



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on April 9, 1942, 76,000 officers, including personnel of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East (USAFFE), along with the Philippine Commonwealth Army fought side by side as comrades-in-arms, making a heroic last stand in Bataan and Corregidor, Philippines to hold off the invading Japanese Imperial Army for three months; and

WHEREAS, only at the point of physical and emotional exhaustion did these courageous men and women – vastly outnumbered and severely depleted of food, military, and medical supplies – surrender to the invading army; and

WHEREAS, April 10, 1942 marked the infamous “Death March” where the defeated troops of Bataan were forced to walk a torturous fifty miles that began in Mariveles and Cabanatuan, and ended at Camp O’Donnell in Tarlac, which only 56,000 soldiers were able to complete alive; and

WHEREAS, according to the records of the Allied War Crimes Commission, over 24,000 American and Filipino troops perished as prisoners of war from atrocities committed by the Japanese Imperial Army troops at Camp O’Donnell; and

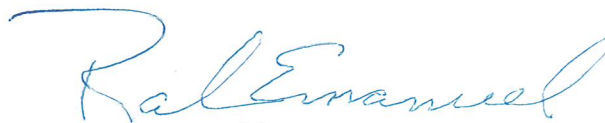
WHEREAS, the embattled American and Filipino troops displayed extraordinary gallantry above and beyond the call of duty, in their defense of Bataan and Corregidor; and

WHEREAS, because of their bravery and sacrifice, the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the United States of America share and benefit from a vibrant history of friendship, collaboration, and cooperation with the Republic of the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, the Filipino American community and the Consulate General of the Philippines as well as veteran groups from across the city will commemorate the 77th Anniversary of the Fall of Bataan, and acknowledge the heroism and efforts of both the “Death March” survivors and their fallen comrades:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAHM EMANUEL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2019 to be BATAAN DAY IN CHICAGO, and urge all Chicagoans to recognize the incredible bravery of, and selfless sacrifice made by, American and Filipinos veterans during World War II.

Dated this 12th day of March, 2019.


Mayor