



# NEWS RELEASE

February 16, 2010

## **FINAL DAY for WWII Veterans to Apply for One-Time Benefit**

All claims from Filipino WWII veterans for benefits created by the 2009 Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 must be **received** by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) by **TODAY, February 16, 2010**.

Eligible veterans who are not United States citizens will receive a one-time payment of \$9,000. Eligible veterans who are United States citizens will receive a one-time payment of \$15,000. These one-time payments were made available when the ARRA was passed by the U.S. Congress and signed by President Obama in February 2009 to recognize the service of qualified veterans.

The one-time benefits are available to eligible veterans and widows of eligible veterans who applied before their death. Any change in the law to provide these additional benefits to other survivors would require new legislation in the U.S. Congress. Every application is handled expeditiously so that qualified veterans receive their payments as quickly as possible.

As of January 31, 2010 USDVA has approved the applications of 12,417 eligible Filipino WWII veterans or their widows; these qualified veterans and widows have been paid a total of nearly P7.1 billion.

Approximately half of the nearly P7.1 billion in one-time benefits paid out so far has gone to Filipino WWII veterans with American citizenship, and the other half to non-U.S. citizen Filipino WW II veterans.

Veterans who have already applied for this one-time benefit will receive an acknowledgement receipt from USDVA. There is no need to submit multiple applications, nor any need to obtain additional military service information unless requested by USDVA.

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