

US Governor Generals and High Commissioners of the Philippines

- **1900 -1901 Major General Arthur Mac Arthur (Republican)**

Appointed by President William McKinley as Military Governor at age 55, a leading commander of US forces during the Philippine-America War (2nd Division US Army); Authorized the expedition leading to the capture of General Emilio Aguinaldo. Mac Arthur clashed openly with William H. Taft, Head of the Philippine Commission, sent to organize a civilian government. Mac Arthur was removed after one year.

- **1901 – 1904 William H. Taft (Republican)**

Appointed by President McKinley at age 44 to organize a civilian government (as head of the Philippine Commission). Noted for being personally opposed to annexation of the islands. Popular with Filipinos and Americans. Left the Philippines in 1904 to become Secretary of War and later 27th President of the United States.

- **1904 – 1906 Luke Wright (Republican)**

Appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt at age 59. An officer in the Civil War on the side of the Confederacy. A lawyer by profession Wright followed Taft's policies of building a civilian government. Left the Philippines to become Ambassador to Japan and then Secretary of War.

- **1906 – 1907 Clay Ide (Republican)**

A lawyer, Ide began service at age of 62. Loyal to Taft and his plans as a member of the Philippine Commission. Served also as Governor of American Samoa, where he was a close friend of writer Robert Louis Stevenson (who resided in Apia, Samoa)

- **1907 – 1909 James F. Smith (Republican)**

A President Teddy Roosevelt appointee at age 49. A lawyer by profession and close friend of Roosevelt as a “Rough Rider” in the Cuban Campaign in the Spanish –American War. Continued Taft’s democratization policies.

- **1909 – 1913 W. Cameron Forbes (Republican)**

The last Roosevelt appointee at age 39. A Flamboyant, Harvard educated investment banker, son of the Bell Telephone System President and grandson of famous American writer and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson. With a fortune behind him, Forbes made history building the landmark Manila Hotel (1912) and the Baguio Hill Station, in the style of British Asian Colonies, to afford refuge from the tropical summer heat.

- **1913 – 1920 Francis B. Harrison (Democrat)**

Appointed, at the age 47 by President Woodrow Wilson as the first Democrat Governor. From a prominent Virginia family, served as an Army Officer (Captain) in the Cuba Campaign. A lawyer by profession, Harrison’s arrival led to

a clash with the American Community for his championing Philippine Independence. He acted boldly, replacing Americans with Filipinos in top government jobs. Harrison was disliked by conservative Americans in the US for his pro Filipino views. Harrison has the distinction of being the only Governor General to be awarded Philippine Citizenship. He was a long time close confident and advisor to Commonwealth President Manuel Quezon. Harrison died in 1957. His remains are interred in the Manila North Cemetery.

- **1921 – 1927 General Leonard Wood (Republican)**

Appointed by Republican President Warren Harding at age 61. A military officer, Wood was co-founder of Teddy Roosevelt's Spanish – American War's "Rough Riders" in the Cuba Campaign. Wood had served as US Army Chief of Staff and was a Medal of Honor winner. His tenure was applauded by resident Americans, but he clashed with Filipino officials and politicians who had previously been favored by Governor Harrison

- **1927 – 1929 Henry L. Stimson (Republican)**

The choice of President Calvin Coolidge ("Cool Cal"), at age 61, Stimson openly opposed Philippine independence as "Not ready for Popular Government". He went on to become US Secretary of War, a post he held when hostilities broke out with Japan in December 1941.

- **1929 - 1932 Dwight F. Davis (Republican)**

An appointee of President Herbert Hoover at age 50. Davis had been a professional tennis player (USA men's single champion in 1899). He founded the

tennis “Davis Cup” competition, which goes on to this day. An unusual selection among all who served.

- **1932 – 1933 Theodore Roosevelt (Republican)**

Another appointee of President Hoover. The eldest son of former President Teddy Roosevelt, and the final Republican Governor General.

- **1933 – 1936 Frank Murphy (Democrat)**

The last Governor General before the Commonwealth transition. Murphy was appointed by incoming President Franklin D. Roosevelt at age 43. An enthusiastic supporter of FDR’s “New Deal”. Murphy had been Mayor of Detroit where he earned a reputation as “Champion of the Common Man” and an advocate for social justice. Murphy was also **the first High Commissioner** at the start on the Philippine Commonwealth (1935). He later become Governor of the State of Michigan and a Supreme Court Justice.

- **1936 – 1937 J. Weldon Jones (Democrat)**

Became acting High Commissioner pending the outcome of Murphy’s run for Governor of Michigan. (Murphy was elected and gave up his post).

1937 – 1939 Paul McNutt (Democrat)
(And *1945 – 1946 after WWII)

Appointed by President Roosevelt as High Commissioner at age 46. McNutt was a key political rival of FDR and was known to be disliked by Roosevelt, who found him arrogant and a luke warm supporter. It is widely believed that Roosevelt cleverly tricked McNutt into accepting the Philippine position to get him out of way before the 1940 US General Election where McNutt might have been a candidate opposing Roosevelt for the democratic nomination.

McNutt was reappointed High Commissioner by President Harry S. Truman after the war (1945 – 1946) and then served as U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines in 1947.

- **1939 – 1942 Francis B. Sayre (Democrat)**

Sayre, another Roosevelt appointee, became High Commissioner at age 54. A staunch Democrat and married to the daughter of former President Woodrow Wilson (Democrat). He had been U.S. Ambassador to Siam (Thailand) and Personal Advisor to the King of Siam. On Christmas Eve (December 24, 1941) Sayre fled ,with General Douglas MacArthur and Manuel Quezon, to the Island Fortress of Corregidor. He and Commonwealth President Quezon were evacuated to the United States before the fall of the island.