PRESS KIT:
PRE-VETERANS WEEK
& PROMOTIONAL EVENTS

Technical Working Committee
Sub-Committee on
Publicity and Promotions

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What is the theme for the 2014 Philippine Veterans Week?

“BALIK-TANAW SA SAKRIPISYO NG BETERANO, GABAY SA LANDAS NG PAGBABAGO”

In accordance with the guidance set forth by the Steering Committee on National Observances, the members of the Technical Working Committee (TWC) and the veterans leading their respective organizations proposed various themes for this year’s commemoration.

After a thorough deliberation, the body has chosen the above theme as a clarion call to action. It conveys that the selfless-sacrifices of our veterans should serve as our guide as a grateful nation in our path to positive change... to a better Philippines.

The moral responsibility they took upon themselves at a time when our freedom and nationhood was challenged is something that we should live up to as we tread along the Tuwid na Daan towards genuine change for the development of our nation.

Why do we commemorate Araw ng Kagitingan and observe the Philippine Veterans Week every year?

Executive Order No. 23, Series of 1987, declared April 9 of every year as a national holiday for the observance of Araw ng Kagitingan.

Proclamation No. 466, Series of 1989, designated the period April 5 to 4141 of every year as Philippine Veterans Week in order to promote, preserve, and memorialize the principles, ideas, and deeds of our war veterans as a means to enhance patriotism and love of country, especially among the youth of the land.

The week-long observance is an occasion to honor not only the Filipino War Veterans who died or served the country. It also provides an opportunity to remember those who render honorable military service in defending the country in times of war or peace to gratefully acknowledge their contributions in preserving our sovereignty and defending our national security.

What are the specific objectives for this year’s observance?

The TWC aims to present our veterans as among the country’s national treasures and to revive the “culture of heroism” which the Filipino race has been known for essentially because of our veterans’ valor and selfless sacrifices.
What are the activities lined-up for the 2014 Philippine Veterans Week?

A series of commemorative events will thus be held to immortalize the valor of our veterans and manifest the nation’s collective gratitude and appreciation for their selfless sacrifices for the country. These outputs are designed to achieve higher outcomes such as instilling a sense of national pride and deepening the love for country among our people, and preparing the Filipino youth to be our nation’s future defenders and leaders. As a prelude to the Philippine Veterans Week proper, the Technical Working Committee has lined up the following events that aim to drum-up the publicity and promotion of the week-long observance:

2014 PHILIPPINE VETERANS WEEK
PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

PHILIPPINE VETERANS WEEK PROMOTIONAL EVENTS

Film Showing: Death March

MARCH 24, 2014 / 3:00 PM
AFP THEATER, CAMP AGUINALDO, QUEZON CITY

Directed by Adolfo Alix, Jr. and written by Rody Vera, "Death March," had been selected in the 2013 Cannes Film Festival to compete in the competition in the Un Certain Regard Category.

It tackles one of the most poignant moments during the Second World War: the Bataan Death March where an estimated 75,000 prisoners of war -- 60,000 Filipinos and 415,000 Americans -- were forced to march 4104 kilometers (65 miles) in 1942 from Mariveles and Bagac in Bataan to Camp O'Donnell in Capas, Tarlac in the scorching heat amidst disease, starvation and maltreatment by the atrocious Japanese guards. About 7,000 to 410,000 soldiers, mostly Filipinos, died as the Japanese troops forced them to embark on the trek during the early months of the war.

Attractively shot in black-and-white on artificial sets with actors generally grouped in tight formations that combine with slow-motion and a dense soundtrack, Director Adolfo Alix Jr. gets the film critics’ applause for his bold artistic innovations and for breathing life into this historical account which other filmmakers never had enough courage to tackle in the big screen.

The movie stars Sam Milby as Roy Cook, Zanjoe Marudo as Alex, Jason Abalos as Carlito, Sid Lucero as Miguel, Felix Roco as Fidel, Carlo Aquino as Claudio, Jacky Woo as Hatori, Luis Alandy, Benjamin Alves, among others.
Symposium

Images of Valor and Victory

March 417, 2014, 9:00 AM
Angelicum School, Iloilo City

Respected historians present audio visual presentations and images of Filipino Veterans’ valor and victory as an alternative form of lecture on World War II heroes and their pivotal role in the liberation campaign.

The symposium serves as a venue for a lively interaction between the younger generation and the living heroes themselves – the World War II veterans from the Visayas who, as panellists, would impart their first-hand account of their encounters with the enemy and of their eventual victory.

