

Philippine Study Group of Minnesota
CORRECTION OF 13th MINNESOTA PLAQUE

July 4, 1902

U.S. declares victory in Philippine-American War. Filipino resistance continues until 1910.

October 12, 1899

Minnesota Governor John Lind, *even on the occasion of welcoming the volunteer soldiers back to Minnesota*, offered praise that rang hollow with the horror of what the men had discovered in their tour of duty: "The mission of the American volunteer soldier has come to an end. *For purposes of conquest he is unfit, since he carries a conscience as well as a gun.* The volunteer soldier has always stood for self-government, liberty and justice. With your generation he will pass from the stage of our national life [Emphasis added]."

1906

Bronze statue. "The Hiker," of an American foot soldier is erected at the University of Minnesota Armory to commemorate the end of what is euphemistically called the "Spanish-American War." The sculpture depicts a tired soldier, but refrains from praising the war.

July 4, 1948

A bronze plaque commemorating the "Spanish-American War" is installed in the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda. Veteran F.W. Pederson instigates the effort.

1969

Tito Sumangil, a Filipino now living in Minnesota, notices that the history portrayed on the plaque does not accurately represent the Filipino perspective of the war. Sumangil approaches the Minnesota Historical Society to propose a dialogue among humanities experts that would analyze the different interpretations of the conflict. No action is taken.

Fall, 1986

Journalist Ken Meter, while being trained by the Philippine Study Group of Minnesota, is informed about the presence of the plaque, and its historical inaccuracies by Nadinne Cruz, soon to be director of the Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs.

1994

Now a long-term member of PSGM, Meter obtains funding from Forecast Public Art to research the installation of a corrective plaque.

May, 1999

The Minnesota Legislature approves \$10,000 to install a corrective plaque.

June 27, 2001

Duluth artist Ann Klefstad is selected as artist to produce new plaque.

February 4, 2002

The corrective plaque is installed, on the 103rd anniversary of the outbreak of the Philippine-American War.