



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hirono & Gabbard Announce Presentation of Congressional Gold Medal to Filipino World War II Veterans Scheduled for October 25

*Congressional Gold Medal Presentation Ceremony in U.S. Capitol
Follows Hirono & Gabbard Bill to Honor Filipino World War II
Veterans*

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Senator Mazie K. Hirono and Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard announced that Congress will honor Filipino World War II veterans with its highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, at a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol on October 25. The ceremony is a result of Senator Hirono and Congresswoman Gabbard's bill to honor the over 260,000 Filipino and Filipino-American soldiers who fought in the Pacific Theater.

"The presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to our Filipino World War II veterans is the culmination of decades of work to honor these veterans for their service to our country," **said Senator Mazie K. Hirono**. "These veterans and their families overcame many challenges in their fight for compensation, family reunification, and verification of wartime service. I look forward to participating in the ceremony to provide this long overdue recognition next month."

"The United States is indebted to the service, bravery, and perseverance of Filipino veterans of World War II. Their sacrifices were left untold in the United States for decades, as they fought for recognition by the country they served," **said Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard**. "I am proud that we can correct the record today, and finally honor the service and sacrifice of these heroes and their families, and ensure they are never forgotten."

The ceremony will take place on October 25 at 11:00 a.m. EST in Emancipation Hall and will be live-streamed on speaker.gov/live. Filipino World War II veterans and their families who are interested in participating in the ceremony and receiving a bronze replica medal should register through the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project at www.filvetrep.org/registry.

House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) will take part in the bipartisan, bicameral ceremony.

Senator Hirono and Congresswoman Gabbard's law, the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act (Public Law 114-265), was signed into law by President Obama and awarded the medal collectively to the over 260,000 Filipino and Filipino-American soldiers who responded to President Roosevelt's call-to-duty and fought under the American flag during World War II.

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THE FILIPINO VETERANS RECOGNITION AND EDUCATION PROJECT

FILIPINO VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II CGM ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION AND THE NATIONAL VETERANS REGISTRY

WHAT IS THE “FILIPINO VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II NATIONAL VETERANS REGISTRY?”

The Filipino Veterans of World War II National Veterans Registry (the “Veterans Registry”) is a database of Filipino and American veterans of World War II (the “Filipino Veterans of World War II”) who qualify collectively as awardees of the United States Congressional Gold Medal (“CGM Awardees”) under the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015, Public Law 114-265, 130 Stat. 1376 (114th Cong.) (the “CGM Act”).

Section 3 of the CGM Act defines “Filipino Veterans of World War II” as follows:

- (a) the term “Filipino Veterans of World War II” includes any individual who served—
 - (1) honorably at any time during the period beginning on July 26, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946;
 - (2) in an active-duty status under the command of the United States Armed Forces in the Far East; and
 - (3)(A) within the Philippine Commonwealth Army, the Philippine Scouts, the Philippine Constabulary, Recognized Guerrilla units, the New Philippine Scouts, the First Filipino Infantry Regiment, the Second Filipino Infantry Battalion, or the First Reconnaissance Battalion; or (B) commanding or serving in a unit described in paragraph (3)(A) as a United States military officer or enlisted soldier;

Traditionally, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives formally presents a single gold medal to the CGM awardees on an agreed-upon date which, at this time, is anticipated to occur between October and November 2017 (the “Official Presentation”). The Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project (“FilVetREP”)—the proponent of the CGM legislation and the recognized national point-of-contact (“POC”) for the CGM and CGM-related activities—is also planning on holding a national celebration in Washington, D.C., honoring the Filipino Veterans of World War II (the “National Celebration”) in conjunction with the Official Presentation. During the National Celebration, FilVetREP also plans to present framed copies of the CGM Act and bronze replicas of the CGM to Filipino Veterans of World War II or their next-of-kin whose eligibility under the CGM Act has been determined and confirmed by the “Eligibility Committee” designated by FilVetREP.

HOW IS ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CGM AWARD DETERMINED?

