effectively denied Filipino veterans the opportunity to become citizens during this nine-month window. Forty-five years later, under the Immigration Act of 1990, certain Filipino veterans who had served during World War II became eligible for United States citizenship. Between November, 1990, and February, 1995, approximately 24,000 veterans took advantage of this opportunity and became United States citizens.

Although progress has been made, we must, as a nation, correct fully the injustice caused by the Rescission Acts by providing equal treatment for the service and sacrifice by these brave men. The Filipino Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2003 will compensate eligible veterans by providing a number of needed benefits: Dependency and Indeminity Compensation to surviving widows of service-connected veterans living in the United States; a payment increase to New Philippine Scouts and survivors residing in the United States from 50 percent to the full dollar amount for service-connected disability compensation; authorization of non-service connected disability pensions for veterans residing in the Philippines, but at a rate of $100 per month, which matches the amount of the veterans' pension received by them from the Philippine government; access to veterans hospitals for non-service connected disabled veterans in the same manner as United States veterans; and $500,000 per year to the Outpatient Clinic in Manila.

Heroes should never be forgotten or ignored, so let us not turn our backs on those who sacrificed so much. Many of the Filipinos who fought so hard for our nation have been honored with American citizenship, but let us now work to repay all of these brave men for their sacrifices by providing them the veterans' benefits they have earned.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 68

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Filipino Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 2003''.

SEC. 2. RATE OF PAYMENT OF CERTAIN BENEFITS FOR NEW PHILIPPINE SCOUTS RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) RATE OF PAYMENT.—Section 107 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the second sentence of subsection (b), by striking ''Payments'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subsection (c), payments''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by inserting ''or (b)'' after ''subsection (a)'' the first place it appears; and

(B) by striking ''subsection (a)'' the second place it appears and inserting ''the applicable subsection''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply to benefits paid for months beginning on or after that date.

SEC. 3. RATE OF PAYMENT OF DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF CERTAIN FILIPINO VETERANS.

(a) RATE OF PAYMENT.—Subsection (c) of section 107 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 2 of this Act, is further amended by inserting '', and under chapter 13 of this title,'' after ''chapter 11 of this title''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply to benefits paid for months beginning on or after that date.

SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN FILIPINO VETERANS FOR DISABILITY PENSION.

(a) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 107 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3) of the first sentence, by inserting ''15,'' before ''23,''; and

(B) in the second sentence, by striking ''subsections (c) and (d)'' and inserting ''subsections (c), (d), and (e)''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2) of the first sentence and inserting the following new paragraph (2):

''(2) chapters 11, 13 (except section 1312(a)), and 15 of this title.''; and

(B) in the second sentence, by striking ''subsection (c)'' and inserting ''subsections (c) and (e)''.

(b) RATE OF PAYMENT.—That section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) In the case of benefits under chapter 15 of this title paid by reason of service described in subsection (a) or (b), if—

''(1) the benefits are paid to an individual residing in the United States who is a citizen of, or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in, the United States, the second sentence of the applicable subsection shall not apply; and

''(2) the benefits are paid to an individual residing in the Republic of the Philippines, the benefits shall be paid (notwithstanding any other provision of law) at the rate of $100 per month.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply to benefits for months beginning on or after that date.

SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY OF FILIPINO VETERANS FOR HEALTH CARE IN THE UNITED STATES.

The text of section 1734 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''The Secretary, within the limits of Department facilities, shall furnish hospital and nursing home care and medical services to Commonwealth Army veterans and new Philippine Scouts in the same manner as provided for under section 1710 of this title.''.

SEC. 6. OUTPATIENT HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS RESIDING IN THE PHILIPPINES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter IV of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 1735 as section 1736; and

(2) by inserting after section 1734 the following new section 1735:

''§ 1735. Outpatient care and services for World War II veterans residing in the Philippines

''(a) OUTPATIENT HEALTH CARE.—The Secretary shall furnish care and services to veterans of World War II, Commonwealth Army veterans, and new Philippine Scouts for the treatment of the service-connected disabilities and nonservice-connected disabilities of such veterans and scouts residing in the Republic of the Philippines on an outpatient basis at the Manila VA Outpatient Clinic.

''(b) LIMITATIONS.—(1) The amount expended by the Secretary for the purpose of subsection (a) in any fiscal year may not exceed $500,000.

''(2) The authority of the Secretary to furnish care and services under subsection (a) is effective in any fiscal year only to the extent that appropriations are available for that purpose.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1735 and inserting after the item relating to section 1734 the following new items:

''1735. Outpatient care and services for World War II veterans residing in the Philippines.

''1736. Definitions.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

NOTICE

Incomplete record of Senate proceedings.

Today's Senate proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2003

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if the motion to adjourn is agreed to later today, the Senate stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 9; I further ask consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and there then be a period of morning business, with Members permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, until the hour of 11:30.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.