

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6176**



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**Introduced by REP. Michael L. Romero**

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

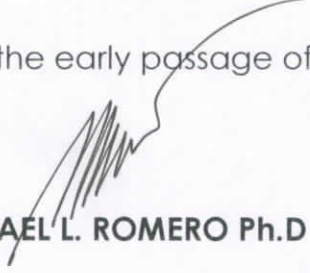
In **1941**, more than 250,000 Filipino soldiers responded to President Roosevelt's call-to-arms and later fought under the American flag during World War II. Many made the ultimate sacrifice as both soldiers in the U.S. Army Forces in the Far East and as guerilla fighters during the Imperial Japanese occupation of the Philippines. Later, many of these brave individuals became proud United States citizens. For over 60 years, Filipino veterans and community advocates have fought to obtain compensation for those who served with American soldiers during World War II.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which the President signed into law, contained a provision creating the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund. Eligible veterans who are U.S. citizens receive a one-time payment of \$15,000; eligible veterans who are not U.S. citizens receive a one-time payment of \$9,000. The Department of Veterans Affairs established a process, in collaboration with the Department of Defense, to determine eligibility to receive payments from the Fund.

To date, over **18,000** claims have been approved. Many Filipino veterans may have been impeded from filing claims or believe their claims were improperly denied.

This House Bill seeks to foster the recognition of our country's war veterans in their patriotic services in times of war and peace for the cause of freedom and democracy, and for the maintenance of peace and order, in keeping with the goals of the Government and the aspirations of the people.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



**MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D**

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AN ACT

AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7696, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948**”, TO FOSTER THE SOCIOECONOMIC SECURITY AND GENERAL WELL-BEING OF THE COUNTRY'S VETERANS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR PATRIOTIC SERVICES, TO PROMOTE THE ATTAINMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY, INDEPENDENCE, AND SOCIOECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT, 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** – the state shall hereby recognize that any person who rendered military service in the land, sea or air forces of the Philippines during the revolution against Spain, the Philippine American War, World War II, including Filipino citizens who served in allied forces in the Philippine territory and foreign nationals who served in Philippine forces or of any recognized or deserving guerrilla organization

who took active participation in the resistance movement and/or in the liberation drive against the enemy during World War II, or of the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea, or of the Philippine Civic Action Group or Philippine Contingent in Vietnam, who has never hereto enjoyed educational benefit under Philippine law nor under the United States law, who desires to study; or one direct descendant of a veteran in whose favor he renounces such right; or the surviving spouse or a direct descendant of a deceased veteran in whose favor the same is applied for by the surviving spouse or by the legal guardian shall, upon certification of the Administrator, be admitted to any school, college, university, or institution authorized by the Government, with all school fees, including tuition, matriculation, athletic, library, laboratory, medical, military training, diploma and graduation fees, at the expense of the Government, subject to rules and conditions promulgated by the Administrator.

## **SECTION 2.**

Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7696 is hereby amended to read as follows:

*Section 3. Eligibility* — A veteran as defined in Section 2(a) of this Act who is at least sixty-five (65) years old shall be paid an old-age pension of Seven thousand Five hundred pesos **(P7,500.00)** monthly for life, unless he is actually receiving a similar pension for the same consideration from other-government funds or from the United States Government:

## **SECTION 3.**

Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7696 is hereby amended to read as follows:

*Section 4. Pension of Surviving Spouse* — The surviving spouse of a veteran as defined in Section 2(a) of this Act shall, regardless of age, be paid a pension of Seven Thousand Five hundred pesos **(P7,500.00)** monthly until he/she remarries or dies, unless he/she is actually receiving a similar pension for the same consideration from other government funds or from the United States government. This pension is separate and distinct from the death pension granted under Section 12 of this Act:

#### **SECTION 4.**

Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7696 is hereby amended to read as follows:

*Section 7. 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/she shall be given Thirty thousand pesos **(P30,000.00)** as burial assistance upon application therefore in due form which shall be filed within two (2) years from the death of the veteran concerned.

**SECTION 5. FUNDING** - Funds for the purpose of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations of the Department of National Defense (DND) and such funds required for the initial implementation of benefits adjusted or upgraded under this Act shall be taken from the available savings and funds of the National Government.

Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

**SECTION 6. TRANSITORY PROVISION** – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the IRR or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

**SECTION 7. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.** – The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty **(60)** days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

**SECTION 8. REPEALING CLAUSE.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 9. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

**SECTION 10. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,