

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 215, September 04, 1995]

CONSTITUTING A NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY DAY IN NEGROS ISLAND ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1995

WHEREAS, September 9, 1995 marks the 50th Anniversary of Victory Day in Negros Island during World War II with the surrender of estimated 12,000 enemy soldiers under General Takaise Kono at Sta. Rosa, Murcia;

WHEREAS, it took the combined efforts of the American Forces, the 7MD Guerilla Forces, the Free Civil Government of Negros and the majority of the civilian population to successfully liberate the Island;

WHEREAS, the Battle of Patag, in Silay City, which preceded the surrender of General Kono's outfit may be regarded as the last battle of World War II in the Pacific, considering that the entire Japanese Imperial Forces surrendered formally to Gen. Douglas MacArthur aboard the USS Missouri on September 2, 1945 while the Battle at Patag was still raging;

WHEREAS, this event should be appropriately observed to promote, preserve and memorialize the principles, ideals and deeds of Filipino military veterans as a means of enhancing patriotism and love of country, especially among the youth of the land;

WHEREAS, the commemoration of this event should be focused on the values of freedom and lasting peace for which Filipino war veterans fought valiantly, many of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice;

WHEREAS, there is a need to coordinate all activities that are envisioned to foster nationalism among Filipinos, particularly with that of the National Centennial Commission, which was created pursuant to E.O. 128 dated October 4, 1993, to act as the principal coordinator for all activities related to the Centennial Celebrations of Philippine Independence;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Creation of a National Executive Committee. - There is hereby constituted a National Executive Committee on the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Victory Day in Negros Island, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, to be composed of the following:

- (1) The Secretary of National Defense, as Chairman;
- (2) The Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, as Vice-Chairman;
- (3) The Secretary of Tourism
- (4) The Secretary of Foreign Affairs;