

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 14, 2012

Senator Shirley A. Breeden
PO BOX 50825
Henderson, Nevada 89016-0825

Dear Senator Breeden,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011 (H.R. 210). It is a pleasure to hear from you.

Shirley, I am grateful for your hard work and dedication to the citizens of Henderson. I value your expertise on a number of issues, including the Filipino Veterans Equity Fund (FEVC).

As you know, H.R. 210 was introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA) on January 6, 2011. This legislation would authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in determining eligibility of service, to take into account any alternative documentation regarding such service for Filipino veterans that the Secretary determines relevant, including documentation other than the Missouri List.

As a longtime supporter of all those who served our nation, I believe we must ensure that proper recognition is given to those who bravely fought during World War II. During my tenure in the House of Representatives, I voted in favor of the Filipino Veterans Equity Act (H.R. 6897), which authorized \$198 million to create the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund. This fund would be used to make one-time payments of \$15,000 to Filipino military service members that have since become U.S. citizens, and \$9,000 to non-U.S. citizens. H.R. 210 has been referred to the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. Companion legislation has not yet been introduced in the Senate. Please know that I will keep your support for this legislation in mind should H.R. 210 come before the Senate for consideration.

Again, thank you for contacting me, and please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any further questions or concerns as we continue serving Nevada together.

Sincerely,



DEAN HELLER
U.S. Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

July 6, 2012

Senator Shirley Breeden
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

Dear Senator Breeden:

Thank you for contacting me regarding issues facing Filipino veterans. I appreciate hearing from you.

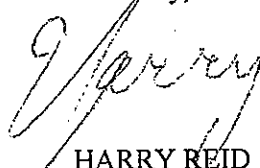
The United States and the Philippines have an important relationship which showcases the long history our two countries share. This relationship is signified by the large numbers of Filipino troops and scouts who fought with U.S. troops during World War II. I have previously worked to pass legislation that restores benefits for Filipino veterans who fought for the United States during World War II, and for this, I was honored to receive the Order of the Golden Heart award from the Philippine government.

During World War II, the United States received support from the organized military forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts. These allies were key contributors to the war effort. For their help to the United States, Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA) introduced the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act (H.R.210). This legislation would make eligibility for veterans' benefits available for certain service performed in the military forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts before July 1, 1946. This legislation was referred to the House Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. Should this legislation come before the full Senate, I will keep your views in mind.

I never forget where I came from or the people I serve. In my office, I keep a picture of the home in Searchlight where I grew up. Not a day passes without me reflecting on the values I learned there—integrity, dedication, and service. These Nevada values have shaped my work on behalf of Nevada throughout my career in public service and will continue to shape my work as Senate Majority Leader. As Congress continues to consider veterans' policy, I will keep your thoughts in mind. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

My best wishes to you.

Sincerely,



HARRY REID
United States Senator