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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1589

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE REPORT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OWES VETERANS AND PENSIONERS
₱17 BILLION IN BENEFITS

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution provides, in Article 16, Section 7:

2 The State shall provide immediate and adequate care, benefits, and other
3 forms of assistance to war veterans and veterans of military campaigns, their
4 surviving spouses and orphans. Funds shall be provided therefor and due
5 consideration shall be given them in the disposition of agricultural lands of the
6 public domain and, in appropriate cases, in the utilization of natural resources.

7 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 16 September 2015 reported that the
8 government owes more than 80,000 pensioners, including war veterans and surviving veteran
9 spouses ₱17 billion in administrative disability benefits;

10 WHEREAS, the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) allegedly lamented that the
11 welfare and well-being of the veterans were not being prioritized and that the Congress has failed
12 to enact laws to upgrade the benefits of pensioners;

13 WHEREAS, under the present law, a veteran who reaches 70 years old is deemed totally
14 disabled and is entitled to a ₱1,700 monthly pension;

15 WHEREAS, as of August 2015, the government's obligation in administrative disability
16 reportedly totalled ₱17.53 billion, referring to claims of some 83,346 beneficiaries, including
17 living veterans, the surviving spouses of deceased veterans, and other pensioners;

18 WHEREAS, the government must perform its constitutional duty of caring for war
19 veterans and veterans of military campaigns;

20 WHEREAS, the Congress, in reviewing the proposed budget for 2016, must ensure that
21 funds will be appropriated for the state obligations to pensioners;

22 WHEREAS, the Congress must also strengthen existing laws in order to facilitate the
23 payment of veterans' benefits;

1 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
2 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that the
3 government owes veterans and pensioners 17 billion pesos in benefits.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
JR

/tdr