

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	To Irene Bueno from Laura Efurd re: 60 seats (partial, SSN, DOB) (6 pages)	12/01/1999	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Irene Bueno
OA/Box Number: 25023

FOLDER TITLE:

Filipino Veterans [2]

2017-1120-S

ry2232

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]



Eric Lachica <elachica@idt.net>
07/14/2000 12:49:43 PM

Maria -
F41.

June

Record Type: Record

To: Laura Efurd/WHO/EOP, Irene Bueno/WHO/EOP
cc: Maria L. Haley/WHO/EOP
Subject: July 26-27

American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, Inc.
2500 Mass. Ave. NW - Washington, D.C. 20008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Eric Lachica, Exec. Director
July 10, 2000 Phone: 202 246-1998

VETERANS SET ACTIONS FOR CLINTON-ESTRADA MEETING

Washington, D.C. -- Two days of intensive lobbying by Filipino American WWII veterans are scheduled to coincide with Philippine President Joseph Estrada's July 26-27 meetings with U.S. Congress members and President Clinton.

"We shall march again in Congress and in front of the White House," said Pat Ganio, an 80-year-old former defender in the battles of Bataan and Corregidor, and president of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans.

"We will remind the American people that Clinton has avoided supporting our bill in Congress that would provide the VA medical care that our vets desperately need," Ganio said. "We will also urge President Estrada to convey this message to him."

The coalition's bill, H.R. 1594- S. 1391, the "Filipino Veterans Benefit Improvement Act" which would provide VA medical care in the U.S. and in the Philippines is pending in the House with 66 cosponsors.

According to their executive director, Eric Lachica, the major delay was caused by the inaction of the Department of Veterans Affairs to a specific request on July 22, 1998 from the chairman of House Veterans Affairs Committee for implementing language.

"Over the past two years, our emissaries have talked with Clinton, VA Secretary Togo West and their deputies to support this bill," Lachica said.

"Clinton says we're looking at it' while West says, we're

working on it,' and to date they have not delivered," Lachica added.

Last year, a humanitarian law was passed that will allow desperate veterans on SSI to return to their homeland and bring 75 percent of monthly SSI income.

However, many sickly veterans are reluctant to return because their Medicaid coverage would end and they would face the high cost of medicines and medical supplies in the Philippines.

Office visits to key senators and congress members are planned by delegates from San Diego, Los Angeles, New York, Jersey City and Philadelphia on Wednesday morning, July 26 and an afternoon rally will be held on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

The following morning on July 27 at 10:00 A.M., a demonstration and media event is set in front of the White House, according to Ganio.

In a related development, the Philippine Medical Association Auxiliary of Washington raised funds from their annual spring ball to assist "balikbayani" veterans who return to the Philippines with their supplemental medical needs. (See photo caption)

Ganio urged supporters to write their senators to co-sponsor S.1391 at the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

For campaign details, E-mail: elachica@idt.net or call 202 246-1998.

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PMAMDC *.jpg photo attached
Photocaption:

FIRST AID FOR VETS, Dr. Cres Lopez M.D. and Dr. Jovy Eusebio M.D. of the Philippine Medical Association of Washington D.C. Auxiliary present first aid kits to two WWII veterans, Herminio Caberto and Eufemio Abellera who returned to the Philippines on July 4, 2000.

Photo credit to Eric Lachica

July 9, 2000

BRIEFING

MEMORANDUM FOR MARIA ECHAVESTE

FROM: Laura Efurd
Irene Bueno

CC: Jeanne Lambrew
Josh Ackil

RE: Meeting with VSO's and Members of Congress on Health
Benefits for Filipino American Veterans

DATE\TIME: Monday, July 10, 2000
2:00 pm

LOCATION: Roosevelt Room

ATTENDEES: **White House Staff**
Maria Echaveste, Deputy Chief of Staff
Hershel Gober, Deputy Secretary, Dept of Veterans Affairs
Irene Bueno, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Chief of Staff
Laura Efurd, Deputy Director, OPL
Jeanne Lambrew, Associate Director, OMB

Department of Veterans Affairs
Hershel Gober, Deputy Secretary

Members of Congress/Staff
Rep. Bob Filner
Rep. Patsy Mink (~~not yet confirmed~~)
Rep. Xavier Becerra (~~not yet confirmed~~)
Michael Velasquez – Rep. Abercrombie
John Walk – Rep. Becerra

VSO's
Dennis M. Cullinan -- VFW
Richard Fuller – PVA
Joseph Violante – DVA
Peter Gaytan – AMVETS

Maria - opened

Rep. Filner -

- \$500-\$600 mil. long - health
- \$30 m to extend eligibility + \$500k grants to outpatient clinic in PR
not hospitals that were closed.
- VSOs have passed resolutions to support
- Rep. Filner - it needs \$ VSOs support.
- No president/no group

Support principle

- VFW - has a resolution \$500k + all inequities be fixed. - they seemed agreeable
to budget did not address budget.

New \$ - Defraction

- On yrtake in \$30 m out of the \$1.5 mil increase
- Above \$1.5 m.

VSO = \$1.9 billion - this what they need

- Would be superior \$30 m. - Ok - part of the income

American Legion passed a resolution 2 yrs ago.

Pilot program in San Diego - ~~Marshall~~ Marshal - Filner - it's too late

Eligibility criteria - some on court process.

Letter from the VSOs - pk (Lerner) - ~~work in the bill - appropriations + authority~~

What happens if you run out of \$?

- Rep. Filner

- VA - can't ~~do~~ cop.

- \$5 = FY 98 \$24.4 million - US

\$3 mil - PI

Presidential Issue - is this an issue?

- Hmong - covert war - maybe some basis but ~~CIA~~ CIA defense... but all be similar.

FY2002 Budget - ^{+ VSOs/indigent} could our Admin Budget plan be seen to be OK.
- how can we address some congressional concerns...

Concerns

- Do you they deserve to be Veterans... loyalty. Budget Amount?

Rep. Filner -

• urgency

• Can authorize in appropriations

they have the vote - Republicans - Rep. Duke Cunningham - said we will get this year
but can't get a vote.

• Dear colleague

• coordinated letter ^{with} ~~Esquivel~~ Esquivel
for colleague

* population of WWII = Birgim Dider Research
Act 1 of - Vets

Thomas H. Miller – Blinded Veterans Association
American Legion (pending confirmation)
Vietnam Veterans (pending confirmation)

PURPOSE:

To discuss with VSO's level of support among their organizations for health benefits for Filipino Veterans, specifically 1) \$30 million of any additional VA funds in FY00, 2) plan to have VA prepare a study on specific options to provide health benefits for Filipino Veterans.

BACKGROUND:

Prior Meetings on this Subject:

In October of last year you met with several Members of Congress led by Reps. Filner and Mink regarding the possibility of including funding (approx \$30 mil) in the budget for health benefits for Filipino Veterans who fought in the U.S. military during WWII. In past years Filner and other Members have proposed more extensive benefits for the Filipino Veterans, but have recently chosen to concentrate their efforts on health care.

Budget Decision:

Since the October meeting, we met internally in December with OMB and DPC to discuss funding in the FY01 budget. OMB felt that we could not include the \$30 mil for Filipino Veteran Health Care because the funding would come from the discretionary health care monies and the Veteran's organizations would see this as taking money away from their health care. At that time the decision was made not to pursue funding in the budget, but to discuss other possible avenues for the Administration to demonstrate support for the H.R. 1594, such as an endorsement of the bill or statement of support for the bill.

Note that there was agreement to continue to include in the budget the provision which would provide equitable treatment for Filipino Veterans with service-connected disability, raising their compensation from 50% to 100% of what other Veterans receive (this provision affects mandatory money, so the issue of taking funds away from other Veterans does not apply to this provision). This has been proposed in previous budgets.

White House to Facilitate Meeting between VSO's and MOC's

As a result, OPL has suggested that since opposition of the Veterans Organizations is our major concern, that we facilitate a meeting among all involved parties to see if the Veterans Organizations would not oppose the Administration should it be possible to pursue the \$30 million for health care. Prior to the release of the President's budget you discussed this proposed plan with Hershel Gober to assure that VA had no objection to that plan. At that time he had no objection.

Filner Letter/Estrada Visit

In addition, the President recently received a letter from Representative Filner suggesting that the President call on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to devise a plan to provide access to VA health care facilities for Filipino Veterans within 90 days. And that such announcement is made during Philippine President Estrada's visit to the U.S. The Official Working Visit with Estrada is scheduled for July 27th.

Give this request we met with Hershel Gober of VA to discuss such a study. At his meeting it was decided that we would pursue a study that the President could announce during President Estrada's visit in late July. OMB would work with VA to develop the scope of the plan before discussing this matter with the Members of Congress.

However, in the meantime Rep. Filner requested that we continue with the plan to facilitate a meeting between the Members of Congress and the VSO's. Monday's meeting is to fulfill this request.

What needs to be accomplished in this meeting:

- 1) Determine whether VSO's would have an objection if the Administration supports \$30 million in new money (should it become available) for Filipino Veterans in a final budget deal.**
- 2) Discuss with both Members of Congress and VSO Filner's idea of a study.**

FORMAT: Informal discussion

TALKING POINTS:

- Thank you everyone for coming here today on such short notice. We are here to discuss health benefits for Filipino Veterans – a topic that we have all been working on for sometime.
- Over the course of the last 7 or 8 months we have had a couple of meetings with the Members of Congress here to determine what, if anything, can be done to gain health benefits for Filipino Veterans.
- As we have worked through this we continue to come up with conflicting reports about the VSO's support for Rep. Filner's proposal, which will cost about \$30 million annually. Therefore, we thought it would make sense to have a meeting in which all interested parties including the VSO's to discuss where we all stand on this issue.
- Our original goal is to have a clear understanding of the VSO's position or positions (if not

unified) on this should additional funding be found during the appropriations process to see if there would be any objection to using \$30 million of those funds for health care for Filipino Veterans

- I think since that time our confidence that such funding is going to be found has decreased. I know Rep. Filner offered an amendment during House consideration of the VA-HUD appropriations bills, which was ruled out of order as legislating on an appropriations bill. We still have the obstacle of the authorizing committee which has stood firm against this.
- However, we would still like to discuss whether the VSO's would have objection on using additional funding for Filipino Veterans

Pause for Discussion on the Funding issue

(note: not sure to what extend we should discuss study. At our last meeting OMB expressed concern about discussing it too early, before we've set out the perimeters of the study. However, the proposal is out there, and Filner could raise it)

- There is also a proposal by Rep. Filner suggesting that the President call upon the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to draft a plan to provide health services to Filipino veterans. We think this idea has merit. It sets forth a time frame within our Administration and lays the groundwork for a plan to address the problem in the likelihood that we will not be able to get the \$30 million.
- Would VSO's have any objection to such a study? Would you work with VA in a consultation process to accomplish this study?

