



The National Son

The newsletter of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans

Volume 2025 No. 4

Historic Carlisle!

2025 SSAWV Convention Elects New President

Inside

- **Phil-American War**
- **Denny D. Verdi**
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MOLLY PITCHER – The SSAWV presents a wreath at Molly Pitcher's grave while in Carlisle. From left to right are Jim McAtee, Tim Mabee, New NP Mark Donahue, Dennis Flake & Matt Woolson.

From the National President...



Greetings to All!

This is my first message as the President and I am humbled and honored to hold the office. Before we begin, it is appropriate that we give our sincere thanks to Immediate Past National President Tim Mabee. Those of us aware of Tim's efforts and leadership know he has helped take the organization forward. Fortunately, as a PNP he will serve a key advisor whenever I have questions.

Our Carlisle meeting turned out to a great success with shared comradeship, sight-seeing, and business. Jim McAteer and his wife Pat also foundations within our organization and our sisters in the Daughters of '98.

I look forward to working with each of you in the coming months. Do not hesitate to reach out to share the activities of your camp or yourself as an individual when it contributes to our organizational mission. Be sure to document your work

with photographs and a paragraph or two I can share with you in the quarterly newsletter. We do not know about it if you do not report it.

In this *National Son*, you will find another great article by Peter Belmonte about Denny D. Verdi who served as an enlisted man in Cuba and later as an officer in the Philippines, first in the Army and later as a leader of Philippine Scouts.

Is it Philippine Insurrection or Philippine-American War? Author Dennis Edward Flake explains the difference with an excellent article on the topic.

NEW ADDRESS FOR TREASURER - In case you missed the last issue, effective 1 October the new SSAWV Treasurer is Mr. Donald L Hotchkiss. Dues checks should be forwarded to him at this address: 2524 Cove Road, Las Vegas, NV 89128-6850

-Mark

---125th Anniversary---

The proper labeling of the Philippine-American War

By

Dennis Edward Flake

The year 2025 marks the 126th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Philippine-American War. For most of the 126 years, the war was not labeled correctly. Unfortunately, the Americans inaccurately called it the “Philippine Insurrection.”

In the past fifty years, American historians have expanded historiography of the war. They were able to broaden their analysis of the conflict. Eventually, they joined Philippine historians and started using the label Philippine-American War. The United States Library of Congress officially reclassified the war in 1999. Since 1999, all references to the war should use the Philippine-American War term.

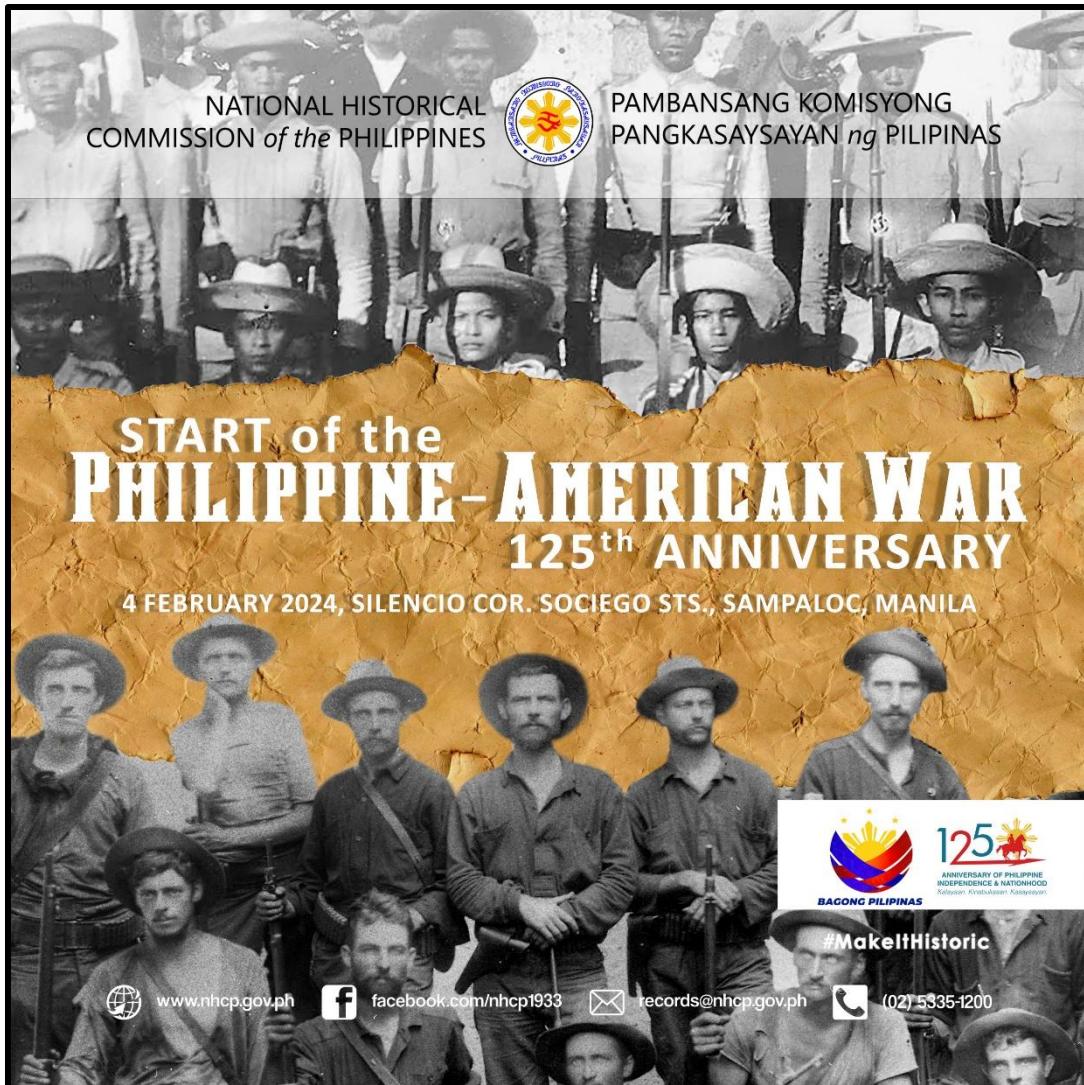
To be appropriately classified as the “Philippine Insurrection” there needed to be a long-established control of the Philippines by the United States. This was not the case. The Americans had only signed the Treaty of Paris, which ceded the Philippines to the United States from Spain, on December 10, 1898. The U.S. Senate did not even ratify the treaty until after hostilities between American and Filipino forces commenced on February 4, 1899.

