



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 694

Introduced by Honorable Herminia B. Roman

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In recognition of the valiant efforts of our veterans who risked their lives for the protection of the state and in defense of our liberty and democracy, it is but appropriate that they should be accorded with a decent burial befitting a gentleman in uniform.

It is a fact that prices of all commodities have considerably increased as a result of the worldwide economic meltdown. It is an irony that even in death, burial expenses are not spared from the skyrocketing prices of commodities. Thus, in order to achieve a decent burial for our veterans, it is necessary that the burial assistance to the next-of-kin of a deceased veteran be increased.

This bill seeks to increase from Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) to Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) the burial assistance to the next-of-kin of a deceased veteran, unless the said person is entitled to a similar benefit from the United States Government by further amending Section 20 of Republic Act (RA) No. 6948, as amended, otherwise known as "*An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the Benefits for Military Veterans and Their Dependents.*"

Section 20 of RA 6948 provides for burial assistance benefits to the next-of-kin of deceased military veterans. A veteran is any person who rendered military service in the land, sea, air forces of the Philippines during the revolution against Spain, the Philippine-American War, World War II, including Filipino citizens who served in the Allied Forces in the Philippine

territory and foreign nationals who served in Philippine forces, the Korean Campaign, the Vietnam Campaign, the Anti-Dissidence Campaign, or other wars and military campaigns; or who rendered military service in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and has been honorably discharged or separated after at least six (6) years total cumulative active service, or sooner separated due to death or disability arising from a wound or injury received or sickness or disease incurred in line of duty while in the active service.

Consistent with the policy of the State to help foster socio-economic security and general well-being of the country's veterans in recognition of their patriotic services in times of war and peace, it is appropriate that the government provides assistance to the next-of-kin of veterans after their demise. As veterans, they deserve the government's attention and support. After all, they have rendered an invaluable service to our country and it is only proper for the government to increase the burial assistance extended to the families of deceased veterans to defray the high-cost of burial services.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


HERMINIA B. ROMAN



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AN ACT
INCREASING THE BURIAL ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS FROM
TEN THOUSAND (P10,000.00) TO TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS
(P20,000.00), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
6948, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT
STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR
MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS”

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

SECTION 1. Section 20 of Republic Act 6948, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 20. *Burial Assistance.* – Unless the person who defrayed the expenses for the funeral of a deceased veteran is entitled to a similar benefit from the United States Government, he [/] OR she shall be given [Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00)] TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00) as burial assistance upon application therefore in due form which shall be

filed within two (2) years from the death of the veteran concerned.”

SEC. 2. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,