

## SCR 202 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

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**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/17

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Honors the life and service of Paul Laruya Ramirez, Sr., to the United States during World War II.

**FISCAL - no fiscal impact**

**REVENUE - no revenue impact**

**SENATE VOTE - 22-0**

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Paul Laruya Ramirez, Sr., was born November 26, 1911. Along with eight siblings, he grew up in Agoo, La Union, Philippines. At the age of 18, in the early 1930's, Mr. Ramirez emigrated to the United States with two of his cousins and they farmed near Sacramento, California. Mr. Ramirez also worked at a local restaurant. In December 1941, following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mr. Ramirez enlisted in the United States Army where he served in the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment, initially at Camp Beale near Sacramento. Specializing as a cook, Mr. Ramirez deployed to New Guinea and Southern Luzon, Philippines where he served under the military command of General Douglas MacArthur in 1944.

Mr. Ramirez married his wife Librada on May 14, 1945 in Angeles City, Pampanga, Philippines. In late 1945, Mr. Ramirez's deployment ended and he returned to the United States. Following the end of the war, Mr. Ramirez returned to the Philippines to live with his family. He became a fisherman, carpenter, and the owner of a "sari-sari" sundry store. He was elected as a Capitan del Barrio (neighborhood leader) of his community. Mr. Ramirez received U.S. citizenship which distinguished him and his children as U.S. Citizens allowing them to emigrate to the United States settling in Portland, Oregon.

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden saluted the bravery and sacrifices of Paul Laruya Ramirez Sr., during World War II. In recognition of his remarkable wartime service, Mr. Ramirez received a Congressional Gold Medal which hangs in the National Museum of American History. The Consulate General stated the legacy of Mr. Ramirez "... serves as an example for generations to come ...". Senate Concurrent Resolution 202 honors the commendable life and service of Paul Laruya Ramirez, Sr.