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On February 4, 2002 the state of Minnesota will add a new plaque to the State Capitol rotunda in St. Paul. 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.

As I try to point out in my book *In the Shadow of Glory*, not long after returning from their duty in the Philippines, both the men who served and the war they fought were quickly and quietly pushed aside. For a state that took such pride in its soldiers that fought and served in the Civil War it is rather ironic that it so quickly forgot the role of those men who wanted nothing more than to be seen as being both heroic and patriotic.

When President William McKinley called for volunteer soldiers in 1898, thousands of young Minnesota men signed up with much enthusiasm. The men who made up the 13th Minnesota, along with other volunteers from western states, would be sent to the Philippines to fight the Spanish. Although the 13th did earn a great deal of acclaim for the Battle of Manila, (the only battle fought in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War) and were proud of their service record, things would drastically change on February 4, 1899. With the advent of a new war in the Philippines the men of the 13th did another heroic thing by starting a letter writing campaign back to their politicians at home. These letters home reflected their sentiment by calling for an end to their duty in the Philippines since this new war was one which they had not signed up for and did not want to fight.

This new plaque will hopefully not only forever commemorate the men of the 13th Minnesota Volunteers but will also be an excellent reminder of the contributions made to the state of Minnesota by the Filipino-American community and of the incredible history of US-Philippine relations over the past one hundred years.

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