There was another reason that the war was not an insurrection. The United States only controlled Manila and a few surrounding areas in the Philippines. The revolutionary forces of Emilio Aguinaldo controlled most the Philippines. In fact, the American military and civilian leaders encouraged Aguinaldo to return to the Philippines from his exile in Hong Kong to rally his forces against Spanish rule. The Filipinos and Americans had an informal alliance. The relationship initially benefited both parties, but eventually the alliance collapsed.

On January 23, 1899, the Philippine Republic was inaugurated in Malolos, Bulacan Province. Emilio Aguinaldo took his oath of office for the President of the republic. The event was an enormous celebration with thousands of attendees. The new constitution was read aloud for the audience. The Philippine Army conducted a military procession in the city.

When the fighting began on February 4, 1899, the conflict was not an insurrection by the Filipinos. The Philippine-American War was a conflict between two Constitutional Republics. Unfortunately, the needless war cost the lives of approximately 4,200 American soldiers, 16,000 Filipino soldiers, and 200,000 Filipino civilians from diseases and dislocation.

The United States had significant internal opposition and dissent to America’s new expansionism and colonial role in the world. Within the American population, the war caused deep divisions



supporting or opposing the annexation of the Philippines. Was the former colony ready for the consequences and unintended consequences of being a colonist?

Most of the soldiers in the early days of the war had only volunteered for the Spanish-American War. The men thought that they would be sent to Cuba or Puerto Rico not to the Philippines in Asia. After the Spanish were defeated in the Philippines, most of the soldiers thought that they would be heading home soon.

For the American soldiers who were sent overseas to fight the Filipinos, the labeling and dissent were irrelevant. The soldiers were ordered by their elected government to suppress a rebellion against American annexation. They performed their duty to the United States.

Dennis Edward Flake is the author of three books on Philippine-American history. He is Public Historian and a former seasonal park ranger in interpretation for the National Park Service at the Eisenhower National Historic Site in Gettysburg, PA. He is also a history columnist for *inquirer.net* He can be contacted at: flakedennis@gmail.com

---*Gallant and Meritorious Conduct*---

The Military Service of Denny DeSuzzara Verdi, U.S. Army, 1895-1908

By Maj. Peter L. Belmonte, USAF (Ret.)

Denny DeSuzzara Verdi was born in 1873 in Washington, D.C. His father was Dr. Tullio Suzzara Verdi, a native of Mantua, Italy, who had served in the Sardinian army from 1847 to 1849. In the latter year the Austrians exiled Verdi, and he came to the United States. After serving as Professor of Modern Languages at Brown University, Verdi attended medical school at Hahnemann Medical College at Philadelphia in 1856. He moved to Washington, D.C., where, sometime before 1860, he married Rebecca Adele Denny, a native Pennsylvanian. Among other distinctions, Verdi was the personal physician of Secretary of State William H. Seward.¹

Denny Verdi followed in his father's footsteps. He apparently studied medicine, and there is some indication that he graduated medical school.² Sometime prior to 1895, Verdi enlisted in the Ambulance Corps of the Washington, D.C., National Guard. In April 1895, he sought and obtained a discharge in order, presumably, to enlist in the Regular Army.³ On 17 May 1895, Verdi enlisted in the Regular Army for three years at Washington, D.C. Standing five feet, six inches tall, with blue eyes and light brown hair and a ruddy complexion, Verdi listed his occupation as student. He served in Troop H, 8th Cavalry Regiment, and, because of his medical knowledge, he also served a stint in the Hospital Corps. Verdi was discharged on 16 May 1898 at Fort Meade, South Dakota; he was a private with excellent character. On 11 June 1898, with the Spanish-American War ongoing, Verdi re-enlisted at Fort Meade. He served in Troop M, 8th Cavalry Regiment, until his discharge at Fort Hamilton, New York, on 26 May 1899; he was a sergeant with excellent character. During this tour of duty, Verdi and the 8th Cavalry served in Cuba as part of the occupation forces.⁴

The Spanish-American War had officially ended with the Treaty of Paris in December 1898. Many of the state volunteer regiments that had formed for service during the war were beginning to be discharged; some few regiments remained on active duty as part of the occupation forces in



INCORRECT TOMBSTONE - Denny Verdi's gravestone. Note absence of a birth date and all military information; note also his incorrect surname (Findagrave.com).

Cuba until early 1899. However, those regiments that had been sent to the Philippines were caught up in the Philippine War that had begun in February 1899. Because the expiration of the terms of enlistment for those regiments were rapidly approaching, the War Department desperately needed men to replace those regiments that were awaiting discharge. Accordingly, Congress authorized the formation of twenty-five volunteer infantry regiments recruited for two years specifically for duty in the Philippines. Many of the men who volunteered for service in these regiments were veterans. Some prior enlisted men were able to secure commissions as officers in one of the regiments; Denny Verdi was one such man.

In July 1899, Verdi was commissioned as a second lieutenant, effective 5 July, in Company F, 34th United States Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Verdi reported to Fort Logan, Colorado, to join the regiment.⁵ The 34th soon sailed to the Philippines, and parts of his regiment were involved in the pursuit of Filipino leader Emilio Aguinaldo in northern Luzon in late 1899. A complete description of this campaign is beyond the scope of this article, but we can learn something of Verdi's actions during this time. Major Julius A. Penn, the commander of Verdi's battalion, wrote a commendatory letter about Verdi's conduct and leadership during the fighting. In a letter to the adjutant general of the "Separate Brigade, 8th Army Corps," Penn wrote (spelling and punctuation in the original):

I have the honor to recommend that Second Lieut. Denny de S. Verdi, Company F, 34th infantry, U. S. Vols., be commissioned to captain by brevet for gallant and meritorious service in action at Tangnadan [Tangadan] Pass, December 4 and 5, 1899; in the pursuit of General Turio's [insurgent General Manuel Tinio] force, December 5 to 11, 1899; in action at Bandi, December 8, and at Banna Canyon, December 9, and the rescue from the insurgent army of General Pena and 500 Spanish soldiers at Benguld, December 6, and Dingrass [Dingras], December 10, 1899, and in the rescue of three Americans from the insulation at La Paz, December 8, 1899.

