

American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, Inc.

E-mail: usfilipinoveterans@gmail.com

867 North Madison St., Arlington VA 22205

<http://usfilvets.tripod.com>

202-246-1998



September 12, 2012

The Honorable Dean Heller
361 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Heller:

On behalf of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, a national advocacy organization, I am proud to endorse the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act.

This legislation introduced by Senator Dean Heller provides a path for Filipino soldiers who fought honorably in the service of the United States Army during World War II but who were denied official recognition and veteran benefits because they were not included in the belated "1948 Missouri List" of the U.S. Army Personnel Records Center.

However in 1946, these Filipino soldiers were honorably discharged by the U.S. Army, provided with official documentation and pay by the Philippine Commonwealth Army of the United States.

The Heller bill would help us update and simplify the U.S. Army policies and procedures to recognize Filipino veterans' military service and the administration of benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs to meet the requirements of the 2009 Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Act.

We deeply appreciate Senator Heller's leadership on behalf of Filipino Veterans of World War II and his efforts to encourage Congress to pass this legislation.

Maraming salamat or many thanks!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Lachica". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ERIC LACHICA
Volunteer Executive Director
American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, Inc.

LOS ANGELES: Franco ARCEBAL 213-626-0485

SAN DIEGO Bert ANDRADE

DELANO: Ernesto ANOLIN

HAWAII: Art CALEDA & Pastor GARCIA

NEW JERSEY: Jose RED

SAN FRANCISCO: Regino NACUA & Lolita RAMOS

SACRAMENTO: Monina NUEGA

LAS VEGAS: Ceasar ELPIDIO

NEW YORK: R SAMPAYAN & Rafael DE PERALTA

WASHINGTON DC: Eric LACHICA & Celestino ALMEDA

SAN JOSE: Sarah GONZALEZ

SEATTLE: Conrado RIGOR or Thelma Sevilla

PHILADELPHIA: Senen FONTANILLA

FLORIDA: Patrick GANIO Sr. & Dick AQUINO