



NFALA

NATIONAL FILIPINO AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

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NFALA WELCOMES FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS PAROLE PROGRAM

Program allows family members to reunite with Filipino World War II veterans prior to issuance of immigrant visas

Chicago, IL, June 27, 2016 - The National Filipino American Lawyers Association (NFALA) applauds the recently implemented Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), which will allow for the reunification of family members with our aging Filipino World War II veterans. The parole program honors the service of Filipino veterans who fought valiantly for the United States during World War II.

Officially implemented on June 8, the parole program affords family members who are awaiting family-based immigrant visas the opportunity to receive a discretionary grant of parole to enter the United States before their visa becomes available. Filipino family members waiting for family-based visas can sometimes wait over 20 years due to visa backlogs.

Over 250,000 Filipino soldiers answered President Franklin D. Roosevelt's call in 1941 to fight for the U.S. during World War II. Today, some advocates estimate less than 15,000 veterans remain, and those veterans still with us are rapidly aging. The parole program will allow family members to spend time with and care for their veteran family member or his or her spouse.

"Filipino veterans admirably fought and sacrificed alongside U.S. troops during World War II, but many have not yet been fully recognized for their contributions," said NFALA President, Rudy Figueroa. "This is a victory for the Filipino American community and another step towards full recognition of our *veteranos*."

NFALA thanks President Obama for his continued leadership in recognizing the heroic contributions of our World War II veterans.

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The National Filipino American Lawyers Association (NFALA) is a national association of Filipino-American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students dedicated to promoting the professional development, interests, and success of Filipino-American legal professionals nationwide. NFALA represents over 1,000 attorneys and various state and local Filipino-American bar associations. NFALA is the voice for the national Filipino-American legal community and strives to fight for equal opportunity and the rights of underserved minority groups.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Mark J. Calaguas, Vice President of Communications at nfalainfo@gmail.com.