

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Sixteenth Congress

First Regular Session

House Bill No **1872**



Introduced by HON. ARNULFO F. GO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under the general provisions of the 1987 constitution, the State is mandated to provide adequate and immediate care, benefits and other forms of assistance to war veterans of military campaigns, their surviving spouse and orphans. Aside from this constitutional mandate, social justice dictates that the government gives highest priority to the enactment of measures that will protect and enhance the lives of its people.

This bill seeks to grant a thirteenth-month pension benefit to Philippine war veterans as an additional benefit to the current benefits and assistance embodied in R.A. 6948 as amended by R.A. 7696.

The unceasing increase in the prices of commodities and the present economic downturn have made life infinitely more difficult for the Filipino veteran of the Second World War. Government efforts to alleviate the plight of our unsung heroes have remained dormant and inadequate.

It is therefore, imperative to re-examine some of the benefits provided by law. Hence, this bill which seeks to provide additional incentives to our veterans whom we owe our country's democracy and independence.

The immediate approval of this bill is therefore earnestly sought.


REP. ARNULFO F. GO

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AN ACT
GRANTING A THIRTEENTH-MONTH PENSION BENEFIT TO
PHILIPPINE WAR VETERANS AND THEIR SURVIVING SPOUSES

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

SECTION 1. The Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) is hereby mandated to grant a thirteenth-month pension benefit to Philippine War Veterans and their surviving spouses in addition to their monthly old-age pensions provided under existing laws.

SECTION 2. The thirteenth-month pension benefit herein granted shall be given on the fifteenth of December every year.

SECTION 3. The initial amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, any amount as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.