This young officer's conduct was especially commendable. Though suffering from fever most of the time, he performed his duties and took part with his company in the actions enumerated, and in the action at Banna Canyon his conduct was gallant and meritorious, crossing the rocky bed of the canyon under a hot fire from the front and left, and advancing up the hill between the two positions held by the enemy. His physical condition was such from fever that he could not accompany the subsequent expedition into the Cagayan mountains.⁶

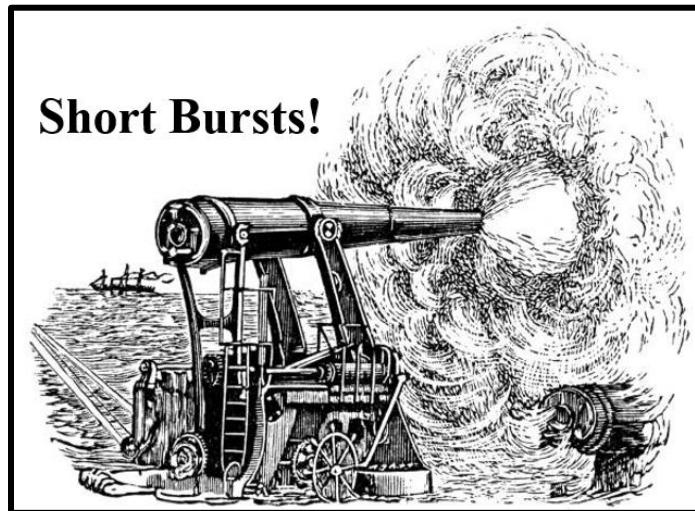
Penn's statement shows that Verdi was part of the U.S. forces who pursued Aguinaldo and rescued Spanish General Leopoldo Garcia Peña and more than five hundred Spanish soldiers who had been prisoners of the insurgents since June 1898; in addition, Verdi helped to free three of the almost thirty U.S. military prisoners, many of whom were members of the expedition led by Navy Lieutenant James C. Gillmore, Jr., in April 1899. Verdi's specific illness is not indicated, but many soldiers in the field suffered from malaria or other forms of fever, and dysentery.⁷ It's not known whether Verdi received a brevet captaincy or whether he was officially cited in any other way.

After his discharge in 1901, Verdi returned to Washington, D.C. On 6 June 1901, Verdi re-enlisted; he served in Troop L, 11th Cavalry Regiment, until his discharge as a sergeant with very good character on 9 March 1904 in Manila, Philippines. The next day Verdi re-enlisted and served in Troop D, 11th Cavalry Regiment, and in the Hospital Corps until his discharge as a first class private at Fort Assiniboine, Montana, on 9 March 1907. Nine days later, Verdi found himself at Columbus Barracks, Ohio, where he re-enlisted in the Hospital Corps. He was discharged as a first class private with excellent character at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, on 22 August 1907.⁸ Verdi had apparently applied to become a commissioned officer in the Philippine Scouts; on 23 August, the day after his discharge as a first class private, Private Verdi became Second Lieutenant Verdi of the Philippine Scouts. No doubt that Verdi's long service in the Army and his honorable service as an infantry officer in the Philippines, helped his candidacy for a commission.

The Philippine Scouts were organized in 1901 and consisted of native Filipinos, led by American Army officers, who assisted American troops in subduing the growing insurgency. These units continued in existence until 1941. Unfortunately, we don't know what Lt. Verdi did while assigned to the Philippine Scouts. On 26 January 1908, Verdi was discharged from service in the Philippine Scouts. He then obtained employment in the U.S. Army Quartermaster department in the Philippines.⁹ Verdi died of a tropical disease on 18 July 1908 in Manila.¹⁰ It's possible that the disease was related to the illness from which he suffered during the strenuous 1899 campaign in northern Luzon. The initial disposition of Verdi's remains isn't known. There is a record dated 31 July 1953 that indicates that Verdi was buried at the Clark Air Force Base Cemetery near Manila. In 1979, someone made a request for a veteran's gravestone for Verdi. Despite Verdi's honorable military service as an officer and an enlisted man in the Hospital Corps, cavalry, and infantry, his veteran's headstone application is bereft of any particulars. Indeed, whoever filled out the request omitted Verdi's date of birth and any military service information at all. Sadly, his surname is incorrectly given as DeVerdi, and so it appears on his gravestone.¹¹

Endnotes:

1. "Tullio Suzzara Verdi 1829-1902," Sue Young Histories, <https://www.sueyounghistories.com/2008-03-23-tullio-suzzara-verdi-and-homeopathy/>. For general information on the Verdi family, see the various databases readily available on Ancestry.com.
2. "Lieut. Verdi Dead Had Varied Career," *The Journal*, Meriden, Connecticut, 22 July 1908, excerpt found on Findagrave.com.
3. "Drilling For Memphis," *The Washington Post*, 27 April 1895. All newspaper sources were accessed from Newspapers.com unless otherwise noted.
4. All Regular Army enlistment records are taken from the Army enlistment registers, *U.S. Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914*, on Ancestry.com.
5. "Late Army Orders," *The Evening Times*, Washington, D.C., 22 July 1899.
6. "Specially Commended," *Evening Star*, Washington, D.C., 6 April 1900, excerpt found on Findagrave.com.
7. For an in-depth account of the campaign in northern Luzon in late 1899 and the full story of the Gillmore expedition, see Matthew Westfall, *The Devil's Causeway: The True Story of America's First Prisoners of War in the Philippines, and the Heroic Expedition Sent to Their Rescue* (Guilford, CT: Lyons Press, 2012).
8. Verdi's re-enlistment record on the 1904 register shows service in Company D, 7th Infantry Regiment. The author feels that this is incorrect and that Verdi actually re-enlisted in Troop D, 11th Cavalry Regiment, in Manila. See "Fort Ethan Allen Notes," *The Burlington Free Press*, Burlington, Vermont, 23 August 1907 (excerpt found on Findagrave.com) listing Verdi's assignment to Troop D, 11th Cavalry Regiment.
9. Fold3.com
10. "Lieut. Verdi Dead Had Varied Career," *The Journal*, Meriden, Connecticut, 22 July 1908, excerpt found on Findagrave.com.
11. See images of the applicable documents, available on Ancestry.com.



