

AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL OF EVERY YEAR AS THE “PHILIPPINE VETERANS’ MONTH”

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 12320, May 26, 2026

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Veterans' Month Act".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State recognizes the immeasurable contributions, unwavering commitment, and extraordinary sacrifices of Filipino veterans in the defense of the nation's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the freedom of the Filipino people. Pursuant to Article XVI, Section 7 of the Constitution, the month of April is hereby declared as the "Philippine Veterans' Month" to honor, recognize, and commemorate our heroes while ensuring that adequate care, benefits, and assistance are extended to them and their families.

SEC. 3. Objectives of the Philippine Veterans' Month. - The Philippine Veterans' Month shall achieve the following objectives:

(a)

Honor and Memorialization - To strengthen and institutionalize the nation's commitment to honor and memorialize the Filipino veterans and their heroic sacrifices in ensuring the country's freedom, peace, and security. The month-long observance shall serve as a powerful symbol of their heroism, valor, and patriotism, strengthening civic consciousness and patriotic sentiments among Filipinos through creative and enhanced activities;

(b)

Historical Preservation and Youth Education - To provide a platform for Filipino veterans to share their experiences and personal narratives, ensuring that their stories are preserved and transmitted to future generations. This shall include the comprehensive education of Filipino youth about the critical historical roles of veterans in armed conflicts, disaster response, and military campaigns that shaped the nation;

(c)

Welfare and Benefit Accessibility - To highlight and address the needs and welfare of Filipino veterans and their families, ensuring equitable access to and quality delivery of all benefits, services, and assistance to which they are legally entitled;

(d)

Institutionalization and Civic Engagement - To institutionalize the annual celebration of Philippine Veterans' Month through coordinated programs and activities that actively engage the public, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local government units (LGUs), and other stakeholders in recognizing veterans' contributions and supporting their welfare; and

(e)

Advocacy and Policy Development - To serve as an opportune period for advocating evidence-based policies, programs, and projects that enhance the delivery of veterans' services, particularly in remote, underserved, and conflict-affected communities.

SEC. 4. Commemorative and Service Activities. - During the Philippine Veterans' Month, all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the national government, including government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and state universities and colleges (SUCs), as well as LGUs, shall undertake coordinated programs, projects, and activities to honor Filipino veterans and to enhance the delivery of services, benefits, and assistance to veterans and their families throughout the country. NGOs, private sector entities, and other stakeholders are likewise encouraged to organize and implement similar commemorative initiatives or to participate in government-led programs and activities, in furtherance of the objectives of this section. Such programs, projects, and activities shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a)

Media and Digital Content Production - Production and dissemination of publicly accessible content, such as documentary films, podcasts, and digital media, featuring the experiences, testimonies, and historical accounts of individual Filipino veterans;

(b)

Education Integration - Integration of the service, sacrifice, and historical significance of Filipino veterans into the Philippine history curriculum in public and private schools at all educational levels;

(c)

Volunteer and Youth Engagement Programs - Establishment and promotion of accessible volunteer platforms and civic engagement program that enable interested Filipino youth to participate in and contribute to initiatives providing quality services and support to Filipino veterans;

(d)

Comprehensive Benefit and Service Delivery Programs - Development, enhancement, and implementation of coordinated policies, programs, and projects with relevant government agencies and private stakeholders to improve the accessibility, quality, and delivery of veterans' services and benefits, with special attention to veterans in far-flung areas, conflict-affected zones, and those with special needs;

(e)

Recognition and Awards Programs - Organization of recognition programs, awards ceremonies, and public acknowledgements celebrating the contributions and sacrifices of Filipino veterans and their families; and

(f)

Health and Wellness Initiatives - Conduct medical missions, mental health support services, and wellness programs designed to address the unique health challenges faced by Filipino veterans and their dependents.

SEC. 5. Lead Agencies and Coordination Framework. - The Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) and the Department of National Defense (DND), in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Education (DepEd), and other relevant government agencies, shall conduct and enhance activities and programs that promote remembrance of Filipino

veterans, their patriotic sacrifices, and their essential role in protecting the country and the Filipino people, thereby raising awareness and fostering love of country, especially among the youth.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PVAO, DND, DILG, DOH, and DepEd shall promulgate comprehensive implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, unconstitutional, or inoperative by a competent court of law, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect and shall be implemented to the fullest extent consistent with the objectives and intent of this Act.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, orders, and regulations inconsistent herewith are repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,

(SGD.) FAUSTINO "BOJIE" G. DY III

(SGD.) VICENTE C. SOTTO III

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Representatives

This Act was passed by the Senate of the Philippines as Senate Bill No. 1719 on March 16, 2026 and adopted by the House of Representatives as an amendment to House Bill No. 7301 on March 18, 2026.

(SGD.) CHELOY E. VELICARIA-GARAFIL

(SGD.) MARK LEANDRO "DONG" L. MENDOZA

Secretary General

Secretary of the Senate

House of Representatives

Approved: MAY 26 2026

(SGD.) FERDINAND ROMUALDEZ MARCOS JR.

President of the Philippines

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