Pause of Discussion on Filner's Proposed Study



Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs
Social Security Administration

Fax Sheet

Date:

9/18/00

Pages:

Cover + 2

Fax to:

Irene Bueno

Fax number:

Phone number:

From: Web Phillips

Phone number: (410) 965-2386

Fax number: (410) 966-3168

Please contact Vivian Barrett if transmission is incomplete.

Message:

Irene - Over 10 years the
net effect of our T-8
amendments is to reduce SSI
outlays by \$2 million.

Phillips, Webster P.

From: Parrott, Thomas M.
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2000 4:29 PM
To: Phillips, Webster P.
Cc: McKay, Mary E.
Subject: FW: Proposal to expand title VIII

Web,

Mary was working with an earlier summary of the proposal, which included the administrative sanction proposal (see item 4 on the third paragraph below). Mary verified (in a phone call) that the administrative sanction proposal had no effect on the cost estimates.

Tom

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary E. McKay [<mailto:Mary.E.McKay@ssa.gov>] <<mailto:Mary.E.McKay@ssa.gov>>

Sent: Monday, September 18, 2000 4:33 PM

To: Tom Parrott (E-mail)

Cc: Eli Donkar (E-mail)

Subject: Proposal to expand title VIII

Tom,
 I have prepared an estimate for the provisions in the proposed bill to expand title VIII.

This bill proposes (1) extending title VIII coverage to certain widow(er)s and spouses of certain World War II veterans, (2) changing the calculation of title VIII benefits so that only 75% rather than 100% of certain benefit income will be deducted from the special compensation benefit, (3) providing that SSA can negotiate an agreement to administer State payments to individuals eligible for Federal benefits under title VIII, and (4) extending the administrative sanction provision under section 1129A of the Social Security Act to title VIII.

The estimated net impact of these provisions based on the assumptions underlying the Midsession Review of the President's 2001 Budget are provided below.

Estimated impact on Federal outlays of proposal to expand title VIII

(In millions)

Fiscal year	Reduction in Federal SSI payments	Increase in title VIII payments	Net reduction in Federal payments
2000	---	---	---
2001	\$2	\$2	---
2002	2	2	---
2003	2	2	---
2004	2	2	---
2005	2	2	---
2006	2	1	---
2007	1	1	---
2008	1	1	---
2009	1	1	---
2010	1	1	---
total, 2000-2004	9	8	\$1

total, 2000-2010

17

15

2

Mary

ODCLCA QUICK FAX**(202)358-6030- Voice/(202 358-6074/6075- Fax)**

410-965 3737

Date: 8/3/00**TO:** Irene Bueno**FROM:** Web Phillips**COVER +** 9 **pages****COMMENTS:**

Here is the material I mentioned
in my phone message. We developed it
on tech. Assistance from a request from
Rep. Filner.

- Rep. Nancy Schreiner - OK w/ it but no moment - not passing
- Filmer working on human resources & SSA on the bill.
- Letter to ~~the~~ Congress - to Admin.
- Filmer would like to ~~do~~ do ~~it~~? Would appreciate

- Some spouses are getting \$769 SSI Benefits - \$512 - only 84
- Not troubled by it. Spouse would need to meet the same req
- Cost - \$2 million / ~~10~~ 10yr. No more

300-400 people only signed

- No spousal benefit under VA pay
- Argument

- Sharon Schultz - Filmer - frustrated agent of Johnson
- Why put SSA bill - & not look like it
- opposite to spouse & computation
- agree w/ policy & help to Filmer

- Saver at cash benefit + medical sec
- saving \$2 million on SSI, Medicaid.
- 10yr ~~10~~ 10yr
- ~~State~~ State

- State league -

DRAFT

Section-by-Section Description

Short Title

Section 1 provides that the Act would be cited as the "Program of Special Benefits for Certain World War II Veterans Amendments of 2000."

Benefit Computation Change

Present Law—The amount of the title VIII benefit for a month is equal to 75 percent of the Federal benefit rate reduced by the amount of the qualified individual's benefit income for the month.

Proposal--Section 2 would provide that the benefit payable to a qualified individual would be 75 percent of the amount remaining after the applicable Federal benefit is reduced by the amount of the qualified individual's benefit income for the month.

The provision would be effective as if enacted in section 251 of P.L. 106-169.

Benefits for Spouses

Present Law—Only certain World War II veterans may be eligible for title VIII benefits.

Proposal--Section 3 would provide title VIII benefits to spouses of veterans by including them as qualified individuals. A spouse would be the veteran's wife or husband, unmarried surviving wife or husband, or unmarried divorced or surviving divorced wife or husband if the divorce occurred after the individual was determined to be a qualified individual. In all cases, an individual would be considered to be a spouse of the veteran only if the marriage occurred on or before December 14, 1999.

A spouse would have to have been eligible for SSI on December 14, 1999, and at time of filing for title VIII. For purposes of spouses' benefits, the title VIII application filed by the veteran would serve as a protective filing for the spouse. There would be no age requirement for spouses' title VIII eligibility.

The benefit payable to a qualified individual would be 75 percent of the amount remaining after the applicable Federal benefit rate for an individual is reduced by the amount of the qualified individual's benefit income for the month.

DRAFT

In the case of a married couple living together, both of whom are qualified individuals, the benefit payable would be 75 percent of the amount remaining after the Federal benefit rate for an eligible couple is reduced by the amount of both qualified individuals' benefit income for the month.

The provision would be effective as if enacted in section 251 of P.L. 106-169.

Optional Federal Administration of State Recognition Payments

Present Law—Unlike the title XVI statute that provides for SSA to enter into agreements with States to make supplementary payments, title VIII includes no authority for the Commissioner to make payments to veterans on behalf of States.

Proposal—Section 4 would provide that a State and the Commissioner could enter into an agreement under which the Commissioner would make State payments to qualified individuals on behalf of the State.

Administrative fees and other provisions (similar to those in State supplementary payment program under the SSI program—except for the maintenance-of-effort requirement) also would apply to the State recognition payments under title VIII. The administrative fees would be credited to a special fund of the U.S. Treasury to defray expenses in carrying out title VIII and federally administered State recognition payments.

The provision would be effective upon enactment.

Budget Ø

A B I L L

To amend the Social Security Act to make various amendments respecting the program of special benefits for certain World War II veterans.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the Program of Special Benefits for Certain World War II Veterans Amendments of 2000.

SEC. 2. BENEFIT COMPUTATION CHANGE.

(a) In General.--Section 805 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1005) is amended by striking "Federal benefit rate under title XVI for the month," and inserting "amount remaining after the Federal benefit rate under title XVI for the month is".

(b) Conforming Amendment.--Section 802(4) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1002(4)) is amended by striking "75" and inserting "100".

(c) Effective Date.--The amendments made by this section shall be effective as though they had been included in the enactment of section 251 of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169).

SEC. 3. BENEFITS FOR SPOUSES.

(a) Inclusion of Veteran's Spouse in Term "Qualified Individual".--Section 802 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1002) is amended--

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

"(1) who--

"(A) is a World War II veteran and has attained the age of 65 on or before December 14, 1999, or

(B) is the spouse of a veteran described in subparagraph (A);";

(2) by striking paragraph (2); and

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (6) as paragraphs (2) through (5), respectively.

(b) Definition of Term "Spouse".--Section 812 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1012) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(7) Spouse.--

"(A) With respect to an individual described in section 802(a)(1)(A), the term 'spouse' means his or her--

"(i) wife or husband;

"(ii) surviving wife or husband, in any case in which such surviving wife or husband has not remarried; or

"(iii) divorced or surviving divorced wife or husband, in any case in which--

"(I) the divorce occurred after such individual was determined to be a 'qualified individual' under this title; and

"(II) the divorced or surviving divorced wife or husband has not remarried;
in any case in which the relationship as husband and

wife commenced on or before December 14, 1999.

"(B) In determining whether two individuals are husband and wife for purposes of this title, appropriate State law shall be applied, except that--

"(i) if a man and woman have been determined to be husband and wife under section 216(h)(1) for purposes of title II, they shall be considered (from and after the date of such determination or the date of their application for benefits under this title, whichever is later) to be husband and wife for purposes of this title; and

"(ii) if a man and woman are found to be representing themselves to the community in which they reside as husband and wife, they shall be so considered for purposes of this title notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph.".

(c) Benefit Amount.--

(1) In general.--Section 805 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1005) (as previously amended by section 2(a) of this Act) is further amended to read as follows:

"(a) Single Qualified Individual.--The benefit under this title payable to a qualified individual for any month in which such individual is not living with a spouse who also is a qualified individual under this title shall be in an amount equal to 75 percent of the amount remaining after the Federal benefit

rate under title XVI applicable to an eligible individual with no income for such month is reduced by the amount of the qualified individual's benefit income for the month.

"(b) Two Qualified Individuals Married and Living Together.--In any case in which a qualified individual is living in any month with another qualified individual who is his or her spouse, the benefit under this title payable for that month shall be in an amount equal to 75 percent of the amount remaining after the Federal benefit rate under title XVI applicable to an eligible individual who has an eligible spouse with no income for such month is reduced by the amount of both qualified individuals' benefit income for the month.

"(c) Exclusion of State Supplementary Payments from FBR.--For purposes of this section, the term 'federal benefit rate' under title XVI' does not include any State supplementary payment which is paid by the Commissioner of Social Security pursuant to an agreement under section 1616(a) of this Act or section 212(b) of Public Law 93-66."

(2) Conforming Amendments.--

(A) Section 802 of such Act (as previously amended by section 2(b) of this Act and subsection (a) of this section) is further amended by striking paragraph (3) and by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

(B) Section 812 of such Act (as previously amended by subsection (b) of this section) is further amended

by striking paragraph (4) and by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (7) as paragraphs (4) through (6), respectively.

(d) Effective Date.--The amendments made by this section shall be effective as though they had been included in the enactment of section 251 of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169).

(e) Deemed Application.--In any case in which an individual described in section 802(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (as added by subsection (a)(1) of this section) filed an application for benefits under this title prior to the date of the enactment of this Act, such application shall be deemed, for purposes of section 802(3) of the Social Security Act (as redesignated by subsections (a)(3) and (c)(2)(A) of this section) to be the application of any individual described in section 802(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (as added by subsection (a)(1) of this section) who is his or her spouse (within the meaning of section 812(6) of the Social Security Act (as added by subsection (b) of this section and redesignated by subsection (c)(2)(B) of this section)).

SEC. 4. OPTIONAL FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION OF STATE RECOGNITION PAYMENTS.