SUPPORT VETERANS DAY PARADE - Brothers of the Buckey O'Neill Camp #175 -



Arizona in conjunction with the Arizona Rough Riders Association marched in the Prescott Veterans Day Parade in Prescott, Arizona in memory of the valiant men who served with Teddy Roosevelt. Brothers David Williamson, SR VP; Avery Frantz, President; and Richard Bates, General Member and 2nd Great Grandson of a Rough Rider, participated in the event.

FIGHTING JOE WHEELER CAMP member Greg Eanes and his 89-year-old father Jim R. Eanes released *Vietnam Journal: A Small Town Editor Reports a Community's Experience* just before Veterans Day. The 165,000 word document contains newspaper articles published by former Crewe-Burkeville Journal Editor Jim Eanes during the war, post-war interviews with veterans of that conflict and a roster of over 600 names of Vietnam veterans from the greater Crewe-Burkeville, Virginia. The work supports the SSAWV objective of encouraging "in every possible way the importance of all American history to be studied properly in schools."

Carlisle Convention Photos



NEW OFFICERS INDUCTED – New officers were inducted at a formal swearing in at the 2025 SSAWV convention at the Comfort Suites Hotel in Carlisle Pennsylvania. Taking the Oath of Office are, from left to right Trustee Dennis Flake, Trustee James McAteer (PNP) and incoming National President Mark Donahue. The oath was administered by Outgoing National President Tim Mabee.

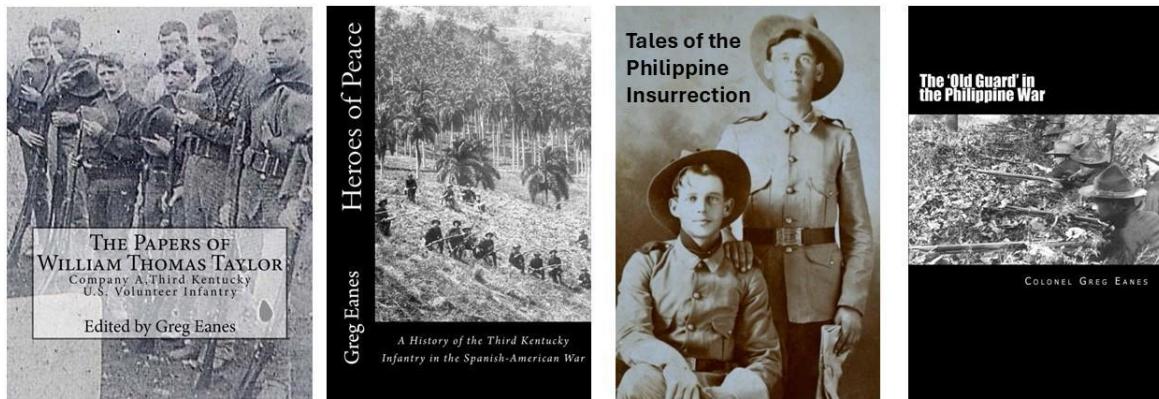


SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES – Besides SSAWV business, our conventions also contribute to the local economy when eating out. Pictured are Jim McAteer, Tim Mabee, Heather Mabee, Gretchen Simmons, Pat McAteer and Mark Donahue



CONVENTION ATTENDEES - Among those attending the 2025 SSAWV convention in Carlisle were, on left, from front to back, were James McAteer (PNP), Pat McAteer (PNP Daughters '98), Dennis Flake and Matt Woolson. On the right, from left to right, are Heather Mabee (VP Daughters '98), Gretchen Simmons (NP Daughters '98), Tim Mabee (PNP). The convention was called to order at 9 a.m. on November 15 with routine business and the elections. The tea traveled to Molly Pitcher's grave in Carlisle at 11 a.m. (see photo at right) and presented a wreath. Lunch followed with a tour of the U.S. Army Museum and Educational Center from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The annual dinner was held with ice cream that evening. The next convention location and date will be announced at a later date. Mark Donohue took the photo.