Golf Tournament

Veterans Cup

March 30, 2014, 6:00 AM
VMMC Golf Course

The Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) will be holding a golf tournament - the Veterans Golf Cup. The tournament is a fund-raiser for the Filipino War Veterans Foundation, Inc. or FILVETS - a non-stock, non-profit organization composed or veterans of World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War and retirees from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

FILVETS, in partnership with PVAO, volunteer specialist and socio-civic / non-government organizations, conducts year-round medical outreach in far-flung areas and operates 4141 medical outreach clinics nationwide to reach out to veterans and their families. It also offers technical skills education and training to AFP retirees or their dependents to help them secure jobs to enable them to support their families.

Among the prominent veterans who support the tournament are former President Fidel Valdez Ramos, Defense Sec. Voltaire T. Gazmin, former Defense Secretary Renato De Villa and retired AFP LtGen. Raul S. Urgello, Chairman and Executive Director of the FILVETS Foundation, respectively.
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**Biking**

**Padyakan Sa Bataan**

March 30, 2014, 6:00 AM  
Karagatan Bayview Peaks, Mariveles, Bataan

Contact Person:  
Ms. Techie Banzon  
Bataan Tourism Officer  
09178144221

In the spirit of the Araw ng Kagitingan, sports enthusiasts celebrate with the entire nation through participating in a 3-km mountain bike circuit race at the town of Mariveles.

The race, being celebrated for nine (9) years now, is being open to all mountain bike enthusiasts from Bataan, nearby provinces and Manila area with different race categories: Open category; Age; Fun; Heavy Weight; Single Speed; All Bataan and Kids Category.
# 2014 Philippine Veterans Week
## Program of Activities
### Philippine Veterans Week Promotional Events

#### Parade
**PARADA NG KAGITINGAN (FLOAT PARADE)**

**April 5, 2014 / 1:00 PM**  
Capitol Grounds, City of Balanga

Contact Person: Ms. Techie Banzon, Bataan Tourism Officer  
094178414241

The local government units (LGUs), national agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs) and civic societies gather in one event paying tribute and honor the sacrifices and heroism of the provinces’ veterans of World War II.

The living war veterans and their families who also grace this event will also witness the Parade of Floats which will end at the Capitol Grounds.

#### Parade
**“PARANGAL SA MGA BAYANI” A TRIBUTE TO WAR VETERANS**

**April 5, 2014 / 4:00 PM**  
Parade Route: EGSA Avenue, City of Balanga to Capitol Compound, City of Balanga for Historical floats  
Flaming Sword, JJ Linao, Pilar to Capitol Compound, City of Balanga for Bataan at present floats

The Parade of Floats is participated by the (eleven) 11 municipalities and one (1) city in the province of Bataan. The floats depict the heroism of the Filipino soldiers during the 2nd World War and the development of the province after. The Parade of Floats will culminate in the celebration of the “Parangal sa mga Bayani” a program paying tribute to the War Veterans.

The local government units (LGUs), national agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs) and civic societies gather in one event paying tribute and honor the sacrifices and heroism of the provinces’ veterans of World War II.

The living war veterans and their families who also grace this event will also witness the Parade of Floats which will end at the Capitol Grounds.
Marathon

BATAAN FREEDOM RUN 2014
April 6, 2014 / 6:00 AM
Balanga, Bataan

Registration for the BFR is ongoing at the Bataan Provincial Tourism Office, Balanga City Hall, and select PVB Branches.

For more info, please contact Without Limits at (02) 383-7658 during business hours or email secretariat@withoutlimits.ph

Become part of history as Philippine Veterans Bank presents the BATAAN FREEDOM RUN 2014, a marathon for runners of all ages to be held in historic Balanga, Bataan.

The BFR consists of several categories for runners of all types to choose from including the 50KM Ultra-Marathon, 10KM, 5KM, and 1KM. It also features a 500-meter Dash for kids and those running enthusiasts who like to enjoy their hobby with their furry friends!

This event is held in cooperation with the City of Balanga, the Provincial Government of Bataan, and the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO).

Proceeds of the project will be used for the restoration of Bataan Historical Markers.
**Photo Exhibit**

**A Glimpse of Yesteryears**

April 7, 2014 (Monday) / 8:00 A.M.
Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) Lobby

The Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC), as the country’s sole health care institution and medical facility for Filipino veterans and their qualified dependents, has also programmed a series of special events during the Philippine Veterans Week as a way for medical professionals and administrative staff to honor their patients and make them feel their tender loving care.

