

HJR

15

Alaska State Legislature

Chairman
State Affairs Committee

Vice-Chairman
Economic Development, Trade & Tourism
Committee

Member
Judiciary Committee
Joint Armed Services Committee

Finance Subcommittees
Corrections
Labor and Workforce Development
Military and Veterans' Affairs
Public Safety



A Communication From
REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN
District 31 Anchorage

E-Mail: Representative Bob Lynn@legis.state.ak.us
"Bob Lynn's Alaska Blog" RepBobLynnBlog.com

Session:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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Phone: (907) 269-0205
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FAX

To: Crystal

Fax #: 2418

From: Nancy Manly x2794
Alaska State Capitol, room 104
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

of Pages (including cover): 4

Phone: 907-465-4931
Fax: 907-465-4316

Re: HB 193 Final CS

Crystal: Please review the final CS for HB 193 (STA) (this would be Version C) to make sure it's correct. Then call x2794 and let me know if you are okay with it. Also note the memo from Legal concerning the change.

Thanks,
Nancy

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

April 10, 2007

SUBJECT: CSHB 193(STA) (Work Order No. 25-LS0712C)

TO: Representative Bob Lynn
Chair of the House State Affairs Committee
Attn: Nancy Manly

FROM: Alpheus Bullard *AB*
Legislative Counsel

Enclosed is CSHB 193(STA), which includes the amendments you requested. Amendment #3 ----adding correctional officers at page 2, line 8--- makes the bill somewhat ambiguous. Does this mean that the police officer members appointed under AS 18.65.150(4) could be correctional officers? Or, was the amendment just intended to have the nomination provisions of proposed AS 18.65.160(b) apply to correctional administrative officers appointed under AS 18.65.150(1)? You may want to pass this memo on to the next committee of referral in case it wants to clarify this matter.

PF:med
07-229.med

Enclosure

Library

25-LS0718M
Bannister
4/9/07

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES LEDOUX, Thomas, Coghill, Lynn, Foster, Roses, Harris, Johnson, Johansen, Ramras, Fairclough, Dahlstrom, Kerttula, Kawasaki, Buch, Guttenberg, Nelson, Wilson, Gruenberg, Doll, Holmes

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting the passage of a Filipino Veterans Equity Act and a Filipino Veterans**
2 **Family Reunification Act.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS, during World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt conscripted the**
5 **military forces of the Philippines into service under the command of American officers in the**
6 **United States armed forces in the Far East to fight against the Japanese invasion; and**

7 **WHEREAS Filipino soldiers fought shoulder-to-shoulder with American soldiers in**
8 **the bloodiest battles of World War II, including the battle at Corregidor; and**

9 **WHEREAS thousands of Filipino prisoners of war died during the 65-mile Bataan**
10 **Death March, and those who survived were imprisoned under inhuman conditions; and**

11 **WHEREAS Filipino World War II veterans were promised military benefits, but,**
12 **after World War II, the United States Congress passed the Supplemental Surplus**
13 **Appropriation Rescission Act of 1946, which considered service of the Filipino World War II**
14 **veterans not to be active service, and which had the effect of denying Filipino World War II**
15 **veterans the rights, privileges, and benefits that American World War II veterans received;**
16 **and**

L

1 **WHEREAS** there are approximately 60,000 remaining Filipino World War II
2 veterans currently residing in the United States and the Philippines out of the 120,000 Filipino
3 soldiers who served under United States command during World War II; and

4 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Veterans Affairs reports that the Filipino
5 World War II veteran population is expected to decrease to approximately 20,000 by 2010;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS** there are approximately 5,000 Filipino World War II veterans living in
8 poverty in the United States and 15,000 living in poverty in the Philippines; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 2000, the surviving Filipino World War II veterans were provided
10 with burial benefits in United States national cemeteries, and, in 2003, they were provided
11 long overdue medical and nursing home care from the United States Department of Veterans
12 Affairs; and

13 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Veterans Affairs does not provide
14 nonservice disability pension benefits to low-income Filipino World War II veterans, but
15 these benefits are available to 200,000 of their American comrades; and

16 **WHEREAS** Representative Bob Filner has sponsored H.R. 760, and Senator Daniel
17 K. Inouye has sponsored S. 57, which are both called the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of
18 2007, to remedy the inequity experienced by Filipino World War II veterans and to provide
19 that certain service in the organized military forces of the Philippines and the Philippine
20 Scouts will be considered active service in order to qualify for benefits under programs
21 administered by the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

