

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 535

To award a Congressional gold medal, collectively, to the Filipino Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 2015

Mr. VARGAS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To award a Congressional gold medal, collectively, to the Filipino Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Filipino Veterans of
5 World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued
2 an order commissioning around 250,000 troops from
3 the Philippines into active service for the United
4 States during World War II.

5 (2) The United States War Department imme-
6 diately formed the United States Armed Forces in
7 the Far East (USAFFE). The unit was made up of
8 the United States-Philippine Military Forces of the
9 Commonwealth Army, Guerrilla Units, New Phil-
10 ippine Scout.

11 (3) The Filipino Infantry Regiment, was mostly
12 composed of first-generation immigrants living along
13 the Pacific Coast, who volunteered after the Japa-
14 nese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, later many
15 second-generation Filipino-American soldiers joined
16 the Regiment from Hawaii.

17 (4) The Philippine Scout units and the New
18 Philippine Scouts were directly recruited by the
19 United States Army for the war effort.

20 (5) Under extremely severe occupation policies
21 imposed by the Japanese, it was the anti-Japanese
22 resistance movement that drew more and more Fili-
23 pinos to its side and through 1943 many of these
24 anti-Japanese guerrillas recovered or newly estab-
25 lished liaisons with the United States Army Com-

1 mand of the Southwest Pacific Area and placed
2 themselves under the command of General Douglas
3 MacArthur.

4 (6) These Filipino soldiers responded to Presi-
5 dent Roosevelt’s call-to-arms and later fought under
6 the American flag during World War II.

7 (7) After the Japanese invasion in December
8 1941, Filipino and American troops literally shared
9 the same fate at Bataan, Corregidor, and the
10 “Death March”.

11 (8) Many made the ultimate sacrifice as both
12 soldiers in the United States Armed Forces in the
13 Far East and as guerilla fighters during the Impe-
14 rial Japanese occupation of the Philippines.

15 (9) These troops had served under the expecta-
16 tion that they would be treated as United States
17 military servicemembers.

18 (10) The Rescission Act of 1946 later passed,
19 which stated that Filipino forces would not be
20 deemed to have been active military.

21 (11) Congress recognizes the courage and brav-
22 ery of the Filipino and Filipino-American servicemen
23 and servicewomen who have fought alongside and in
24 the United States Armed Forces.

1 (12) The United States remains forever in-
2 debted to the bravery, valor, and dedication to coun-
3 try these men displayed.

4 (13) Their commitment and sacrifice dem-
5 onstrates a highly uncommon and commendable
6 sense of patriotism and honor.

7 (14) The Filipino Veterans of World War II in-
8 clude those who served honorably—

9 (A) in an active-duty status under the
10 command of the United States Armed Forces in
11 the Far East; or

12 (B) within the Philippine Army, the Phil-
13 ippine Scouts, or recognized guerrilla units, at
14 any time during the period beginning Sep-
15 tember 1, 1939, and ending December 31,
16 1946.

17 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

18 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
19 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
20 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
21 award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal
22 of appropriate design to the Filipino Veterans of World
23 War II, collectively in recognition of their dedicated service
24 during World War II.

1 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
2 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
3 Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Sec-
4 retary”) shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems,
5 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
6 retary.

7 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
9 gold medal in honor of the Filipino Veterans of
10 World War II under subsection (a), the gold medal
11 shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where
12 it will be displayed as appropriate and made avail-
13 able for research.

14 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
15 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should
16 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)
17 available for display elsewhere, particularly at other
18 appropriate locations associated with the Filipino
19 Veterans of World War II.

20 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

21 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
22 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
23 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price
24 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,
25 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

1 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck pursuant to
3 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
4 of title 31, United States Code.

5 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
6 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
7 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

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