After the flag-raising ceremony and a salute to veteran patients at the VMMC Flagpole, the hospital management will open a photo exhibit at the VMMC lobby titled, “A Glimpse of Yesteryears” that will showcase decades-old photographs of veterans, World War II events and VMMC milestones.

**Cultural Night**

**El Gamma Penumbra with BPSU Chamber Chorale**

April 7, 2014 (Monday) / 8:00 A.M.
Bataan Peoples Center, Balanga City

A musical spectacle, in line with the celebration of the Araw ng Kagitingan, is being offered yearly to all Bataeños. Nationally known local talents, such as the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Manila Symphony Orchestra, Coke Bolipata, Ms. Lisa Macuja and Ballet Philippines are among the artists featured in the past years.

In time with the 9th celebration this year, the province of Bataan has invited the Bataan Peninsula Chamber Chorale, the province’s local talent who has been competing in various international competitions; and the El Gamma Penumbra winner of the TV show Pilipinas Got Talent.
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Photo Exhibit: BATAAN LEGACY

April 7-14 2014 / 8:00 A.M.
Philippine Consulate General, San Francisco
447 Sutter St., 6th Fl., San Francisco, CA 94108

April 9, 2014 / 8:00 A.M.
Los Angeles, California

For information, call Ms. Cecilia Gaerlan, Executive Director of Bataan Legacy Historical Project at (415) 413-6666, extension 3413 or (5410) 520-8540 / Facebook: BataanLegacy

On December 8, 1941, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared a state of war between Japan and the United States. And yet, the ravages of war did not reach the shores of the continental United States. Instead, the war was fought in the former U.S. colony of the Philippines where thousands of Filipino and American soldiers as well as approximately one million Filipino civilians perished. Manila, once called the Pearl of the Orient, became the second most devastated city in the world during World War II. And yet today, seventy-two years later, the sacrifices of the defenders of Bataan are barely remembered, especially the Filipino defenders who made up 7/8 of the main line of resistance and died at a ratio of more than 410 to 41 compared to the American soldiers.

The Bataan Legacy Project is a series of projects created to depict the real story of World War II in the Philippines and the major role of the Filipinos during the war. The Fall of Bataan is only remembered as the largest single surrender in U.S. military history. What is not remembered are the sacrifices of the Filipino and American troops who were abandoned by the United States in Bataan. Despite suffering from massive starvation and disease, the defenders of Bataan held on for four months to disrupt the timetable of the Imperial Japanese Army. This enabled the Allied Forces to harness the necessary resources to turn the tide of war and eventually led to the defeat of the Axis Forces.

Veterans’ Reunion

BATAAN LEGACY MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION

26 May 2014 / 1:30PM
Philippine Consulate General, San Francisco
447 Sutter St., 6th Fl., San Francisco, CA 94108

Filipino & American World War II Veterans & Survivors reunite after 72 years in the commemoration of the Bataan Memorial Day. This event is held in partnership between the Bataan Legacy Historical Project and the Office of the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco, California, USA.
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Health Fair: Medical & Surgical Mission

April 8, 2014 (Tuesday) / 8:00 A.M.
Camp Gen. Servillano Aquino, San Miguel, Tarlac City

Specialists and surgeons from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC), the country’s sole health care institution and medical facility for Filipino veterans and their qualified dependents, will be offering various medical and surgical services for free at Camp Gen. Servillano Aquino, Tarlac City – home of the Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) – Armed Forces of the Philippines.

This medical and surgical mission will be co-sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Provincial Government of Tarlac headed by Hon. Victor A. Yap, Governor.

It will be open not just for veterans and military retirees but to the general public as well.

History Quiz: Tagisan Diwang Bataan - History Quiz Bee

April 8, 2014, 1:00 PM
Karagatan Bayview Peaks, Mariveles, Bataan

Contact Person: Ms. Techie Banzon, Bataan Tourism Officer / 094178414241

A province wide quiz open to all 41st year high schools on the history, culture and geography of Bataan will be held on April 8. Estimated thirty-five students from the different private and public high schools in the province are expected to compete in the finals of the history quiz.

Open House: VMMC Open House

April 9, 2014 (Wednesday) / 9:00 A.M.
Veterans Memorial Medical Center, North Avenue, Quezon City

As the nation commemorates the Araw ng Kagitingan being led traditionally by the President and Commander in Chief, the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC), the country’s sole health care institution and medical facility for Filipino veterans and their qualified dependents, will be celebrating the same with an Open House.