22 **WHEREAS** Senator Daniel K. Akaka has sponsored S. 671, and Representative
23 Mazie Hirono has sponsored H.R. 1287, which are both called the Filipino Veterans
24 Family Reunification Act, to provide immediate relief to the children of Filipino World War
25 II veterans whose immigration petitions have been pending for more than a decade;

26 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the
27 United States Congress pass

28 (1) a Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007 proposed by H.R. 760 or S. 57 in
29 order to allow Filipino World War II veterans to receive the United States veterans' benefits to
30 which they are entitled under the programs administered by the United States Secretary of
31 Veterans Affairs; and

1 (2) a Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act proposed by S. 671 or H.R.
2 1237 to exempt children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical
3 limitations on immigrant visas.

4 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
5 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States
6 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S.
7 Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable
8 Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Steny H. Hoyer,
9 Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable John Boehner, Minority
10 Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka, Chair of the
11 U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; the Honorable Bob Filner, Chair of the U.S.
12 House Representatives Committee on Veterans' Affairs; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
13 Honorable Lisa Murkowski. U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
14 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all members of the 110th
15 United States Congress by electronic transmission.



National Office:
810 18th Avenue, RM 100
Seattle, WA 98122

Alaska Chapter:
2607 Kona Lane
Anchorage, AK 99517

TO: Members of the Alaska Legislature

The approval of HJR 15 by the members of the Alaska Legislature would be a very helpful addition to the increasing support for the passage of the Filipino Veterans' Equity Act and the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act.

Filipinos have been part of Alaska's labor force for over 100 years. In 1903, as divers and crewmembers of the Cableship Burnside, Filipinos began laying the communications cables between Alaska and Washington state. The work was completed a year later. This effort improved Alaska's ability to communicate with Seattle and the rest of the world.

From the early 1900s to the present, Filipinos have been working in the seafood canneries in Alaska. Prior to 1920 to the 1940s, they worked as ore sorters in the gold mines in Juneau and Douglas Island.

The 2000 U.S. Census enumerated over 16,000 Alaskans of Filipino heritage in Anchorage, Juneau, Kodiak, Fairbanks, Ketchikan, Sitka, Barrow, and other Alaskan communities. Generally, most Filipinos residing in Alaska work in the hospitals, the school districts, the post office, and other service-oriented industries. Few are self-employed. I'm one of the few. I am an attorney in Anchorage.

The history of Filipinos in Alaska dates as far back as 1788 when the first Filipino arrived here as a crewmember of the British fur trading ship, *Iphigenia Nubiana*. Various Filipinos arrived as crewmembers of a few other fur trading ships, as crewmembers of the Spanish ships exploring the Alaskan waters for the Northwest Passage under Alejandro Malaspina, and as crewmembers of whaling ships hunting for bowhead whales.

The background that led President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to conscript Filipinos to serve in the United States armed forces could be traced to Commodore George Dewey and the crew of his flagship, *USS Olympia*, and seven U.S. Navy cruisers and gunboats in a surprise attack of the Philippines in the Battle of Manila Bay on May 1, 1898.

At that time, the Philippines was the weak link in the Spanish dominion and having exploited the Philippines for over 300 years and beset by Filipino patriots who aimed at overthrowing the Spanish regime, Spain was poorly equipped to repel any foreign invasion of the Philippines.

The transfer of foreign domination from Spain to a new foreign master, the United States of America, was resisted by Filipino patriots who had declared Philippine Independence on June 12, 1898, an event that was neither recognized by Spain nor the incoming U.S. colonial government. The short-lived bitter war between the Filipino patriots and the U.S. armed forces was nearly lost in history because it was overshadowed by America's victory that concluded the Spanish American War.

As early as the 1900s, the U.S. sent governors to run the Philippines. The U.S. Army had a major role in subduing the resistance and providing educational opportunities to Filipinos. Immigration to the U.S. was encouraged.

In 1934, the United States established the Philippine Commonwealth and promised the country's independence. On July 4, 1946, the Philippines was granted its independence and became a republic like the United States.

At the outbreak of World War II, the Philippines was invaded by Japan. Some historians believe that, but for the fact that the Philippines was then an American possession, it would not have been a major military target.

HJR 15 accurately narrates the action taken by President Roosevelt and the U.S. government with regards to conscripting Filipinos and later withholding from them veteran's benefits. The passage of the Filipino Veterans' Equity Act and the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act would help to recognize the sacrifices made by these veterans and their families and provide for their well-deserved veteran's entitlements at a time when these valiant Filipino veterans are becoming fewer and fewer in number.

