108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1213

To amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the ability of the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II and survivors of such veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 9, 2003

Mr. SPECTER (by request) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs

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A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the ability of the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II and survivors of such veterans, and for other purposes.

1   *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*

2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES TO TITLE 38,**

4   **UNITED STATES CODE.**

5   (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the

6 ''Filipino Veterans' Benefits Act of 2003''.

7   (b) REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise expressly

8 provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal

1 is expressed in terms of an amendment or repeal to a sec-
2 tion or other provision, the reference shall be considered
3 to be made to a section or other provision of title 38,
4 United States Code.

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF FILIPINO VETERANS FOR HEALTH
6 **CARE IN THE UNITED STATES.**

7 (a) HEALTH CARE.—Section 1734 is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 "(a) The Secretary, within the limits of Department
10 facilities, shall furnish hospital and nursing home care and
11 medical services to an individual identified in subsection
12 (b) in the same manner as provided for under section 1710
13 of this title.

14 "(b) An individual covered under subsection (a) of
15 this section includes—

16 "(1) a Commonwealth Army veteran; and

17 "(2) a new Philippine Scout;

18 who is residing in the United States and is a citizen of,
19 or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in,
20 the United States.".

21 **SEC. 3. RATE OF PAYMENT OF BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN FIL-**
22 **IPINO VETERANS AND THEIR SURVIVORS RE-**
23 **SIDING IN THE UNITED STATES.**

24 (a) RATE OF PAYMENT.—Section 107 is amended—

1   (1) in the second sentence of subsection (b), by

2   striking "Payments" and inserting "Except as pro-

3   vided in subsection (c), payments"; and

4   (2) in subsection (c)—

5   (A) by inserting "and subchapter II of

6   chapter 13 (except section 1312(a)) of this

7   title" after "chapter 11 of this title";

8   (B) by striking "in subsection (a)" and in-

9   serting "in subsection (a) or (b)"; and

10   (C) by striking "of subsection (a)" and in-

11   serting "of the applicable subsection".

12   (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by

13 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-

14 ment of this Act and shall apply to benefits paid for

15 months beginning after that date.

16 SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO OPERATE REGIONAL

17   OFFICE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

18   Subsection (b) of section 315 is amended by striking

19 "2003" and inserting "2008".

20 SEC. 5. BURIAL BENEFITS FOR NEW PHILIPPINE SCOUTS

21   RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES.

22   (a) BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY.—Section 107 is amend-

23 ed—

24   (1) in subsection (b)(2)—

1   (A) by striking "and" and inserting a
2 comma; and

3   (B) by inserting ", 23, and 24 (to the ex-
4 tent provided for in section 2402(8))" after
5 "(except section 1312(a))";

6   (2) in the second sentence of subsection (b), as
7 amended by section 3 of this Act, by inserting "or
8 (d)" after "subsection (c)";

9   (3) in subsection (d)(1), by inserting "or (b), as
10 otherwise applicable," after "subsection (a)"; and

11   (4) in section (d)(2), by inserting "or whose
12 service is described in subsection (b) and who dies
13 after the date of enactment of the Filipino Veterans
14 Benefits Act of 2003," after "November 1, 2000,".

15 (b) NATIONAL CEMETERY INTERMENT.—Section
16 2402(8) is amended by inserting "or (b)" after "section
17 107(a)".

18 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
19 subsections (a) and (b) shall apply with respect to deaths
20 occurring after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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