Special food to be served to all patients of VMMC with thoughtful Greeting Cards straight from heart of the hospital’s healthcare experts and administrative staff.
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**Cycling: The Kagitingan Tour**

April 9, 2014 (Wednesday) / 4:00 A.M.
Hunters-ROTC Guerrilla Field, Fort Bonifacio

Open to all cycling enthusiasts. No fees. Just sign up at its website kagitingantour.com. Cut-off date for online registration is April 05. Participants may also register at each of the 5 stations of the Tour (see map and rules online). For more information, look up kagitingantour on Facebook and Twitter.

Info: Rhett Daza - 094177503596

The Hunters-ROTC Historical Society with the Department of Tourism, in coordination with the TWC, will hold the 3rd commemorative bicycle tour for Araw ng Kagitingan on April 09, 2014 dubbed the “Kagitingan Cycling Tour.” This cycling event is dedicated to memorializing the victories Filipino guerrillas during the Japanese occupation in World War II.

This edition of the Kagitingan Cycling Tour will be around Laguna Lake. It will start at Fort Bonifacio, go around the Lake and end at Fort Bonifacio. The route is more than 200 kilometers. As before, this won't be a race. It will first go through Rizal and then Laguna. There will be scheduled rest stops along the way.

The whole route will traverse the coast of Laguna Lake giving riders the bracing lake breezes of Laguna de Bay. It will visit Angono, one of ASEAN’s cultural centers, pass the fishing towns of Cardona and Pililla, experience the rustic scenery of Jala-jala, Mabitac, Siniloan and Pangil, the pilgrimage site of Pakil, the wood-carving town of Paete, the historical towns of Pangsanjan and Pila, the spa and resort towns of Los Banos and Calamba, towards the more modern tourist sites in Sta. Rosa and San Pedro before entering Metro Manila.

**Replication Ceremony: Araw ng Kagitingan Rites**

April 9, 2014 / 4:00 P.M.
Office of Veterans Affairs Embassy of the Philippines
41600 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20036, United States

For information, call:
MGen. Delfin N. Lorenzana, AFP (Ret)
Tel: 202-467-9427; 202-467-9410 Cell: 202-7414-34165; 703-763-240

Like the traditional Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor) rites commemorated in the Philippines, a replication ceremony will be held at the Philippine Embassy in Washington, DC, USA.

The event will commence with a Wreath-Laying ceremony at the WWII MEMORIAL, National Mall, between 4:00 – 5:30 PM. Participants will include Philippine Embassy Personnel and FIL-AM Community of Metro DC.

It will be led by HON. MARIA ANDRELITA AUSTRIA, Chargé d’Affaires, Philippine Embassy.

At 6:30PM, a commemoration program will follow at the Romulo Hall, Philippine Embassy during which Recognition of WW2 Veterans and families present.
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Variety Show

LOLO KO BETERANO, IDOL KO – PART 2

April 11, 2014 (Friday), 9:00 A.M.
Veterans Memorial Medical Center
North Avenue, Quezon City

A Veterans Fair and Variety Show dubbed “LOLO KO BETERANO, IDOL KO” – Part 2 will cap this year’s Philippine Veterans Week at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC), the country’s sole health care institution and medical facility for Filipino veterans and their qualified dependents.

It will feature performances from the VMMC Medical Professional Staff headed by Dr. Nona F. Legaspi, the Director of the VMMC herself.

The show will culminate with the Volunteer Awards & Recognition Ceremony to acknowledge and honor civilian volunteers who devote their time, effort and even resources in serving the hospital and the veterans it serves.
The Philippine Veterans Office (PVAO) held a film-showing and symposium that presented “Images of Valor and Victory” of World War II Heroes in the Visayas on March 17, 2014, 9 A.M. at the Angelicum School of Iloilo, Iloilo City.

In collaboration with the Iloilo Provincial Government, Department of Tourism (DOT), and Department of Education (DepEd), the event was one of the promotional activities to drum up participation in the observance of the 2014 Philippine Veterans Week and the 7nd Araw ng Kagitingan with the theme “Balik-tanaw sa Sakripisyo ng Beterano, Gabay sa Landas ng Pagbabago.”

Dr. Englebert K. Peralta, grandson of General Macario Peralta, famed leader of the Free Panay Guerrilla Forces, was one of the resource speakers during the symposium. He shared his grandfather’s experiences during the war as the Commander of the 6th Military Districted who liberated the Islands of Panay, Guimaras and Romblon.

