

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 798



Introduced by Representative Harlin Cast. Abayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure seeks to establish and maintain an Office of Veterans Affairs in the Philippine Embassy in the United States of American government and other agencies and entities which can enhance the favorable consideration of the claims of Filipino war veterans. Since most of these veterans are in their twilight years already, and are diminishing in number, the urgent approval of this measure is hereby earnestly sought in the 16th Congress. This Bill was previously filed by Senator Manny Villar in the 15th Congress.


HARLIN CAST. ABAYON
Representative
First District of Northern Samar

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by Representative Harlin Cast. Abayon

AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN THE OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN
THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
PRESCRIBING ITS FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the Government to pursue the claims of Filipino veterans of World War II and work for the full restoration of their rights, privileges and benefits from the United States government.

SEC. 2. Establishment of the Office of Veterans Affairs. - For the attainment of this goal, there is hereby created an Office of Veterans Affairs in the Philippine Embassy in the United States of America mandated with the task of making formal representations, consultations and negotiations or otherwise cause the conduct of sustained and effective lobbying with appropriate office of the legislative and executive branches of the United States government and other agencies and entities which can enhance the favorable consideration of the claims of Filipino veterans. The office shall be in existence for five (5) years from the date of approval of this Act or until the Filipino veterans shall have availed of their legitimate claims, time of which shall not exceed another five (5) years.

SEC. 3. Staffing. - The Office of Veterans Affairs shall have a staff consisting of a head appointed by the President of the Philippines, two (2) administrative assistants assigned by the Secretary of the Department of National Defense a special presidential representative who shall have a comparable diplomatic rank.

SEC. 4. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations for the operational requirements of the

Veterans Affairs Office in Washington D.C. authorized under the budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.