



October 3, 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) is a coalition of 35 national Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander organizations, and we respectfully urge you to schedule floor consideration of the **Filipino Veterans of WWII Congressional Gold Medal Act (S. 1555)** when the House of Representatives reconvenes next month.

The Senate unanimously passed the Filipino Veterans of WWII Congressional Gold Medal Act on July 13, 2016, and since then, the House companion legislation (H.R. 2737) has gained tremendous bipartisan support—305 cosponsors, which is more than the informal requirement of two-thirds of the House for Congressional Gold Medal bills. This bill also is supported by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA).

More than 250,000 Filipino soldiers fought under U.S. command in World War II—and more than 57,000 Filipino WWII veterans were killed in action during the four-year battle to defend, then liberate the Philippines, which was then a sovereign U.S. Territory. These courageous efforts were central to Allied victory in the Philippines and in the Pacific theater, and their sacrifices and loyal service should be appropriately recognized.

In 2009, you cosponsored legislation that awarded a Congressional Gold Medal to the Japanese American Nisei Soldiers. We thank you for your support then and ask that you now honor Filipino World War II veterans, the last remaining group of World War II veterans that have yet to be recognized by Congress.

October is Filipino American History Month, and there could be no more appropriate time to announce the House's consideration of this truly meaningful legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Kang
National Director