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## **NaFFAA Leaders surge the Reinstatement of the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program**

*The National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) strongly encourages the US federal government to reinstate the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program.*

“The Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program represents America’s sacred promise to these brave warriors, who risked their lives and livelihoods on behalf of this great nation, all in the shared pursuit of peace and prosperity,” states NaFFAA National Chairman Brendan Flores. “The program promotes the reunification of these brave veterans—who are now US citizens or lawful permanent residents—with spouses and other foreign-born family members who are likely to provide them with care in their final years.”

According to San Francisco area resident Aida Nacua, wife of Filipino World War II veteran Reggie Nacua, the program has allowed for Mr. Nacua’s Filipino-born children to join him here in the United States. Before the program was suspended earlier this year, three of his five adult sons relocated to the US after applying for the parole program. The significance of the financial support and familial care provided by his children is immeasurable for Mr. Nacua, who is now 91 and no longer able to hear.

Chairman Flores reflects on the Nacua family’s story: “Therein lies the tragedy. The elimination of the parole program forecloses on the opportunity for these selfless veterans—such as the brave Mr. Reggie Nacua—to enjoy the love, support, and care of their family in their final years. I cannot say this strong enough: eliminating this program amounts to promises broken and dignity denied.”

Carissa Villacorta, NaFFAA’s newly appointed Executive Director, concurs on the consequences of halting the parole program. “It is clear that the importance of this program cannot be overstated, and that consideration of its reinstatement demands urgency, says Villacorta. “In 2016, USCIS estimated that 2,000-6,000 remain alive in the United States. Frankly, time is running out. With each day, we continue to mourn the loss of these brave veterans. Before we lose the opportunity, is imperative that we substantively and meaningfully honor them and their sacrifice. While the Congressional Gold Medal was a rare and incredible honor that was hard won and well deserved, such recognition feels shallow with the absence of good faith action.”

NaFFAA, on behalf of the more than 4 million Filipinos and Filipino Americans in the US, urge the fair reinstatement of this monumental humanitarian program, to show that this great nation’s noble commitment to service and sacrifice is not taken for granted.

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### **About NaFFAA**

*The National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization. Established in 1997, NaFFAA promotes the welfare and well-being of the more than 4 million Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. NaFFAA’s vision is to serve as the voice of all Filipinos and Filipino Americans by uniting, engaging, and empowering diverse individuals and community organizations through leadership development, civic engagement, and national advocacy.*

[www.naffaa.org](http://www.naffaa.org)