Alaska should be proud to support the effort of the sponsors of these two pending bills in Congress. I urge you to vote for HJR15. Thank you.

Thelma Buchholdt
President, Filipino American National Historical Society;
Member, Alaska State House: 1974-1982;
Author, *Filipinos in Alaska: 1788-1958*.

FISCAL NOTE

Library

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HJR 15
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: _____
 Title WW II Filipino Vets: Benefits/Immigrations RDU _____
 Component _____
 Sponsor Representative Ledoux Component No. _____
 Requester House State Affairs Committee

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Nancy Manly, Committee Aide Phone 465-2794
 Division House State Affairs Committee Date/Time _____
 Approved by: Representative Bob Lynn Date 4/5/2007
 Agency Chair

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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Representative Gabrielle LeDoux

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 15 Supporting the Filipino Veterans Equity Act and Filipino Veterans Reunification Act

This resolution from the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the United States Congress to pass the Filipino Veterans Equity Act and the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act.

From 1898 until 1946, the Philippine Islands were considered a territory of the United States. During World War II the military forces of the Philippines were drafted into service under the command of American officers in the United States armed forces in the Far East to fight against the Japanese invasion. Filipino and American soldiers fought side by side in such battles as Corregidor. Many died during the 65-mile Bataan Death March, and those who survived were imprisoned under inhumane conditions.

Filipino World War II veterans were promised military benefits, but after the War the United States Congress passed the Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act of 1946. The act considered the services of Filipino World War II veterans not to be active service. This status change had the effect of denying Filipino World War II veterans the rights, privileges and benefits that American World War II veterans received.

There have been several attempts to reverse this injustice. In 1990, Filipino World War II Veterans were allowed to immigrate to the U.S. Many of them did and petitioned for their immediate families. In 2000, they were provided with military burial benefits and in 2003 they were provided long overdue medical and nursing home care from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

The Filipino Veterans Equity Act and the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act would correct a terrible injustice by: 1) providing veterans the full benefits they were denied; and 2) providing immediate relief for those veterans and their families who have waited for more than a decade with approved immigration petitions.

washingtonpost.com

Hope for Amends to Filipino Immigrants

Bills to Speed Children's Moves to U.S., Give Military Pensioners Show Political Assertion

By N.C. Aizenman
Washington Post Staff Writer
Sunday, March 4, 2007; A06

Amid the wrangling over immigration reform, virtually everyone in Congress appears to agree on one point: Filipino-born veterans who fought alongside U.S. troops during World War II deserve a break.

Denied the right to immigrate to the United States until 1990, they came hoping that their children could follow them here later, just as other groups have done. But the adult children have been required to wait twice as long -- up to 16 years -- as anyone else. With the veterans often too old and sick to travel home, many have died while waiting to be reunited with their families.

Now, after several longtime backers have risen to key positions in Congress, Filipino American advocates are hopeful that legislation will be pushed through to exempt the veterans' children from the immigration delay. They also are optimistic about a potentially more controversial bill that would grant Filipino veterans military pensions.

About 5,000 veterans in the United States would stand to benefit from a change in immigration provisions, and an additional 10,000 in the Philippines could be eligible for pensions.

To many in the 2-million-strong Filipino American community, the issue represents a chance to cement their political identity in a nation where they have long felt invisible, even though Filipinos rank second, behind Mexicans, in the number of immigrants living in the United States.

"Historically, we Filipinos have always been looked down on as your little brown brothers -- as these acquiescent people who would just accept anything Uncle Sam would do to them," said Jon Melegrito, communications director of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations. "This is about asserting who we are as a people and how we served this country. . . . It's a call to action to stop acting like colonial slaves and to start acting like first-class citizens."

The effort builds on an association with the United States that dates to 1898, when the United States acquired the Philippines from Spain after winning the Spanish-American War.

Laws and discriminatory practices against all Asian immigrants kept Filipino numbers in the United States low through the first half of the 1900s. But in the Philippines, many residents were taught English and raised to think of themselves as something akin to Americans.

Celestino Almeda, 90, a veteran who lives in Alexandria, remembered that the director of his elementary school in Manila led students in a pledge of allegiance to the American flag every morning.

"We also celebrated all the holidays: Washington's birthday, Armistice Day," Almeda said. "In our mind, it was like America was our mother country."

