

American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, Inc.

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May 6, 2013

The Honorable Dean Heller
324 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20510

RE: Filipino Veterans Promise Act

Dear Senator Heller:

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

Your legislation will require the Secretary of Defense to establish a process to determine the eligibility for Filipino soldiers who fought honorably in the service of the United States Army during World War II for official recognition and veterans benefits.

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

Unfortunately, thousands of our Filipino heroes were denied official recognition and veteran benefits because they were not included in the belated and incomplete "1948 Missouri List" of the U.S. Army Personnel Records Center.

Your bill would help the Defense Secretary persuade the U.S. Army and the Veterans Affairs Department to update their policy 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.

May we request you directly raise this issue with Defense and VA Secretaries when they appear during hearings in the Senate. Ask why the U.S. Army does not honor the original discharge documents they issued to these veterans. Why depend on an incomplete list?

We deeply appreciate your leadership on behalf of Filipino Veterans of World War II and your efforts to encourage Congress to pass this legislation.

Maraming salamat or many thanks!

Sincerely,

ERIC LACHICA

Executive Director

American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, Inc.

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