

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session*

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SENATE

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P. S. Res. No. 283

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Introduced by Senators Sergio R. Osmeña III and Rodolfo G. Biazon

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### RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS SECURING OR PROMOTING THE GENERAL WELFARE OF MILITARY VETERANS AND RETIREES IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, IN VIEW OF THE COMPLAINTS OF MILITARY VETERANS AND RETIREES THAT BENEFITS DUE THEM HAVE BEEN UNDULY WITHHELD BY THE GOVERNMENT OR FRAUDULENTLY USURPED BY UNSCRUPULOUS PERSONS.

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution recognizes the special service our military veterans and retirees have performed to promote and preserve the ideals of independence and democracy and commands that the "*State shall provide immediate and adequate care, benefits, and other forms of assistance to war veterans and veterans of military campaigns, their surviving spouses and orphans*".

**WHEREAS**, several existing laws are geared towards implementing this Constitutional mandate, among them are Republic Act No. 6948 entitled, "An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the Benefits for Military Veterans and their Dependents", Republic Act No. 2640 entitled, "An Act to Create a Public Corporation to be known as the Veterans Federation of the Philippines, Defining its Powers, and for Other Purposes, and Republic Act No. 3518 entitled, "An Act Creating the Philippine Veterans Bank, and for Other Purposes";

**WHEREAS**, the government has not been able to provide the promised and much-needed statutory benefits to military veterans and their families under RA 6948 and has even incurred arrears of at least P23 billion as of 2003;

**WHEREAS**, the veterans have further lamented their sorry plight for the inability of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) and the Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB) to operate for the benefit of the veterans and their families as intended;

**WHEREAS**, many veterans have reported that for a long time now, the funds of the VFP have been disbursed for ghost projects or illicitly channeled to a select few;

**WHEREAS**, many veterans, particularly World War II veterans, also grieve the blatant conversion of the PVB into the personal piggy bank of a small gang of unscrupulous veterans and a fake veteran;

**WHEREAS**, many veterans have been silenced and oppressed to prevent them from protecting and enforcing their rights by the well-entrenched recipients of these shameless acts, as when, for instance, they have been effectively barred from the meetings of stockholders of PVB since the bank's reopening in 1994;

**WHEREAS**, it is high time for the government to give attention to the plight of the military veterans and retirees and for this august body to re-examine the laws that are supposed to secure the benefits the Constitution has intended for them.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in view of the foregoing and in order to protect and pursue the Senate's constitutional prerogatives,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Committee on National Defense and Security to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation into the implementation of laws securing or promoting the general welfare of military veterans and retirees in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, in view of the complaints of military veterans and retirees that benefits due them have been unduly withheld by the government or fraudulently usurped by unscrupulous persons.

Adopted,



**SERGIO R. OSMEÑA III**  
Senator



**RODOLFO G. BIAZON**  
Senator