Respected historians presented audio visual presentations and images of Filipino Veterans’ valor and victory as an alternative form of lecture on World War II heroes and their pivotal role in the liberation campaign. These historians included Dr. Maria Luisa E. Mabunay, Ph. D, Dean College of Arts and Sciences, University of the Philippines – Visayas, Miag-ao, Iloilo and translator of the book The Blood and Mud in the Philippines: Anti-Guerilla Warfare on Panay Island by Toshimi Kumai; BGen. Restituto L. Aguilar, AFP (Ret), Military Historian; and Pastor Rick Martin of Iloilo Baptist Church.

The presentation of the resource speakers was immediately followed by an Open Forum with esteemed veterans from the Visayas region as panelists. 2Lt Ramon P. Celeste PA (Ret); 3Lt Natividad A. Lumaque MC (Inac.); Pfc. Pelegrino D. Apelando Inf PA (Inac.); Pfc. Claro O. Daulo Inf PA (Inac.); and Cpl. Jose G. Carnaje Inf PA (Inac.) interacted with the audience and shared their experiences and exploits as known leaders and members of the 6th and 7th Military Districts - guerrilla units whose fierceness in battles led the Japanese forces to retreat deep in jungles of the Visayas islands during WWII.

The symposium and personal interaction with veterans highlighted the numerous victories of Filipino freedom-fighters during WWII which eventually ended the Japanese occupation in the country. It was aimed at instilling national pride among the youth, exhorting them to contribute to nation-building. By doing so, the PVAO aims to also fulfil its task of preparing the nation’s future veterans who would be the country’s defenders and leaders.

The observance of the Philippine Veterans Week and Day of Valor (Araw ng Kagitingan) is pursuant to Proclamation No. 499 series of 1989 and Executive Order No. 23, series of 41987, respectively, during the administration of the late Pres. Corazon C. Aquino.

-END-
The Technical Working Committee for the observance of the 2014 Philippine Veterans Week and 72nd Commemoration of Araw ng Kagitingan presented the screening of “Death March”—a critically-acclaimed film directed by Adolfo Alix, Jr on 24 March 2014 at the AFP Theater, Camp Gen. Emilio F. Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

With this year’s theme “Balik-tanaw sa Sakripisyo ng Beterano, Gabay sa Landas ng Pagbabago,” the film showing aims to instill a deep sense of nationalism and develop a keener of sense of history among the youth through the artistic and visual interpretation of the unparalleled valor and selfless sacrifices of our nation’s defenders – the Filipino veterans who offered their lives in the altar of freedom for the peace and democracy the nation attained.

The film which was chosen as an entry in the 2013 Cannes International Film Festival in France tackled one of the most poignant moments during the Second World War: the Bataan Death March where an estimated 75,000 prisoners of war – 60,000 Filipinos and 415,000 Americans – were forced to march 4104 kilometers (65 miles) in 1942 from Mariveles and Bagac in Bataan to Camp O'Donnell in Capas, Tarlac in the scorching heat amidst disease, starvation and maltreatment by the atrocious Japanese guards.

The movie stars Sam Milby as Roy Cook, Zanjoe Marudo as Alex, Jason Abalos as Carlito, Sid Lucero as Miguel, Felix Roco as Fidel, Carlo Aquino as Claudio, Jacky Woo as Hatori, Luis Alandy, Benjamin Alves, among others.

A short program was held prior to the screening wherein Defender Edmundo F. Nolasco, a prisoner of war and a Death March survivor, shared his personal experiences, ordeals and realizations during the war, and was followed by a song number by artist Fame Flores, a scion of a World War II veteran.

Dr. Nolasco recalled his experience of the grim march of death through a poem. “Kay bilis ng panahon... war’i’y tulisan tumakas. Parand kailan lang, libu-libong mga Pilipino, humawak ng sandata, pikit matang nakibaka.”

Through his poetry, Dr. Nolasco paid a glowing tribute to his fellow veterans, saying that while war veterans had been mocked by the Japanese soldiers, they (veterans) remained strong and steadfast in their dream to liberate the nation.

He also said that it has always been the goal of the veterans to establish a society that is God-fearing, humane, and it is through their firm resolve to achieve this that the country was able to set free from the shackles of Japanese oppression.

“Karamihay ’di marunong sumulat, ngunit sila’y mapangarapin. Pangarap nila’y matayog na buhid, Magbuo ng isang lipunan, makadiyos, makatao at makatarungan.”