When Japan invaded the Philippines in 1941, more than 200,000 Filipinos joined Americans in waging a fierce resistance, enduring such horrors as the Bataan death march and the grueling guerrilla campaign

that followed. Technically, the Filipino fighters were under overall U.S. command. But within months of the Allied victory, Congress stripped most of them of their rights as foreign veterans of U.S. forces -- including the opportunity to become U.S. citizens -- on the grounds that the Philippines was about to be granted independence.

Even so, the Philippines continued its close affiliation with the United States. Thousands of Filipinos joined the U.S. Navy, which until recently had major bases there. By 1970, there were more Filipinos in the U.S. Navy than in the Philippine Navy.

And, after 1965, when Congress repealed the nationality quota system that had practically prohibited Asians from immigrating, hundreds of thousands of Filipinos streamed in.

Ranging from unskilled workers and nannies to nurses and professionals who came in on occupational preference visas, the new arrivals immediately formed social, cultural and professional organizations. Before long, they were rising to prominent positions in government, unions and the military. Several won elected office, including in Prince George's County, where a sizable community settled.

Yet when it came to turning their clout into political activism on behalf of Filipino American causes, many of the immigrants hesitated, said Bing Cardenas Branigin, 50, a former regional chairman of the Filipino American federation.

"There was this sense that you shouldn't make trouble, that you shouldn't contradict the government," she said. "You should just pay your taxes and send your kids to school and keep quiet."

That began to change in the mid-1970s when anger spread over the repressive policies of the Filipino president, Ferdinand Marcos. As much as their opposition to Marcos galvanized the Filipino American community, it also caused rifts with those who supported Marcos.

After Marcos was ousted, community leaders looked to refocus their newfound energy on a more unifying issue. The fight for veterans' equity was a natural choice.

Since then, the veterans have won some of the benefits they lost after the war. Most notably, in 1990, Congress granted Filipino World War II veterans the same opportunity to naturalize offered to all other foreign nationals who served in the U.S. armed forces.

But the Filipino veterans remain ineligible for a military pension, forcing many of the more than 24,000 elderly veterans who became U.S. citizens after 1990 to live off food stamps and Supplemental Security Income payments.

Joaquin Tejada, 84, a former guerrilla fighter who survived two years resisting the Japanese from jungle hideouts, said he now struggles to get by with his \$545 monthly SSI check. The rent for the two-bedroom apartment he shares with another Filipino World War II veteran in Columbia Heights takes \$275.

"By the end of the month, it's hard to buy even basic food," said Tejada, who proudly sported an American flag tie during an interview.

Then there is the 16-year wait veterans face if they wish to bring over their adult children, an unintended consequence of the 1965 law lifting the quotas that had prevented most Asians from immigrating.

In their place, Congress introduced a complicated system meant to offer every country the same number of family reunification visas. But because Filipino applicants far outnumber the yearly slots allotted to them, they face the longest delays -- 22 years to sponsor an adult brother or sister, for instance, compared with 11 years for applicants of most other nationalities.

Candida Romulo, 72, said she and her husband, Bayani, a veteran who became a lawyer in Manila, would not have naturalized and moved to Oxon Hill had they known that the wait to sponsor their grown children would be so long.

"We did it because we wanted to give them the opportunities of living in this country. It was going to be our gift to them," Romulo said during an interview in a living room crammed with photographs of her four children.

Soon after the couple's arrival, Bayani developed a medical condition requiring frequent dialysis, making visits to the Philippines impossible. Because of their pending residency applications, his children were unable to get visas to visit him.

When Bayani suffered a severe stroke in September, his eldest son wasn't able to relay his final words to his father over the phone before he died.

"The receiver couldn't reach his bed in the ICU," Candida Romulo said. "So I told my husband, 'Your son says that he loves you very much and that he's so proud that you are his father.' My husband couldn't speak, but I could tell that he understood, because there were tears in his eyes."

Now Romulo worries that her son may never gain entry to the United States, because if a sponsor dies while the visa application is pending, there is a chance that the application will be annulled.

But she said she is still praying that Congress will pass the legislation for the sake of those veterans who remain alive

"If that happens, I know my husband will be very happy about it, even if he is already in heaven," she said.

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2 diabetes
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to do it?"
education

on an exercise regimen together.
ise prevents diabetes among
people who don't have the disease and
helps people with the disease control it
better.

