

parade showcasing Filipino culture is among the many events planned to commemorate this milestone.

Historians tell us that the Philippines was "discovered" in 1521 by Portuguese sailor Ferdinand Magellan, who worked for Spain. In spite of a bloody battle between Filipino fighters and the invaders in which Magellan was killed, Spain colonized the Philippines and held power for nearly four hundred years.

In 1896, Filipinos mustered the courage to bond together to overthrow the Spanish colonialists. Filipino revolutionaries, led by General Emilio Aguinaldo, took to the streets in his hometown of Kawit, about 15 miles southwest of Manila, and proclaimed an end to Spanish rule. The open resistance of the imperial power of Spain led to the declaration of independence two years later on June 12, 1898 and with it the birth of Asia's first independent nation.

But in real terms, just as Spain slipped out, came the colonizing power of the United States. Spain "ceded" the Philippines to the United States, blatantly ignoring the Filipinos' own proclamation of freedom. So, practically, the century of independence is somewhat of an illusion, for the Philippines was a territory and then a commonwealth of the United States until July 4, 1946.

However, Independence Day is celebrated for good reason on June 12th, because the victory in 1898 symbolizes to the Filipino people the triumph of political will and physical endurance by Filipinos against foreign control. Today, Filipinos are free and they have proven their quest for freedom in countless battles—most recently as part of the American Army in World War II.

Filipino soldiers were drafted into the Armed Forces by President Franklin D. Roosevelt—and promised full benefits as American veterans. But these benefits were rescinded by the 79th Congress in 1946. Congressman Ben Gilman and I have now introduced the Filipino Veterans Equity Act (H.R. 836) which would restore the benefits promised when these soldiers were drafted into service by the President of the United States and fought side-by-side with soldiers from the American mainland against a common enemy.

Over 175 of our colleagues have co-sponsored H.R. 836, in support of these brave veterans. A most appropriate way to commemorate this centennial year of Philippine independence is to pass H.R. 836 and restore honor and equity to the Filipino veterans of World War II!

As Congressman of the Congressional district which includes more Filipino-American residents than any other except for Hawaii, I am very honored to have been chosen as their representative in Congress. I look forward to participating in the 1998 celebrations commemorating their Independence Day and the spirit, resourcefulness, warmth, and compassion of the people of the Philippines and of Filipino-Americans.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE FRANCISCO DUENAS PEREZ

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the island of Guam lost a very valuable member of its community on December 22, 1997. Mr. Francisco Duenas Perez, a farmer, businessman, government administrator, and legislator was called to his eternal rest at the age of 84. The late Francisco Perez worked early on in life at the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Yards & Docks. He graduated from Guam Evening High School and in 1984 received an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from the University of Guam.

Frank Perez accomplished many things during his lifetime. He was the first Chamorro farmer to successfully incubate imported fertilized eggs from the United States and sell locally produced eggs to stores throughout Guam. In 1983, he was commissioned as a captain in the Guam Militia. During the World War II occupation of Guam he risked his life by secretly operating a radio to rescue two American escapees. He was named administrator for the Agricultural Department under the Bureau of Naval Intelligence in 1944 and later went on to begin a long and distinguished career in the Guam Legislature. He is also known as the "father" of the Guam Economic Development Authority, having formulated the concept of developing a government agency to help promote and attract new businesses to Guam. He introduced the idea of tax breaks, known as qualifying certificates, as a valuable economic stimulus. In 1947, he co-founded the Pacific Construction Company. He served as its president until 1951, when he founded what is now known as Perez Bros. Inc., a construction company and the island's first private subdivision. In addition, he was a cofounder of the Guam Contractors Association in 1960 and contributed to that organization's work with economic development activities on Guam.

Frank Perez was recognized for his outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the success of Guam's economy by being elected to the Guam Chamber of Commerce's Business Hall of Fame in 1995. He was one of Guam's outstanding leaders whose experiences during World War II shaped several generations. His dignity, his selfless service, his commitment to family and to Guam serve as reminders of the qualities which our island needs. His passing is a great loss and his presence will be missed.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I offer my condolences and join his widow, Mrs. Carmen Camacho Duenas Perez, and their children and spouses namely: Mr. Frank and Mrs. Christina Perez, Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Donna Perez, Mr. Gregory and Mrs. Ernestina Perez, Mr. George and Mrs. Tressie Perez, Mr. Thomas Perez and Ms. Karen Kasperbauer, Mr. John and Mrs. Patricia Perez, Ms. Mary Perez, Dr. Sulpicio and Mrs. Carmen Soriano, and Ms. Margarita Perez, along with their 29 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, in mourning the loss of a husband, a father, and an invaluable citizen who dedicated his life for the people of Guam. Si Yu'os Ma'ase, Tun Francisco.

INTERNATIONAL PAPER CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION TO TAKE PLACE AT HUDSON RIVER MILL

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a very special event taking place on January 28, 1998 in Corinth, New York, located in my congressional district. On that day, the employees of International Paper will launch a year long celebration of the company's Centennial Anniversary at its Hudson River mill. This location is particularly fitting because the Hudson River mill is the oldest operating mill in International Paper's worldwide mill system. The facility was built in 1869 by one of the first manufacturers of paper using wood fiber, then joined with 17 other mills in 1898 to form International Paper, the nation's largest producer of newsprint at that time.

Today, International Paper is the world's largest forest products company, with operations in 31 countries employing more than 85,000 people. Its many products include printing papers, packaging, and forest products, and it continues to manage more than 6 million acres of forest land nationwide.

In honor of the 100 year anniversary, International Paper Chairman John Dillon is hosting a special ceremony at the Hudson River mill, featuring a long list of distinguished guests which include Governor George Pataki. The most important people at this event, however, will be the many generations of dedicated employees who, by building lasting relationships with the local communities, have made International Paper an outstanding corporate citizen.

I would like to pay a special tribute to the more than 600 men and women who work at the Hudson River mill, both for the history they celebrate this year and for the tremendous contributions they continue to make today. One good example of these activities is the new de-inking facility which allows the mill to produce high-quality recycled and virgin grades of coated publication paper.

One individual whom I would like to particularly recognize is Alice Boisvaert, a retiree from International Paper's Hudson River mill, who will be honored at the January 28th celebration. Alice, now 95, worked in the mill during the 1940's, when one of her wartime duties was to paint the mill's windows black in accordance with civil defense air-raid regulations. Alice's grandson, Jim, as well as his father, later worked at the Hudson River mill. Among Jim's initial tasks was scraping that black paint off of the windows.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Alice, her family, and the rest of the International Paper family on a century of service and commitment to their communities. I ask that all Members join me in rising to thank these individuals for their civic dedication, technological contributions, and environmental stewardship over the last hundred years. May the next hundred be even better than the first!