As both the proponent of the CGM legislation and the CGM POC, FilVetREP has created an eligibility committee (the “Eligibility Committee”) which is tasked with the responsibility of reviewing and vetting potential CGM Awardees under the CGM Act (the “Eligibility Process”). The Eligibility Process requires the potential CGM Awardee (if the potential CGM Awardee is living) or the potential CGM Awardee’s next-of-kin (if the potential CGM Awardee is deceased) to fill out and submit to the Eligibility Committee



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a Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Application (the “CGM Application”). For a copy of the CGM Application and specific instructions on how to fill out the CGM Application, please refer to “Instructions for the Application” available on the FilVetREP website under the “Registry” page, “Application” tab (<https://www.filvetrep.org/copy-of-cgm-eligibility>). *You will need to download and print the CGM Application and submit it to the appropriate regional director.*

The Eligibility Committee is composed of regional directors, each of whom is responsible for determining CGM eligibility for Filipino Veterans of World War II (or their next-of-kin) residing within their assigned regions. Currently, there are twelve (12) such regions. The regional director assigned to the region in which the CGM applicant resides examines the CGM Application and determines whether the CGM applicant is eligible as a “Filipino Veteran of World War II” under the CGM Act. Once CGM eligibility is confirmed, the name of the Filipino Veteran of World War II or his/her next-of-kin and all related information are entered into, and become part of, the National Veterans Registry. The National Veterans Registry is owned and managed by FilVetREP. FilVetREP considers the National Veterans Registry to be confidential and proprietary, only to be used in connection with the CGM and CGM-related activities.

NOTE: THE FILIPINO VETERAN OF WORLD WAR II OR HIS/HER NEXT-OF-KIN (IF DECEASED) MUST SUBMIT A CGM APPLICATION TO HIS/HER ASSIGNED REGION IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A DETERMINATION OR CONFIRMATION OF HIS/HER ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE CGM ACT, AND TO RECEIVE A FRAMED COPY OF THE CGM ACT AND A BRONZE REPLICA OF THE CGM, WHERE POSSIBLE. THE NATIONAL VETERANS REGISTRY WILL SERVE AS THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF CONFIRMED CGM AWARDEES, AND WILL BE KEPT AND MAINTAINED BY FILVETREP FOR HISTORICAL AND OTHER CGM-RELATED PURPOSES.

HOW WOULD I KNOW IF MY ELIGIBILITY AS A CGM AWARDEE HAS BEEN DETERMINED AND CONFIRMED BY FILVETREP?

Once you submit your CGM Application, the director assigned to your region will review the information that you submitted and will determine your eligibility under the CGM Act. In the event the regional director needs more information or documentation to support your claim for eligibility, he/she will contact you and work with you to address any deficiencies in the CGM Application. Once the regional director completes his/her review, he/she will inform you orally or in writing whether your eligibility under the CGM Act has been confirmed.

HOW WILL FILVETREP PRESENT CGM REPLICAS?

As explained elsewhere on this website, FilVetREP plans to purchase bronze replicas of the CGM for distribution to as many eligible CGM Awardees as possible. Because bronze replicas of the CGM are costly and are funded by donations from the public, FilVetREP is presently unable to determine with specificity the total number of bronze replicas that it will be in a position to purchase and present to



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eligible CGM Awardees at the National Celebration. However, FilVetREP has determined the following order of priority for bronze replicas:

First Priority – Living Filipino Veterans of World War II who are residing in the United States.

Second Priority – Closest survivors (next-of-kin) of deceased Filipino Veterans of World War II who are residing in the United States.

Third Priority – Living Filipino Veterans of World War II and next-of-kin of deceased Filipino Veterans of World War II who are residing outside the United States (*e.g.*, the Philippines).

WHOM SHOULD WE CONTACT IF WE HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

Please carefully read this document and review the information posted on our website under the “Registry” page (<https://www.filvetrep.org/copy-of-cgm-eligibility>) to fill out your CGM Application and submit it to the appropriate regional director. If you need additional information or have any questions, please direct them to the director assigned to your region. The email addresses of the regional directors are posted on our website under the “Registry” page.



