

SHIRLEY A. BREEDEN

SENATOR

Clark No. 5



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Chairwoman

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Vice Chair

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Member

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**State of Nevada
Senate**

Seventy-Sixth Session

June 4, 2012

The Honorable Mark Amodei
House of Representatives
125 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

The Honorable Shelley Berkley
House of Representatives
405 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

The Honorable Joe Heck
House of Representatives
132 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

Re: Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011

Dear Congressman Amodei, Congresswoman Berkley, and Congressman Heck:

Since the adjournment of Nevada's last legislative session, the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs has met to discuss several important issues. During our May 15, 2012, meeting, the Committee heard testimony about 24,000 World War II Filipino veterans being denied benefits by the Veterans Administration due to difficulties in verifying service records maintained by the National Personnel Records Center.

Testimony also referenced H.R. 210, known as the "Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011," which would deem certain military services performed in the Philippines before July 1, 1946, as eligible for veterans' benefits. This Act would result in those individuals previously deemed ineligible for benefits to receive overdue compensation through the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund.

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June 4, 2012

On behalf of the members of the Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs, I would like to first thank you for being cosponsors of this measure.

Furthermore, the Committee members voted with bipartisan support to encourage your action of requesting a hearing of H.R. 210 on behalf of our shared constituents. Nevada is home to one of the oldest living WW II Filipino veterans who will turn 100 years old this month who would directly benefit from the passage of the Act.

Thank you again for your consideration of this important request. If you have any questions regarding this matter or the Committee's concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or Committee staff at 775/684-6825.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley Breeden".

Senator Shirley A. Breeden, Chair
Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens,
Veterans and Adults With Special Needs

SAB/cjs:W121843

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State of Nevada Senate

Seventy-Sixth Session

June 4, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0001

The Honorable Dean Heller
United States Senator
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0001

Re: Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011

Dear Senator Reid and Senator Heller:

Since the adjournment of Nevada's last legislative session, the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs has met to discuss several important issues. During our May 15, 2012, meeting, the Committee heard testimony about 24,000 World War II Filipino veterans being denied benefits by the Veterans Administration due to difficulties in verifying service records maintained by the National Personnel Records Center.

Testimony also referenced H.R. 210, known as the "Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011," which would deem certain military services performed in the Philippines before July 1, 1946, as eligible for veterans' benefits. This Act would result in those individuals previously deemed ineligible for benefits to receive overdue compensation through the WW II Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund.

This bipartisan Committee unanimously voted to urge your support of H.R. 210 on behalf of our shared constituents or a similar Senate measure. Nevada is home to one of the oldest living Filipino veterans who will turn 100 years old this month who would directly benefit from the passage of such an Act.

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June 4, 2012

Thank you again for your consideration of this important request. If you have any questions regarding this matter or the Committee's concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or Committee staff at 775/684-6825.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley Breeden".

Senator Shirley A. Breeden, Chair
Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans
and Adults With Special Needs

SAB/cjs:W121843-1

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State of Nevada Senate

Seventy-Sixth Session

June 4, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500-0001

Re: Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011

Dear Mr. President:

Nevada's Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs is a statutory committee of the Nevada Legislature, and meets throughout the interim period between legislative sessions. One of the many important topics discussed by the Committee was the issue of 24,000 World War II Filipino veterans being denied benefits by the Veterans Administration due to difficulties in verifying service records maintained by the National Personnel Records Center.

The Committee was encouraged to learn of a proposal currently being considered by Congress, which would deem certain military services performed in the Philippines before July 1, 1946, as eligible for veterans' benefits. The measure, H.R. 210, is known as the "Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011" and would result in those individuals previously deemed ineligible to receive overdue compensation through the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund. However, this measure has not received a hearing since being referred to the House Committee of Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs in February of 2011.

Therefore, the Committee members have voted with bipartisan support to send you this letter urging your full support of an Executive Order to allow for other options of verification for military service. Nevada is home to one of the oldest living WW II Filipino veterans who will turn 100 years old this month and who would directly benefit from the passage of the Act.

Page 2
June 4, 2012

Thank you again for your consideration of this important request. If you have any questions regarding this matter or the Committee's concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or Committee staff at 775/684-6825.

Sincerely,

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Senator Shirley A. Breeden, Chair
Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens,
Veterans and Adults With Special Needs

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