

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948, April 09, 1990]

**AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR
MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS**

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

**Title I
PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS**

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to help foster the socioeconomic security and general well-being of the country's veterans in recognition of their patriotic services in times of war and peace for the cause of freedom and democracy; for the attainment of national unity, independence, and socioeconomic advancement; and for the maintenance of peace and order, in keeping with the goals of the Government and the aspirations of the people.

SEC. 2. *Definitions.* - For the purpose of and when used in this Act, the following terms shall be construed in the sense indicated unless the context of a particular provision clearly indicates that a different sense is intended:

- a. *Veteran* - any person who rendered military service in the land, sea or air forces of the Philippines during the revolution against Spain, the Philippine-American War, World War II, including Filipino citizens who served in Allied Forces in the Philippine territory and foreign nationals who served in Philippine forces, the Korean Campaign, the Vietnam Campaign, the Anti-Dissidence Campaign, or other wars and military campaigns; or who rendered military service in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and has been honorably discharged or separated after at least six (6) years total cumulative active service, or sooner separated due to death or disability arising from a wound or injury received or sickness or disease incurred in line of duty while in the active service;
- b. *Military Personnel* - officers, enlisted personnel, draftees and trainees in the active service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;
- c. *Officer* - any person holding a commission in the regular or reserve components of the Armed Forces, or probationary officer, or cadet of the Philippine Military Academy or of the flying or naval schools of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;
- d. *Enlisted Person* - any person enlisted in the Armed Forces;
- e. *Draftee* - any person who, upon completion of trainee service, is drafted into selective emergency military service for eighteen (18) months or more;

- f. *Trainee* - any person who, after reaching twenty (20) years of age, is conscripted into the Armed Forces for military training;
- g. *Active Service* - any active duty in the regular or reserve components of the Armed Forces;
- h. *Overseas Service* - includes any period of military service commencing from the date of departure from the Philippines for service in foreign territory and terminating upon the date of return to Philippine soil;
 - (i) *Dependent* - any spouse, child or parent who is wholly under the care and support of the veteran;
- i. *Surviving Spouse* - the lawful widow or widower of the deceased veteran, or the innocent spouse if he or she was legally separated by final judicial decree from the deceased;
- j. *Children* - includes any child entitled to support from the veteran under existing laws;
- k. *Minor Children* - those who are below eighteen (18) years of age;
- l. *Incompetent* - describes the state of legal, physical or mental incapacity which makes one wholly dependent upon another for care and support;
- m. *Parents* - includes, in the absence of parents by nature, a father or mother by adoption and, in the absence of a legal parent, any person who stood in *loco parentis* to the veteran at least one (1) year prior to his entry into the active service;
- n. *Indigent Parents* - those whose aggregate income from all sources is deemed inadequate for daily sustenance or places them in the class of those below the poverty line, as determined by the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office based on official figures released by the appropriate government agency;
- o. *Political Prisoner* - a person who, for acts punishable for public rather than for private reasons which were directed against the welfare, safety and security of the enemy occupation forces during World War II in connection with underground activities or the resistance movement, was imprisoned, maltreated and killed, or died in prison due to ailment or injury; and
- p. *Administrator* - the head of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office.

Title II
VETERAN'S BENEFITS
PART A. EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

SEC. 3. *Eligibility.* - A veteran of the Philippine Army or of any recognized or deserving guerrilla organization who took active participation in the resistance movement and/or in the liberation drive against the enemy during World War II, or of the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea, or of the Philippine Civic Action Group or Philippine Contingent in Vietnam, who has never heretofore enjoyed educational benefit under Philippine law nor under United States law, who desires to study; or one (1) child of a veteran in whose favor he renounces such right; or the surviving spouse or a child of a deceased veteran in whose favor the same is applied for by the surviving spouse, or legal guardian; shall, upon certification of the Administrator, be admitted to any school, college, university or institution authorized by the Government, with all school fees, including tuition, matriculation, athletic, library, laboratory, medical, military training, diploma and graduation fees, at the

expense of the Government, subject to the rules and conditions promulgated by the Administrator.

PART B. DISABILITY PENSION

SEC. 4. *Eligibility.* - The disability pension as provided for in this Act shall apply to any veteran who was in the service of the Philippine Army or guerrilla forces between the eighth of December, Nineteen hundred and forty-one and the third of July, Nineteen hundred and forty-six; of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Constabulary who was in the active service on and after the fourth of July, Nineteen hundred and forty-six; of the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea who was in the service overseas between the fifteenth of September, Nineteen hundred and fifty and the thirty-first of May, Nineteen hundred and fifty-five; and of the Philippine Civic Action Group or Philippine Contingent in Vietnam who was in the service overseas between the thirty-first of August, Nineteen hundred and sixty-four and the twentieth of December, Nineteen hundred and sixty-nine.

