|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov)/[Michawn Rich](mailto:michawn_rich@heller.senate.gov) | | June 9, 2015 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller and Hirono Team for Filipino Veterans Benefits**  **(Washington, DC)**– U.S. Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Mazie K. Hirono (D-HI) have filed an amendment to the Senate’s National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This legislation will help ensure Filipino veterans are given the opportunity to prove their honorable service to the United States during World War II.  “With a number of Filipino veterans who served during World War II calling Nevada home, I take pride in this amendment. The legislation rectifies a situation impacting these veterans for decades after their sacrifice and service by ensuring those individuals who served are properly recognized for their contributions to our country. I am pleased Senator Hirono joined me in introducing this amendment that means so much to this community,” **said Senator Heller.**  “World War II ended nearly seven decades ago, but some Filipino soldiers who sacrificed for our country still do not receive the benefits they’ve earned and were promised,” **said Senator Hirono**. “This important amendment would provide an avenue to correct the record and recognize the service of all who fought for the United States. In a political climate that is too often divided, I am proud to work with Senator Heller to ensure that surviving Filipino veterans who fought under U.S. military command receive the compensation Congress created for them.”  **Background:**  After World War II, the U.S. Army created the Approved Revised Reconstructed Guerilla Roster of 1948, also known as the “Missouri List,” based on individuals who came forward after the war to receive healthcare. This list has been used by the military to verify those who served alongside U.S. troops in the Philippines. It is possible that some Filipinos who fought were not added to this list and could be improperly denied benefits.  The Filipino Veterans Promise Amendment would direct the Department of Defense (DOD), in consultation with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), to establish a process for determining whether certain individuals meet the necessary service requirements to receive veterans’ benefits and subsequently be verified as a Veteran by the United States Army.  A PDF of the amendment is attached with this release.  ###  [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_fb.png](http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Senator-Dean-Heller/325751330177) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_tw.png](http://twitter.com/SenDeanHeller) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_yt.png](http://www.youtube.com/user/SenDeanHeller) |