Boudreau also plans a fundraising
event led by the group. The KCHC
diabetes support group will raise pledges
from the community and walk or run
together during Kodiak's Chad Ogden
Ultra-Marathon on May 27 during the
Kodiak Crab Festival.

Boudreau calls it an "ultra-marathon

controlled diabetes occurs more often
among the uninsured. This is happening
nationally, she said, because there is a
tendency among people without much
money to test themselves less often.

"The test strips are expensive, and a lot
of patients should be testing themselves
three or four times a day," she said.

More information on the support is
available by calling Boudreau at Kodiak
Community Health Center, 481-2481.

Mirror writer Scott Christiansen can
be reached via e-mail at schristiansen@kodiakdailymirror.com.

come up with a large catch of unharmed
and sometimes protected species.

The Fisherman's Marketing Association
says about 100 trawlers are tied up in Or-
egon, Washington and California, includ-
ing 23 in the Astoria-Warrenton area.

"The situation began in February when
some of the fish companies unilaterally
decided to lower the price they were pay-
ing to U.S. boats," said Pete Leipzig,
executive director of the association.

"In some cases this occurred while they
were out fishing," he said. "They'd go to
the dock and find they weren't going to

Officials at Astoria facility of Boush
Seafoods, a major Pacific Coast ground-
fish processor, did not immediately return
phone calls seeking comment.

Kevin Dunn of Astoria, who operates
the Iron Lady, joined the association
when the price for petrale sole, the most
valuable sole, went from more than \$1 per
pound to 65 cents.

"You can see the position we end up
being in if we don't use our limit — we
lose it — and if we don't sell it, we don't
get anything, so the processors get the fish

➤ See **TRAWLERS**, Page 8

Aging Filipino WWII vets forced to live apart from families

By **AUDREY McAVOY**
Associated Press Writer

WAIANAË, Hawaii (AP) —
Manuel S. Pablo crouched in
foxholes to defend the Philip-
pines against invading Japanese
soldiers in World War II. He
watched a Japanese guard stab
one of his comrades to death
with a bayonet during the Bataan
Death March when the starving
prisoner of war dared to ask for
another bowl of rice.

Even though Pablo risked his
life for the United States, which
controlled the Philippines as a
commonwealth at the time, his
children cannot win approval to
live with him in America during
his retirement.

Scholars and veteran advocates
say the policy reflects decades
of neglect, dating to 1946 when

Washington broke wartime prom-
ises that Filipino soldiers could
become U.S. citizens and enjoy
the same pension and medical
benefits as American troops.

It took Washington 45 years
after the war to offer veterans a
proper chance to obtain citizen-
ship. And the Immigration Act of
1990 only allowed each veteran
to bring one immediate family
member to the United States with
them, so many leave their chil-
dren behind.

The shortcomings of that law
have left the sons and daughters
of the veterans with no choice but
to get in line for immigration vi-
sas along with everyone else. On
average, they must wait about 20
years because so many Filipinos
hope to emigrate and the limits
are set by nationality.

Pablo's three sons and four
daughters have been on the wait-
ing list since 1994, two years
after he immigrated to Hawaii
and became a U.S. citizen.

Today, thousands of elderly
veterans — including those
wounded in battle and awarded
the Bronze Star and other medals
— live their last years far from
their children and grandchildren.

➤ See **FILIPINO VETS**, Page 8

Right: World War II Filipino
veteran Manuel Pablo, 88,
holds a Bronze Star and POW
medal, March 6, at his home
in Waianae, Hawaii. He was
awarded the medals while
serving the U.S. military in the
Philippines during World War
II. (AP Photo)



erica's Last Frontier"

Today is:

Wednesday, March 21, the 80th day
of 2007. There are 285 days left in the
year.

Today in history:

In 1965, more than 3,000 civil rights
demonstrators led by the Rev. Martin
Luther King Jr. began their march from
Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

Thought for today:

"Never lose your temper with the
press or the public is a major rule of
political life."

— Dame Christabel Pankhurst,
English suffragist (1880-1958)

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www.kodiakdailymirror.com

Web: www.kodiakdailymirror.com

KODIAK DAILY MIRROR
MARCH 21, 2007

corporation. Olsen is also active

While there was little dissent at

are set by nationality. state secrets privilege, which ar

Filipino vets

Continued from Page 1

Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, a Hawaii Democrat, this year reintroduced a bill to remedy the situation, allowing children of Filipino World War II veterans to sidestep the immigration waiting list.

