

Evidence suggests that the priests at Balangiga rang the town's church bells every time the American troops were about to engage in search and destroy missions. The church bells were most likely confiscated by American troops in an attempt to ensure the secrecy and heighten the efficiency of these missions.

Three of these bells are known to exist. The survivors of the Ninth Infantry "C" Company took possession of one bell, which is now in a traveling collection maintained by the Ninth Infantry in Korea. The Eleventh Infantry also took two bells and a 15th-century English cannon with them to the U.S. when the unit was assigned to what was then Fort D.A. Russell in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In 1949, Fort Russell was converted to the present Air Force base which house the Bells of Balangiga after having been left there by the Eleventh Infantry. There was a time when the officers at F.E. Warren wanted to get rid of the bells. These brass relics have no relevance for F.E. Warren Air Force Base, which is a missile base. Few people seemed to know or care about these bells. That is until the government of the Philippines asked for their return.

The President of the Philippines, the current President, Fidel Ramos, first became interested in the bells as a West Point cadet in the 1950s as he attended the U.S. Military Academy.

In the late 1980s, as defense minister, Fidel Ramos sought the help of his U.S. counterpart, former Wyoming U.S. Congressman Dick Cheney, who was then the Secretary of Defense.

For the 50th anniversary of Philippine's independence from the United States in 1996, the matter was brought to President Clinton's attention. However, these efforts, along with those of many others, including mine, have fallen on deaf ears. It seems that a vast majority of the people involved have made a decision that, instead of being on the right side of this issue, they would certainly rather be on the safe side.

It is true that there has been some vocal opposition against the return of the bells. However, this opposition may not fully understand the events of the past.

Although the insurrection cost the lives of American soldiers, let us not forget that the U.S. sent troops to the Philippines in 1898 in order to subdue a country that wanted to be independent. Let us also not forget that, later on, these very same people and their descendants suffered, fought, and died fighting with our troops for a common cause in the battlefields of Bataan, Corregidor, Korea and Vietnam, making the Philippines the only Asian country that has stood with the United States in every conflict in this century.

For almost 100 years, the Philippines has been our closest friend and ally, and in the name of friendship and cooperation it would only be fitting and

proper for the United States to share the Bells of Balangiga with the people of the Philippines for their centennial celebrations.

Still, there are a number of veterans groups in Wyoming vehemently opposing the return of the bells, claiming that by doing so a sacred memorial would be desecrated and dismantled.

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I beg to differ. Although Filipinos and the majority of the people with whom I have come into contact feel that both of the bells should be returned, a proposed compromise offered by the Philippine Government calls for the United States and the Republic of the Philippines to share the bells. The bells will be recast and duplicates made. The United States and the Philippines will each keep one original and one duplicate, and the Philippines Government has even offered to absorb all of the costs involved. H. Res. 312 would facilitate this proposal.

I assure everyone that this compromise would not in any way desecrate or dismantle the memorial at Trophy Park. What we presently have at F.E. Warren is a century-old reminder of death, suffering and treachery, brought about by vicious guerrilla warfare in a highly misunderstood conflict. By having the bells and duplicates both in the Philippines and in Wyoming, this solitary memorial will be converted into fitting monuments located on both sides of the world, dedicated to the peace, friendship and cooperation that have since existed between the American and the Filipino people.

The memory of those who perished, both Americans and Filipinos, will then be associated with a compromise of peace and friendship, cemented 100 years after they volunteered to travel halfway around the world to seek and secure this same peace and friendship from the people of Asia and the Far East. We have the world to gain and nothing but silly pride to lose.

My grandfather, from whom I got my name, although I am a native of Guam, James Holland Underwood, was a marine who served during the Spanish-American War prior to being mustered out on Guam. His brother and my namesake, Robert Oscar Underwood, was also a veteran of that war. He served in the Philippines during the time of the Philippine insurrection. I am sure that these men would understand and support the concept of having national symbols such as the Bells of Balangiga unite us and not divide us, those of us who care about independence and democracy and freedom for peoples around the world. Had they been alive today, I am sure that they would applaud my efforts because they will surely realize that the Bells of Balangiga would always mean more to the Filipinos than they could ever mean to us.

Sharing the Bells of Balangiga with the Filipinos is the honorable thing to

do. It is the sensible thing to do. It is the right thing to do.

On behalf of a growing number of people who have expressed their support, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H. Res. 312.

A FURTHER TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RONALD V. DELLUMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, this is the last day for one of our most distinguished Members, RONALD DELLUMS, who has represented Oakland, California, for almost 27 years. Yesterday or the day before there have been some tributes to RON DELLUMS. There were so many Members who wanted to step up and speak their piece that some of us simply ran out of time. I did not want to end today, have Mr. DELLUMS retire or for myself for me to go home without saying a few words on his behalf.

I am a freshman on the Committee on National Security on which he has been the former chairman and now the ranking member for the Democratic Party. In the course of my experience with RON DELLUMS on the Committee on National Security, I have been struck by several things. He is a ranking member who has been always careful to make sure that he takes part of his time and allocates it to newer Members. He has forgone questioning witnesses on his own to make sure that new Members have a chance to ask questions themselves. Throughout his management of that committee, throughout his management of the minority, he has been very careful to show respect for others because he cares for others.

Today when he spoke here in the well of the House for the last time, he talked about learning the lessons of patience and the lessons of humility during his 27 years here in the House. He treated us all consistently with respect, and those who heard his remarks today will understand how much he values this House and how much he values its traditions.

