

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JUN 30 9:03

RECEIVED BY: Jale

SENATE

S. No. 648

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under Republic Act No. 6948 as amended by Republic Act No. 7696, the definition of the term "VETERAN" is as follows:

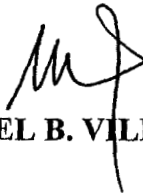
"(a) Veteran - any person who rendered military service in the land, sea or air forces of the Philippines during the revolution against Spain, the Philippine-American war, World War II, including Filipino citizens who served in Allied Forces in the Philippine territory and foreign nationals who served in Philippine forces, the Korean Campaign, the Vietnam Campaign, the Anti-Dissidence Campaign, or other wars and military campaigns; or who rendered military service in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and has been honorably discharged or separated after at least six (6) years total cumulative active service, or sooner separated due to death or disability arising from a wound or injury received or sickness or disease incurred in line of duty while in the active service;"

Examining this definition vis-a-vis Article XVI, Section 7 of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines will reveal an inconsistency. While the subject provision of the Constitution states that "The State shall provide immediate and adequate care, benefits, and other forms of assistance to war veterans and veterans of military campaigns xxx," a number of military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) who did not actually participate in any of the wars and military campaigns conducted by the AFP were recognized as veterans for having been honorably discharged or separated after simply serving "xxx at least six (6) years total cumulative active service xxx."

On the other hand, there were former military personnel of the AFP who had actually participated in the AFP combat operations in the AFP wars and military campaigns, but were unfortunately denied recognition as veterans, simply because they served less than six (6) years of honorable military service. They were, however, honorably discharged or separated from the military service. Military personnel of the AFP who rendered military service in the Korean Campaign or Vietnam Campaign even for less than six (6) years of military service in such campaigns were recognized as veterans. There is no significant difference between rendering military service in the Korean Campaign or Vietnam Campaign and engaging in combat in the Anti-Dissidence Campaign or other wars and military campaigns of the AFP (against the forces of the Bangsa Moro Republic of Mindanao, the MNLF, MILF, the KAMLON Campaign, etc.) in Philippine Territory. They both involved the risk of life and limb and were all service to the Filipino Nation. It is evident, therefore, that the definition of the last category of "VETERAN" in Republic Act No. 6948 as amended by Republic Act No. 7696, is wanting.

Based on the foregoing facts, there appears to be a disparity between the provision of the law and that of the Constitution. This can be rectified by amending Republic Act No. 6948 as amended by Republic Act No. 7696. This way, only the real veterans qualified by Article XVI, Section 7 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, the fundamental law of the land, shall be recognized.

Approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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**AN ACT REDEFINING THE TERM "VETERAN" THEREBY AMENDING FURTHER
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948 AS AMENDED**

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

SECTION 1. Section 2(a), Title I of Republic Act No. 6948 is amended to read as follows:

“(a) Veteran – any person who **IS A WAR VETERAN OR A VETERAN OF
MILITARY CAMPAIGN. A WAR VETERAN IS** any person who rendered military service
in the land, sea or air forces of the Philippines during the Revolution against Spain, the
Philippine-American War and the World War II, including Filipino citizens who served with the
Allied Forces in Philippine territory and foreign nationals who served in the Philippine Forces.
**A VETERAN OF MILITARY CAMPAIGN IS ANY PERSON WHO BECAME PART OF
THE PHILIPPINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCES SENT TO THE KOREAN WAR AND
THE PHILIPPINE CITIZENS ACTION GROUP SENT TO THE VIETNAM WAR;** or
who rendered military service in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and has been honorably
discharged or separated after at least **FIFTEEN (15)** years total cumulative active service, or
sooner separated due to death or disability arising from a wound or injury received or sickness or
disease incurred in line of duty while in the active service;”

SEC. 2. For purposes of the administration of veterans benefits provided for in Republic Act
No. 6948 as amended by Republic Act No. 7696, the Department of National Defense shall issue
the implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, rules, regulations, orders, circulars and memoranda inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect sixty (60) days upon approval: *Provided,* That the Department of National Defense has issued the implementing rules and regulations for this Act.

Approved,