(a) In General.--Title VIII of the Social Security Act is amended by inserting after section 810 (42 U.S.C. 1010) the following new section:

"SEC. 810A. OPTIONAL FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION OF STATE RECOGNITION PAYMENTS.

"(a) In General.--The Commissioner of Social Security may enter into an agreement with any State (or political subdivision thereof) that provides cash payments on a regular basis to individuals entitled to benefits under this title under which the Commissioner of Social Security shall make such payments on behalf of such State (or subdivision).

"(b) Agreement terms.--

"(1) In general.--Such agreement shall include such terms as the Commissioner of Social Security finds necessary to achieve efficient and effective administration of both this title and the State program.

"(2) Financial terms.--Such agreement shall provide for the State to pay the Commissioner of Social Security, at such times and in such installments as the parties may specify--

"(A) an amount equal to the expenditures made by the Commissioner of Social Security pursuant to such agreement as payments to individuals on behalf of such State; and

"(B) an administration fee equal to the administrative expenses incurred by the Commissioner of Social Security in making payments to individuals on behalf of the State.

"(c) Special Disposition of Administration Fees.--

Administration fees, upon collection, shall be credited to a special fund established in the Treasury of the United States for

State recognition payments for certain World War II veterans. The amounts so credited, to the extent and in the amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts, shall be available to defray expenses incurred in carrying out this title."

(b) Conforming amendments.--

(1) The Table of Contents of title VIII of the Social Security Act is amended by inserting after and below "Sec. 810. Other administrative provisions." the following:
"Sec. 810A. Optional federal administration of State
recognition payments."

(2) Section 1129A(e) of the Social Security (42 U.S.C. 1320a-8a(e)) is amended--

- (A) by inserting "VIII or" after "benefits under";
 - (B) by inserting "810A or" after "agreement under section";
 - (C) by inserting "1010A or" before "1382(e)(a)";
- and
- "(D) by inserting ", as the case may be" immediately before the period.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Irene Bueno

FROM: Laura Efurd
Deputy Assistant to the President
Deputy Director of Public Liaison
OEOP 122, x62617

DATE: 7-17-00

-
- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Prepare reply for President's signature | ☐ For your comments |
| ☐ Prepare reply for Director's signature | ☒ For your information |
| ☐ Prepare reply for my signature | ☐ For your support |
| ☐ For your signature | ☐ Please return call |
| ☐ Reply directly – copy to me | ☐ Please file |
| ☐ For Your Consideration | ☐ Need more information |
| ☐ Process Photo Request | ☐ Set up meeting on this |
| ☐ Call me on this | ☐ Scheduling Request |
| ☐ For your action | ☐ Process special letter |
| ☐ For your approval | ☐ Set up tour |

Comments: Info on POW issue raised in Filipino vet meeting

**Request for Reparations by
Certain Members of the American Armed Forces
Who Were Required to Perform Slave Labor
By the Government of Japan during World War II**

On Wednesday, June 7, 2000, VA's Deputy Chief of Staff received a telephone call from Ms. Laura Efurd, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director for Public Liaison. Ms. Efurd indicated that the White House had received dozens of calls and letters from individuals identifying themselves as veterans, specifically former prisoners of war who were required to perform slave labor by the Government of Japan during World War II. These veterans were aware that President Clinton was departing that day to fly to Japan to meet with the Japanese Prime Minister, Yoshiro Mori. They were asking that the President raise the issue of reparations by the Japanese government to certain former prisoners of war. Ms. Efurd was seeking information to help better understand the concerns of these veterans.

Background/Historical Information

A landmark study of former prisoners of war completed in May, 1980 by VA's Office of Planning and Program Evaluation, reported there were 25,580 members of the U.S. military captured by the Japanese as a result of the fall of Bataan and Corregidor in World War II. These men were held prisoner in camps in the Philippines, and in Japan and Manchuria.

These Pacific Theater POWs suffered the greatest physical deprivation of any group of American prisoners during World War II. Evidence of this fact is that 10,650 (approximately 42 percent) of these men died prior to repatriation. Our best estimate is that less than 5,000 of these veterans are alive today.

The POWs captured on Bataan and Corregidor present the classic case of POW maltreatment and malnutrition. When Filipino and American forces surrendered to the Japanese on Bataan in April 1942, their ranks were already depleted by semi-starvation due to dwindling food supplies caused by the siege. After the surrender on Bataan, the Japanese marched these troops to Camp O'Donnell, Philippine Islands. The outcome of this 100 mile, two-week experience was the infamous Bataan "Death March" in which about 17,000 men died. This march was made with essentially no food or water. Those stragglers suffering from dysentery and other tropical diseases were clubbed or bayoneted. Men attempting escape were frequently shot and killed in full view of their comrades. The Bataan survivors were joined by those American forces captured on Corregidor in May 1942. The Bataan -Corregidor POWs were initially interned at Camps O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, Bilibid Prison, Palawan and Davao. What was perhaps the worst part of the harrowing Pacific Theater POWs

experience occurred from approximately May to October 1942, during their period of internment at these camps. Brutal conditions resulted in the deaths of approximately 1,500 of the 8,000 Americans interned at O'Donnell during the first six months of their captivity, and approximately 2,700 dead out of the 6,500 at Cabanatuan during the first year of their internment.

The diet provided these men was extremely deficient in quantity and quality so that severe loss of body weight and multiple nutritional deficiencies developed. These nutritional deficiencies became chronic and resistant to the limited therapy available. Infectious and parasitic diseases became rampant due to the very inadequate food, crowded living conditions, primitive sanitation, and lack of medical facilities.

Another factor that remained quite constant throughout the internment of Pacific Theater POWs was physical torture. Striking by hand, rifle, or sword was quite common. Fingernail torture, water torture, and other forms of torment were used. At least 90 percent of Pacific Theater POWs received some form of direct physical punishment from their captors, with scarcely a man escaping at least one physical beating during his imprisonment.

Some of the worst deprivation occurred for these POWs not while they were actually in one camp, but in the course of transfer between camps. Starting in late 1942 and early 1943, prisoners were placed on enemy ships headed for Japan, or China. The ships were overcrowded and unsanitary, as large numbers of men were kept in the dark holds of these vessels without being allowed to go up on deck to exercise, defecate, or urinate. Rice and some other types of food were thrown into the holds. Many died from the filthy conditions. Many others drowned when a number of the transport ships were sunk mistakenly by American bombers.

The prisoners who survived the trip from the Philippines faced a severe change in climate. From the tropical heat of the Philippines, they now had to endure the sub-freezing cold of a Manchurian or Japanese winter without adequate clothing or shelter and often facing conditions of forced heavy labor. American prisoners of war were forced to work as miners, steelworkers, stevedores, and labor of all kinds in various industrial areas throughout Japan and Manchuria. Most of these veterans continued to work as forced labor for the Japanese war effort until their liberation and repatriation in 1945

Current Status of Request for Reparations

As part of the post World War II treaty settlement, the Government of Japan provided compensation to all surviving American prisoners of war. These veterans were first paid one dollar per day for each day of internment, and later, an additional \$1.50 per day for each day of incarceration. The veterans argue, however, that they were not compensated for slave labor performed while in

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captivity. Last Fall, Japan's high court rejected a compensation suit seeking redress filed by a coalition of Allied prisoners of war on the basis of a 1952 treaty protecting Japan from further liability in post-war settlements.

For more than a decade, World War II veterans of the Pacific Theater who were required to perform slave labor by the government of Japan have sought further reparations by suing the Japanese multi-national corporations for whom they were forced to work during the war. These multi-national corporations include such companies as Mitsui, Mitsubishi and Nippon Steel. Litigation continues in Federal District Court in California (Tenney v. Mitsui & CO., Ltd., et al) and in the California State Courts (Dillman, Cobb, Mazer v. Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, et al.).

Proposed Legislative Remedy

In December 1998, the Canadian Government approved legislation to compensate their military veterans who had been captured by the Japanese during the fall of Hong Kong, and who subsequently provided slave labor. The legislation awarded approximately 700 qualified Canadian veterans and surviving spouses \$15,600 each as an extraordinary payment to extraordinary individual who suffered extraordinary treatment in captivity. The payment to these Canadian veterans will total \$11.7 million from the Canadian Treasury, not from the Japanese government.

In agreeing to provide their veterans with compensation for slave labor performed while held by the Japanese, the Canadian Government recognized that the lengthy legal proceedings appealing the decision of the Japanese high court would likely be too drawn out to be beneficial to their aging veterans. As a result, the Canadian Government conclude that it was appropriate and honorable to reward these veterans simply out of recognition of the debt of gratitude owed them by their government.

In October of last year, similar legislation (S. 1806) was introduced, ~~was~~ sponsored by Senator Jeff Bingaman, on behalf of those U.S. veterans who served at Bataan and Corregidor during World War II. Other cosponsors include Senators Coverdell, Domenici, Hollings and Cleland.

S.1806 would authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay a gratuity of \$20,000 to veterans, or to the surviving spouse of a veteran, who (1) served at Bataan or Corregidor during World war II; (2) was captured and held as a POW by Japan; and (3) was required by Japan to perform slave labor.

The provisions of S. 1806 have now been incorporated as Section 655 of the FY 2001 defense authorization bill, (S. 2549). S. 2549 has been pulled from further consideration by the full senate until they complete action on a series of appropriations measures. A copy of Section 655 of S. 2549 is attached.

273-5611
May 20, 2000

Mr. John D. Podesta
Chief of Staff
Executive office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Podesta:

I am writing you as a concerned citizen and past member of the U.S. Army, 36th Division, 131st Field Artillery, 2nd Battalion, Battery D.

I am dismayed at the failure of the U.S. Government to seek basic justice for we veterans who as Prisoners of War were forced to work as slave laborers in the Pacific.

Since the end of World War II, neither the Japanese government, nor those private Japanese companies that enslaved us, has not offered an apology or made an effort to make restitution for the abuses and injuries suffered.

But equally distressing, the U.S. Government has stood mute during these same intervening years, and has never sought to make fair compensation to we veterans who were brutally enslaved and deprived of all human dignity.

This is incomprehensible to me—especially as our government in recent years has awarded reparations to Japanese American citizens who were interned in U.S. camps during World War II, as well as worked diligently to resolve the claims brought by victims of German atrocities during the Holocaust. Both of these terrible injustices needed to be remedied—and, at long last, were. But former prisoners-of-war who were used as slave laborers in the Pacific have been studiously ignored by the U.S. Government and are now at the end of our lives.

Fortunately, the State of California has decided to seek justice for the veterans who were POWs of the Japanese. The California Legislature has unanimously passed a statute that allows claims for compensation for us POWs to go forward in the courts irrespective of the statute of limitations.

We need the US Government to take a stand and make sure this right is applied to U.S. Veterans as the US Government has for the US internees of the Japanese/Americans and the Israelie Internies of the Germans.