I will also cherish some of my private conversations with RON DELLUMS. During one of those conversations, we talked about something that Martin Luther King, Jr. once said. Reverend King once said, the most radical action that anyone can take is to assert the full measure of his citizenship, to assert the full measure of his citizenship. When I go back to Maine and I talk to people in Maine and I want to encourage them to participate in civil society, when I want to encourage them to do everything that they can to participate in this political process, I use that quotation, and I cannot think of anyone who better exemplifies the full participation of his citizenship than RON DELLUMS.

As a freshman Member when I go back to Maine, I am often asked what

I think of other people in this Chamber, how I regard other Members of Congress, how they stack up. And several times in the last few months people have said to me, is there anyone in Congress that you regard as truly great? My answer has always been the same: RON DELLUMS. RON DELLUMS is a truly great man. This Chamber will miss him.

REPORT OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 1995—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Agriculture:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by the provisions of section 13, Public Law 806, 80th Congress (15 U.S.C. 714k), I transmit herewith the report of the Commodity Credit Corporation for fiscal year 1995.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 5, 1998.

ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to present to you the 1996 annual report of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Federal agency charged with fostering scholarship and enriching the ideas and wisdom born of the humanities. The agency supports an impressive range of projects encompassing the worlds of history, literature, philosophy, and culture. Through these projects, Americans of all walks of life are able to explore and share in the uniqueness of our Nation's democratic experience.

The activities of the NEH touch tens of millions of our citizens—from the youngest students to the most veteran professors, to men and women who simply strive for a greater appreciation of our Nation's past, present, and future. The NEH has supported projects as diverse as the widely viewed documentary, *The West*, and research as specialized as that conducted on the Lakota Tribe. Small historical societies have received support, as have some of the Nation's largest cultural institutions.

Throughout our history, the humanities have provided Americans with the knowledge, insights, and perspectives needed to move ourselves and our civ-

ilization forward. Today, the NEH remains vitally important to promoting our Nation's culture. Not only does its work continue to add immeasurably to our civic life, it strengthens the democratic spirit so essential to our country and our world on the eve of a new century.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 5, 1998.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS OF UNITED STATES AND REPUBLIC OF POLAND CONCERNING FISHERIES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-211)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Resources and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), I transmit herewith an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Poland extending the Agreement of August 1, 1985, Concerning Fisheries Off the Coasts of the United States, with annexes and agreed minutes, as amended and extended (the 1985 Agreement). The Agreement, which was effected by an exchange of notes at Warsaw on February 5 and August 25, 1997, extends the 1985 Agreement to December 31, 1999.

In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the Republic of Poland, I urge that the Congress give favorable consideration to this Agreement at an early date.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 5, 1998.

PROPOSED TOBACCO SETTLEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, let me state at the outset that I do not smoke, nor do I encourage others to smoke. Children should not smoke, nor should they be enticed to smoke. I applaud the President Clinton's efforts to curb and ultimately reduce the incidence of youth smoking in the United States in the near future.

Tobacco, the mere word, engenders many strong feelings and opinions in most Americans and especially in those of us who serve in Congress. With regard to the pending tobacco settlement, no matter how you feel about tobacco, one must view it for what it is, a legal commodity grown by many American farmers.

North Carolina grows quite a lot of tobacco, both burley and flue-cured. Over 65 percent of the total U.S. pro-

duction is grown in North Carolina of flue-cured. In fact, my constituency, the First Congressional District, produces more flue-cured tobacco than any other in the Nation. These eastern North Carolina farmers produced over 225 million pounds in 1995.

These North Carolina farmers, our tobacco farmers, want the same things as other Americans, a good quality of life overall for them and their families, for their children to have a good education, for them to have sufficient resources with which to provide their families with food, shelter and other amenities of life, savings for their retirement, a secure environment in which to live and work, and most importantly, hope for the future.

These farmers, our tobacco farmers, care about their children as well as other children in their community, instilling in them the values of honesty and hard work. Many of them are third and fourth generation tobacco farmers, even though some of them must seek additional employment off the farms as teachers, business persons, factory workers and other occupations. Many of them serve as leaders in their communities, in their schools, in their churches, in their synagogues and in other local and civic organizations.

Like other American farmers, like those in many of your home States, these North Carolinians prepared their land, tilled it carefully, planted their crops, tended their fields, harvested their yields and marketed their product, much like any other commodity such as corn and wheat. These farmers are often small family farms. The average size in North Carolina is 172 acres, as compared to 491 acres nationally.

Tobacco is one of the main reasons that small farmers are able to stay in business because no other crop yields as much income per acre. Most of these farmers are unable to find an alternate crop that provides a comparable income. It would take almost 8 times as much cotton, 15 times as much acreage of corn, 20 times more acreage of soybeans and 30 times more acreage of wheat to equal the income of a single acre of tobacco. Farmers would have to acquire the land, secure the needed equipment, purchase the required seed, fertilizer and pesticides and hire the labor, undue and perhaps impossible financial burdens of acquiring extra loans and debt, all too often not available to those socially disadvantaged farmers or to minority farmers.

The total income impact for North Carolina was more than \$7.7 billion last year, income that came from a combination of the production, the manufacture and the marketing. North Carolina entrepreneurs and employees, all of those benefit from those resources. The money earned by farmers and those employed in tobacco-related business flow into their communities, spreading those profits around. It has been estimated that the agriculture dollar turns over about 10 times, so 7.7 billion multiplied means there is a possibility of \$77 billion available to rural