

## **CELESTINO G. ALMEDA** Volunteer Spokesman

AMERICAN COALITION FOR FILIPINO VETERANS

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### **COALITION SPOKESMAN:**

- A 97 year-old Filipino American World War II veteran who was denied official recognition by the US Army and the Veterans Affairs Department officials. Almeda has US Army official discharge papers and was paid for his World War II Philippine Commonwealth Army USAFFE service by American military officers.
- Represented the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans Inc., a non-profit membership advocacy organization, before public officials and news media. ACFV is supported by members and donors. It does not receive any Federal or State grants
- Assisted in the campaign for the passage of five bills in Congress providing more than \$300 Million in benefits. . (<http://usfilvets.tripod.com>)

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Lobbied the White House, Veterans Affairs and Defense Department officials and Congress members and news media on behalf of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans. Almeda's efforts led to the passage of the "Filipino Veteran Equity Compensation" law in February 2009. Public Law 111-5 Title X Sec. 1002. It recognized the U.S. military "active service" of Filipino WWII veterans. It provided each of them with one-time payments of \$15,000 for U.S. citizens (\$9,000 for Filipino citizens). \$265 Million total budget.
- Advocated as a volunteer in the campaign that passed the "Filipino Veterans Benefit Improvement Act," provided war-injury compensation (P.L. 106-377 Sec. 501) and burial benefits in 2000. Budget: \$6 Million/yr.
- Assisted in campaign that passed the "Health Care for Filipino Veterans" bill, (now P.L. 108-170). Signed into law by President Bush in 2003. Budget: \$16 Million yearly for US-based Filipino veterans.
- Advocated successfully for the restoration of the annual \$1,000,000 US Government medical Grant-in-Aid to the Philippine Government's Veterans Medical Center in 2002 to 2005.

### **EDUCATION:**

- Philippine School of Arts in Machine Shop Teachers Curriculum 1939.
- Philippine Army Training in Canlubang, Laguna, Philippines in Reserve Officers Service School ROTC 1940.
- University of Santo Thomas BSIE Major in Vocational Education PH 1947.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

- Industrial Arts Teacher Rizal Elementary School, Philippines, 1940.
- Vocational Teacher Arellano High School, PH, 1941.
- Machine Shop Instructor Rodriguez Vocational High School PH, 1952.
- Training Instructor for Metal Trades GS-7, United States Naval Base, Subic Bay, Olangapo Zambales 1959.
- Assistant Manager for US Army Vietnam Regional Exchange in Tuy Hoa, South Vietnam 1970.
- Skills Development Officer PH National Manpower & Youth Council in Taguig, Rizal, PH, 1984.

### **RECOGNITION & AWARDS:**

- The White House Veterans' Day Breakfast guest of Vice-President Biden, Nov. 11, 2010.