

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2716**



Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The unceasing increase in the prices of basic commodities and the recent economic downturn have made life infinitely more difficult for the Filipino veteran of the second world war who fought against the Japanese Imperial Army. These unsung heroes of our country who are now in the last years of their lives are the first to be hard hit by the economic and political crisis currently plaguing our nation. It has therefore become imperative to increase the benefits provided by the government if only to make life easier for them to bear in these trying times.

This bill seeks to upgrade the monthly pension of living veterans and the surviving family of a deceased veteran. Besides increasing the amount of pension, this measure also integrates the old age and administrative disability pensions into one type of monthly pension thereby increasing the amount due the veterans on a monthly basis. It will be noted that the government has incurred huge arrears in the payment of the administrative disability pension (ADB) because it lacks the funds since 1994. Instead of continuing with a pension that exists only in paper, it would be more practical to simplify the pension system by integrating the old age and the ADP into proposed monthly pension.

This bill provides for a different scheme in determining the rate of monthly pension because it is dependent on the age of the veteran at the time of the effectivity of this Act. Thus, a veteran who is more advanced in age will receive a higher rate of pension than younger veterans. The surviving spouse will also be paid a monthly pension based on the age of the veteran when he died. Despite the progressive rate of entitlement, the lowest pension rate under the proposed scheme is still higher than the P4,000.00 currently being paid to each veteran.

Considering that these measure will directly benefit the veterans and their families, approval of this bill is earnestly enjoined.


CATALINO V. FIGUEROA

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**AN ACT
UPGRADING THE MONTHLY BENEFITS OF WORLD WAR II VETERANS,
THEIR SPOUSES, AND UNMARRIED MINOR CHILDREN**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines
in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. *Applicability.* This Act shall be applicable solely to veterans of World War II, their spouses and minor children.

SECTION 2. *Monthly Pension Rates for Veterans.* A duly recognized veteran of World War II shall be paid a monthly pension in lieu of the monthly old-age and administrative total disability pensions unless he/she is already receiving a similar pension for the same consideration from other government funds or from the United States government.

The rate of this monthly pension shall be based on the age of the veteran following the table below:

Age of the Veteran	Monthly Pension Rate
75-79	P6,700.00
80-89	P7,700.00
90 and above	P8,700.00

The spouse and unmarried minor children of the said veteran shall each be entitled to One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.0) while the veterans is still living.

SECTION 3. *Monthly Pension of Surviving Spouse.* Upon the death of the veteran, the surviving spouse shall, regardless of age, be paid a monthly pension in lieu of the monthly old-age pension. This pension shall be regularly given unless he/she is already receiving a similar pension for the same consideration from other government funds from the United States government. This entitlement shall end if he/she remarries or upon his/her death.

This pension is separate and distinct from the death pension granted under Section 12 of Republic Act No. 6948. The rate of this monthly pension for the surviving spouse shall be according to the age of the veteran upon his death as shown below:

Age of the Veteran at the Time of his death	Monthly Pension Rate of Surviving Spouse
75-79	P5,000.00
80-89	P6,000.00
90 and above or the veteran died prior to the effectivity of this Act	P7,000.00

SECTION 4. *Implementation of Benefit.* The aforesated pension rates of World War II Veterans and surviving spouses of deceased veterans shall take effect immediately the year following its enactment into law and shall be increased annually by One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) for the next years from the time of the effectivity of these rates.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Secretary of the Department of National Defense shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Appropriation.* The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual appropriations of the Department of National Defense and such funds required for the initial implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be sourced from available savings and funds from the national treasury.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* Republic Act No. 7696 and other laws inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect upon approval.

Approved,