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Media Release
For Immediate Release
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Congressional Gold Medal Updates and Activities Mark 76th Anniversary of Filipino WWII Veterans' "Duty to Country"

*FilVetREP announces events and updates commemorating "Call to Service"
leading up to National Awards Ceremony in Washington, DC*

Washington, DC. The Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project (FilVetREP) is commemorating July 26th as the anniversary of President Franklin Roosevelt's Military Order 81 for Filipino soldiers in World War II by announcing national activities and updates for the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal, including plans for a National Celebration in Washington, DC.

"Today, we take this opportunity to remember the insurmountable sacrifices these courageous soldiers made for our country and rededicate ourselves to making sure a grateful nation appropriately recognizes their service," said FilVetREP National Chair, retired U.S. Army Major General Antonio M. Taguba. "We echo President Roosevelt's Call to Service for the Filipino soldiers of WWII and call on our communities across the Nation to the unfinished work of recognizing their Duty to Country."

"Recognizing Filipino World War II veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal is long overdue," said Senator Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii). "This announcement brings us closer to honoring thousands of veterans and their families for their service to the United States. As we mark 76 years since President Roosevelt's call-to-arms, which inspired many of these veterans to volunteer to serve our country, I will continue to work with FilVetREP to see this effort through."

National Updates

This week, FilVetREP leadership has made significant progress in moving forward to a final Congressional Gold Medal and National Presentation:

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On July 24, FilVetREP Leadership met with House Speaker Paul Ryan's (R-WI) senior staff to discuss plans for the official National Presentation ceremony of the Congressional Gold Medal. Working with Senate and House offices, FilVetREP is engaging in the planning process and will be making announcements in the coming weeks on dates, location, and logistics.

On July 25, General Taguba sent an official [letter](#) to the U.S. Mint making a formal request for the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal including a preferred design for the obverse and reverse (front and back) of the medal. As the officially designated National Liaison to the U.S. Mint for the Filipino WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal, General Taguba and FilVetREP leadership have been providing historical background and feedback to the U.S. Mint in a months long process for the design of the Congressional Gold Medal. The final Congressional Gold Medal design will be selected by the Department of the Treasury.

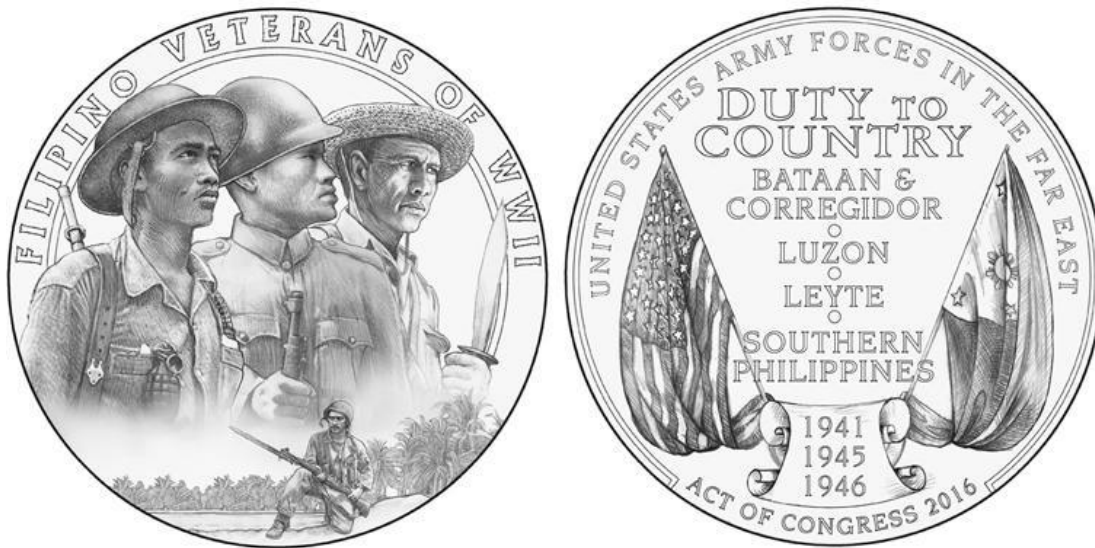


Photo caption: From L-R, the preferred designs of the obverse (front) and reverse (back) as approved by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts. The Department of the Treasury makes the final approval.