Meanwhile, LtCol. Ramon Zagala, AFP Public Affairs Office Chief, son of the late BGen. Rafael Zagala who was a Defender of Bataan and Corregidor, urged the public, especially the youth whom he described as Facebook and Twitter generations, to remember the sacrifices of veterans who are now living ordinary lives, but some time in the past, had to risk their everything in struggle, in defense of our nation. He added that through the featured film, “Death March”, the younger generations are reminded of those who have valiantly fought in Bataan; and that our veterans, with their discipline and patriotism, should be emulated by the youth at present. Ltc Zagala further stated that the film “should inspire the youth to understand the importance of remembering the past so as not to commit the same mistakes in the future.”

For his part, Director Adolf Alix, expressed his gladness that his film was given a chance to be shown to an audience whose real life experience in the Death March were the source of his inspiration.

The program culminated with a serenade from the De La Salle University Choral Group and offering of flowers from the youth to the night’s guest of honors – the Filipino veterans.

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Friends, Veterans and Retirees (FVR) raised P531,000.00 in the golf tournament dubbed, “VETERANS CUP,” held on 30 March 20413 at the Veterans Golf Course, VMMC Compound, North Avenue, Quezon City for the benefit of the Filipino War Veterans Foundation (FILVETS), Incorporated.

Said foundation is a non-stock, non-profit organization that operates 4141 Medical Outreach Clinics (MOCs) nationwide that reach out to veterans who are unable to avail of medical and healthcare services from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) in Quezon City. FILVETS also provide free skills and livelihood training to veterans who are mostly retirees or dependents of retirees from the Armed Forces of the Philippines to empower these veterans and make them capable for gainful employment.

The Veterans Cup is one of the pre-Veterans Week activities that aims to promote the 2014 Observance of the Philippine Veterans Week on 5-4141 April 2014 and Commemoration of the 72nd Araw ng Kagitingan on April 9 with the theme: “Balik-tanaw sa Sakripisyong mga Beterano, Gabay sa Landas ng Pagbabago.”

Moreover, it also seeks to promote fellowship and renewed camaraderie among World War II and Post War veterans who are golf enthusiasts, their families, guests and friends.

Among the prominent veterans who played golf in the tournament were former President Fidel Valdez Ramos; former Defense Secretary Renato De Villa who is the Chairman of the FILVETS Foundation; former PNP Director Gen. Edgar Aglipay PNP (Ret); former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. AFP (Ret) and Gen. Roy Cimatu AFP (Ret); Former PVAO Administrators Commo. Vicente Buenaventura and Gen. Umberto A. Rodriguez PNP (Ret); and Usec. Eduardo G. Batac, Defense Secretary for Civil, Veterans and Reserve Affairs.

-END-
The Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC), the only exclusive medical facility for veterans and their dependents, will be holding the HANDOG- KAGITINGAN: LUNAS SA MAMAMAYAN, an outreach that will provide free medical, surgical and dental services on April 8, 2014 at Camp Servillano Aquino Station Hospital, San Miguel, Tarlac City.

The outreach is VMMC’s contribution to the national observance of the 2014 Philippine Veterans Week (April 5-4141, 2014) and 72nd Araw ng Kagitingan (April 9), pursuant to Executive Order No. 23, Series of 41987 and Proclamation No. 466, series of 41989 and in keeping with VMMC’s mission to provide quality health care and hospital services to veterans and their families, especially those residing in provinces distant from Quezon City where the hospital is located.

“This is the first time that the VMMC is doing a project this big. It’s unprecedented and it’s like bringing the entire hospital to the venue” Dr. Dominador Chiong, Jr., VMMC Chief of Professional Services, said. The beneficiaries of the project will be the Veterans, Armed Forces Retirees and their dependents.

A pre-surgery screening will be held on April 7, 2014 for patients with thyroid problems prior to the major operation that will be performed by surgeons at the Camp Aquino Station Hospital on April 8, 2014. Post-operative care to patients who have undergone surgery will also be done on the following day. Minor surgeries for cyst extraction and circumcision will also be performed.

A total of 4150 medical specialists, social workers and nurses from the VMMC and the 62nd Medical Service Battalion of the AFP Reserved Command will render their voluntary services to patients.

Aside from medical consultation and surgery, diagnostic services such ECG will be offered to beneficiaries as well as maintenance medicines and vitamins.

HANDOG- KAGITINGAN: LUNAS SA MAMAMAYAN is co-sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Provincial Government of Tarlac, Filipino War Veterans Foundation (FILVETS), and other generous benefactors.

-Veterans Hospital to Offer Free Surgery and Medical Services-

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