

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 18, 2012

Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Panetta,

I respectfully request the Department of Defense establish a process for Filipinos who claim to have fought alongside U.S. military during World War II to prove their service.

Filipino soldiers served honorably in the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines, Recognized Guerilla Forces, and New Philippine Scouts alongside U.S. troops during World War II. Many of these individuals were included on what is known as the "Missouri List," which was created at the end of the war to document Filipinos who served alongside the United States.

Unfortunately, it has come to my attention that some individuals who served alongside the U.S. military may not have been included on this list. Because the Department of Veterans Affairs relies solely on this list to determine service, I am concerned that there may be Filipinos unfairly excluded from benefits they earned during World War II.

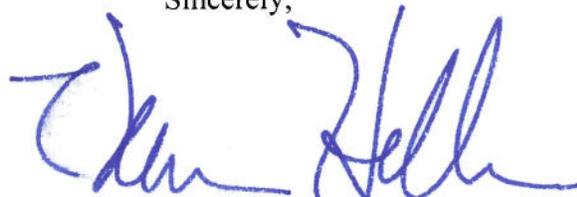
The United States must make every effort to ensure that those individuals who served are properly recognized for their contributions to our nation. That is why I am respectfully asking the Department of Defense in coordination with military historians to establish a process to open the Missouri List to give Filipinos the opportunity to prove their service.

It is my belief that in working with military historians, you can establish standards for documentation to support whether or not an individual had served during World War II in the Philippines for veterans benefit purposes.

Filipino veterans are a respected part of the Nevada community. They are entitled to a fair and complete examination of their record and we must be certain that all eligible Filipino veterans receive compensation they are entitled to for their service to the United States during World War II.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I ask that you respond to me by August 20, 2012.

Sincerely,



DEAN HELLER
U.S. Senator