To mark today's anniversary of President Roosevelt's Call to Service, FilVetREP leadership is taking part in activities around the country to commemorate today's "Duty to Country" (List of events in formation):

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- July 20, 2017- Filipino Young Professionals and NaFFAA Region 2 Fundraiser, Washington, DC https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=112372592718387&ref=br_rs
- July 21, 2017- FANHS- TX Issues #BalutChallenge4Vets https://www.facebook.com/FilVetREP/videos/1726447400729184/?hc_ref=ARTSh8kIP38z3-Vz8SfATdMdqXPSHPTCXj3RgTIUSbHtKSUHzbUffqjWjC7Fny614hl
- July 22, 2017- Special Fundraiser in San Francisco by Genevieve Jopanda. <https://www.gofundme.com/FilVetREP>
- July 27, 2017- Summer Fun Fest Outreach for FilVetREP Region 6, Buckley AFB, Aurora, CO <https://www.facebook.com/BuckleyAirForceBase/posts/1508404585847051>
- July 29, 2017- NaFFAA Region 3A Empowerment Conference, Columbus, OH <https://www.facebook.com/events/1873099516234971>
- August 12, 2017- Pistahan Festival, San Francisco, CA <http://www.pistahan.net/>
- August 12, 2017- Fiesta in America, Secaucus, NJ <http://fiestainamerica.com/>
- Sept 30, 2017 – FAHNS – CA Fundraising Event <http://www.fahns-national.org/>

Ongoing work to raise funds for the work to properly recognize Filipino WWII veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal is happening around the country. Donations will support making sure veterans receive bronze replicas of the Congressional Gold Medal, programming and events in Washington, DC for the official Presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal, and to create and implement an education program to ensure an enduring legacy for the Filipino WWII veterans. Funds are being accepted on FilVetREP's web site: <https://www.filvetrep.org/donatetoday>

Historical Background On July 26, 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt issued a Military Order (6 Fed. Reg. 3825), directing all organized military units in the Commonwealth of the Philippines – Philippine Army, Philippine Scouts, Philippine Constabulary, and separate combat into service in defense of the United States. Eventually, 250,000 soldiers rallied and willingly served under the command of General Douglas MacArthur in the U.S. Army Forces in the Far East. These soldiers would serve under some of the most grueling and brutal conditions of the war, including the Bataan Death March.

About FilVetREP

The Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project (FilVetREP), is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, community-based, all-volunteer national initiative whose mission is to obtain national recognition of Filipino and American WWII soldiers across the United States and the Philippines for their wartime service to the U.S. and the Philippines from July 26, 1941 to December 31, 1946. For more information about Filipino WWII veterans and how to get involved, visit our website at www.filvetrep.org or find us on Facebook or Twitter.

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Frequently Asked Questions July 2017

1. Q: What is the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project?

A: The Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project (FilVetRep) is a nonpartisan, community-based, all-volunteer national initiative whose mission is to raise awareness through academic research and public information and obtain national recognition of Filipino and Filipino-American WWII Soldiers across the United States and Philippines for their wartime service to the U.S. and the Philippines from July 1941 to December 1946. The organization intends to incorporate as a non-stock, nonprofit charitable organization under applicable Virginia law. It also intends to seek 501(c)(3) tax exempt status as a public charity under applicable Federal law.

Led by Maj. Gen. Tony Taguba, FilVetREP has worked with members of Congress, federal agencies, policymakers, national advocates, and grassroots leaders from around the country and is seen as a leading voice advocating for Filipino WWII veterans and their families.

2. Q: How does the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project seek to accomplish its mission?

A: The Project will engage in public information, education, academic scholarship, community engagement, and fundraising to help achieve recognition for Filipino World War II Veterans.

On December 14, 2016, President Barack Obama signed the Filipino Veterans of WWII Congressional Gold Medal Act, into law, accomplishing a major legislative goal of FilVetREP. The Project's ongoing activities now focus on three priority tasks: fundraising to make sure that veterans and/or their surviving family members receive a replica of the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of their service; Documentation through the creation of a registry of veterans and/or their surviving family members; and the development and launch of an educational program with the Smithsonian Institution, educational and non-profit institutions, and community members to ensure the lasting legacy of these veterans and their impact on our country.