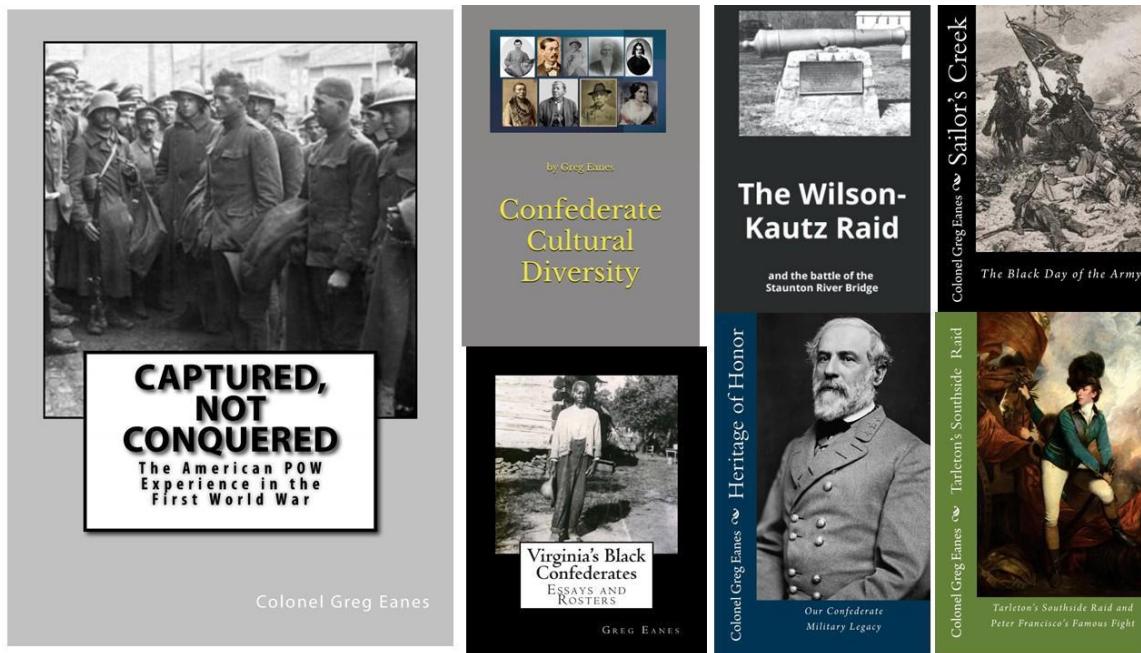


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Military History by Greg Eanes

available at online bookstores

A portion of profits are donated to veteran services and military related historic preservation activities



CARD OF THANKS – Allow this opportunity to say ‘thank you’ to all the SSAWV and Daughters of ‘98 who have submitted news and feature articles over the last year. This is your newsletter. Documenting your Camp and Fort news, your public outreach activities, your local preservation efforts, publishing the historical articles and rare photos are all an important part of documenting the work of our organization and in remembering the sacrifices of those who served during the Spanish-American War era. These newsletters cannot happen without your input so keep them coming. And please allow a heartfelt Merry Christmas to you all. – Greg Eanes, Public Relations Officer, SSAWV.

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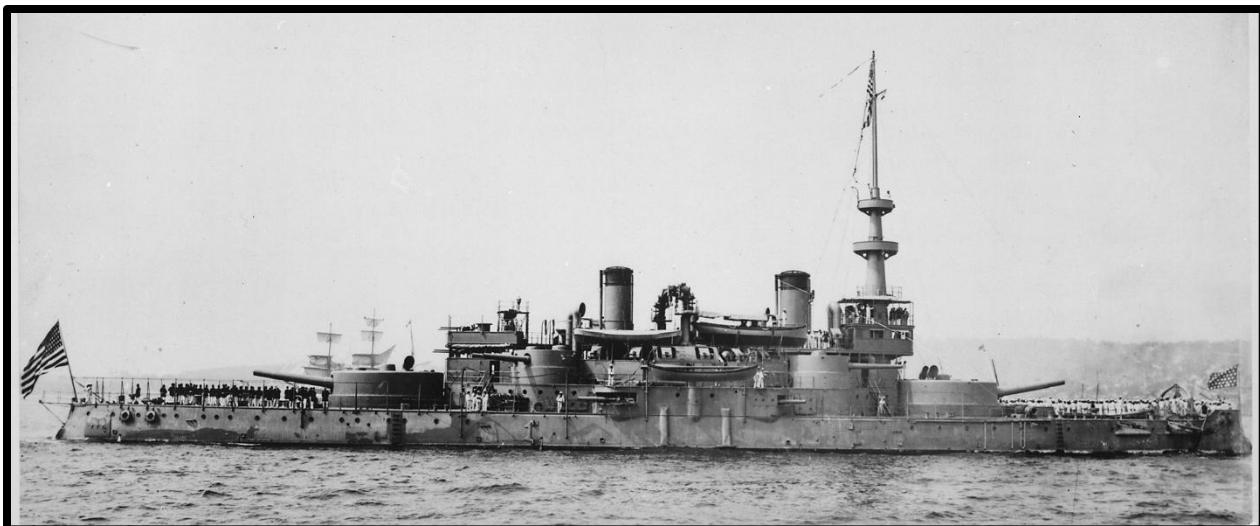
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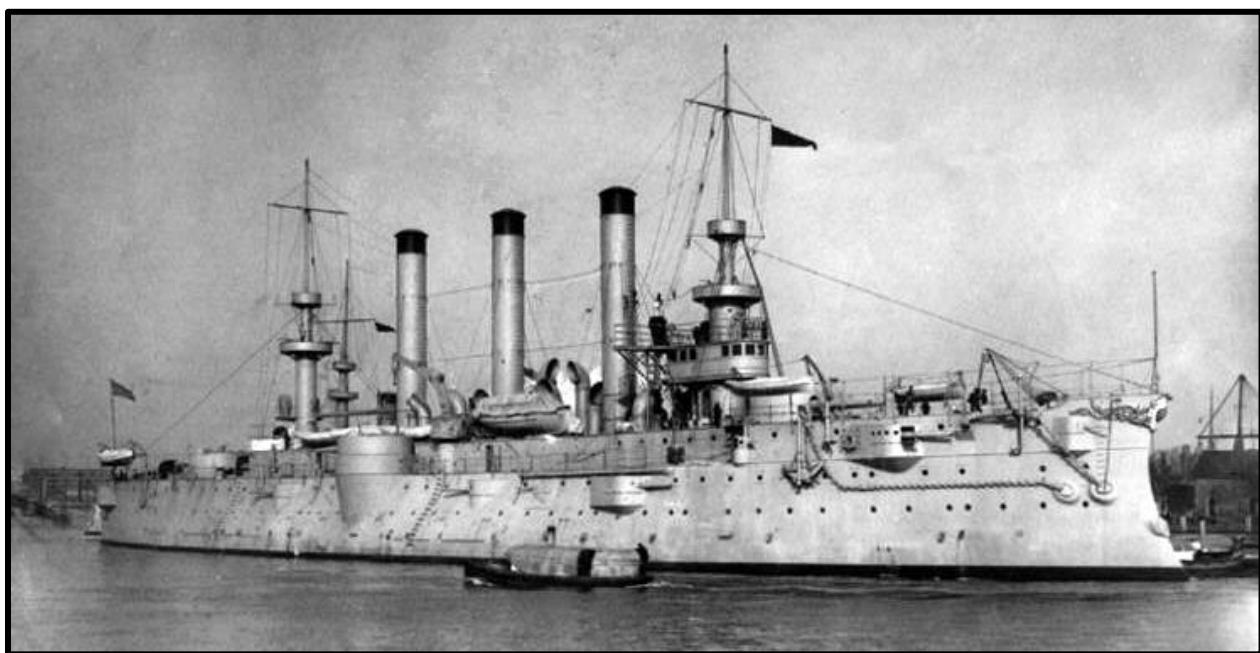
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U.S. MARINES in BOXER REBELLION



THREE WARS IN TWO YEARS - The USS OREGON (BB-3) saw service in the Spanish-American War in Cuba during the blockade and in the battle of Santiago Bay. The ship arrived in the Philippines on March 18, 1899 serving in the Philippine-American War. From May 1900 through May 1901, it operated in and around China and was part of the U.S. Naval response to the Boxer Rebellion. The ship had a crew of 473 men.



