

'18 APR 10 P2:52

SENATE

RECEIVED



S. B. No. 1779

Introduced by Senator JOEL VILLANUEVA

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A THREE THOUSAND PESO (PHP 3,000) INCREASE ACROSS THE BOARD IN THE MONTHLY PENSION OF WAR VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 1994, Congress, through Republic Act No. 7696, increased the monthly old-age pension benefits of military veterans by not less than Five hundred pesos (Php500) until their total pension shall be at least Five thousand pesos (Php5,000) per month.¹ For almost 23 years, our war veterans continue to receive the same level of monthly pension, notwithstanding inflation and the rising cost of goods.

Today, the monthly old-age pension of Five thousand pesos (Php5,000) is obviously not enough to cover bare necessities and deal with mounting medical bills. Hence, an increase in the pension due our war veterans is clearly necessary.

This proposed measure seeks to increase their monthly old-age pension by at least Three thousand pesos (Php3,000) to enable our veterans, who sacrificed their lives for our country, to live decently and with dignity.

This measure would benefit around 7,000 living war veterans who are either in the country or in the United States.² Considering that we are losing them at approximately 300 per month and many are already bedridden or in wheelchairs, the immediate passage of this proposal is urgently needed.

¹ *An Act Amending Certain Sections of RA 6948 otherwise known as An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the Benefits for Military Veterans and Their Dependents*

² <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/640192/pvao-chief-hopes-for-passage-of-bill-giving-p20k-monthly-pension-to-wwii-veterans/story/> accessed on April 8, 2018

The records of history will attest how our war veterans suffered the unwanted misery of war. The severity of what they went through to maintain the resistance in the war against the Japanese 76 years ago should be recognized through continuous efforts to honor them such as by increasing their monthly pension by Php3,000, at the very least. However, the government needs to act now before our World War II veterans are all gone.

After all, the 1987 Constitution declares that, "*[t]he 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*" (Article XVI, Section 7).

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

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

3 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy
4 of the State to alleviate the living conditions of the ordinary Filipino through
5 policies that provide for a decent and humane standard of living and
6 improved quality of life.

7 **SEC 2. Increase in Monthly Pension.** – The monthly pension of all
8 Filipino War Veterans shall be increased by Three Thousand
9 Pesos (Php3,000.00) across the board.

10 **SEC 3. Rules of Succession of Beneficiaries.** – The monthly
11 pension shall be granted directly to the war veteran, if he is still living. Upon
12 the death or incapacity of the war veteran, his pension shall be released in
13 favor of his surviving spouse and in the latter's death or incapacity, to the
14 eldest legitimate child of the war veteran.

15 **SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60)
16 days after the effectivity of this Act, the Department of National Defense
17 (DND) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall issue
18 the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this
19 Act.

1 **SEC. 5. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the
2 implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the
3 Department of National Defense (DND) under the current General Appropriations
4 Act.

5 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders,
6 rules, regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
7 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

8 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any section or
9 provision of this bill is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other sections or
10 provisions hereof shall remain in force.

11 **SEC. 8. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen days after
12 publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

13 **Approved,**