

[Commonwealth Act No. 675, July 24, 1945]

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF DECEASED FILIPINO MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, UNITED STATES NAVY. PHILIPPINE SCOUTS, PHILIPPINE ARMY, INCLUDING DULY RECOGNIZED GUERRILLA ORGANIZATIONS, AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS, AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY.

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

SECTION 1. Arrears in pay and allowances under the laws of the United States of deceased Filipinos who were members of the United States Army, the United States Navy, the Philippine Scouts, or of the Philippine Army, including duly recognized guerrilla organizations, and civilian employees of the War and Navy Departments or of other executive departments and independent establishments of the United States Government and of the Philippine Army, who were domiciled in the Philippines at the time of their death, shall be administered by the Judge Advocate General of the Philippine Army or his duly authorized representatives.

The term "arrears in pay and allowances" shall be understood to mean the salaries, quarter allowances, bonuses, and other cash allowance to which the deceased might have been lawfully entitled.

SEC. 2. For the purpose of this Act, provincial and city fiscals, except fiscals of the City of Manila, and justices of the peace for their respective provinces, cities, or municipality, are hereby designated as ex-officio representatives of the Judge Advocate General and shall, without any additional compensation, render such assistance in the administration of this Act as may be required by the Judge Advocate General: Provided, however, That the Judge Advocate General may appoint such other representatives as he may deem necessary from time to time.

SEC. 3. The Judge Advocate General or his representative shall thereupon proceed immediately to ascertain by the best means within his power the names and residence of the persons who are lawfully entitled to the arrears in pay and allowances referred to in this Act, and shall summarily distribute the same to said legal heirs in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Code regarding succession.

SEC. 4. In the case of legal heirs who are minors or incompetents, the Judge Advocate General is hereby empowered to name the best qualified guardian for the said heirs, who shall discharge his duties as such in accordance with the instructions and orders of the Judge Advocate General: Provided, however, That the widow, and in case of her inability, the oldest child, if of age, shall be given the preference in the appointment of such guardian: Provided, further, That before a guardian appointed hereunder enters upon the execution of his trust, he may be required to give a bond, in such sum as the Judge Advocate General directs, and under such conditions as he may prescribe.

SEC. 5. The Judge Advocate General and/or his representatives are hereby