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The Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project is governed by a national organization consisting of a Board of Directors representing the 11 Regional Areas across the United States and Philippines, a Project Executive Committee headquartered in Washington, D.C. supporting the Board of Directors, numerous Veterans support and community organizations representing Veterans and survivors impacted by the Project, and sponsors and donors supporting the Project.

The Chairman of the Board for the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project is Major General Antonio M. Taguba, U.S. Army Retired. He is the second Filipino American general in the U.S. Army to achieve this high rank in the United States Armed Forces. Information about FilVetREP, its leadership, and its programs is available on the organizational web site: www.filvetrep.org.

3. Q: What is the Filipino World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal (CGM)?

A: The Congressional Gold Medal is an award bestowed by the U.S. Congress. The Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom are the highest civilian awards in the United States. On December 2017, it granted this award to Filipino Veterans of World War II.

Enacted as Public Law 114-265, the “Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015” awards a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Filipino veterans, in recognition of their service to the United States during World War II.

These veterans now join other military units that overcame discrimination and other challenges to serve honorably in WWII and that have received the Congressional Gold Medal, including: the Tuskegee Airmen, the Nisei Japanese American veterans, the Borinqueneers, the Women's Air Service Pilots, and more. Past Congressional Gold Medals for these [recipients](#) can be seen on the web site for the U.S. Mint. at mint.gov: <https://www.usmint.gov/learn/coin-and-medal-programs/medals>.

4. Q: Does the CGM include monetary or other benefits?

A: No. This award only grants recognition. It does not include any form of monetary compensation or other benefits. The only appropriation mandated by this law is for the minting of the Congressional Gold Medal.

5. Q: Who is eligible to receive this award?

A: Filipino and American veterans who served:



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- Honorably at any time from July 26, 1941, to December 31, 1946;
- In an active-duty status under the command of the U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (USAFPE); and
- Within the Philippine Commonwealth Army, the Philippine Scouts, the Philippine Constabulary, Recognized Guerrilla units, the New Philippine Scouts, the First Filipino Infantry Regiment, the Second Filipino Infantry Battalion (Separate), or the First Reconnaissance Battalion; or
- Commanding or serving in such a unit as a U.S. military officer or enlisted soldier.

6. Q: Will each eligible veteran receive a Congressional Gold Medal?

A: Only one Congressional Gold Medal will be minted and housed in the Smithsonian and/or a comparable national museum of repute. The Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project (FilVetREP), the proponent of the Congressional Gold Medal, is raising funds to purchase bronze replicas of the Medal for each eligible veteran. TO BE CLEAR, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL ONLY PAY FOR THE DESIGN AND MINTING OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL. ANY OTHER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL, FOR EXAMPLE, THE PURCHASE OF BRONZE REPLICAS, ARE BEYOND THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE FILIPINO VETERANS RECOGNITION AND EDUCATION PROJECT IS ENGAGED IN FUNDRAISING EFFORTS. AND IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE NEED YOUR INVALUABLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

7. Q: Are veterans who are deceased eligible to receive the CGM?

A: Yes, the closest surviving relative of the eligible deceased veteran may receive the CGM on behalf of the veteran.

8. Q: Are veterans expected to pay for a bronze replica of the CGM?

A: The current plan is for FilVetREP to purchase bronze replicas of the Medal for eligible veterans through public and private donations. Every attempt will be made by FilVetREP to ensure that eligible veterans will not have to pay for their bronze Medals.

9. Q: How do I go about applying for this award?

A: Go to filvetrep.org and fill out the CGM application form. It includes instructions, including where to send completed forms.



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10.Q. What kind of information is required to qualify for the CGM?

A: The veteran's Military Service Number, Date of Birth, Branch of Service and Unit, Date and Location of Service and current address. **DO NOT SEND ANY ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.** This and other relevant information will be used by FilVetREP's "eligibility committee" to determine whether the veteran qualifies under Public Law 114-265.

11.Q. What happens if I do not have any documentation for the veteran?