I don't know about you but to me it seems strange that our Government has not taken responsibility for giving away our rights when General Douglas MacArthur signed the Armistice with the Japanese Government on September 2, 1945. This was a United States Army General representing the United States that stated the Emperor of Japan would not be held responsible for starting the war between Japan and the United States. Are we to believe the Emperor was not a part of the planned attack on Pearl Harbor?

Pg 2

There are those who might consider as 'just compensation', the \$.50 Thailand currency paid by the Japanese Army as the daily rate for 10 to 14 hours of slave labor moving mountains, bridging rivers and clearing the jungles of Burma and Thailand. The \$.50 would buy one duck egg from the Thailand Road Vendors if one were lucky enough to not get caught by "Black Shirt", our *friendly* Japanese Guard..

Sincerely,


George L. Huggins
11528 Sandpiper Way
Penn Valley, CA 95946

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To authorize the payment of a gratuity to certain members of the Armed Forces who served at Bataan and Corregidor during World War II, or the surviving spouses of such members, and... (Introduced in the Senate)

S 1806 IS

106th CONGRESS

1st Session

S. 1806

To authorize the payment of a gratuity to certain members of the Armed Forces who served at Bataan and Corregidor during World War II, or the surviving spouses of such members, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

October 27, 1999

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. CLELAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the payment of a gratuity to certain members of the Armed Forces who served at Bataan and Corregidor during World War II, or the surviving spouses of such members, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO PAY GRATUITY TO CERTAIN VETERANS OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR.

(a) FINDINGS- Congress makes the following findings:

(1) From December 1941 to April 1942, members of the Armed Forces fought valiantly against overwhelming Japanese military forces on the Bataan peninsula in the Philippines, thereby preventing Japan from accomplishing strategic objectives necessary for early military victory in the Pacific during World War II.

(2) After receiving orders to surrender on April 9, 1942, many such members were taken prisoner of war by Japan and forced to march 85 miles from the Bataan peninsula to a prisoner of war camp at former Camp O'Donnell. That march resulted in more than 10,000 deaths by reason of starvation, disease, and executions.

(3) In June 1942, the United States personnel at former Camp O'Donnell were joined with members of the Armed Forces who had been captured at Corregidor in the Philippines and transferred to the Cabanatuan prisoner of war camp where many were held through the remainder of World War II.

(4) In autumn 1944, Japanese authorities ordered more than 1,600 United States personnel who were prisoners of war at the Cabanatuan camp to provide slave labor in support of the war effort in Japan.

(5) Many of the United States personnel who were prisoners of war were transferred to Japan on unmarked vessels, some of which were attacked and sunk by United States military aircraft.

(6) Units of the Armed Forces which served at Bataan have received numerous citations, including 3 Presidential Unit Citations and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation for heroism, but reparations to individual members of the Armed Forces who were taken prisoner of war at Bataan were limited by a treaty governing the postwar reparations for which the Government of Japan was liable.

(7) The amount of reparations paid to members of the Armed Forces held as prisoner of war by Japan during World War II were based on time served as prisoner of war, but did not take into account slave labor performed while prisoner of war.

(8) The Government of Japan has concluded through judicial proceedings that liability for compensation payments expired in 1952.

(9) The Government of Canada authorized the payment of compensation to veterans of the armed forces of Canada who performed slave labor during World War II but were not paid compensation for the performance of such labor after the war.

(b) **PURPOSE-** The purpose of this section is to recognize the heroic contributions of the members of the Armed Forces who served in the Philippines at Bataan and Corregidor during World War II, were required to perform slave labor by the Government of Japan to support the war effort of Japan during that war, and have not been fully compensated for their contributions to and sacrifices for United States victory in that war.

(c) **PAYMENT OF GRATUITY AUTHORIZED-** The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may pay a gratuity to a covered veteran, or to the surviving spouse of a covered veteran, in the amount of \$20,000.

(d) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED- For purposes of this section, the term 'covered veteran' means any veteran of the Armed Forces who--

- (1) served at Bataan or Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II;
- (2) was captured and held as a prisoner of war by Japan as a result of such service; and
- (3) was required by Japan to perform slave labor in Japan during World War II.

(e) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PAYMENTS- Any amount paid a person under this section for activity described in subsection (d) is in addition to any other amount paid such person for such activity under any other provision of law.

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MEMORANDUM

July 21, 2000

TO: MARIA ECHAVESTE
FROM: IRENE BUENO
RE: FILIPINO VETERANS UPDATE MEETING – Monday, July 24, 2000 at 2 pm in your office.

PURPOSE: You are meeting to get an update on the Filipino Veterans issues to make sure that we are prepared to make an announcement on the VA study on July 27th. Also, we will discuss a response to the upcoming protest by Filipino Veterans.

BACKGROUND: As you may recall, Representative Filner (D-CA) requested that the President Clinton direct the VA to do a report within 90 days with a plan to provide access to VA health care facilities for Filipino veterans. Jeanne and VA have drafted a letter that we would send to VA (see attached). Also, we are Laura is drafting a letter from the President to Representative Filner responding to his request.

ATTENDEES: Jeanne Lambrew (pronounced "Jean"), OMB
Laura Efurd, OPL
Josh Ackil, WH Leg Affairs

DRAFT

The Honorable Hershel Gober
Acting Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Gober:

As you know, this Administration has recognized the unique contribution of Filipino veterans and worked to improve compensation and benefits. In fact, for the last two sessions of Congress we have proposed legislation to eliminate the current dollar limitation for authorized compensation payments to Filipino beneficiaries residing in the United States. The proposed legislation has not been enacted, and similar proposals have not been given a committee hearing, acted upon. This reality, coupled with the fact that numerous Filipino veterans have immigrated to this country, suggests that we need to raise awareness of the issues and options to help this group of deserving veterans.

To that end, I am requesting that you produce a study of the health care needs of these veterans and the options you determine are available for addressing those needs no later than October 31, 2000. ~~There was a study produced by the Department of Veterans Affairs in December 1997 that was coordinated with the Executive Office of the President, the Department of State, and the Department of Defense. We are now asking for the Department of Veterans Affairs, along with these same agencies, to review, update and expand that study taking into consideration changes in the Filipino veteran population and its needs, as well as other pertinent current events. Certainly, this review should include and any recommendations relative to the benefits afforded these recommendations relative to the benefits afforded these veterans and veterans. It should include current cost estimates, approved by OMB, for any recommendations. We are particularly interested in your analysis of the needs.~~ OMB. Thank you for your cooperation in this effort. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

President?

Staff ~~Secretary~~ - process - letter & memo
Lemon - NSC - deliv'd -
VA - cover mtg w/ VSDs.

ROB FILNER
50TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

2463 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TEL: (202) 225-8045
FAX: (202) 225-9073

333 F STREET, SUITE A
CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA 91910
TEL: (619) 422-5963
FAX: (619) 422-7290



TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE

VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 8, 2000

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I understand that President Joseph Estrada of the Philippines will be visiting our country at the end of June.

You are aware that one of the issues of great importance to Filipino-Americans throughout the United States is the restoration of compensation and health care to Filipino World War II veterans who were drafted into service by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and were promised benefits which were rescinded by Congress in 1946.

As a Congressman representing the largest number of Filipino-Americans in any Congressional District on the mainland, I deeply appreciate your interest and attention to this issue—and especially the Presidential Proclamation which you issued in October, 1996 to recognize the contribution of Filipino World War II veterans to the successful outcome of this war.

I have met with several members of your staff who have agreed to work towards restoring access to VA health care facilities for these veterans, both in the United States and in the Philippines. The cost of this limited initiative has been estimated by the Department of Veterans Affairs as \$30.7 million, significantly less than the \$500 million to \$1 billion estimated to restore all benefits to these veterans and their families.

The Honorable William J. Clinton

June 8, 2000

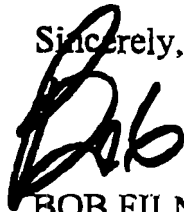
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Congressman Benjamin Gilman and I have introduced H.R. 1594, The Filipino Veterans Benefits Improvements Act, to accomplish this goal of health care for Filipino World War II veterans. Because these veterans are in their 70s and 80s, health care is of eminent importance to them. That is why I suggest that during President Estrada's visit, you make a Presidential announcement, calling for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report directly to you within 90 days with a plan to provide access to VA health care facilities for these World War II patriots.

Thousands of Filipino World War II veterans are dying each year. That is why I believe that now is the time for Presidential action. Your leadership is needed to move the resolution to this problem.

I appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob", with a stylized flourish at the end.

BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

BF/ss
2005636

DRAFT

The Honorable Hershel Gober
Acting Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Gober:

As you know, this Administration has recognized the unique contribution of Filipino veterans and worked to improve compensation and benefits. In fact, for the last two sessions of Congress we have proposed legislation to eliminate the current dollar limitation for authorized compensation payments to Filipino beneficiaries residing in the United States. The proposed legislation has not been enacted, and similar proposals have not been given a committee hearing. This reality, coupled with the fact that numerous Filipino veterans have immigrated to this country, suggests that we need to raise awareness of the issues and options to help this group of deserving veterans.

To that end, I am requesting that you produce a study of the historical background and issues associated with the benefits afforded Filipino veterans no later than October 31, 2000. There was a study produced by the Department of Veterans Affairs in December 1997 that was coordinated with the Executive Office of the President, the Department of State, and the Department of Defense. We are now asking for the Department of Veterans Affairs, along with these same agencies, to review, update and expand that study taking into consideration changes in the Filipino veteran population and its needs, as well as other pertinent current events. Certainly, this review should include recommendations relative to the benefits afforded these veterans and should include current cost estimates, approved by OMB, for any recommendations. We are particularly interested in your analysis of the health care needs of these veterans and the options you determine are available for addressing those needs.

Thank you for your cooperation in this effort. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

? - who says?

W

12/13/99 - Will don't do.

October 15, 1999

- Broader message on Veterans
largest single increase but
vets want more. \$1.8

BRIEFING

MEMORANDUM FOR MARIA ECHAVESTE

FROM: Laura Efurd

- Slammed for not asking for more
& directing

RE: Meeting with Representatives Patsy Mink and Bob Filner on Health Benefits for
Filipino American Veterans

- to be no factor - last year
- Flat budget - in 00

- Cost ↑
- we would support Filner memo
but need a memo.

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, October 27th, 4:30 pm

LOCATION: Roosevelt Room

- Would support ~~Filner~~
bring quality on disability side.