USS BROOKLYN (ACR-3) – This battleship, with 561 officers and enlisted men, also saw service in all three conflicts of the Spanish-American War Era. Already on the East Coast the ship arrived in Cuban waters on May 16, 1898 and participated in the battle of Santiago Bay. The ship arrived in the Philippines on December 16, 1899 serving as the Asiatic Fleet Flagship and also supported the China Relief Expedition (Boxer Rebellion) from July to October 1900. The ship left Asia for return to the East Coast in March 1902.

---Raw Numbers---

A Spanish-American War Era Head Count

By Greg Eanes

Federal records concerning Spanish-American War era conflicts consist of official reports from the Navy and War Departments, Congressional hearings on pensions and National Archive research and press reports based on government news releases. These records have resulted in some interesting and often mixed reading of data regarding veterans of the era.

Pension Hearings

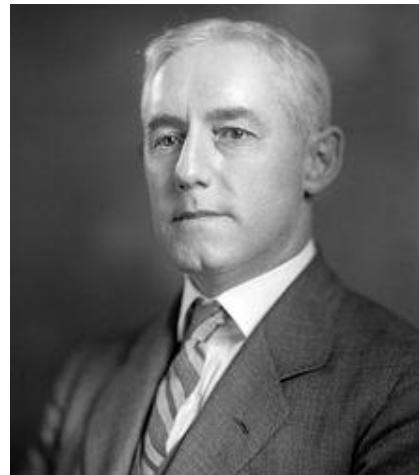
The House of Representatives Committee on Invalid Pensions held hearings in 1940 to discuss extending Spanish-American War pensions to Moro veterans who served after the July 15, 1903, the official conclusion date ending Spanish-American War era conflicts. Their report stated the President, “by Executive Order...fixed the date of beginning and termination of the period of the Spanish-American War, including the Boxer Rebellion and the Philippine Insurrection, for the purpose of determining wartime service in connection with the benefits payable under said act.”ⁱ These official dates are as follows:

Spanish-American War	April 21, 1898, to August 13, 1898
Philippine Insurrection	August 13, 1898, to July 4, 1902 (except Moro Provinces) ¹
--Moro Provinces	August 13, 1898, to July 15, 1903
Boxer Rebellion	June 20, 1900, to May 13, 1901

The Committee reported the average length of service for a Spanish-American War veteran was seven and one-half months. The average length of service for veterans of the Philippines and Boxer Rebellion were not provided.

Former Congressman Lloyd Thurston, Commander of the United Spanish War Veterans, testified in 1940 before Congress that there were 440,000 Spanish and Philippine War veterans.

He said at least 61% of these (268,400) experienced overseas service. While not stated, it is implied his numbers consist of Army and Navy personnel. A National Archives source states “about 280,564 sailors, marines and soldiers” served and it documented 2,061 total dead “from various causes.”ⁱⁱ It is interesting to note the NARA



USWV COMMANDER -Lloyd Thurston, former Congressman, Spanish American War, Philippine Insurrection & WW1 veteran.

ⁱ Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo formally declared by Proclamation, April 16, 1902 as the official end of the war citing that date as the surrender date of General Miguel Malvar, the second President of the Malolos Republic to U.S. Army General Franklin J. Bell.

280,564 figure is close to Commander Thurston's 'overseas service' figure, so NARA likely excludes those personnel mobilized and remaining in the Continental U.S. or may have been limited to only those veterans serving specifically against Spain and not the residual conflicts.

Table 1 Active-Duty Personnel During War with Spain

U.S. Navy and attached organizations	30,000 (est)
U.S. Marines	4,816
U.S. Army (Regulars)	28,100
U.S. Army (Regulars) (new recruits)	19,720
U.S. Army (State Volunteers)	223,235
Grand Total	305,871

The Spanish-American War

Service tallies just after the war suggest approximately 305,871 were on active duty at some point during the War with Spain. Of that number, 1,900 were killed or mortally wounded in action, 9,100 died of disease and 6,000 were wounded in action. The majority did not see combat against Spain.

- **U.S. Navy.** At 12,500 enlisted men before the war, the Navy's maximum enlisted strength during the period was 24,123 enlisted men and 128 ships as of August 15, 1898.ⁱⁱⁱ These numbers may be an undercount when one considers other resources subordinated to Navy direction. For example, the Navy was augmented by 4,000 Naval Militia.^{iv} It is not known if these 4,000 are counted in the total strength. Also under Navy oversight were 2,326 men in the Coast Signal Service and 36 signal stations officered and manned by state Naval Militia. Also incorporated, under orders of the Secretary of the Treasury, were the Life Saving Service and Light-House Service (later merged into the U.S. Coast Guard) and observers of the Weather Bureau.^v All supported wartime operations. With that in mind, the actual strength afloat and ashore might be between 27,000 to 30,000 (+/-) when one includes all the other elements.
- **U.S. Marine Corps.** The Marine Corps was brought up to full authorized strength of 3,073 enlisted men. Another 1,500 were recruited to serve as port security in the Continental United States for a total of 4,573 on duty during the war period. As of September 24, 1898, there were 4,700 enlisted men and 116 officers authorized. The First Marine Battalion was the primary combat force and consisted of 623 enlisted men and 24 commissioned officers. It landed at Guantanamo and conducted operations throughout the Cuban Campaign.^{vi} According to the Commandant's report, "During the war 57 [Navy] vessels had Marine guards, varying in strength from 80 down to 6 men, making a total of 2,055 enlisted men at sea." Coupled with the Marine battalion and 50 men at Key West, a total of 2,728 were reportedly involved in Cuban area operations. At least 275 were involved in the Pacific leaving 71 enlisted men "for duty at all eastern posts."^{vii} The

Marines earned 15 Medals of Honor in the Spanish-American War. The top end estimated is 4,816 Marine personnel on duty.

