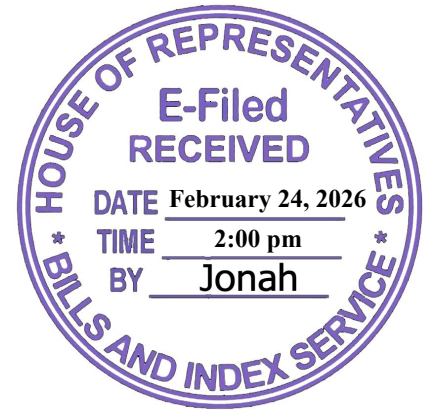


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8040



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVES OSCAR G. MALAPITAN, DEAN ASISTIO & JOHANNE MONICH G. BAUTISTA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In May 1947, the Republic Memorial Center was established as a “fitting tribute and final resting place of Filipino military personnel who died in World War II”. To minimize the expenses in maintaining the cemetery and to make the remains of the war dead accessible to their families and friends, President Ramon Magsaysay, Sr. issued Executive Order No. 77 on October 23, 1954. This presidential issuance ordered the transfer of the remains of those “interred at the Bataan Memorial Cemetery, Bataan Province, and at other places in the Philippines” to the Republic Memorial Cemetery at Fort William McKinley (now known as Fort Andres Bonifacio) in the Province of Rizal.

In that same month, President Magsaysay issued Proclamation No. 86, changing the name of Republic Memorial Cemetery to the *Libingan ng mga Bayani* (hereinafter LNMB for brevity).

In July 1957, President Carlos P. Garcia issued Proclamation No. 423, which established the Fort Bonifacio military reservation which includes the land where the LNMB is located. Subsequently, President Ferdinand Marcos, Sr. excluded the LNMB from the said military reservation through Proclamation No. 208 issued in May 1967.

For decades, the LNMB has been a solemn and proud memorial to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Aside from veterans and soldiers, buried in its sacred grounds are the remains of presidents, statesmen, national artists, and scientists.

As years pass, it becomes increasingly evident that one of the avowed purposes for the establishment of the LNMB is no longer tenable, that is, to make the remains of the dead – which now includes not only the fallen of World War II – accessible to their families and friends. Families would

ordinarily not choose to bury their dead at a site that would entail so much expense and inconvenience.

Even for those who reside in or near Metro Manila, the situation may not be as encouraging in the years to come. The issue on informal settlers occupying several hectares of the LNMB land, notwithstanding, there will soon be a need to provide more spaces for the dead.

This bill seeks to respond to the aforesaid concerns by proposing to establish annexes of the *Libingan ng mga Bayani* outside Metro Manila – one each in Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao.

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

This proposed legislation is substantially similar to the bill filed by Rep. Loreto B. Acharon during the Nineteenth Congress.



HON. OSCAR G. MALAPITAN



HON. DEAN ASISTIO



HON. JOHANNE MONICH G. BAUTISTA

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HOUSE BILL NO. 8040

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVES OSCAR G. MALAPITAN, DEAN
ASISTIO & JOHANNE MONICH G. BAUTISTA**

AN ACT
**ESTABLISHING LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI ANNEXES IN LUZON,
VISAYAS, AND MINDANAO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Libingan ng mga Bayani* (LNMB) Annexes are hereby established in other parts of Luzon, in the Visayas, and in Mindanao.

SEC. 2. The sites of the LNMB annexes shall be determined by the Department of National Defense.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of National Defense shall immediately include in the department's program the operationalization of the LNMB annexes, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the Philippine Army Support Command – Grave Services Unit.

Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for their completion and continued operations shall be included in the annual general appropriations law.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of National Defense shall issue the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.