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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/22/13

SPONSOR Payne LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE "Bataan-Corregidor Heritage Month" SB 195

ANALYST Esquibel

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
NFI	NFI	NFI	

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 195 (SB195) designates the month of April as "Bataan Corregidor Heritage Month", recognizing the heroic efforts of those men who fought to defend Bataan and Corregidor during World War II.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB195 contains no appropriation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Veterans' Services Department writes "the 200th Coast Artillery of the New Mexico National Guard was inducted in federal service on January 6, 1941 for what was supposed to be a one year tour of active duty.

By September 26, 1941, the 200th reached Ft. Stotsenburg, approximately 75 miles north of Manila. The 200th was charged with the protection of the Fort as well as the area around the Fort.

On December 8th 1941, Japanese bombers began their air raid over the Philippines and the 200th

was pressed into combat. Unfortunately, with the Japanese planes flying at a level of 23,000 feet, the poorly equipped soldiers could not reach that high with the anti aircraft guns that had been provided to them. Even so, having guns that would only reach to 20000, they were still able to down 5 planes while losing 2 of their own troops.

Two weeks after the war reached the Philippines, the Japanese began landing near Luzon and the bombing of Clark Field and Manila intensified. With the overwhelming move of the Japanese, the 200th was split and the 515th regiment was sent to protect the retreat of South Luzon Force while the 200th was left to protect the retreat of the North Luzon Force. This allowed both Forces to reach Bataan. Over the next 90 days, the battle intensified and the situation for the 200th and 515th went from bad to worse. Food and medicine were scarce and malaria and other diseases began to diminish the fighting strength of both regiments.

On April 3, 1942, the Japanese had received sufficient reinforcements and began the move into the Bataan Peninsula. After 48 hours of heavy air and artillery fire, the Japanese were able to break through the forward lines and by April 9th, the fight was over. The 200th and 515th had 86 confirmed aircraft shot down and had heroically held off the much larger and better equipped Japanese Army, but by April 9th, the horrific 65 mile death march had begun from Mariveles to San Fernando. The 200th and 515th would be held as Prisoners of War for the next 40 months. During this time, they would be tortured, starved, moved, and be forced into slave labor.

The original 200th Coast Artillery had made it to the Philippines with a troop strength of 1,800 men. By the time they were finally liberated, half had been killed, or died of starvation, malaria, or other diseases. Of the 900 who made it home, over 30 percent died within a year of wounds, disease, or other complications.

These men served their country with extreme heroism and their memory and the memory of their actions and service to this country must never be allowed to be forgotten.”

RAE/blm