

## **ERIC LACHICA** Volunteer Executive Director

AMERICAN COALITION FOR FILIPINO VETERANS

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### **ADVOCATE & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

- Managed the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans Inc., a non-profit membership advocacy organization. ACFV does not receive any Federal or State grants. It is supported by members and donors.
- Developed the coalition strategy and managed the national campaign that led to passage of five bills in Congress providing more than \$300 Million in benefits. . (<http://usfilivets.tripod.com>) A registered lobbyist.
- Son of a Filipino American World War II veteran.

### **RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Organized the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans campaign with U.S. Senate and House sponsors. 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.
- Coordinated the campaign that passed House-Senate resolution, H.C.R. 191 "recognizing and honoring" Filipino WWII veterans and arranged President Clinton's proclamation signing ceremony in 1996.
- Managed the successful campaign that led to the passage of the "Special Benefits for WWII Veterans," bill (now Public Law 106-169 Title VIII) for Filipino American veterans to return to their families in the Philippines with their Supplemental Security Income in 1999. Budget: \$14 Million yearly.
- Organized 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 yearly.
- Directed the 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.
- Lobbied successfully for the "Full Compensation" benefit law (P.L. 108-183) providing VA compensation for war-related illnesses of Filipino Scouts and widows in 2003. Budget: \$2.9 Million yearly.
- 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:**

- University of Southern California, Los Angeles, B.A. Political Science graduate 1974.
- California State University at Los Angeles, Masters program International Relations 1986.
- Industrial Areas Foundation, Chicago IL, "Community Organizing with the Faith Community," 1994.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

- Information officer of Philippine President Corazon Aquino, Los Angeles Consulate 1986-87.
- Community Outreach Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau, Los Angeles, 1989-1990.
- Senior Media Specialist, United Way of Los Angeles, 1991-92.
- Regional Manager, Anti-Hunger Coalition of Maryland, Gaithersburg, 1994-96.
- Executive Director of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans Inc., with more than 4,000 members.
- Partnership Specialist, U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, 2009 to July 2010.

### **RECOGNITION & AWARDS:**

- The White House State Dinner guest of President George W. Bush, May 19, 2003.
- The White House Veterans' Day Breakfast guest of President Barack Obama, Nov. 11, 2011 & 2012 & 2013.