

The Goals and Task of AWARE

AWARE seeks to improve the welfare and wellness of widows and relatives of Filipino Veterans including the spouses of living veterans.

AWARE will advocate for benefits for widows of departed Filipino World War II veterans who struggled for equity and who have not received their benefits under the law.

AWARE will fight for the recognition of widows and their right to receive such additional benefits under the law.

AWARE will work for the rights and welfare and wellness of widows and relatives of veterans, and struggle for better housing, health care, food distribution.

AWARE will fight for family reunification with children left in the Philippines.

For more information, please

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Association of Widows,
Advocates and Relatives for
Equality

Los Angeles Chapter



Their Situation: A time for Change

There are thrice the number of widows than the veterans in the United States. Meaning more than 18,000 of them are in the Filipino American communities all over the United States. There are still more than 40,00 living veterans in the Philippines. It is safe to assume that there are at least 120,000 widows and relatives of veterans in the Philippines

History

AWARE was formed after the passage of S. 1315 which excludes Filipinos veterans in the enhanced American veterans law of the 110th US Congress. This is the 2nd Recession Act of our time that discriminates against the Filipino World War II veterans.

In its place, the 111th US Congress, on Feb. 17, 2009, passed the Stimulus Bill or the American Recovery and Reinvestments Act (ARRA) that includes a one time-lump sum benefits for Filipino veterans. But the lump sum has quit claim, no full recognition to the veterans and no benefits for Filipino World War II widows.

On November 2008, the widows and relatives of veterans banded together and formed this organization-AWARE in Los Angeles and San Francisco to fight and advocate for equal rights.

The widows started to get organized at first to support the veterans struggle but later to fight for themselves. They held their protests on July 25th and Sept 22nd of 2008 and February 18th, March 9th and March 21st of 2009 in Los Angeles, San Francisco and other areas of the country.

Most of them waited out for a long time (more than 63 years to be exact) for the benefits. It is but right and just that the widows who stood and waited and struggled with their husbands for equity and justice must receive benefits - this is the essence of equality. This is what they are fighting for.

But at the same time, they also saw the need to struggle for their livelihood, welfare and wellness. Most of them are seniors and minorities and monolingual. They suffers different types of discrimination under the present system such as male chauvinism and state neglect.

Widows endure poverty in senior apartments, line up for food distribution, get the least health care and attention in government agencies, suffers adult abuses and suffer the cuts in state, county and city budgets.

