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## *House of Representatives* HONORING FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS!

**HON. BOB FILNER**  
OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**MR. FILNER:** Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to report on the progress we are making towards the passage of benefits for Filipino World War II veterans.

My colleagues know of the extreme sacrifices made by Filipino soldiers during World War II in the battles of Bataan and Corrigidor. They know that Filipino soldiers were instrumental in the successful outcome of this war in the Pacific. And they know, too well, that many of these soldiers were denied their benefits by a law passed by the 1946 Congress.

Today, I am happy to report that the House of Representatives and the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee have passed legislation to restore health

care services, improved disability compensation, and burial benefits to many Filipino World War II veterans living in the United States. We are working to get this legislation passed by the Senate and forwarded to the President to sign into law.

In addition, the President announced during his recent visit to the Philippines that we will be doubling, from \$500,000 to \$1 million in FY2004, the amount of medical supplies and equipment that the United States is sending to the veterans' hospital in Manila.

These are important steps in restoring benefits to the brave Filipino World War II soldiers who have been waiting for sixty years for equity.