

WORLD WAR II FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY COMPENSATION FUND

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 of February 17, 2009, authorized the release of a one-time, lump-sum payment to eligible World War II (WWII) Philippine Veterans. Veterans had until February 16, 2010 to apply. VA is no longer accepting applications.

Q: Who is eligible for the one-time payment?

Veterans who served before July 1, 1946, in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, while such forces were in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Members of the organized guerrilla forces under commanders appointed, designated, or subsequently recognized by the Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, or other competent authority in the Army of the United States;

Persons who served in the Philippine Scouts under Section 14 of the Armed Forces Voluntary Recruitment Act of 1945.

Q: Where can I apply?

The deadline for applying has now passed. VA is no longer accepting applications.

Q: How will I know if VA is still working on my application?

The Manila Regional Office is periodically sending letters to all claimants with pending claims. Each claimant is informed in writing of VA's final decision.

Q: How much will I receive?

Eligible Veterans who are not United States citizens will receive a one-time payment of \$9,000.

Eligible Veterans who are United States citizens will receive a one-time payment of \$15,000.

Q: I am a U.S. citizen, but reside in the Philippines. Will that affect the amount of my payment?

No. The payment amount for eligible Veterans is determined by citizenship, not by residence.

Q: My late husband died before the law authorizing the one-time payment benefit was passed. May I receive this benefit as his widow? My late father was a Veteran who served during WWII. May I receive this benefit as his heir?

No only veterans were eligible to apply.

Q: My husband filed a claim for this benefit but died before receiving payment. May I receive his benefit?

Yes If an eligible veteran filed a claim prior to the deadline, a surviving spouse can claim the benefit if the Veteran passes away before the benefit is paid.

Q: My husband was a U.S. citizen who filed a claim for this benefit but died before receiving payment. I am not a U.S. citizen. Will I receive the \$15,000 he was eligible to receive?

Yes. The amount of the payment is determined by the citizenship of the eligible Veteran, not by the citizenship of the surviving spouse.

Q: Will receipt of this benefit impact or reduce any other U.S. Government assistance or benefits I receive?

No. This is an additional benefit for those eligible and qualified WWII Veterans. It will not change or affect benefits an individual may be receiving under any other Federal or federally assisted program.

Q: When will I receive the payment?

VA is reviewing and attempting to resolve all claims in the order received. However, because each claim must be decided on its own merits and the need for supporting evidence varies, the actual resolution of each claim is not always in the order in which the claims are received. Decisions are reached and if appropriate, payments are processed, as quickly as all the necessary evidence to establish entitlement is received. Each claimant is informed in writing of VA's decision.

Q: How do I contact VA?

Veterans residing in the Philippines can contact the Manila VA Regional Office at (632) 528-2500 or toll free at 1-800-1888-5252. Veterans living in the United States can contact the VA by dialing 1-800-827-1000. All Veterans, regardless of where they reside, can contact VA via e-mail by going to: <https://iris.va.gov/>

Q: What is the loyalty process?

Every claim for benefits requires a loyalty clearance. If our records identify an individual who may have assisted the Japanese in their war effort, we are required to gather additional information to determine if this specific individual was or was not involved in assisting the Japanese.

We realize that names may appear on our records as a result of record keeping problems or individuals having common names so many veterans are sent a letter asking him/her to provide additional information and the veteran is also required to complete VA Form 21-4169 (Supplement for Philippine Claims) in its entirety. VA will use this evidence to determine if veteran's loyalty can be cleared.

Q: What if I disagree with your decision on my claim?

If a veteran does not agree with the decision that has been made on his or her claim, he or she can file a Notice of Disagreement (NOD). A NOD is simply a letter stating I disagree with your decision. The NOD must be filed within one year of the date of our letter notifying you of our decision.

VA's Appeal Team will review the claim at which time they may:

- Require additional development of the claim,
- Overturn the previous decision, or
- Uphold the previous decision

If the previous decision is upheld, the veteran/claimant will be issued a Statement of the Case. The veteran/claimant must then complete the VA Form 9 (Appeal To Board of Veterans Appeals). The claim will then be forwarded to the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, DC.

Q: What if my claim has been denied because the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has not been able to verify my military service?

You can appeal our decision as outline above or reopen your claim

by submitting additional evidence.

For those claiming Guerilla service, submit a copy of AGO Form 23 (Affidavit for Philippine Army Personnel). You can obtain this document from:

The Adjutant General
Chief, Noncurrent Records Section
GHQ AFP Camp Aguinaldo
1110 Quezon City

For those claiming USAFEE service, the following documentation may help

Troop rosters from 1941 or 1942
General or special orders dated 1941 or 1942 showing assignment, transfer or promotion
Record of enlistment in 1941 or 1942
Receipt of soldiers deposit in 1941 or 1942
Orders calling reservist to duty in 1941 or 1942
Original service records including medical records etc.
Guarantor's receipt for a released POW.