

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4272

Introduced by Rep. HERMILANDO I. MANDANAS
2nd District, Batangas

EXPLANATORY NOTE

KA LUIS TARUC and the people's army he helped found, the HUKBO NG BAYAN LABAN SA HAPON (HUKBALAHAP), in all historic accounts, fought with great ferocity the Japanese Imperial Forces during the Second World War.

Many members of the HUKBALAHAP were killed in battle or captured and put to their cruel deaths. All this we know well from our history books.

Many decades have passed but a good number of their membership has not been recognized for their sacrifices.

One reason for this injustice is Republic Act No. 2640, An Act to Create a Public Corporation to be known as the Veterans Federation of the Philippines, Defining its Powers and for other Purposes. Under this law, KA LUIS TARUC and the HUKBALAHAP were excluded from the membership of this Federation because of the misconception that they were renegades who sought to subvert the authority of what was then the newly established Republic.

Republic Act No. 2640 should have been faithful to its purpose of looking after the interests of Filipino war veterans by including KA LUIS and the HUKBALAHAP, at core, were World War II veterans. Subsequent events and misinterpretations should not have stripped them of their right to be recognized and recompensed for their sacrifices. For this reason, I am proposing that we correct the flaw and try to rectify a mistake. Notwithstanding old Supreme Court pronouncements branding the HUKS as conspirators to commit rebellion, we should set things right and try all possible means to recompense the bona fide heroes of the Second World War.

For these and other good reasons, the approval of this amendment is earnestly sought.


REP. HERMILANDO I. MANDANAS

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**AN ACT AMENDING SECTION ONE OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2640 KNOWN AS THE
VETERANS FEDERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES**

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

SECTION 1. The following persons, to wit: *Emilio Aguinaldo, of Association de los Veteranos de la Revolucion; Margarita Toralba of the AFP Retired Veterans Association (AFREVA); Lorenzo B. Cabrera of the Confederation of Filipino Veterans (CONVENTS); Teodoro V. Kalaw of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor; Fausto S. Alberto of the ECLGA Veterans Association; Enrique C. Rimando of the FAIT Veterans Legion; Francisco L. Gonzales of the Filipino Disabled Veterans Association; Basilla M. Baja of the Gold Star Mothers and United War Widow and Orphans Association of the Philippines; Simeon C. Medalla of the Hunters ROTC Association; Antonio F. Garcia of the Magsaysay Veterans Legion; Dionisio V. Ojeda of the PIEFTOK Veterans Association; Primitivo Lovina of the Philippine National Guard Veterans Legion; Jose V. Andrada of the Philippine Naval Veterans Legion; Jaime Piongco of the Veterans Legion; Sofia L. Prudenciado of the Association of War Widows Parents and Orphans; Eugenio B. Recto of the United Disabled Veterans Association of the Philippines; Gaudencio Antonino of the USAFIP NL and LUIS M. TARUC OF THE HUKBO NG BAYAN LABAN SA HAPON (HUKBALAHAP), their associates and successors be included in the body corporate as amended under the control and supervision of the Secretary of National Defense, under the name, style and title of "Veterans Federation of the Philippines" hereinafter referred to as the Federation. The principal office of the Federation shall be in the City of Manila, Philippines.*

Approved.