- **U.S. Army.** According to the War Department Adjutant General's *Statistical Exhibit of Strength of Volunteer Forces Called into Service During the War with Spain*, a total of 223,235 officers and enlisted personnel served in the U.S. Army Volunteers. This included 10,017 officers and 213,218 enlisted men. To this can be added an estimated 28,100 U.S. Army Regulars (2,100 officers and 24,000 enlisted personnel) and an estimated 19,720 new recruits (volunteers) to plus up the regular forces during the War with Spain.^{viii}

Table 2 Active-Duty Personnel in Philippine Insurrection

U.S. Army	125,000
U.S. Navy/Marine Corps	3,575
Grand Total	128,575

The Philippine Insurrection^{ix}

Approximately 125,000 U.S. Army personnel served in the Philippine Insurrection, commonly referenced now as the Philippine-American War. Many of the state volunteers were demobilized early in the Philippine war and replaced by U.S. Volunteers recruited specifically for the Philippines. These U.S. Volunteers were incrementally replaced by U.S. regular forces. The war resulted in 4,200 U.S. dead and 2,900 wounded.^x The Navy's Asiatic Squadron (redesignated Asiatic Fleet in 1902) was also active. Approximately 3,575 Navy and Marine Corps personnel served in 17 combatant and support ships identified as in the Philippine campaigns. Not included are crews manning captured Spanish gunboats as these were manned by Navy and Army personnel detached from other units. Also not included are the native Philippine Scouts and Philippine Constabulary.

Table 3 Active-Duty Personnel in Boxer Rebellion

U.S. Army	5,000
U.S. Navy/Marine Corps	1,400
U.S. Navy (Shipboard Personnel)	---
Grand Total	6,400

The Boxer Rebellion

About 6,400 U.S. military personnel participated in the Boxer Rebellion (20 June 1900 to 12 May 1901). This included 5,000 U.S. Army personnel and 1,400 U.S. Navy and Marine Corps (officers and enlisted inclusive). It cannot be determined if this includes shipboard personnel. At least 56 Navy and Marine personnel were inside the U.S. Legation under siege in Peking. Of the total serving, the Army lost 33 killed in action and another 18 that died of wounds. The Navy/Marine Corps suffered 13 killed in action and 43 wounded in action. Four Army personnel, twenty-two sailors and 33 Marines earned Medals of Honor during the Boxer Rebellion for a total of 59.

The Moro Campaigns

President Roosevelt's proclamation^{xi} ending the Spanish American War took effect on July 4, 1902 "except in the country occupied by the Moro tribes." The U.S. Army had troops on the ground in Moro Province in May 1899. The official date of the end of the Spanish-American War in the Moro Provinces was declared to be July 15, 1903, which is when 'civil government' was established. The actual period for campaign medal credit ended on December 31, 1913. During Congressional testimony it was stated the Moro campaigns were considered an extension of the Philippine Insurrection.

During the period 5 July 1902 and 31 December 1914 there were 26 major uprisings^{xii} involving up to 150 identified combat actions (battles, skirmishes, contacts) resulting in 5,000 casualties. It also resulted in 15 Medals of Honor being earned.^{xiii} It has not been determined if the total casualty figure includes Philippine Scouts and Philippine Constabulary forces. The Philippine Scouts were part of the U.S. Army. The Philippine Constabulary (a police force) was under the command of U.S. Army officers until 1917. It is believed the 5,000 figure is U.S. only.

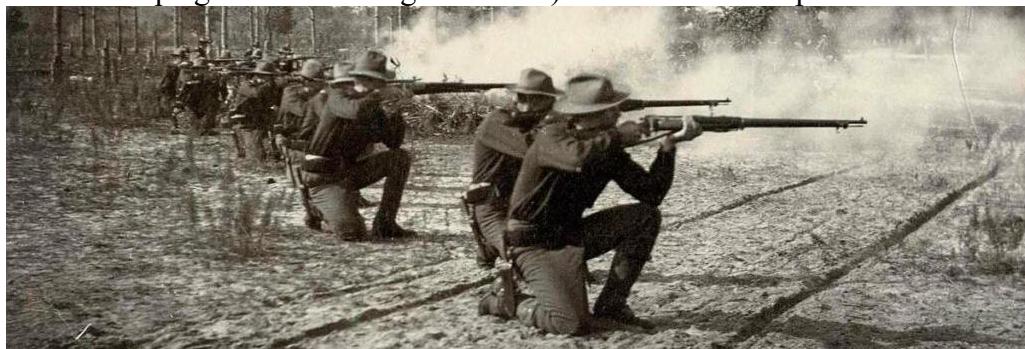
The Philippine Commission reported a total of 1,021 U.S. personnel killed in action between August 1898 and December 31, 1913. They are broken down as follows:

<i>Month of August 1898, War with Spain</i>	27
1899 to 1902	732
July 5, 1902, to December 31, 1906,	239
December 31, 1906, to Dec. 31, 1913,	23

There are no accurate numbers as to how many veterans served in the Moro wars.^{xiv} According to data provided to Congress by the Commanding General, Philippine Division on February 25, 1927, U.S. troop strengths in the Philippines were as follows:

1898 to 1902	193,606
1902 to 1907	76,544
<u>1907 to 1913</u>	<u>61,420</u>
Total	330,670

One expert witness testified to Congress that over 100,000 men were in the various Moro campaigns after July 5, 1902, but that only 10,000 received campaign medals for "active war service" against the Moros.^{xv} These 10,000 were likely men who arrived after July 15, 1903 (the end date for the campaign medal in the general war) and saw service up to December 31, 1913.



