

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3503



Introduced by TUCP Party-List
Rep. RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XVI, Section 7 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that “The State shall provide immediate and adequate care, benefits, and other forms of assistance to war veterans and veterans of military campaigns, their surviving spouses and orphans.” This bill proposes the declaration of the whole month of April as the “Philippine Veterans’ Month” aligned with our commitment to provide adequate care and benefits to Philippine veterans and their families, honoring their years of service.

This month-long commemoration for the Philippine veterans aims to recognize not only the sacrifices and heroism from the past but more importantly, to uphold benefits that will ensure their welfare and of their families. We owe the Filipino veterans the freedom and progress we have today by declaring the month of April as Veterans’ Month. It is through recognition, raising awareness on the welfare and needs of the Filipino Veterans and their families, and ensuring accessibility to their benefits that we can truly give back to their service and sacrifices. The declaration of the whole month of April will provide an adequate time and opportunities to implement more creative programs to enhance the accessibility and quality of services for the Filipino veterans, provide a platform for the veterans to tell their stories, further educate the Filipino youth, and enable the youth to volunteer for non-profit dedication to the veterans’ welfare, which at the same time will intensify the awareness and patriotism among the Filipinos.

This Philippine Veterans’ Month bill is not just a declaration, but a symbol of the bravery and valor of our Filipino veterans and our commitment to remember their services and sacrifices, ensure a better life for them, and foster love and peace for our country. We must never forget their ideals and deeds, for forgetting is commensurate to denying the essence of our present day.

In view of the foregoing, ~~the~~ immediate passage of the bill is earnestly sought.


HON. RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA
TUCP Partylist Representative

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AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL OF EVERY YEAR AS THE
“PHILIPPINE VETERANS’ MONTH”

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Veterans’ Month”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – In recognition of the heroism, sacrifices, and commitment to service by the Philippine Veterans to the country and the Filipino people, the month of April of every year is hereby declared as the “Philippine Veterans’ Month”.

Section 3. Objectives of the Policy. – The Philippine Veterans’ Month aims to:

- a. Strengthen the commitment to honor and memorialize the Filipino veterans for their services and sacrifices to ensure the freedom, peace, and security of the country and the Filipinos, as the given month-long time will symbolize the heroism and valor of the veterans and intensify patriotism among Filipinos with the aid of more creative and enhanced activities.
- b. Provide a platform for the Filipino veterans to have their voices heard and ensure that their stories will be remembered by future generations and the youth to be further educated about the Philippine history, involving the significant roles that the Filipino veterans played in conflicts, disasters, and wars from fighting for the freedom of the country to helping normal citizens.
- c. Highlight the plight of the Philippine Veterans with emphasis on their well-being as well as their family in order to place a focus on and ensure accessibility and quality of the benefits they are entitled to receive.
- d. Institutionalize the annual celebration through programs and activities in pursuant to the observance of the “Philippine Veterans’ month.”

Section 4. Activities. – The government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local government units (LGUs), and other stakeholders will conduct activities and programs for the

commemoration and benefit of the Filipino veterans and their families across the regions such as, but not limited to the following:

- a. Production of publicly accessible media content on the individual experiences and stories of the Filipino veterans
- b. Integrating the service and sacrifice of Filipino veterans as part of the Philippine history subjects in schools nationwide
- c. Creating a platform that will connect and allow interested Filipino youth to contribute and participate to volunteer programs that provide accessible and quality services for the Filipino veterans
- d. Pursue policies, programs, and projects through collaboration with various stakeholders, in further improving the services and benefits of Veterans, especially in far-flung communities and conflicted areas, that will ensure accessibility and quality of services are being provided.

Section 5. Lead Agencies. - The Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO), the Department of National Defense (DND), in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Education (DepEd), and other relevant government agencies, are mandated to conduct and enhance activities and programs that promote the remembrance of our Filipino veterans, their patriotic sacrifices, and the essential role of their sacrifices in protecting the country and the Filipino people towards raising awareness and fostering love for the country among the Filipinos, especially the youth.

Section 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PVAO, DND, DILG, DOH, and DepEd shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to implement the provisions of this Act. Such IRR shall take effect immediately thereafter.

Section 7. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations. Rules and regulation or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,