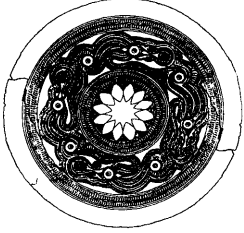


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January 3, 2002

Dr. Paul Bloom  
Philippine Studies Group of Minnesota

Dear Dr. Bloom,

I am delighted to learn that the State of Minnesota has approved the efforts of your group to correct the plaque in the Minnesota State Capitol concerning the role of the Minnesota Volunteers in the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars.

This is an important and momentous act and your group should be heartily praised for your long and tiresome efforts to correct the historical record commemorated over a half century ago by the State of Minnesota. I am honored to have been involved in these efforts and congratulate you and the far-sighted officials of the Minnesota State Historical Society for your wisdom and courage to take part in what I hope can be a national process to rectify some of the distortions of the past.

In regard to the very large number of Filipinos (over two million) who now call the U.S. their home, it will be very encouraging to know that the State of Minnesota has been so receptive to revising the historical record in regard to the struggle of their ancestors for independence between 1899 and 1902. The acknowledgement that the Minnesota Volunteers were involved in an American war of colonial acquisition is very significant. As such, the general public can now obtain a better understanding of the context of this war and the participation in it by Minnesota citizens, thus enhancing the educational objective of this historical monument. As an historian of Philippine-American relations, I am very encouraged by this development and I hope that the action of the State of Minnesota can serve as a model for other states and institutions to carry out similar endeavors in the public interest.

Once again, I applaud your efforts and congratulate you on your accomplishments.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Cullinane  
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