ATTENDEES:

Maria Echaveste, Deputy Chief of Staff
Chuck Brain, Legislative Affairs
Laura Efurd, Deputy Director, Public Liaison
Irene Bueno, Domestic Policy Council
Daniel Mendelson, OMB
Rep. Patsy T. Mink
Rep. Bob Filner
Sharon Shulze, Rep. Filner's office
Andrew Helee, Rep. Filner's office

- how to convey to stakeholders

PURPOSE: To meet with Representatives Mink and Filner to discuss options
for providing benefits for Filipino Veterans who served in WWII.

BACKGROUND:

Representative Mink called to request a meeting with John Podesta on health benefits for Filipino Veterans. Mink and Rep. Bob Filner, who will also be present at the meeting, have long advocated for the U.S. to provide certain benefits to Filipino Veterans of World War II who fought with the U.S. military. The primary purpose of their request is to ask the White House to include \$30.7 million in FY2000 for health benefits for Filipino Veterans in any budget deal that is negotiated with the Congress.

Currently a small portion of these veterans, known as the Old Scouts, who reside in the United States receive health care equivalent to other veterans benefits. However, about 17,000 U.S.-based veterans of the New Scouts, the Philippine Commonwealth Army and recognized guerilla

groups do not receive benefits equivalent to U.S. veterans. Those with service-connected disabilities receive monthly compensation at a rate of 50% of what other U.S. veterans receive. Those without service-connected disabilities receive no benefits.

Past efforts by Mink, Filner and other Members have sought full benefits for Filipino Veterans (health, retirement etc...), however currently Mink and Filner and the Filipino Veterans groups are advocating specifically for health benefits. Current legislation sponsored by Representative Gilman and supported by Mink and Filner would provide Filipino Veterans residing in the U.S. health care benefits equal to those received by other Veterans, and provides \$500,000 for the treatment of Filipino Veterans residing in the Philippines with service-connected disabilities and non-service-connected disabilities. The total cost of the bill is estimated to be \$30.7 million annually. The bill also provides equal compensation to Filipino Veterans who have service connected disabilities (same as Administration proposal, see below).

The Administration has sought to address the issue of benefits for Filipino Veterans in the past. As a result of a review of this issue, the Administration made a decision not to pursue health care benefits for Filipino Veterans, but to provide more equitable compensation for those with service-connected disabilities. The Presidents FY99 and FY2000 budgets have proposed equitable treatment for Filipino Veterans with service-connected disabilities, so that they may receive full compensation at 100%, rather than 50%. (Note: these are not health care benefits, but compensation similar to workers comp). This Budget request has never been adopted by the Congress.

The Administration pursued this option because the compensation for service-connected disabilities comes from mandatory spending. VA health care is funded with discretionary funds. The concern is that Veterans organizations will see funding health care for Filipino Vets out of discretionary dollars as taking away funding for U.S. Veterans.

The current Administration position remains to first pursue the 100% compensation for Filipino Veterans with service-connected disabilities, but not health care benefits.

SSI Benefits for Filipino Veterans: While not the primary subject of this meeting you should be aware of related legislation that will allow Filipino Veterans of World War II to receive 75% of their SSI benefits if they reside outside of the United States. Under current law these individuals lose all their SSI benefits if they do not reside in the U.S. This provision passed the House on June 15, 1999 as part of the Foster Care Independence Act (H.R. 1802). The Administration supports this provision. The bill is currently under consideration by the Senate. On October 13th the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing on the Foster Care bill and indicated that it would markup a bill including the Veterans SSI provision by mid-November.

FORMAT:

- Introductions
- Turn over the Repts. Mink & Filner
- Discussion

TALKING POINTS:

- The Administration is certainly sympathetic to the plight of these Veterans who served alongside U.S. soldiers during WWII. The President has recognized this group of Veterans and honored them for their service.
- We have adopted an incremental approach to resolving this issue. After a thorough review of this issue we have proposed for two years now that service-connected disabled veterans receive full compensation, instead of 50%. We have faced many barriers in getting this provision adopted by the Congress. You know we face similar opposition for health benefits.
- There are two major issues that we face: 1) finding the funds to pay for the benefits and 2) facing opposition from other veterans organizations who may perceive inclusion of Filipino Veterans in VA hospital care and other services and reducing services available for U.S. Veterans.
- We are willing to work with you on this issue, and I would be interested in hearing your ideas.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Memo from Rep. Filner outlining request & background on Filipino Veterans
2. Copy of H.R. 1594, Filipino Veteran's Benefits Improvement Act
3. Bill Status including cosponsors
4. Various articles sent by Rep. Filner on this issue
5. OMB Decision Memo on Benefits for Filipino Veterans

Date: October 1, 1999
To: Chuck Brain, Deputy Assistant to the President, Legislative Affairs
From: Congressman Bob Filner

Budget Summit Priorities: Funding for Health Care for Filipino World War II Veterans

I request the inclusion of \$30.7 million in the Department of Veterans Affairs' FY2000 budget to provide access for Filipino World War II veterans to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Facilities, both in the United States and in the Philippines--as called for in the Filipino Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act (H.R. 1594), sponsored by Congressman Benjamin Gilman and myself. We propose that access to VA Medical Facilities would follow the same priority as U.S. veterans receive, nothing more or less.

History: During World War II, the military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, at that time a territory of the United States, were drafted to serve in our armed forces by Executive Order of the President of the United States. In spite of their heroic service, crucial to the outcome of World War II, Filipino veterans were denied the benefits they expected by the 79th Congress in the Rescissions Act of 1946. These actions have seared the hearts of Filipino World War II veterans and their families, many of whom are now United States citizens, for over 50 years. The respect and honor due them because of their noble defense of democratic ideals has been stripped away.

In 1996, President Clinton and Congress, with a Presidential Proclamation and Congressional Resolutions, took the first steps to honor and recognize the service of Filipino World War II veterans. But they are still awaiting the promised benefits. Now in their 70s and 80s, the greatest need of these veterans is for health care. To address this need, Congressman Gilman and I introduced the Filipino Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act (H.R. 1594) in the 106th Congress. I have attached information about this bill which is estimated by the VA to cost \$30.7 million, \$500,000 of which would go to the VA Outpatient Clinic in Manila, the rest to provide health care to Filipino World War II veterans who reside in the United States.

Support/opposition: Benefits for Filipino World War II veterans are supported by over 200 co-Members of Congress who have co-sponsored legislation to restore these benefits; a vast coalition of Filipino-American organizations throughout the nation; American veterans who served in the Philippines; numerous veterans service organizations including The American Legion, the Jewish War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America; State Legislatures, County Boards of Supervisors and City Councils in the United States; the Philippine government; religious groups such as the Synod of the Sun of the Presbyterian Church; the Mayor of Los Angeles; and editorials in the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, and the San Diego Union (attached). Opposition has come from the Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Department of Veterans' Affairs, I believe due primarily to the cost of restoring all benefits, including compensation, which is estimated to cost between \$500 million and \$1 billion a year. However, with a projected budget surplus, the United States has the opportunity to do what is morally right: to take the step of including \$30.7 million in the FY2000 budget for access to health care for Filipino World War II veterans.

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1594

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 1999

Mr. GILMAN (for himself and Mr. FILNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Filipino Veterans' Ben-
5 efits Improvements Act of 1999".

6 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATE OF PAYMENT OF CERTAIN BEN-**
7 **EFITS TO VETERANS OF THE PHILIPPINE**
8 **COMMONWEALTH ARMY.**

9 (a) INCREASE.—Section 107 of title 38, United
10 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by striking “Payment” in the second sen-
2 tence of subsection (a) and inserting “Except as pro-
3 vided in subsection (c), payment”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 section:

6 “(c) In the case of benefits under subchapters II and
7 IV of chapter 11 of this title by reason of service described
8 in subsection (a)—

9 “(1) notwithstanding the second sentence of
10 subsection (a), payment of such benefit shall be
11 made in dollars at the rate of \$1.00 for each dollar
12 authorized; and

13 “(2) such benefits shall be paid only to an indi-
14 vidual residing in the United States who is a citizen
15 of, or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent resi-
16 dence in, the United States.”.

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
18 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-
19 ment of this Act, and shall apply to benefits paid for
20 months beginning on or after that date.

21 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH CARE OF CERTAIN ADDI-**
22 **TIONAL FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS.**

23 Section 1734 of title 38, United States Code, is
24 amended to read as follows:

1 “The Secretary, within the limits of Department fa-
 2 cilities, shall furnish hospital and nursing home care and
 3 medical services to Commonwealth Army veterans and
 4 new Philippine Scouts in the same manner as provided
 5 for under section 1710 of this title.”.

6 **SEC. 4. MANDATE TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE FOR WORLD**
 7 **WAR II VETERANS RESIDING IN THE PHIL-**
 8 **IPPINES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter IV of chapter 17 of
 10 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating section 1735 as section
 12 1736; and

13 (2) by inserting after section 1734 the following
 14 new section:

15 **“§ 1735. Outpatient care and services for World War**
 16 **II veterans residing in the Philippines**

17 “(a) OUTPATIENT HEALTH CARE.—The Secretary
 18 shall furnish care and services to veterans, Commonwealth
 19 Army veterans, and new Philippine Scouts for the treat-
 20 ment of the service-connected disabilities and non-service-
 21 connected disabilities of such veterans and scouts residing
 22 in the Republic of the Philippines on an outpatient basis
 23 at the Manila VA Outpatient Clinic.

1 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—(1) The amount expended by
2 the Secretary for the purpose of subsection (a) in any fis-
3 cal year may not exceed \$500,000.

4 “(2) The authority of the Secretary to furnish care
5 and services under subsection (a) is effective in any fiscal
6 year only to the extent that appropriations are available
7 for that purpose.”.

8 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
9 at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended
10 by striking the item relating to section 1735 and inserting
11 after the item relating to section 1734 the following new
12 items:

“1735. Outpatient care and services for World War II veterans residing in the
Philippines.

“1736. Definitions.”.

13 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
14 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-
15 ment of this Act.

○

Bill Summary & Status for the 106th Congress

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H.R.1594SPONSOR: [Rep Gilman, Benjamin A.](#) (introduced 04/28/99)RELATED BILLS: [S.1391](#)

Jump to: [Titles](#), [Status](#), [Committees](#), [Amendments](#), [Cosponsors](#), [Summary](#)

TITLE(S):

- SHORT TITLE(S) AS INTRODUCED:
Filipino Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1999
 - OFFICIAL TITLE AS INTRODUCED:
A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II, and for other purposes.
-

STATUS: Floor Actions***NONE***

STATUS: Detailed Legislative Status**House Actions****Apr 28, 99:**

Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

May 20, 99:

Referred to the Subcommittee on Benefits.

