

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1841



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to transfer the commemoration of the Day of Valor or Araw ng Kagitingan from April 9 to September 3.

Our history is replete with the celebration of military defeats and deaths, as exemplified by the commemoration of the surrender of Filipino soldiers to the Japanese forces every April 9, Dr. Jose Rizal's death every December 30, and the assassination of former Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Jr. every August 21. As such, it is high time for the Philippines to recognize our country's military victories.

The third day of September is the appropriate date to observe the Day of Valor due to two coinciding events: the magnanimous victory of the Filipino forces during the 1896 Battle of Imus and the unconditional surrender of Gen. Tomuyuki Yamashita in the Philippines in 1945.

On the third day of September 1896, the Battle of Imus was culminated. The Battle of Imus is recognized as the first big battle of the Philippine Revolution which the Filipinos won. It boosted the morale of the revolutionaries who were defeated in San Juan del Monte. It also sparked many more citizens to join the fight for independence as revolutionaries.

The battle of Imus started in September 1 when Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, after suffering a defeat in Bacoar, joined forces in Imus with Capitan Municipal Jose Tagle. The revolutionaries besieged and captured the church of Imus. On the third day, Aguinaldo's forces annihilated a large Spanish force under General Ernesto Aguirre. They also captured a large amount of arms.

On the third day of September 1945, General Tomuyuki Yamashita, the so-called Tiger of Malaya and commander of the Japanese forces in the Philippines, formally surrendered in Camp John Hay, Baguio to the American forces. Yamashita's surrender, which took place in Kiangnan, Ifugao, marked the beginning of the liberation of the Philippines after five years of Japanese rule.

This day, September 3, would present itself as an opportunity for the Filipino people to celebrate our country's military milestones as well as to reflect on the duties called upon them as citizens of the Philippines.

For these reasons, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

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AN ACT
TRANSFERRING THE DAY OF VALOR FROM APRIL 9 TO SEPTEMBER 3 OF
EVERY YEAR AND DECLARING IT AS A LEGAL HOLIDAY

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

1 **Section 1.** To commemorate the first big victory of the Filipino revolutionary forces
2 during the Battle of Imus as well as the monumental surrender of General Tomuyuki Yamashita
3 which signaled the end of the Second World War, September 3 of every year is hereby declared
4 as the Day of Valor or Araw ng Kagitingan.

5
6 **Section 2.** All public officials and citizens of the Philippines are enjoined to observe such
7 day with a one-minute silence at 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon, and to hold appropriate rites in
8 honor of the sacrifices of all Filipino soldiers and martyrs.

9
10 **Section 3.** All laws, decrees, executive orders and other administrative issuances and
11 parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby amended,
12 repealed or modified accordingly.

13
14 **Section 4.** This Act shall take effect two (2) days after its publication in the *Official*
15 *Gazette* and at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,