

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

8 JUL 30 P2:49

SENATE  
S. No. 2496

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XVI, Section 7 of the Constitution explicitly mandates 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.

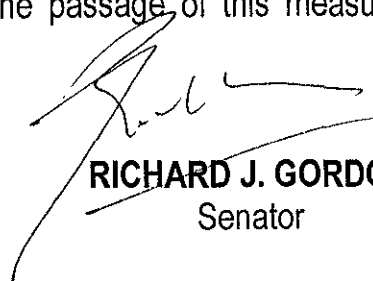
This constitutional mandate recognizes the debt of gratitude that we owe our veterans who risked life and limb to defend our country and our allies. Attempts to repay this debt come in the form of benefits and assistance given to the veterans themselves and to their surviving spouses and offspring. Hence, the establishment of the Veterans Out-Patient Center and the VFP War Museum, Library and Archives, among other facilities pertaining to the veterans.

Located within the 50-hectare Veterans Center in Taguig City, the Veterans Out-Patient Center is a medical and dental facility serving veterans and their surviving spouses. It was created to provide an outlet for the overloaded Veterans Memorial Medical Center. It has been in the service of an increasing number of veterans and surviving spouses, which, as of June 30, 2004, has reached 181,050. The following services are provided free of charge, to wit: x-ray, electrocardiogram, physical therapy, ophthalmology, prescription of eyeglasses, ear, nose and throat consultations, dental services, provision of dentures, and laboratory services.

The VFP War Museum, Library and Archives is likewise situated within the Veterans Center, right next to the Veterans Out-Patient Center. The Museum, which also houses a full-service theater, is a repository of war memorabilia, rare film documentaries and books, original handwritten accounts, and a gallery of tableaus, mementos, paintings and photographs. All these serve as constant reminders of the ultimate sacrifice of our veterans in the defense of our country and of our way of life. They tell the gripping tales of these heroes' victories and defeats, of how they lived through those difficult and hostile years, of how their lives were at risk every waking hour and of how they endured and succeeded in the end.

It is therefore imperative that these stories be told, especially to today's youth, so that they may not lose appreciation for the sacrifices made in the past only for them to enjoy what liberty and democracy they have now. It is as important to provide all the assistance possible to alleviate the suffering of our veterans, most, if not all, of whom are now in

the twilight of their years. It is for these reasons that the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



**RICHARD J. GORDON**  
Senator

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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING PROCLAMATION NO. 192, SERIES OF 1967, RESERVING**  
**FOR THE VETERANS CENTER SITE PURPOSES A CERTAIN PARCEL**  
**OF LAND OF THE PRIVATE DOMAIN SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE OF**  
**RIZAL, ISLAND OF LUZON**

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

1         **Section 1.** Proclamation No. 192, Series of 1967, Reserving for the Veterans Center  
2         Site Purposes a Certain Parcel of Land of the Private Domain Situated in the Province of  
3         Rizal, Island of Luzon, is hereby amended to read as follows:

4                 "Upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural  
5         Resources and pursuant to the authority vested in me by law, I, Ferdinand E.  
6         Marcos, President of the Philippines, do hereby reserve for the Veterans  
7         Center site purposes under the administration of the Veterans Federation of  
8         the Philippines, subject to private rights, if any there be, and to future survey,  
9         a certain parcel of land of the private domain situated in the Province of Rizal,  
10         Island of Luzon, which is more particularly described as follows:

11                         x x x

12                 This Veterans Center shall serve as the center of the different activities  
13         of Filipino war veterans, including the Veterans Rehabilitation, Medicare and  
14         Training Center, headquarters for the various veterans organizations and  
15         other allied activities. THE PORTION OF THIS PARCEL OF LAND  
16         MEASURING APPROXIMATELY FIVE (5) HECTARES, ON WHICH STAND  
17         THE VETERANS OUT-PATIENT CENTER AND THE VETERANS  
18         FEDERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES WAR MUSEUM, LIBRARY AND  
19         ARCHIVES, SHALL NOT BE THE SUBJECT OF ANY FORM OF

1 DISPOSITION, BE IT TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT, FOR WHATEVER  
2 PURPOSE AND BY ANY INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY.”

3 **Sec. 2.** All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts  
4 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
5 accordingly.

6 **Sec. 3.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its  
7 publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the  
8 Philippines.

9 Approved,