

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

NOV 24 1977

SENATE  
S.B. No. 1863

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ *G*

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MAGSAYSAY, JR.

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

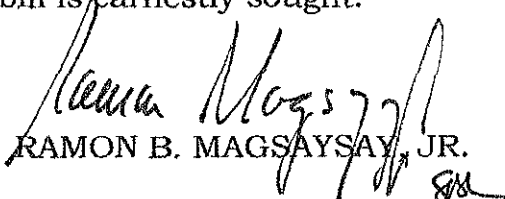
Ensclosed in the 1987 Philippine Constitution is the policy providing for the promotion of "a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all." \* The said constitutional tenet is significant and serves as basis for the enactment of such laws as the Senior Citizens Law to assist and afford rights to the elderly, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law to promote the interests and secure opportunities for the landless tillers to own lands, and RA 7160 or the Child Protection Law to forestall exploitation of children in all forms.

Consistent with the statutes mentioned, this bill is submitted for consideration. The legislation at hand seeks to create an Office of Veterans Affairs in the Philippine Embassy in the United States and to provide funds for its operation and maintenance.

The purpose of this Office is to pursue the claims of Filipino veterans of World War II for the restoration of their rights, benefits and privileges as members of the Armed Forces in the Far East, under the provisions of the United States Veterans Benefits Code, which we denied them by the Rescission Act of 1946. Furthermore, the Office will accommodate processing of all dossiers and will handle issues confronting Filipino Veterans Benefits veterans.

In the words of then Senator now Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo who originally filed this legislation, "the creation of the Office Veterans Affairs in the Philippine Embassy in the United States will ensure that the Filipino veterans' claims will not be relegated again to the pigeonholes in Washington, D.C."

Immediate cognizance of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
RAMON B. MAGSAYSAY, JR.

\* Art. II, Sec. 9

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
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NOV 21 1912

SENATE  
S.B. No. 1863

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MAGSAYSAY, JR.

**AN ACT**  
**CREATING AN OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN THE PHILIPPINE**  
**EMBASSY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DEFINING ITS**  
**FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND**  
**FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy** - It is hereby declared the policy of the government to pursue the claims of Filipino veterans of World War II and work for the restoration of their rights, privileges and benefits from the United States government.

**SEC. 2. Establishment of an Office of Veterans Affairs** - There is hereby created an Office of Veterans Affairs in the Philippine Embassy in the United States of America mandated with the task of making formal representations, consultations and negotiations with appropriate offices of the Legislative and Executive Branches and other entitled agencies and entities of the United States government to promote and enhance the favorable consideration of the claims of Filipino veterans.

The Office shall be in existence also to work and assist Filipino veterans who are both in the United States of America and in the Philippines in transactions regarding financial claims, papers pertaining to pensions and other privileges and all other tasks and functions which may be necessary to carry out the proposed objective of this Act.

**SEC. 3. Staffing** - The Office of Veterans Affairs shall have a staff consisting of a head of office appointed by the President of the Philippines, an administrative assistant assigned by the Secretary of National Defense, and such other locally hired personnel as the head of office may find necessary. The head of the Office of Veterans shall have the assimilated rank of Special Envoy on Veterans Affairs.

**SEC. 4. Funding** - The sum of fifty million pesos (P=50,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated to carry out the purpose for which the ad hoc offices established.

**SEC. 5. Effectivity** - This Act shall take effect upon fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,