Summary

Table 4 Estimate of Veterans Eligible for Campaign Medals²

War with Spain	305,871
Philippine Insurrection	128,575
Boxer Rebellion	6,400
Moro Wars (assessed as after July 15, 1903)	10,000
Grand Total	450,846

A tabulation of actual and closely estimated numbers suggest up to 450,846 U.S. personnel served in the various Spanish-American War era conflicts. Subtract the 10,000 post-July 15, 1903 Moro veterans and it is nearly exact with the 440,000 estimate USWV Commander Lloyd Thurston provided to Congress during Moro War veteran pension hearings in 1940.

A 1947 newspaper article on the depletion of the Spanish War veteran population reported 483,000 men volunteered and served in the Spanish American War giving totals for state volunteers (211,161), U.S. volunteers for 1898 (19,720), U.S. Volunteers for 1899 (32,627) and “volunteers assigned to the regulars from 1898 to 1902” (219,492).^{xvi} This latter number appears to be double counting State Volunteers entering Federal service. The article noted 117,613 of the veterans were still alive in 1947 and the average age was 72 (a birth year of 1875).

The actual number of individual veterans is likely less than high-end estimates when one considers overlapping service and multiple tours of duty. Theoretically a state volunteer in Federal service serving stateside, Cuba or Puerto Rico in the Spanish-American War could have enlisted in the Army Regulars or Volunteers and served in the Philippines and, while there, been detached to respond to the Boxer Rebellion. He gets counted in the totals of all three conflicts. The 9th Infantry Regiment sent from the Philippines to the Boxer Rebellion is an example of where men in the unit earn dual credit (Philippines and China). Other men are double counted because they were promoted from enlisted ranks to become officers in the U.S. Volunteers or Regulars.

Regardless of when or where or in how many campaigns they served in while on active duty, these men, as veterans, became a powerful political voice. They helped ensure pensions for their wounded comrades and veteran widows. As Spanish-American War era veterans, their various organizations and lobbying for service benefits created a legacy for veterans that continues to this day. Their legacy in the veteran ranks still lives through the Veterans of Foreign Wars which was founded by men who held memberships in the USWV and the Army of the Philippines.

² Individuals may not have actually received a campaign or service medals for which they were entitled. Most of the medals were not authorized until 1905 and not available until 1907. While the medal was free, one had to request it. See the *Annual Report of the Secretary of War to the President War Department Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1923* ([Awards and Decorations \(army.mil\)](https://army.mil))

Endnotes

ⁱ United States. Congress. House. Committee on Invalid Pensions. (1940). *Pensions--Philippine uprisings and campaigns from July 5, 1902 to December 31, 1913: Hearing before the Committee on Invalid Pensions House of Representatives, Seventy-sixth Congress, third session, on H.R. 7693, a bill granting pensions and increase of pensions to certain soldiers, sailors, and marines who served in the Philippine uprisings and campaigns from July 5, 1902, to December 31, 1913, and for other purposes. July 25, 1940.* Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office. Page 2.

ⁱⁱ Prologue Magazine ([Sailors, Soldiers, and Marines of the Spanish-American War | National Archives](#))

ⁱⁱⁱ Report of the Secretary of the Navy, Part 13, *The Fighting Force* ([Report of the Secretary of the Navy, 1898 Part 13](#)). It states the number of men allowed by law prior to war was 12,500.; Ships include 46 vessels in the United States Auxiliary Naval Force ([Report of the Secretary of the Navy, 1898 Part 10](#)).

^{iv} Report of the Secretary of the Navy, Part 9, *Naval Militia*. ([Report of the Secretary of the Navy, 1898 Part 9](#))

^v Report of the Secretary of the Navy, Part 11, *Coast Signal Service*. ([Report of the Secretary of the Navy, 1898 Part 11](#))

^{vi} Report of the Secretary of the Navy, Part 8, *Marine Corps*. ([Report of the Secretary of the Navy, 1898 Part 8](#))

^{vii} Report of the Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, 24 Sept 1898. See page 104 of *Marines in the Spanish-American War, 1895-1899: Anthology and Annotated Bibliography*. Compiled and edited by Jack Shulimson, Wanda J. Renfrow, Lt. Col. David E. Keye, USMCR and Evelyn A. Englander. Washington, DC: History and Museums Division, HQs U.S. Marine Corps, 1998.

^{viii} Strength as of 1 April 1898. See U.S. Army Center for Military History. *The U.S. Army in the 1890s*. Prepared by DAMH-FPO, April 2000; The Army also recruited to increase its baseline strength. One news report states 19,720 persons were added to the Army baseline.

^{ix} The Philippine Insurrection was the term used in reports. It is today usually referenced as the Philippine-American War or Fil-American War.

^x National Archives

^{xi} 32 Stat. 2014. Page 8.

^{xii} State of the Honorable Harold C. Hagen of Minnesota, U.S. House of Representatives, June 11, 1948. Congressional Record, May 11-June 19, 1948. Page A3797.

^{xiii} Hearings of the Subcommittee on the Spanish War of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, 84th Congress, April 21 and 22nd, 1955

^{xiv} United States. Congress. House. Committee on Invalid Pensions. (1940). *Pensions--Philippine uprisings and campaigns from July 5, 1902 to December 31, 1913: Hearing before the Committee on Invalid Pensions House of Representatives, Seventy-sixth Congress, third session, on H.R. 7693, a bill granting pensions and increase of pensions to certain soldiers, sailors, and marines who served in the Philippine uprisings and campaigns from July 5, 1902, to December 31, 1913, and for other purposes. July 25, 1940.* Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office. Page 3.

^{xv} Testimony of Charles V. Stevens, Legislative Committee, Jolo Outpost (Minneapolis, MN), United Philippine War Veterans. United States. Congress. House. Committee o Invalid Pensions. (1942). *Pensions--Philippine uprisings and campaigns from July 5, 1902 to December 31, 1913: Hearings, Seventy-seventh Congress, second session on H.R. 5031, H.R. 5144, H.R. 5167, H.R. 5236. July 14, 1942.* Washington: U.S. Govt. Print. Office

^{xvi} *Great Falls Tribune*, May 11, 1947. 'Spanish War Veteran Ranks In State Greatly Depleted'.