation and reflect on the painful cost of freedom.

The liberties and privileges we now enjoy are products of the blood, sweat, and tears of those who endured and resisted the war. No less than former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who attended the 60th anniversary of the Kiangang surrender, expressed support for the commemoration of this day. It is only fitting that such a momentous event in our nation's history be given the recognition it deserves through the declaration of a National Victory and Liberation Day.



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AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 3 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY IN COMMEMORATION OF THE SURRENDER OF THE JAPANESE MILITARY FORCES LED BY GENERAL TOMOYUKI YAMASHITA IN BAGUIO CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11216 ENTITLED "AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 3 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, IN COMMEMORATION OF THE SURRENDER OF THE JAPANESE MILITARY FORCES LED BY GENERAL TOMOYUKI YAMASHITA IN BAGUIO CITY"

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 11216 entitled: "*An Act Declaring September 3 Of Every Year A Special Working Public Holiday Throughout The Country In Commemoration Of The Surrender Of The Japanese Military Forces Led By General Tomoyuki Yamashita In Baguio City*" amended to read as follows:

"Section 1. September 3 of every year is hereby declared a special ~~working~~-**NON WORKING** public holiday throughout the country, in commemoration of the surrender of the Japanese military forces led by General Tomoyuki Yamashita at the American High Commissioner's Residence in Camp John Hay, Baguio City."

SECTION 2. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.