A: Should you not have any documentation, the application form includes resource links, such as the National Archives and the National Personnel Records Center. Please avail of these resources in looking for documentation about Filipino World War II veterans. This process in ordering and requesting records may take some time.

12. Q. How will I know if my application is approved?

A: You will be contacted by the FilVetREP Regional Director in your area, who will certify your documentation and/or eligibility. All certified names, including next-of-kin (for deceased veterans) will be compiled and maintained by FilVetREP in a National Veterans Registry which it owns.

13. Q. What about veterans residing in the Philippines?

A: The Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) in Manila is conducting its own outreach to ensure that eligible veterans are included in the National Registry.

14. Q. When will the awards be given out?

A: The U.S. Mint, in consultation with FilVetREP as the officially designated liaison, is currently approving the final design for the Congressional Gold Medal. The Secretary of the Treasury will make the final decision on the design before the CGM is minted. In addition, the official presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal by the U.S. Congress will need to be scheduled once the CGM is minted. At this point, FilVetREP anticipates that the official CGM presentation by the U.S. Congress will occur in late Fall of 2017.

15. Q. Will community and service organizations be involved in FilVetREP's work?



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A: Yes. Local and national community and veterans service organizations, including the National Federation of Filipino American Associations, Filipino American National History Society, and other organized groups will take part in this Project.

16. Q. How can the Filipino American community in the U.S. and Philippines help in making this project a success?

A: Yes. The community may publicize the Project, hold events to raise awareness, contribute financially, partake in public education efforts, and urge their elected U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives in Congress, local officials and community leaders to support our Project.

It is also the opportunity and the obligation of the Filipino American community to share this information with non-Filipinos and remind people that the story of these veterans is, at its core, an AMERICAN story. The military service these soldiers provided, the role they played in preserving our democracy, and their perseverance in the face of adversity, speak to American core values.

17. Q. Where can we go to find out or contact for more information on this Project?

A: You can log in to the Project website www.filvetrep.org, find us on Facebook or Twitter, and/or email us at FilVetsRecognition@gmail.com.



Filipino WWII Congressional Gold Medal Application

NAME: (First) _____ (Last) _____ (Middle Initial) _____

Surviving: (YES) (NO)

Veteran's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Telephone #: () _____ - _____

Email Address: _____

Military Service Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Unit Specific Name: _____

Retired: (YES) (NO)

Received Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation: (YES) (NO) (Appeal) Currently receiving VA Benefits: (YES) (NO)

POW: (YES) (NO)

Date of Service: _____ to _____

Location of Service: _____

Physical Status: _____ (i.e. Walker, Wheel Chair, Cane)

Veteran Attending Event: (YES) (NO)

NEXT of KIN Information:

NAME: (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Middle Initial) _____

Relationship to Veteran: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Telephone #: () _____ - _____

Email Address: _____

Next of Kin Attending Event: (YES) (NO)

COMMENT:

I certify that the information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.	
_____	_____
Applicant's Signature	Date



For CGM ONLY	
Region Certified	National Certified

"PRIVACY. The Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project ("FilVetREP") will consider information provided by you on this Application Form as private and confidential. FilVetREP intends to use this information only in connection with the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal ("CGM") project, including but not limited to, for the purpose of identifying and qualifying Filipino and American World War II veterans for CGM award, fundraising campaigns, and promotional efforts in accordance with applicable law. FilVetREP does not intend to use this information for commercial purpose. By submitting this Application Form, you consent to, and expressly authorize, FilVetREP's (including its designees and authorized representatives) use, retention and disposition of your information in connection with the Filipino Veterans of World War II CGM project."

Please send you application for verification to the Regional Directors:

Region Location	Region Director	Contact
Connecticut (CT), Maine (ME), Massachusetts (MA), New Hampshire (NH), New Jersey (NJ), New York (NY), Pennsylvania (PA), Rhode Island (RI), Vermont (VT)	Ben de Guzman	bdeguzman@gmail.com
Delaware (DE), Maryland (MD), Virginia (VA), West Virginia (WVA)	Sonny Busa	sonnybusa@yahoo.com
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