

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines

Senate

Manila City

Fourteenth Congress

Second Regular Session



RESOLUTION NO. 161

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO THANK THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE CONFERENCE REPORT ON THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009, WHICH PROVIDES THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED NINETY-EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS (USD 198,000,000) FOR THE BENEFIT OF ELIGIBLE FILIPINO VETERANS

WHEREAS, then President of the United States Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a military order on 26 July 1941, calling into service the organized military forces of the country under the command of General Douglas MacArthur to fight with the American soldiers in World War II;

WHEREAS, President Roosevelt's military order stated that, "As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, I hereby call and order into service of the Armed Forces of the United States for the period of the existing emergency, and place under the command of a General Officer, United States Army, to be designated by the Secretary of War from time to time, all of the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines";

WHEREAS, on February 20, 1946, then President Harry Truman affirmed the status of these Filipino veterans as "nationals of the United States" who "fought, as American nationals, under the American flag, and under the direction of our military leaders";

WHEREAS, President Truman likewise recognized that they "fought with gallantry and courage under most difficult conditions";

WHEREAS, regrettably, on 18 February and 17 May 1946, the First and Second Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Acts, collectively known as the Rescission Acts of 1946, were enacted, preventing our veterans from receiving benefits which were previously granted to them;

WHEREAS, our veterans have been fighting for more than six decades for the restoration of their honor and the recognition of their dignity as soldiers who fought with the Americans during World War II;

WHEREAS, previous administrations, starting from former President Elpidio Quirino, including Philippine Ambassadors to the United States, have continuously exerted collective efforts for the realization of this goal;

WHEREAS, on June 2007, members of the United States Congress expressed their support for the passage of a legislative measure reversing the ill effects the Rescission Acts of 1946 and granting pension benefits to our veterans then pending in the US Congress;

WHEREAS, these legislators, however, intimated their concern that upon the passage of this US bill, the benefits currently granted to our veterans would be revoked, as provided under RA 6948, amended by RA 7696;

WHEREAS, to address this concern and to grant full benefits to our veterans which they rightfully deserve, Republic Act No. 9499, otherwise known as the Filipino World War II Veterans Pensions and Benefits Act of 2008, was signed into law on 9 April 2008;

WHEREAS, the law paved the way for the approval by the United States Senate and House of Representatives of the proposed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, otherwise known as the Economic Stimulus Bill, with the valiant and unfaltering support of Senators Daniel K. Inouye, Harry Reid and Daniel Kahikina Akaka, and Representatives Robert Filner, Mike Honda and Nancy Pelosi, among other legislators;

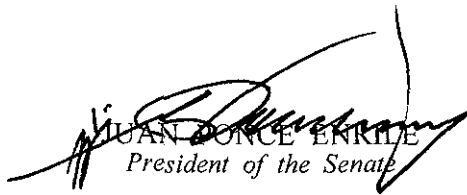
WHEREAS, on 13 February 2009, both Houses of the US Congress approved the Conference Report on the Economic Stimulus Bill, with 60 affirmative votes and 38 negative votes;

WHEREAS, United States President Barack Obama is scheduled to sign the Economic Stimulus Bill in Denver, Colorado, on 17 February 2009, the eve of the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the enactment of the First Rescission Act;

WHEREAS, the end of the decades-long suffering of our veterans is now within reach, for when the Economic Stimulus Bill is enacted into law, our surviving veterans can claim up to Fifteen Thousand Dollars (USD 15,000) in lump-sum benefits, not as monetary compensation for their gallantry during World War II, but as recognition of their honor for risking life and limb for our allies and our country. Now, therefore, be it

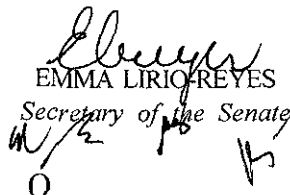
*Resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To express the sense of the Senate to commend Senator Daniel K. Inouye and the United States Congress for the approval of the Conference Report on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which provides the amount of One Hundred Ninety-eight Million Dollars (USD 198,000,000) for the benefit of eligible Filipino Veterans.*

Adopted,



JUAN DONCE ENRIQUE  
*President of the Senate*

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 16, 2009.



EMMA LIRIO-REYES  
*Secretary of the Senate*