

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE

S. No. 750

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

General Douglas McArthur, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers during the last great war, once said: "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away."

In this era of missiles and megatons, of computers and nuclear weapons, there remains no substitute for the fighting man. Soldiers, in times of national crises, when the very life of the nation is at stake offer the supreme sacrifice - their very lives - in defense of national honor and dignity.

It is strange, however, that until today one cannot find a fitting monument in Metro Manila that would serve as a lasting memorial to these courageous men who fought to keep our homes safe, our cities and countryside secure, and our nation free from those who wish it ill. True enough, there is the Veterans' Shrine in Bataan, but how many of the young people, especially in Metro Manila have visited it. There is also the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, but this is located inside the *Libingan ng mga Bayani* at Fort Bonifacio.

This Bill seeks to construct a Soldier's Memorial Monument right in Manila - at the Rizal Park - which would be an enduring tribute to the fighting men of the past. A memorial similar to the Iwo Jima monument or the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C., the Arch de Triomphe in Paris, or even in Bucharest, and the military statutes in London. We need a memorial that would be visited and revered by all, especially by the present and future generations.

Under the subject Bill, the National Historical Institute shall exercise supervision and control over the construction of the aforesaid monument, which shall be built by means of a contest wherein a design captures the essence of our fighting men in the battlefield or their gallantry or heroism.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this Bill is earnestly urged.


MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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S. No. 750

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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SOLDIER'S MEMORIAL MONUMENT IN THE RIZAL PARK, AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to pay tribute to the gallant fighting men of the Philippines glorious history in recognition of their dedication and commitment to defend the Constitution and to serve the nation and the people in times of peace and war. Toward this end, there shall be constructed at Rizal Park a soldier's memorial monument, an enduring tribute to the fighting men of the past that would perpetuate their memory for the inspiration and emulation of this generation and of generation still unborn.

SEC. 2 The National Historical Institute shall exercise supervision and control over the construction of the aforesaid monument which shall be built by means of a contest wherein a design captures the fighting men off to the battlefield or their gallantry and heroism.

SEC. 3. The National Historical Institute shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 4. The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of the National Historical Institute in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,