

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING LIVING LEYTEÑO WORLD WAR II VETERANS AS LIVING TREASURES AND SYMBOLS OF COURAGE, BRAVERY, AND SACRIFICE, AND GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

AUTHORED BY:

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WHEREAS, Article XVI, Section 7 of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines provides that "(t)he State shall provide immediate and adequate care, benefits and other forms of assistance to war veterans and veterans of military campaigns, their surviving spouses and orphans";

WHEREAS, it is the declared policy of the State, as provided for in Republic Act No. 6948, "to help foster the socioeconomic security and general well-being of the country's veterans in recognition of their patriotic services in times of war and peace for the cause of freedom and democracy; for the attainment of national unity, independence, and socioeconomic advancement; and the maintenance of peace and order, in keeping with the goals of the Government and the aspirations of the people",

WHEREAS, Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7696 provides that "notwithstanding any existing laws, rules and regulations, veterans and their dependents or survivors who receive such benefits under Republic Act No. 6948 may also receive any additional benefits granted by their respective local governments",

WHEREAS, as of date, there are only fifteen (15) living identified Leyteño World War II veterans left and would only befitting that they be recognized and honored as they play a vital role in shaping history of our nation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF LEYTE IN SESSION DULY ASSEMBLED:

Section 1. Title. - This Ordinance shall be known as the **AN ORDINANCE DECLARING LIVING LEYTEÑO WORLD WAR II VETERANS AS LIVING TREASURES AND SYMBOLS OF COURAGE, BRAVERY, AND SACRIFICE, AND GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES** otherwise known as "**Leyte World War II Veterans Ordinance**".

Section 2. Declaration of Policies— The Provincial Government of Leyte recognizes the significant contributions and sacrifices made by World War II veterans in the defense of the country and the province. The ordinance aims to recognize these efforts, show gratitude, extend benefits and support, uphold their dignity and ensure that they are accorded respect. Premised on these the following are the declared policies of this ordinance:

- a. declares all identified living Leyte World War II veterans as living treasures and symbols of courage, bravery, and sacrifice. Their unwavering devotion to duty and commitment to the cause of freedom and democracy shall serve as an inspiration to all Leyteños;

- b. recognizes and pays tribute to the bravery and sacrifices made by all Leyteno World War II veterans. Their selfless acts of valor and determination in the face of adversity have inspired generations and have helped to preserve freedom and democracy.

Section 3. Definition of Terms – As used in this Ordinance, the term World War II Veterans shall mean any Filipino Citizen Veteran – any person who rendered military service in the land, sea or air forces of the Philippines during the revolution against Spain, the Philippine-American War, World War II, including Filipino citizens who served in Allied Forces in the Philippine territory and foreign nationals who served in Philippine forces, the Korean Campaign, the Vietnam Campaign, the Anti-Dissidence Campaign, or other wars and military campaigns; or who rendered military service in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and has been honorably discharged or separated after at least six (6) years total cumulative active service, or sooner separated due to death or disability arising from a wound or injury received or sickness or disease incurred in line of duty while in the active service;

Section 4. Benefits. — These benefits are hereby accorded in favor of World War II veterans, to wit:

- a. Cash Assistance to Living Veterans in the amount of PhP15,000.00 to be given every 20th of October each year.
- b. Medicine Allowance to Living Veterans in the amount of Php 5,000.00 every year and subject to availability of funds
- c. Resolution of felicitation from the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

Section 5. "World War II Veterans Recognition Day". On October 20 of each year, the Province of Leyte shall commemorate their contributions through annual ceremonies and the preservation of historical sites and monuments that serve as a testament to their bravery.

Section 6. Appropriation. - The amount necessary to implement this Ordinance shall be sourced from the appropriations which may be allocated through the Annual Appropriation Ordinance and/or Supplemental Appropriation Ordinances, as may be necessary.

Section 7. Implementing Office. - The PSWDO shall be the primary implementing office of this Ordinance. As such, the same shall make sure that the allowances granted herein are timely received and redounds to the direct benefit of the veteran.

Section 8. Separability Clause. — If any part or provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 9. Repealing Clause. — All ordinances, resolutions, local executive orders administrative regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 10. Effectivity — This Ordinance shall take effect immediately following the posting and publication in a conspicuous area of the Municipal Hall, the Marketplace, and any other public place designated for the purpose.