

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress  
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 3721

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Introduced by: Rep. Mark O. Go

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Many Filipinos are unaware that Baguio was where the Second World War in the Philippines began. After the bombing of the Pearl Harbor, the first casualty of Japanese air raids in Luzon was Camp John Hay together with Manila. At that time, the City was politically and economically strategic, frequently housing President Manuel Quezon and the American high commissioner, who is the direct representative of the United States government in the Philippines.

Baguio's strategic military value was further enhanced by the location of various army institutions such as the small garrison in Camp John Hay, the Philippine army's Camp Henry T. Allen and the Teachers' Camp which was then the temporary home of the Philippine Military Academy. Lastly, there was also the Philippine Constabulary detachment at Camp Holmes, presently the Camp Dangwa.


During the Japanese occupation, Baguio also became a favored Japanese stronghold and there was an attempt to change the names of many places to Japanese or Igorot. Camp John Hay became Asahi Barracks; Brent Road became Balatok; Session Road was Mt. Data; Kennon Road as Benguet Road, among others.

When the US troops returned, Baguio was again targeted by the first air raid on January 6, 1945. What followed after was an almost daily carpet bombing which nearly destroyed the City of Baguio. US planes bombed the City Hall, Session Road and even the front of the Baguio Cathedral, killing hundreds of civilians who sought shelter inside.

The Second World War also marked its end in the City of Baguio. On September 3, 1945, General Tomoyuki Yamashita, then the commander of the Japanese forces occupying the Philippines, signed the formal surrender documents to US Lt. General Jonathan Wainwright and British Lt. Gen. Arthur Percival at the American high commissioner's residence in Camp John Hay, formally ending the war. This event marked the end of a few but arduous years of war and occupation for the citizens of Baguio and of the whole country.

This proposed measure seeks to declare September 3 of every year as a special Non-working holiday in the City of Baguio in commemoration of the signing of the Instrument of Surrender of the Japanese and the Japanese-controlled Armed Forces in the Philippine Islands to the Commanding General of the United States Army Forces of the Western Pacific. This important piece of our history should be accorded the remembrance it deserves. We celebrate as special occasions less victorious events in the country's history and the successful ending of the war should be accorded the same significance.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



MARK O. GO

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AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 3 OF EVERY YEAR AS A  
SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF BAGUIO TO  
COMMEMORATE 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. To commemorate the surrender of the commander of the Japanese military forces in the Philippines on September 3, 1945, led by General Tomoyuki Yamashita, at the American high commissioner's residence in Camp John Hay in Baguio City, September 3 of every year is hereby declared as a special non-working holiday in the City of Baguio.

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,