"The promise back then was, 'Hey, you're going to become American citizens and you'll get full benefits.' After the war ended, for some reason, the U.S. canceled on that promise," said Jon Yoshimura, an Akaka spokesman.

The measure died last year when it was included in a large omnibus immigration bill that was derailed by disagreements over a border fence and making English the national language.

Akaka is optimistic the U.S. Senate will pass the reunification legislation this year, Yoshimura said. The Veterans Affairs Committee, which Akaka chairs, plans to hold hearings on the issue next month coinciding with the 65th anniversary of the Bataan Death March on April 9.

Pablo enlisted in the Philippine Scouts, a U.S. Army unit, after a recruiting truck drove through his hometown in the province of Ilocos Norte.

When the Imperial Japanese Army invaded on Dec. 8, 1941, he and his fellow soldiers dug trenches to fight against troops shooting at them from the jungle. He recalls hunkering down between the corpses of fallen comrades, using their bodies to shield himself from bullets.

sistance against Japanese troops after U.S. forces surrendered at Bataan and Gen. Douglas MacArthur withdrew to Australia uttering the famous phrase "I shall return."

Belinda Aquino, a University of Hawaii political science professor, said the U.S. "dumped" Filipino veterans after World War II. Their cause then struggled in the postwar years as the U.S. focused on fighting communism.

"The Philippines was just not an important priority for the U.S.," she said.

Pablo could live in the Philippines near his children. But he prefers to live in the United States where he can access the medical care he needs at veterans' hospitals.

He still takes medicine and receives therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder. The war memories from six decades ago still haunt him today.

"When he gets nightmares, he's shaking. He's saying 'Can you cover my face? They are coming,'" said his wife Fely Pablo. "He says 'The Japanese are coming!'"

Veterans and their backers say the need to reunite divided families only grows more urgent given the advancing age of the veterans.

There are as many as over 50,000 Filipino veterans of World War II alive today. Some 10,000 are said to live in the United States, including 2,000 in Hawaii.



RELIC — This photo provided by the family shows Manuel Pablo, center row right, in a U.S. Army platoon photograph dated October 1945. Pablo, who was in his mid 20s in this photo, served the U.S. military during World War II in the Philippines.

(AP Photo)

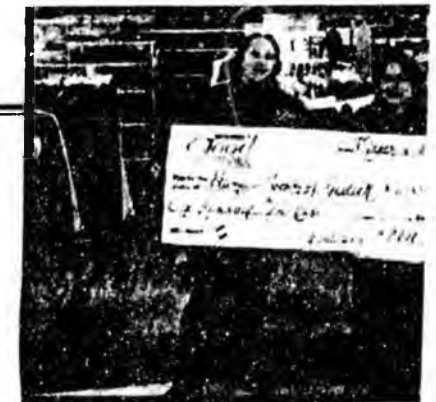
Abelina Madrid Shaw, a Honolulu attorney and an advocate for Filipino veterans, said lawmakers and the media seem to be paying more attention to the issue lately, perhaps because the U.S. is again

"One cannot help but think, if they're treating our Filipino veterans this way, are they going to be treating those who go to war today like that?" Shaw said. "That's pretty shabby."

Notice of Work

Kodiak Electric Association Inc. will be working on system improvements in the Spruce area between Benny Benson : Sewer Treatment Plant through of March. There will be interruptions in this area as we continue to improve the system. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your keeping our crews safe.

For further information, please contact
Mike Williams, 480



Wal-Mart manager Carolyn a generous check for \$1,000 Daquilinea, the shelter manager third year that the Animal Shelter recipient of a Wal-Mart Foundation Humane Society of appreciates their ongoing

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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Representative Gabrielle LeDoux

MEMO

TO: HOUSE MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN, CHAIR

FROM: REPRESENTATIVE GABRIELLE LEDOUX *Gabrielle LeDoux*

SUBJECT: HEARING REQUEST FOR HJR 15 *Gabrielle*
SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF A FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY ACT AND A
FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACT

DATE: 4/3/07

I respectfully request that HJR 15 be scheduled for a hearing in the House State Affairs Committee pending referral on April 10th or 12th. April 9th marks the 65th Anniversary of the Bataan Death March.

Attached you will find:

- HJR 15
- Sponsor statement
- News Articles
 - Washington Post, "Hope for Amends to Filipino Immigrants"
 - Kodiak Daily Mirror, "Aging Filipino WWII Vets Forced to Live Apart From Families"

My staff member assigned to this legislation is Christine R. Marasigan at 465-8872.