STATUS: Congressional Record Page References

04/28/99 Introductory remarks on Measure (CR [E802](#))04/28/99 Full text of Measure as introduced printed (CR [H802-803](#))

COMMITTEE(S):

- COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERRAL:
[House Veterans' Affairs](#)
 - SUBCOMMITTEE(S):
[Hsc Benefits](#)
-

AMENDMENT(S):***NONE***

COSPONSORS(59):

Rep Filner, Bob - 04/28/99
Rep Mink, Patsy T. - 05/05/99
Rep Crowley, Joseph - 05/05/99
Rep Eshoo, Anna G. - 05/14/99
Rep Lofgren, Zoe - 05/14/99
Rep Campbell, Tom - 05/14/99
Rep Weiner, Anthony D. - 05/14/99
Rep Carson, Julia - 05/27/99
Rep Becerra, Xavier - 05/27/99
Rep Gutierrez, Luis V. - 05/27/99
Rep Pickett, Owen B. - 05/27/99
Rep Lewis, John - 06/29/99
Rep DeLauro, Rosa L. - 06/29/99
Rep Hoyer, Steny H. - 06/29/99
Rep Schakowsky, Janice D. - 06/29/99
Rep Abercrombie, Neil - 06/29/99
Rep Reyes, Silvestre - 07/01/99
Rep Rodriguez, Ciro - 07/01/99
Rep Serrano, Jose E. - 07/01/99
Rep Mascara, Frank - 07/01/99
Rep Kildee, Dale E. - 07/01/99
Rep Peterson, Collin C. - 07/15/99
Rep Martinez, Matthew G. - 07/15/99
Rep Scott, Robert C. - 07/15/99
Rep Jackson-Lee, Sheila - 07/15/99
Rep Hutchinson, Asa - 07/15/99
Rep Stark, Fortney Pete - 08/03/99
Rep Wynn, Albert Russell - 08/03/99
Rep McDermott, Jim - 08/03/99
Rep Meehan, Martin T. - 08/03/99

Rep Rohrabacher, Dana - 05/05/99
Rep Olver, John W. - 05/05/99
Rep Romero-Barcelo, Carlos A. - 05/14/99
Rep Roybal-Allard, Lucille - 05/14/99
Rep Cunningham, Randy (Duke) - 05/14/99
Rep Underwood, Robert A. - 05/14/99
Rep McGovern, James P. - 05/27/99
Rep Engel, Eliot L. - 05/27/99
Rep Pelosi, Nancy - 05/27/99
Rep Lipinski, William O. - 05/27/99
Rep Miller, George - 06/29/99
Rep Kennedy, Patrick J. - 06/29/99
Rep Menendez, Robert - 06/29/99
Rep Tauscher, Ellen O. - 06/29/99
Rep Pastor, Ed - 06/29/99
Rep Ortiz, Solomon P. - 07/01/99
Rep Hinojosa, Ruben - 07/01/99
Rep Sanchez, Loretta - 07/01/99
Rep Maloney, James H. - 07/01/99
Rep Rahall, Nick J., II - 07/01/99
Rep Vento, Bruce F. - 07/01/99
Rep Woolsey, Lynn C. - 07/15/99
Rep Frank, Barney - 07/15/99
Rep Lee, Barbara - 07/15/99
Rep Lantos, Tom - 07/15/99
Rep Berman, Howard L. - 08/03/99
Rep Slaughter, Louise McIntosh - 08/03/99
Rep Weygand, Robert A. - 08/03/99
Rep Traficant, James A., Jr. - 08/03/99

SUMMARY:

(AS INTRODUCED)

Filipino Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1999 - Authorizes payment of compensation for the service-connected disability of members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army who served with U.S. armed forces during World War II in the amount of one dollar for each dollar authorized, as long as each such individual resides in the United States and is a U.S. citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish hospital and nursing home care and medical services to such veterans and new Philippine Scouts in the same manner as furnished to U.S. veterans.

Directs the Secretary to furnish care and services to veterans, Commonwealth Army veterans, and new Philippine Scouts for the treatment of service-connected disabilities and non-service-connected disabilities of such veterans and scouts residing in the Republic of the Philippines on an outpatient basis at the Manila VA Outpatient Clinic. Limits to \$500,000 the amount to be expended during a fiscal year for such services.

The Stars and Stripes.

The National Edition

Since 1861

THE OLDEST NATIONAL VETERANS NEWSPAPER

Vol. 122 No. 10

MAY 10 - MAY 23, 1999

Filipino Veterans Welcome Benefits Bill

(Stars and Stripes)—Filipino WWII veterans hailed the introduction April 28 of H.R. 1594, "The Filipino Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1999," as "the first vital step" in obtaining full recognition of their military service by the U.S. government.

The bill was introduced by Rep. Benjamin Gilman, R-N.Y., chairman of the House International Relations Committee. Its co-sponsor is Rep. Bob Filner, D-Calif., a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee.

"I believe it is long past time to correct this injustice and to provide the members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and Special Philippine Scouts with the benefits and services that they valiantly earned during World War II," said Gilman, a WWII veteran who served in the Pacific theater with the U.S. Army Air Corps.

"Realizing that our current budgetary environment is not conducive to the creation of a new entitlement program, I have crafted this legislation to be fiscally feasible while providing the veterans with the benefits they are most in need of," he added.

"We deeply thank Gilman and Filner for their tireless and dedicated efforts to our cause of justice and equity," said Patrick Canio, 78, president of the Washington-based American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, Inc., and a veteran of the WWII battles of Bataan and Corregidor.

"We fought as soldiers for America 57 years ago. We deserve to be treated as equals. This bill will be the key step in winning benefits for us."

Canio's organization, with 1,400 members in the U.S., is campaigning to recognize former Filipino soldiers as veterans of the U.S. armed forces and to make them eligible to receive veterans health and disability pension benefits.

The new legislation would:

- ◆ Provide 100 percent parity for Filipino service-connected veterans living in the United States who were wounded, injured or taken prisoner during WWII and who previously were receiving half the monthly compensation of their American counterparts.

- ◆ Allow all Filipino veterans living in the U.S. to be eligible for health care at local VA clinics and hospitals.

- ◆ Provide annual funding of \$500,000 to the Manila U.S. Outpatient Clinic to treat Filipino WWII veterans living in the Philippines.

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1997

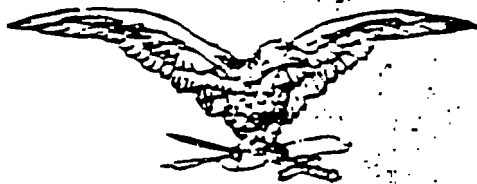
Under the American Flag

IN 1941, AS Japan prepared for war, the United States folded the armed forces of its then-territory the Philippines into its own. Promises of generous individual military benefits followed. Fighting to liberate their homeland, the Filipinos conducted themselves, it is established, with valor. But no sooner was the war over and independence bestowed than Congress reneged on important benefits. Now some of the American citizens among the 70,000 aging survivors of those Filipino forces are petitioning for review. Considerations of equity and honor commend their cause, but the benefits remain frozen.

As it happens, a couple of American Pacific war veterans loom over the Washington political terrain on which this issue is being fought. Chairman Ben Gilman (R-N.Y.) of International Relations introduced the Filipino Veterans Equity Act. Chairman Bob Stump (R-Ariz.) of Veterans' Affairs thinks it costs too much. For one thing, the new congressional pay-as-you-go rule would require his committee to make up the nearly half-billion-dollar annual cost of

pensions matching those given American servicemen. The Filipino former soldiers swore an oath to American authority and fought side by side with American soldiers, but Mr. Stump questions whether they are *American* veterans. So as not to raise their expectations, he has resisted the hearings they seek to promote their appeal.

It is demeaning to Americans as well as to Filipinos for the United States to continue denying benefits that were pledged at the highest level, then abundantly earned on the battlefield, then denied, then withheld through decades of Filipino entreaty. Surely this is an issue begging for a consensus financial resolution. Such an outcome would preserve a modicum of obligation to full-fledged comrades who fought under the American flag. It would ease the declining years of survivors' ranks that are shrinking by the day. A Senate version of this bill would leave the Filipino veterans with funeral and burial expenses only. We would not like to be the ones to tell these fading old soldiers they must die for the government they served to pay.



THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1997

Honor Promises, However Late

U.S. has a moral obligation to these Filipino soldiers

They served with honor, dignity and respect. Yet more than 50 years later, the United States is yet to fulfill its moral obligation to provide benefits to the Filipinos who fought alongside American soldiers during World War II. The nation broke its promises. It is time to make amends.

About 200,000 Filipino soldiers came under U.S. military command in 1942 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order drafting the entire armed forces of the Philippines, then a U.S. protectorate. They fought the Japanese under Gen. Douglas MacArthur in some of the bloodiest battles of the war, including Corregidor and Bataan.

The soldiers were initially promised full military benefits and U.S. citizenship, but Congress reneged on those pledges in 1946 when the Philippines was given independence. Congress granted them citizenship rights in the 1990 immigration law but has failed to deal with the broken promise of GI benefits, from home loans to medical care. To draw attention to the plight of the estimated 70,000 surviving Filipino veterans, a group of them has been staging a sit-in protest at MacArthur Park in Los

Angeles since last weekend.

Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) has tried for the last 10 years to muster support to establish the benefits, which would cost an estimated \$700 million annually, diminishing over time. Reps. Bob Filner (D-San Diego) and Benjamin A. Gilman (R-N.Y.) have introduced legislation in the House to do the same. Despite the clear moral justification for such legislation, Washington is ducking the issue because new federal expenditures require offsets to avoid expanding the deficit. Neither political party has been willing to come up with a way to pay the benefits. They ought to apply some bipartisan spirit on behalf of Filipinos who



In chains: Former soldiers protesting for benefits from Washington.

fought for American interests. Thousands of these soldiers endured the Bataan death march and years of captivity.

Congress should at least hold hearings to illuminate the unkept promises and their effects on the lives of these aging former soldiers. If more Americans—including members of Congress—understood the issue, they surely would make haste to grant the Filipino veterans what they are due. This is about national honor.

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Saturday

May 10, 1997

A moral obligation

Filipino vets deserve equal treatment

This week's visit to San Diego by Philippine President Fidel Ramos highlighted the friendship and close historical ties that have long existed between Americans and Filipinos. But it also cast a spotlight on a glaring injustice against Filipino veterans of World War II that demands to be corrected by the U.S. government half a century later.

In 1941, as war clouds gathered in the Pacific, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order drafting the entire armed forces of the Philippines into the U.S. military. At the time, the sprawling archipelago was an American commonwealth.

Throughout World War II, Filipino soldiers fought the Japanese alongside their American counterparts and distinguished themselves in such famous battles as Bataan and Corregidor. In 1946, however, when Philippine independence was granted, Congress cut off benefits to Filipino veterans. Even as he signed the legislation, President Harry

Truman acknowledged it did not "release the United States from its moral obligation to provide for the heroic Philippine veterans."

