

Philippine Study Group of Minnesota

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PRESS RELEASE

SPECIAL EVENT: FEBRUARY 4, 2002
Minnesota State Capitol
Philippine-American War Corrective Plaque to be installed
3:30 pm
Philippine Ambassador to US will attend

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<<http://www.crcworks.org/plaque.html>>

Minnesota is First State to Correct Philippine-American War Plaque

On Feb. 4, Minnesota will become the first state in the nation to correct a commemorative plaque concerning the Philippine American War (1899-1902).

"I hope that this action by the State of Minnesota can serve as a model for other states," said Michael Cullinane, Associate Director of the University of Wisconsin's Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

The corrective plaque will be unveiled at 3:30 pm during a special ceremony in the State Capitol Rotunda, where an historically inaccurate commemorative has hung for over 50 years. The Philippine Ambassador to the US, Albert F. del Rosario, will attend, along with Lt. Gov. Mae Schunk, Adjutant General Eugene R. Andreotti, several legislators, and state officials.

"Your new plaque does the best job I know of, anywhere in America, of telling the truth about this unfortunate undertaking [the Philippine-American War], added James Loewen, a historian who featured the plaque controversy in his book, *Lies Across America*.

The installation is co-sponsored by Philippine Study Group of Minnesota (PSGM), the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB), and the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS). The new bronze plaque was designed through a precedent-setting, collaborative process, and ultimately rendered by Duluth artist Ann Klefstad.

PSGM led the eight-year campaign to correct the plaque. Filipino-Americans felt hurt by the previous plaque's presentation of Filipino cultural heritage. Similar complaints have been lodged about commemoratives in California, Illinois and other states, but this is the first correction to be made.

Kyle Ward, historian at Vincennes University, pointed out that the new installation will also bring new visibility to the Minnesota soldiers. "This additional plaque will be highlighting a war often ignored in US history textbooks, and will also help commemorate a group of men all but completely forgotten about in Minnesota's own historical memory," he said.