

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

'18 MAR 21 P 6:01

SENATE

S. No. 1766

RECEIVED



Introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

**AN ACT
INCREASING THE MONTHLY PENSION OF SENIOR VETERANS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our 1987 Constitution mandates that the State shall foster the socioeconomic security and general well-being of the country's veterans in recognition of their patriotic services in times of war and peace for the cause of freedom and democracy; for the attainment of national unity, independence, and socioeconomic advancement; and for the maintenance of peace and order, in keeping with the goals of the Government and the aspirations of the people.

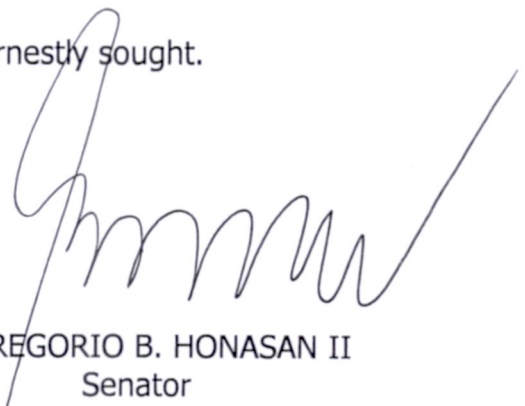
By virtue of Republic Act No. 6948 entitled "*An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the Benefits for Military Veterans and Their Dependents*", as amended by Republic Act No. 7696, our veterans are currently receiving a monthly old-age pension of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). With the spiraling cost of living, such amount is clearly not enough to meet the basic necessities for a decent living. The proposed measure seeks to increase the old-age pension of our senior veterans of World War II, Korean and Vietnam wars to Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000) to augment their resources in order that they may live decently and with dignity.

Our senior veterans have sacrificed much for our country. They invested blood, sweat, and tears and in return, it is only fitting that we repay their service by taking care of them in their old age. People who have dedicated their lives in the service of the country should, at the very least, be able to live out the rest of their days comfortably without worrying about their basic needs. Sad to say that at present, our

senior veterans face a new challenge – the hardships of old age along with meager resources that they must stretch in order to survive. We must recompense them in a manner more fitting to what they have given.

The proposed increase of benefits for our senior veterans is a way to show the nation's grateful appreciation of their bravery, service, and sacrifice. By giving due importance to what they have done in the past, we show citizens, especially the youth what the nation values – the traits of heroism, love of country, and patriotism.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



GREGORIO B. HONASAN II
Senator

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

1 Section 1. For purposes of this Act, *Senior Veterans* refer to the veterans of
2 World War II, Korean and Vietnam wars.

3
4 Sec. 2. *Increase in Old-Age Pension of Senior Veterans.* – The old-age pension
5 of veterans of World War II, Korean and Vietnam wars shall be increased to Twenty
6 Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) per month. Provided, that the veterans of Korean and
7 Vietnam wars are not receiving pension from the Armed Forces of the Philippines
8 (AFP). Provided further, that the entitlement to the increase in old-age pension shall
9 be limited to the eligible living senior veterans and shall not be transferable to any
10 family members and/or dependents of the senior veterans.

11
12 Sec. 3. *Funding.* – In order to augment the amount needed to fund the increase
13 in the old-age pension as provided in this Act, the amount necessary for the initial
14 implementation shall be charged against the current year's available appropriation of
15 the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO). Thereafter, such sums as may be
16 needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual
17 General Appropriations Act.

18
19 Sec. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All existing laws or parts thereof inconsistent with
20 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

1 Sec. 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
3 circulation.

4

5 Approved,