



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

February 19, 2016

Lillian Galedo
Executive Director
Filipino Advocates for Justice
310 8th Street, Suite 309
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Ms. Galedo:

Thank you for your January 12, 2016 letter. The Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson asked that I respond on his behalf.

In October 2015, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced the creation of a new parole program to allow certain family members of Filipino and Filipino-American World War II veterans to receive parole to come to the United States. The Filipino World War II Veterans Parole (FWVP) Program recognizes the contributions made by Filipino veterans who bravely fought on behalf of the United States during World War II, and may enable eligible family members to provide support and care to their aging veteran family members who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents.

We understand your concern regarding the urgency in implementing the FWVP Program. USCIS will be publishing a Federal Register Notice announcing the FWVP Program in early 2016 and is working to begin implementation in the spring of 2016. In the coming months, USCIS will issue detailed public guidance on the criteria and the process to request parole under the FWVP Program through Form I-131 Instructions and our Website at www.uscis.gov/FWVP. However, at this time, USCIS is not yet accepting applications for parole under this Program.

We will keep you and other stakeholders informed as we move towards implementation. We look forward to continuing to work with you and other advocates to address how we can best serve this Filipino veteran community.

Thank you again for your letter and your interest in this important matter. Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "León Rodríguez".

León Rodríguez
Director