

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Bonnie Kwong | 415.501.0776 | [bkwong@niwapr.com](mailto:bkwong@niwapr.com)  
AARP Media Relations | 202.434.2560 | [media@aarp.org](mailto:media@aarp.org)

## **AARP Underwrites 1,000 Congressional Gold Medals for Filipino WWII Veterans**

*Medal Replicas to be Presented to Veterans and Their Family Members*



*Back row, left to right: **Susan Pretro**; **Ron Mori**, AARP Multicultural Leadership Manager; **Maria Gillen**, AARP New Product Development Director; **Edna Kane-Williams**, AARP Senior Vice President, Multicultural Leadership; (Ret.) **Maj. Gen. Tony Taguba**, Chairman of the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project; **Bill Walsh**, AARP Senior Strategic Advisor; **Karina Hurley**, AARP Strategic Communications Director; **Daphne Kwok**, AARP Vice President of Multicultural Leadership, Asian American and Pacific Islander Audience Strategy; **Francis Montenegro**. Front row: **Leo Duran**, and **Ryan Letada**, CEO and Co-founder, NextDayBetter, at the FilVetREP Gala Celebration for Filipino WWII Veterans on October 25, 2017 in Tysons Corner, Va. Photo credit [Jessie Whiles](#).*

WASHINGTON, DC, October 27, 2017 — AARP saluted the Filipino and Filipino American veterans of World War II by funding the minting of 1,000 bronze replicas of the Congressional Gold Medal to be given to veterans and their family members in recognition of their service and sacrifice. Commissioned by Congress, the medals are the highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions.

The veterans were honored in a national celebration on Capitol Hill on October 25, where House Speaker Paul Ryan presented them the Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of the nation for the distinguished contributions of 260,000 Filipino soldiers and guerrillas during World War II in the Philippines.



“AARP is proud to support the efforts to recognize and celebrate Filipino and Filipino American World War II veterans,” said Daphne Kwok, AARP Vice President of Multicultural Leadership, Asian American and Pacific Islander Audience Strategy. “We are so pleased to join with the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project and this nation in the shared goal of ensuring that future generations of Americans understand these vets’ incredible sacrifices.”

The Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project (FilVetREP) spearheaded the effort to pass the Congressional Gold Medal legislation and worked with the U.S. Mint to manage the minting and production of the medals.

“It has been 72 years since the end of World War II, and these vets’ service and sacrifice have not been forgotten,” said FilVetREP Chairman (Ret.) Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba. “These Congressional Gold Medals recognize and celebrate the extraordinary sacrifices and contributions of Filipino WWII soldiers. AARP’s support has been extremely valuable in this effort.”

Filipino World War II veterans or surviving family members are urged to register so they can receive long-overdue recognition of their service. Register with [The Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project](https://www.filvetrep.org/registry) at <https://www.filvetrep.org/registry>.

# WE SALUTE THE SACRIFICE AND HONOR OF ALL FILIPINO AND FILIPINO AMERICAN WORLD WAR II SOLDIERS

To Filipino American veterans of World War II and all Fil-Am veterans, their duty to country was worth dying for—to defend and preserve democracy and freedom for the United States and its citizens.

AARP especially thanks Major General Tony Taguba for his service to this nation, his leadership as chairman of the FilVetREP, and his role as an AARP Community Ambassador.





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#### **ABOUT AARP**

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With nearly 38 million members and offices in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also works for individuals in the marketplace by sparking new solutions and allowing carefully chosen, high-quality products and services to carry the AARP name. As a trusted source for news and information, AARP produces the world's largest circulation publications, AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org) or follow [@AARP](https://twitter.com/AARP) and [@AARPadvocates](https://twitter.com/AARPadvocates) on social media.