Yet that is where the matter stood for nearly 50 years, until Rep. Bob Filner, D-San Diego, introduced a bill to restore benefits for the estimated 75,000 Filipino veterans who are still alive. About a third of the vets live in the United States, including an undetermined number in San Diego County's flourishing Filipino community.

It is unclear how much it would cost the U.S. government to honor its moral obligation to Filipinos who served in the American military. The Congressional Budget Office puts the figure at up to \$300 million a year; Filner believes that number is vastly inflated.

But the dollar figure is hardly the issue. The real question is whether the United States will do its duty by the Filipino veterans, just as they did their duty a half-century ago. Filner's measure deserves passage by Congress.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Jack Lew

SUBJECT: **Health Benefits for Filipino Veterans -- Decision**

You asked us to reconsider the earlier decision not to propose additional VA health benefits for Filipino World War II veterans living in the US. Of the veterans at issue, the 1,250 Filipino veterans with service connected disabilities can receive care, but only for their specific disability and with a low priority on a space-available basis; the remainder are entirely ineligible. Although there is some excess capacity at VA health facilities on the West Coast, providing any additional health benefits would require legislation and would involve additional costs to the VA. This legislation would be strongly opposed by veterans service organizations and the Congressional veterans committees.

Present Situation. Under current law, the 650 Filipinos living in the US who served in the Old Scouts are treated as US veterans for health care and all other VA benefits. At issue are the 17,000 US-based veterans of the New Scouts, the Philippine Commonwealth Army and recognized guerilla groups. Of these, 1,250 have service-connected disabilities and receive monthly compensation payments. (Your FY99 Budget proposed that they receive the full compensation benefit, versus the 50 percent benefit they presently receive.) They are authorized to receive VA medical services, but by statute are in the lowest priority category for care in VA medical facilities and treatment is restricted to their specific disabilities. The 15,750 other Filipino veterans in the U.S. who do not have service-connected disabilities are not eligible for *any* VA health services.

By contrast, U.S. veterans with service-connected disabilities receive VA medical services for any ailment, regardless of whether it is related to their service-connected disability. These veterans are in the top three statutory priority categories for care. U.S. veterans who do not have a service-connected condition are also eligible for VA health care for any condition, although they are lower priority and overall VA health care resources are limited.

Legislative & Funding Requirements for Expanded Eligibility. While there is excess capacity in some VA medical facilities, the concentration of Filipino veterans in California and Hawaii exceeds the ability of facilities there to absorb this new workload within existing funding/staffing levels. VA estimates that it would cost \$30 million annually (\$150 million over five years) to care for all Filipino veterans in the U.S. (The current annual VA health care appropriation is \$17 billion.)

Any change to authorize the VA to treat Filipino veterans' non-service-connected disabilities

would require legislation. Since VA medical care is discretionary, this authorization would not necessarily require additional funding. However, Congress and the veterans organizations would view it as displacing resources for U.S. veterans, whether we proposed an increase or not.

RECOMMENDATION

The VA believes strongly that the Administration should stay with its proposal to improve disability compensation and not propose any improvements in health benefits for Filipino veterans. We concur. Such legislation would have little chance of passage. Even proposing it would stir strong opposition, at a time when the veterans community is still angry about the elimination of VA tobacco benefits.

DECISION

- ___ No change in health benefits
- ___ Provide Filipino veterans living in the U.S. the same health benefits as U.S. veterans
- ___ Let's discuss

Don M

~~Advising~~

~~Advising~~ Approps man. need to put on the table.

Maia E.

- Precedent - confirm chie = close a chapter (Skencroft).
- If confirmed, then we fight back it.
- \$ scribbled + what else is on the list. - ~~where's~~ the \$30 million?

Beck

- What will Admin. support?

ME

- Making shy case
- Know that Don proposes ~~and~~ doesn't cut it.

meeting 10/27/99

- Want our support for strategy → recognition
- They have majority in the House but Stump prevents the vote:
- Legislation cost = \$30 billion for equal health care & choice in the P.I.
(Original bill = pension + health care).
- Assume oppty to do that + Pres. support.
- New VA groups are OK

Rep. Mink

- Moral issue
- \$30 bn probably too high - many are dying ~~but~~ + those in Hawaii would be covered by the state system.
- Claim the SSI savings =

Filner

- Bill gives them eligible not health care so \$30m maybe too high.
- Want the recognition
- 25K have died since 1992

M.B.

- Why \$30m? B/c VA takes the worst case scenario.
- POTUS plan? Only helps ~~some~~ few people who have already been recognized.
- Burial costs = will be covered.

Dan M

- He will rescind the \$1 ~~bill~~

Chuck - there are competing interests.

MB

- No other country drafted by Ex Order = similar situation - Fil Vets. All other countries ~~recognized~~ as vets.
- Trying to under something Congress did
- NOV. 13 = V.P.

Dan M.

- \$30 million and for Foster Care
- Other proposals - Priority 7 = space available only - Because ~~of~~ concerns + A. K. K. K.
- Lack of service connection higher income

Dan-Filner

- President's proposal - Stump doesn't support + doesn't help those who were ~~not~~ recognized.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	To Irene Bueno from Laura Efurd re: 60 seats (partial, SSN, DOB) (6 pages)	12/01/1999	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Irene Bueno
OA/Box Number: 25023

FOLDER TITLE:

Filipino Veterans [2]

2017-1120-S
ry2232

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

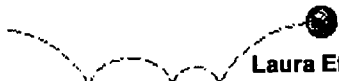
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

- Leadership on Vets groups
- Fil Vets
- Cmty leaders
[Plus
Elected <


Laura Efurd

12/01/99 10:07:57 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: 60 seats

Here's Eric's list.

----- Forwarded by Laura Efurd/WHO/EOP on 12/01/99 10:07 AM -----



Eric Lachica <elachica@idt.net>
11/29/99 02:48:21 AM

Please respond to elachica@idt.net

Record Type: Record

To: Laura Efurd/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: 60 seats

Laura :D

Hope we could have 60 seats at the event.

Please give a call soon re date & time.
Many have to book flights to be at the
H.R. 1802 "Foster Care Independence Act"
Presidential Bill Signing.

Recommended Guests to be invited
by American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, Inc.

1. Patrick Ganio, Sr. Phone: 202 588-0358
Defender at Bataan & Corregidor, POW, ACFV president
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
2. Maurese Oteyza Owens Phone: 703 534-0850
ACFV vice president, Phil-Am Charities Foundation president (VA)
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
3. Franco Arcebal: 714 533-0235
ACFV vice-president, United Fil-Am Vets Los Angeles commander
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)

[001]

4. Ning Aguila Bizik 703 354-4723
ACFV treasurer, Asian American Voters Coalition (VA)
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
5. Eric LACHICA-Furbeyre 202 246-1998
ACFV executive director
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
6. Faustino Baclig 562 695-7717
Golden Agers of Los Angeles, POW
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
7. Joe Montano Jr. 703 248- 0595
Filipino Civil Rights Advocates DC
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
8. Guillermo Rumingan 703 685-2665
ACFV Veteran, Disabled New Scout VA
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
9. Paul Blanco 562 595-6072
president Sons & Daughters of Fil-Am WWII Vets USA
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
10. Rita M. Gerona Adkins 703 522-2195
Philippine News S.F. & Fortune Magazine - Press
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
11. Marites T. Branigin 703 715-8879
Manila Mail reporter - Press
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
12. Mariano Aureus 201 963-7086
Philippine American Veterans Org. New Jersey
ACFV Veteran, Wounded in action twice
SSN: DOB:
13. Paul Tanedo 703 914-9264
Photographer - Press
SSN: (b)(6) DOB:
14. Pedro Tasin 301 587-8133
ACFV Veteran MD
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
15. Conrado Damasco 202 291-4028
ACFV Veteran DC
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
16. Pedro Alisuag 301 839-9807
ACFV Veteran MD
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)

Ketera

17. Celestino Almeda 703 765-9879
ACFV Veteran VA
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
18. Joaquin Tejada 202 291-4028
ACFV Veteran DC
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
19. Tomas Culanag 202 291-4028
ACFV Veteran DC
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
20. Herminio Caberto 202 291-4028
ACFV Veteran DC
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
21. Eufemio Abellera 202 291-4028
ACFV Veteran DC
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
22. Ernesto Anolin 661 849-1771
ACFV Veteran, Delano CA. Filipino-Am. Vets president
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
23. Potenciano Dee 202 966-1101
ACFV Veteran DC
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
24. Blas Rillorta 202 291-4028
ACFV Veteran DC
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
25. Glicerio Ganio 202 588-0358
ACFV Veteran DC
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
26. Remigio A. Cabacar 301248-8891
VFW-D. MacArthur Post Commander Maryland
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
27. Claudio Pedery 301 292-4203
ACFV Veteran MD
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
28. Gracita Pedery 301 292-4203
ACFV Veteran MD
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
29. Felino Gamino 301 864-3946
ACFV Veteran MD
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
30. Mitzi Pickard 703 691-3394
Philippine Festival VA

- SSN: DOB:
31. Celia Donahue 703 516-0930
Philippine American Chamber of Commerce VA
SSN: DOB:
32. Arturo Acuna 301 434-1008
ACFV Veteran MD
SSN: DOB:
33. Bayani Romulo 301 567-9315
ACFV Veteran MD
SSN: DOB:
34. Frank Honorio 301 567-8253
ACFV Veteran MD
SSN: DOB:
35. Thelma Estrella 301 258-5244
ACFV member MD
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
36. David Valderrama 301 839-7247
Maryland House of Delegates member
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
37. Camilo Vilorio 301 864-3946
ACFV Veteran MD
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
38. Quirino Fernando 301 559-0775
ACFV Veteran MD
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
39. Romeo San Antonio 757 588-0814
Filipino Am. Veterans of Hampton Roads VA
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
30. Dominador Valdez 408 297-7989
U.S. Filipino Veterans of San Jose, CA
SSN: DOB:
31. Alfredo Diaz 201 333-9132
ACFV Veteran, PAVO New York
SSN: DOB:
32. Regino Natividad 301 927-4684
ACFV veteran MD
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
33. Frank Manosca
American Legion Alejo Santos Post Philadelphia PA
SSN: DOB:

- elected official

34. Amado Soriano 407 381-2842
ACFV Florida
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
35. Tugado 202 462-0972
ACFV Veteran
SSN: DOB:
36. Amadeo Urbano 703 486-2933
ACFV Veteran
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
37. Rudy Panaglima 301 951-8341
ACFV Veteran
SSN: DOB:
38. Ben Menor Jr. 408 271-7322
San Jose Northside Comm.Center Executive Director
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
39. Abraham Angeles 415 547-7171
Bay Area Sons & Daughters of Filipino WWII Veterans
SSN: (b)(6) DOB:
40. Emilio Casayuran Jr. 415 467-3783
United Filipino Americans of San Francisco
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
41. Felix Tapawan Garcia 804 282-1379
Richmond VA ACFV
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
42. Rodney Salinas 202 997-0972
FIND Student Leader
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
43. Jonathan Melegrito 202 986-9330
National Federation of Filipino American Assn. DC
SSN: DOB:
44. Rodney Garcia Jr., Esq. 301 292-6808
ACFV Legal Counsel MD
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
45. Fritz Friedman 310 244-7799
Sony Pictures Columbia Tri-star vice-president
SSN: (b)(6) DOB: (b)(6)
46. Remo Dela Pena 301 839-3430
ACFV leader MD
SSN: DOB:
47. Pablo H. Llamado 415 621-6227
United Filipino Am. Veterans San Francisco

SSN: (b)(6) DOB:

48. Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-NY)
(chair of House International Relations Comm.)

