



THE FILIPINO VETERANS RECOGNITION
AND EDUCATION PROJECT

MEDIA ADVISORY

October 25, 2017

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**70 YEARS OF WAITING IS OVER!!! U.S. CONGRESS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZES
WARTIME SERVICE OF WORLD WAR II FILIPINO and AMERICAN VETERANS
WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL
*National Presentation and Gala, October 25, 2017***

WHAT: CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION AND GALA EVENT

The first set of bronze replicas printed by the U.S. Mint will be given to some 20 living WWII Filipino and American Veterans. After waiting since 1946, Public Law 114-265 finally provided them eligibility to receive the **Congressional Gold Medal (CGM)**. It is an award bestowed by the U.S. Congress. Since the American Revolution, U.S. Congress has commissioned gold medals as its highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions.

WHO: Witness some 21 World War II living Filipino and American veterans who will be presented the CGM. They, along with over 300,000 troops fought in the Philippines during WWII for the United States. Surviving family members of veterans will also be in attendance. Other invited guests: representatives of the U.S. Mint, Department of Defense, Embassy of the Philippines officials, national supporters, Veterans' advocacy organizations, and corporate patrons. Filipino artist, Martin Nievera (also known as "Concert King of the Philippines") will be performing.

WHERE: Ritz Carlton Hotel, 1700 Tysons Blvd., Tysons Corner, McLean, VA 22101

WHEN: Wednesday, October 25, 2017

4:00 p.m. Award Presentation of Congressional Gold Medal Replicas to Veterans and Family
6:30 p.m. VIP Reception
7:30 p.m. Banquet

Gala Highlights:

Welcome Remarks by Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba (Ret)
Salute to the first 21 living veterans of WWII as recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal
Interim Ambassador to the United States Patrick Chuasoto, Embassy of the Philippines
Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) and Lt. Gen. Thomas C. Seamands, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, U.S. Army

NB: At the Emancipation Hall in Capitol Hill at 11 a.m., Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), along with some 300 members of Congress will witness the recognition of WWII Veterans with the presentation of the CGM.

For interested media to be credentialed for this **private and by-invitation-only event**, please contact **Margaret Lacson-Ecarma**, margaret.lacsonecarma@gmail.com. Organized and Sponsored by: The **Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project (FilVetREP)**: a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, community-based, all-volunteer advocacy group working to promote the national recognition of Filipino and American WWII soldiers across the United States and the Philippines for their wartime service to the U.S. and the Philippines from July 26, 1941 to December 31, 1946. www.filvetrep.org. ###