

Payment to Filipino WWII Veterans

The VA has announced it will be making one-time lump-sum payments to Filipino WWII veterans as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, signed by the President on February 17, 2009. The VA is working quickly to implement this new law in a timely and efficient manner to ensure all eligible veterans receive their rightful benefits as soon as possible. The law provides one-time payments of \$9000.00 to Filipino WWII veterans who are not United States citizens and \$15,000.00 to Filipino WWII Veterans who are United States citizens. Receipt of this one-time payment will not affect other existing veteran's benefits.

Eligible persons include any person 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, including among such military forces, members of the organized guerilla 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. In addition, service members must have been discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable.

An application for the payment will be posted on the Internet at www.va.gov. Also, to receive an application by mail, call 1-800-827-1000. The VA Regional Office in Manila will be processing all claims for this benefit. Our office can assist in completing this application.

There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can also get information on the web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office website at www.countyofkings.com.

Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 West Lacey Blvd, Hanford, CA 93230, the phone number is 582-3211 ex. 2662 or email joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us.