- elected

Sen. Clinton

49. Rep. Bob Filner (D-San Diego CA)
member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee

- elected

50. Ambassador Ernesto Maceda
of the Philippine Embassy

51. Loida Nicolas-Lewis 212 756-8930
TLC Beatrice CEO
SSN: DOB:

52. Angelyn Tugado Marzan 202 462-0972
Maynila Magazine
SSN: DOB:

53. Dr. Lupo "Sonny" Carlota 901 377-3102
National Filipino American Council president
SSN: DOB:

54. Gloria Caoile 202 429-1101
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
SSN: DOB:

55. Nora Dorsey 757- 486-6700
Virginia Beach VA comm. leader
SSN: DOB:

56. Diana Comiso 202 889-3600
Philippine Nurses of American DC chapter
SSN: DOB:

57. Remy Cabacungan 703 276-0427
QBD Inc. Drama Association VA
SSN: DOB:

58. Angel Dela Cruz 323 669-0755
Society of Guerrillas & Scouts, Inc. L.A. CA.
SSN: DOB: (b)(6)

59. Felicismo Simpao 718 479-0633
ACFV veteran New York
SSN: DOB: (b)(6)

60. Riginaldo Bacordo 215 224-7953
ACFV veteran
Philadelphia VFW
SSN: DOB:

Thank you again...

--

ERIC LACHICA
ACFV Executive Director
2500 Mass. Ave. NW
Washington DC 20008

CLICK on our website:
<http://www.homestead.com/filamvets/equity.html>

Nicole R. Rabner

12/05/99 01:56:47 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
Subject: foster care bill signing

Good news. We have a near-final date for the bill signing ceremony for the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 -- December 14 in the afternoon (likely around 4pm). We have not yet internally discussed much less finalized the plans for this event, but I suspect it will be in Presidential Hall (450 OEOB), which would mean that we would have the opportunity to invite those who were important to the bill's passage and those who will be important to its effective implementation. Why don't we try to have a brief conference call tomorrow afternoon, at say 4:30pm, to touch base on the planning. Ruby, will you please get a conference call number and send it to those on this e-mail list? Thanks.

Among the issues we should consider are:

(1) Lists. I have a list of recommended advocates and foundation people from some advocacy groups (principally CWLA and Casey), which I would like to share and discuss with ACF -- Pat, should I send this to you? We also need to think about other important stakeholders -- Irene and Laura, have you developed a short list of recommended invites from the Filipino Veterans groups? Mary has already submitted a list of members and congressional staff -- will you send that again by e-mail, please? Liz, will you coordinate the HHS staff list (to be handled by WH Cabinet Affairs)?

(2) Program. The CWLA and Casey have offered to help get some young people who have aged out of foster care here for potential speakers and/or validators. They did this with much success at the January event on this topic with the First Lady, and I'm inclined to work with them on it. Any suggestions anyone has would be welcome, however.

(3) New items. Liz, I spoke with Tim Westmoreland at your suggestion, and he thought that it was not a problem to issue an HHS letter urging states to take up the Medicaid option in the bill for issuance on the date of the signing -- I defer to you and Melissa/Ellen on what kind of letter that should be, e.g. Shalala letter to the Governors or a HCFA letter to the state Medicaid directors, but I think it is important to have some action that day that promotes the bill's implementation. Liz, you had mentioned that you were going to discuss this with Melissa to gauge what could/should be done. Also, Pat and Emil, will you please consider what other items might be available for release on this occasion -- coming to my mind is a report on best practices in Independent Living programs that ACF commissioned over a year ago. Is it ready for release? (Mrs. Clinton announced it when she spoke at the 4-H center to a group of foster youth last year.) Do you have any other ideas of affirmative steps toward effective implementation?

I look forward to touching base tomorrow.

Nicole

Message Sent To:

esummy@os.dhhs.gov
eparker@acf.dhhs.gov
mbourdet@os.dhhs.gov
edahl@os.dhhs.gov
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Message Copied To:

Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP@EOP
Ruby Shamir/OPD/EOP@EOP
Barbara D. Woolley/WHO/EOP@EOP
Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP
Laura Efurd/WHO/EOP@EOP

#s of seats

Staging

photo/film m

Press Release - separate

Statement includes mention of Vets.

Conference call - 12/6

- Eishen 12/13 & 12/14
450 OEOB, or RR (40 total)

POTUS + FLOTUS

Karin is coordinating

- Program
message List
Paper
Deliverable

- Program - minimal/shamline
Young people would speak
Rep. Nancy Johnson -

- List
RR = 40 (5 total)
450 OEOB - 130 people



Irene Bueno <irene_bueno@hotmail.com>
10/10/99 11:44:47 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Fwd: Senate Hearing on SSI Bill (fwd)

>From: Jon Melegrito <jonmele@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu>
>To: NaFFAA Information Service <naffaa@erols.com>
>Subject: Senate Hearing on SSI Bill (fwd)
>Date: Thu, 7 Oct 1999 14:48:50 -0400 (EDT)
>
>
>
> American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, Inc.
> 2500 Mass. Ave. NW - Washington DC 20008
>
>For Immediate Release Contact: Eric Lachica 202 246-1998
>
> October 13 Senate Hearing Set on SSI Bill,
> WW II Veterans Intensify Efforts
>
>Washington, D.C. -- The U.S. Senate has tentatively
>scheduled a hearing on a bill that would allow Filipino
>American World War II veterans on Supplemental Security
>Income to continue to receive 75 percent of their monthly
>SSI payments if they return to the Philippines.
>
> The Finance Subcommittee on Health chaired by
>Senator John Chafee (R- Rhode Island) will review and hear
>testimony on S. 1327, the "Foster Care Independence Act
>of 1999," that includes the SSI provision, "Sec. 251: Special
>Benefits for Certain World War II Veterans" at the Dirksen
>Office Building on October 13, according to senate aides.
>
> The bill, if passed and signed into law, would cover
>all American WWII veterans including Puerto Ricans who
>are currently receiving SSI and who choose to reside
>outside the United States. The SSI provision would amount
>to a maximum of \$380 per month or about 15,000 Pesos
>per eligible veteran who returns to the Philippines.
>
> "Since June when the House overwhelmingly passed
>our humanitarian bill, we have mobilized our 2,000 veteran

>leaders and supporters in California, Texas and key states to
>write and meet their senators," according to Patrick
>GANIO, a 79-year-old veteran, and the president of the
>American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, an advocacy
>group in Washington.

>

> "If our members and allies do their part, we expect
>the Senate to pass the bill by Veterans' Day and Clinton
>signing it into law before Christmas," Ganio added.

>

> However, Eric Lachica, the coalition's executive
>director and lobbyist, cautioned that "passage of our SSI bill
>could be delayed if the Republicans and Democrats in
>Congress and the president end up in political gridlock due
>to disagreements over the budget and the Social Security
>surplus."

>

> The bill has gained greater urgency due to the failing
>health and recent deaths among the aging veterans. It costs
>about \$6,000 to ship the remains of the deceased poor
>veteran to his family in the Philippines, an expensive burden
>to his friends in the U.S.

>

> Ganio and Lachica have been on a recent speaking
>tour in a dozen cities to mobilize supporters. The Philippine
>Nurses Association, the Association of Philippine Physicians
>in America, the Los Angeles and San Francisco Philippine
>Bar Associations, NaFFAA, and the National Filipino
>American Council reaffirmed their commitments to the
>campaign.

>

> In August, the Filipino American community leaders
>of Texas honored Ganio with an award during their gala
>dinner in Dallas hosted by the Philippine American Chamber
>of Commerce and the National Federations of Filipino
>American Associations.

>

> Moreover, the national conventions of the Veterans
>of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, representing five
>million members, recently passed resolutions for the Filipino
>veterans.

>

> In Los Angeles on September 18, the veterans led by a Death
>March survivor, Faustino Baclig, were honored by NaFFAA
>California leaders and Hawaii Governor Benjamin
>Cayetano.

>

> In the tiny state of Delaware, community leaders like
>Ditta Camomot, Lety Tibayan and Joylyn Pascual launched
>a letter-writing campaign to Sen. William Roth, the
>chairman of the powerful Finance Committee urging him to
>support the Chafee-Moynihan bill, S.1327.

>

> The coalition has scheduled a noon rally on the steps

>of the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday, October 19 to urge the
>Senate to immediately pass their SSI bill on the floor
>and to mark the anniversary of MacArthur's return
>to the Philippines in 1945.

>
> Veteran supporters are requested to write or call
>their senators to pass S. 1327. Their common address is:
>U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510.

>
> For more information, call 202 246-1998 or E-mail
>elachica@idt.net.

>
> # # #

>E-mailed photo follows:
>West Virginia state delegate, Jon
>Amores congratulates Patrick Ganio,
>president of ACFV after awards
>dinner in Dallas Texas, 8-28-99.

>
>--
>ERIC LACHICA, ACFV Executive Director
>2500 Mass. Ave. NW - Washington DC 20008
> Check our website:
><http://www.homestead.com/filamvets/s1327.html>

>
>=====

>	National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA)
>	1444 N Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20005-2814
>	Tel. (202) 986-9330 * Fax (202) 986-9332
>	Internet: info@naffaa.org * www.naffaa.org
>	

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\$ 30 million saved already committed.

The Administration supports the goal of providing assistance to World War II Filipino veterans who wish to return to their native country. The Administration, however, has concerns about providing such assistance through the SSI program. The Administration looks forward to working with Congress to enact alternative to address this goal. .

Per Webb Phillips - 6/25

- Amendment to House-passed bill - Johnson - amended before final passage
- Language we gave them based on ~~the~~ Sub-committee bill
- Amendment - Bicentennial ending date of WWII vets -
~~the~~ Our proposal changes to reflect
- Senate side
 - Senator Clark - Rockefeller offer a bill next week that will be similar to House-passed bill.