SEC. 5. *Pension Rates.* - A veteran who is disabled owing to sickness, disease, wounds, or injuries sustained in line of duty shall be given monthly pension in accordance with the rates prescribed hereunder, unless he is actually receiving a similar pension for the same disability from other government funds or from the United States Government:

- a. If and while the disability is rated anywhere from ten to thirty *per centum* (10% - 30%), the monthly pension shall be Six hundred pesos (P600.00),
- b. If and while the disability is rated forty *per centum* (40%), the monthly pension shall be Six hundred seventy-five pesos (P675.00);
- c. If and while the disability is rated fifty *per centum* (50%), the monthly pension shall be Seven hundred fifty pesos (P750.00);
- d. If and while the disability is rated sixty *per centum* (60%), the monthly pension shall be Eight hundred twenty-five pesos (P825.00);
- e. If and while the disability is rated seventy *per centum* (70%), the monthly pension shall be Nine hundred pesos (P900.00);
- f. If and while the disability is rated eighty *per centum* (80%), the monthly pension shall be Nine hundred seventy-five pesos (P975 . 00);
- g. If and while the disability is rated ninety *per centum* (90%), the monthly pension shall be One thousand fifty pesos (P1,050.00), and
- h. If and while the disability is total or rated one hundred *per centum* (100%), the monthly pension shall be One thousand one hundred twenty-five pesos (P1, 125.00) plus One hundred fifty pesos (P150.00) each for the spouse and unmarried minor children.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity of Pension.* - The date of effectivity of the pension that may be awarded to an applicant will be based on the conditions specified hereunder:

- a. As regards officers and enlisted personnel of the Philippine Army and guerrilla organizations of World War II, on the day the application is received but in no case earlier than the date of the approval of this Act; and
- b. As regards all other veterans:

1. On the date immediately following the date of discharge if the application was filed within one (1) year after the veteran's separation from the service; or
2. On the day the application was received if the application was filed beyond one (1) year after the veteran's separation from the service.

SEC. 7. *Re-evaluation.* - Periodic re-evaluation or redetermination of a veteran's disability, in appropriate cases, shall be the responsibility of the Disability Rating Board of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office. The AFP Medical Center and the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, upon request by the Board, shall make available the clinical records, disability work sheets and other pertinent papers and documents and shall conduct x-ray, laboratory test, and other examinations on the veteran concerned. Such medical examinations and tests may also be undertaken by any other government hospital nearest the residence of the veteran concerned, upon request by the Board. The Board shall formulate the procedures necessary to carry out its re-evaluation or redetermination activities.

SEC. 8. *Exemption.* - A disabled veteran shall be exempted from periodic examination and re-rating in the following cases:

- a. When the disability is considered as static;
- b. When the disability is permanent in nature or of such character that there is no likelihood of improvement; or
- c. When the veteran is already fifty-seven (57) years of age or over.

PART C. PENSION FOR VETERANS OF THE REVOLUTION

SEC. 9. *Eligibility.* - Any veteran who served in the Philippine Revolution and the Philippine-American War any time during the period between the twenty-third of August, Eighteen hundred and ninety-six, and the sixth of May, Nineteen hundred and two, shall be entitled to it monthly pension of Six hundred pesos (P600.00) plus One hundred fifty pesos (P150.00) each for his spouse and unmarried minor children.

PART D. OLD-AGE PENSION

SEC. 10. *Eligibility.* - A veteran who is at least sixty-five (65) years old shall be paid an old-age pension of Five hundred pesos (P500.00) monthly unless he is actually receiving a similar pension for the same consideration from other government funds or from the United States Government.

SEC. 11. *Entitlement of Surviving Spouse.* - The surviving spouse of a veteran who died after having received old-age pension shall be paid a pension of Five hundred pesos (P500.00) monthly until she remarries or dies, and the surviving spouse of a veteran who died without having received old-age pension shall, if she does not remarry, be paid a pension of Five hundred pesos (P500.00) monthly when she reaches the age of sixty-five (65) and until she remarries or dies, unless she is actually receiving a similar pension for the same consideration from other government funds or from the United States Government.

PART E. DEATH PENSION

SEC. 12. *Eligibility.* - For the death of a veteran in line of duty or at any time after honorable discharge or separation from the service as a result of wounds or injury