

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 69

Submitted by the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare on **January 26, 2026**

Re: House Bill No. **7301**

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3503

Sponsors: Representatives Rudy S. Caoagdan, DPA and Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare, to which was referred House Bill No. 3503, introduced by Representative Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, entitled:

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

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. **7301**, entitled:

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

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 3503 with Representatives Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Rudy S. Caoagdan, DPA, Dibu S. Tuan, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and Yevgeny Vicente B. Emano as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RUDY S. CAOAGDAN', written over the printed name.

RUDY S. CAOAGDAN, DPA
Chairperson
Committee on Veterans Affairs
and Welfare

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7301

(In substitution of House Bill No. 3503)

Introduced by Representatives Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Rudy S. Caoagdan,
DPA, Dibu S. Tuan, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and Yevgeny Vicente B. Emano

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL EVERY YEAR AS THE
"PHILIPPINE VETERANS' MONTH"**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Veterans' Month”.

2
3 **SEC. 2.** In recognition of the heroism, sacrifices, and commitment to service by the
4 Philippine Veterans to the country and the Filipino people, the month of April of every year is
5 hereby declared as the “Philippine Veterans' Month”.

6
7 **SEC. 3.** The Philippine Veterans' Month aims to:

- 8
9 a. Strengthen the commitment to honor and memorialize the Filipino veterans for their
10 services and sacrifices in fighting for peace, freedom, and security of the country
11 and the Filipino people. The month-long commemoration will provide adequate
12 time to remember the heroism and valor of veterans, and intensify patriotism among
13 Filipinos through more creative and impactful activities.

- b. Create a platform that amplifies veteran’s voices, preserves their stories, and inspires future generations by deepening youth understanding of Philippine history; especially the significant roles Filipino veterans played in conflicts, disasters, and wars - from fighting for the freedom of the country to helping ordinary citizens.
- c. Highlight the plight of Filipino veterans with emphasis on promoting their well-being as well as that of their families, and to ensure the quality of and access to the benefits that they are entitled to receive.
- d. Institutionalize the annual celebration through programs and activities pursuant to the observance of the “Philippine Veterans' Month”.

SEC. 4. Government, non-governmental organizations, local government units, and other stakeholders are to conduct activities and programs for the commemoration and benefit of the Filipino veterans and their families across the country, such as:

- a. Production of publicly accessible media content on the individual experiences and stories of Filipino veterans;
- b. Integration of stories about the services and sacrifices of Filipino veterans as part of the Philippine history subjects in schools nationwide;
- c. Creation of a platform that will connect and allow interested Filipinos to contribute and participate in volunteer programs that provide accessible and quality services for the Filipino veterans; and
- d. Pursuit of policies, programs, and projects that, through collaboration with various stakeholders, ensure the adequate provision of and improve the access to quality services, especially for those in far-flung communities and conflict areas.

SEC. 5. The Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO), the Department of National Defense (DND), in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government

1 (DILG), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Education (DepEd), and other
2 relevant government agencies, are mandated to conduct and enhance activities and programs that
3 promote the celebration of our Filipino veterans, their patriotic sacrifices, and the essential role in
4 protecting the country and the Filipino people towards raising awareness and fostering love for the
5 country among the Filipinos, especially the youth.
6

7 **SEC. 6.** Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the PVAO, DND, DILG,
8 DOH, and DepEd shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions
9 of this Act. Such IRR shall take effect immediately thereafter.
10

11 **SEC. 7.** If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions
12 not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.
13

14 **SEC. 8.** All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules
15 and regulations, or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or
16 modified accordingly.
17

18 **SEC. 9.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
19 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
20

Approved,

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. **7301**

In substitution of House Bill No. 3503

AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL EVERY YEAR AS THE PHILIPPINE VETERANS' MONTH

(Introduced by: Representatives Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Rudy S. Caoagdan, DPA, Dibu S. Tuan, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and Yevgeny Vicente B. Emano)

Committee Referral: **Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare**

Committee Chairperson: **Rep. Rudy S. Caoagdan, DPA**

OBJECTIVES:

- To strengthen the commitment to honor Filipino veterans for their services and sacrifices to ensure the freedom, peace, and security of the country and its people.
- To create a platform that amplifies veteran's voices, preserves their stories, and inspires future generations, by deepening youth understanding of Philippine history;
- To highlight the plight of the Filipino Veterans with emphasis on their well-being as well as that of their families, and to ensure the quality of and access to benefits that they are entitled to.
- To institutionalize the annual celebration through programs and activities pursuant to the observance of the "Philippine Veterans' Month".

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Declares the entire month of April every year as the "Philippine Veterans' Month".
- Mandates the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO), the Department of National Defense (DND), in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Education (DepEd), and other relevant government agencies, to conduct and enhance activities and programs that promote the celebration of the heroism and sacrifices of our veterans, and promote patriotism and foster love of country among the youth.
- Tasks the PVAO, DND, DILG, DOH, and DepEd with the crafting of the Internal Rules and Regulations within 90 days after the effectivity of the Act.

RELATED LAWS:

- Proclamation No. 466, series of 1989: "DECLARING THE PERIOD APRIL 5 TO 11 OF EVERY YEAR AS "PHILIPPINE VETERANS WEEK"
- Proclamation No. 466-A, series of 2007: "AMENDING PROCLAMATION NO. 466, SERIES OF 1989, DECLARING THE PERIOD APRIL 5 TO APRIL 11 OF EVERY YEAR AS "PHILIPPINE VETERANS WEEK," BY INCLUDING THE VETERANS OF MILITARY CAMPAIGNS IN THE COVERAGE THEREOF