

### Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS First Regular Session

House Bill No. 270

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by Representative GERALDINE B. ROMAN

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

R.A. No. 6948 entitled "An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the Benefits for Military Veterans and Their Dependents" was enacted to provide for an updated benefits system for our war veterans. In 1994, R.A. No. 6948 was amended by RA No. 7696 and increased the pension benefits by Five Hundred Pesos (P500) per year until it reaches Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000). However the current pension of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000), enacted almost 21 years ago, is clearly not enough to meet the basic necessities for decent living. The proposal would increase the old age pension to Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000) to augment their resources in order that the veterans may live decently and with dignity.

Our veterans have sacrificed much for our country. They invested blood, sweat, and tears and in return, it is only fitting that we repay their service by taking care of them in their old age. People who have dedicated their lives in the service of the country should, at the very least, be able to live out the rest of their days comfortably without worrying about their basic needs. Sad to say that at present, our veterans face a new challenge – the hardships of old age along with meager resources that they must stretch in order to survive. We must recompense them in a manner more fitting to what they have given.

The proposed increase of benefits for our veterans is a way to show the nation's grateful appreciation of their bravery, service, and sacrifice. By giving due importance to what they have done in the past, we show citizens, especially the youth, what the nation values – the traits of heroism, love of country, and patriotism.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

GERALDINE B. ROMAN



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# AN ACT INCREASING THE MONTHLY PENSION OF SENIOR VETERANS THEREBY AMENDING RA 6948, AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. The Old Age Pension of veterans of World War II, Korean and Vietnam Wars shall be increased to Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) per month, provided, that the veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars are not receiving pension from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

- SEC. 2. Repealing Clause. RA 6948 as amended and all other laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
- SEC. 3. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,