

Text for the Corrective Spanish-American War Plaque

To be installed in the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda
February 4, 2002

Title

Spanish-American War, 1898
Philippine-American War, 1899-1902

First Stone

The 13th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, honored in the plaque above, went to the Philippines to serve in the Spanish-American War. The United States entered that war to defeat Spain, not to free the Filipinos. Most of the battles listed above were fought against Filipinos in a subsequent conflict now known as the Philippine-American War.

Second Stone

On May 1, 1898, American naval forces defeated the Spanish squadron in Manila Bay. Filipinos led by General Emilio Aguinaldo then launched successful land offensives that forced the Spanish to take refuge in Manila. They declared their independence on June 12, 1898, and soon established the Philippine Republic with Aguinaldo as President.

Third Stone

When American ground forces arrived, Spain surrendered and ceded the Philippines to the United States in the December 1898 Treaty of Paris. The Filipinos, however, insisted on full independence, and tensions between the two countries arose. The Philippine-American War erupted on February 4, 1899, two days before the Paris Treaty was ratified. After the United States victory, the Philippines remained under American rule. Independence was granted in 1946.

2001

Philippine Study Group of Minnesota
Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board
Minnesota Historical Society
Minnesota Department of Administration