

SECTION BY SECTION

Purpose: To award the Congressional Gold Medal to Filipino veterans of World War II in recognition of their dedicated service and contributions to the defeat of the Imperial Japanese Army.

SECTION 1: SHORT TITLE

“Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015.”

SECTION 2: FINDINGS

Provides compelling justifications to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Filipino World War II veterans. Includes a historical account of the dedicated service of Filipino and Filipino American servicemen and service women during World War II. Provides recognition to these veterans, who answered the call to arms from President Roosevelt’s July 26, 1941 order, for their courage, bravery, and valor, as they served under the command of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East.

Filipinos who fought in the Philippines not only defended their nation but also defended and ultimately liberated sovereign territory held by the United States government. The findings also includes the formation and contributions of the Philippine Commonwealth Army, the Philippine Scouts, the Philippine Constabulary, Recognized Guerrilla units, the New Philippine Scouts, the First and Second Filipino Infantry Regiments, and other United States military officers and enlisted soldiers, who commanded and served in the above described units, as well as the contributions of the guerrilla armies after the fall of Bataan and Corregidor.

SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS

The term “Filipino Veterans of World War II” applies to anyone who served:

(1) honorably at any time during the period beginning July 26, 1941, and ending December 31, 1946, and in one of the following units:

(2) in an active-duty status under the command of the United States Armed Forces in Far East; and

(3a) within the Philippine Commonwealth Army, the Philippine Scouts, the Philippine Constabulary, recognized guerrilla units, the New Philippine Scouts, the First and Second Filipino Infantry Regiments or the First Reconnaissance Battalion;
or

(3b) other United States military officers and enlisted soldiers, who commanded and served in the units described in Section 3(a).

SECTION 4: CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

(a) Authorizes the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate to make the appropriate arrangements for the award on behalf of the Congress of a single gold medal to the Filipino Veterans of World War II, collectively in recognition of their dedicated service during the war.

(b) Authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to determine and strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devise, and inscriptions.

(c) Authorizes the Smithsonian Institution to serve as the depository for the Congressional Gold Medal for the Filipino Veterans of World War II, where it is to be displayed and made available for research.

(d1) **DUPLICATE MEDALS** Authorizes the Secretary to strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(d2) **Sale of Duplicate Medals** – Amounts received from the sale of duplicate medals shall be deposited in the U.S. Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SECTION 5: STATUS OF MEDALS

All medals struck pursuant to this Act are considered national medals and numismatic items.