

Rep. Napolitano's H.R. 3714- Corporal Fernando Ruiz Baltazar Posthumous Citizenship Act

Current cosponsors: Pete Sessions (R-TX), Andre Carson (D-IN), Bobby Scott (D-VA), Greg Murphy (R-NC), Judy Chu (D-CA), James Moylan (R-Guam)

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Nearly 83 years ago, over 250,000 Philippine Scouts fought alongside American forces during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines in World War II. Many Filipino scouts died in the course of their service. Currently, one of the three requirements for extending posthumous citizenship to noncitizen service members requires noncitizen service members to have enlisted, reenlisted, extended enlistment, or induction, either in the United States, the Canal Zone, American Samoa, or Swains Island, or onboard a United States noncommercial vessel. **The Philippines is not included on this list.**

This bill would extend posthumous citizenship to noncitizen service members in the Philippines who enlisted, reenlisted, extended enlistment, or were inducted in the Philippines and died during the period beginning September 1, 1939, and ending December 31, 1946. This bill does not seek renumeration for Filipino service members who died in World War II.

Posthumous citizenship requirements for servicemembers are currently defined in the Posthumous Citizenship for Active Duty Service Act of 1989, which provides posthumous citizenship if the deceased has met three requirements. First, they must have served honorably in an active-duty status during any period. Second, they must have died as a result of injury or disease incurred or aggravated by that service. Third, servicemember must have been a lawful permanent resident, or that at the time of enlistment, reenlistment, extension of enlistment, or induction they were either in the United States, the Canal Zone, American Samoa, or Swains Island, or onboard a United States noncommercial vessel.

The current requirements do not, however, provide a procedure for a non-citizen who was enlisted, reenlisted, extended enlistment, or was inducted in the Philippines, which our bill would fix.