

Duty to Country

Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project

Interview Transcript: Antonio Taguba Day 1

Please Note: Due to a machine-automated transcription process, there are significant errors. The times noted are taken from the unedited audio files and do not match the edited videos.

Antonio Taguba [00:00:06] Well, that's the Philippines, Halloween of 1950. My mom said I was a treat, not the trick. And I grew up in the Philippines along with my four siblings, and we moved to Hawaii when I was 10 years old in July of 1961. Well, we immigrated. My dad was in the army, he was in Germany at the time. He had been in the army since nineteen forty two during the height of the war to the Philippines. And he was about ready to retire and he was stationed in Germany. And my mom did not want to go all the way to Germany from Manila. So we met halfway in Honolulu where a year later he retired. So he was a Philippine scout under the commander of the US Army forces in far. If I actually was drafted with a truck driver, civilian truck driver.

Antonio Taguba [00:01:06] You can imagine that at the height of the Japanese invasion, he was inducted into the Philippine Scouts on February 9th, 1942. Well, you know, I said to my mother, who was also your boss, she was detained as a civilian attorney when she was 16, when the Japanese invaded on December eight. Nineteen forty one, she was at the northern part of the Philippines. And so she told me that they scattered after the Japanese landed on and she found her way in the Philippines, I mean, in Manila. And from there, they were not married at the time. So she told us, her kids that she was watching the Bataan Death March and she was giving water to some of the prisoners where a Japanese soldier pushed her and slapped her and she ended up being a prisoner of war camp in Seattle to Manila.

Antonio Taguba [00:02:06] So she told us the horrors of war. She saw torture. She saw Japanese soldiers bayoneting babies. I was just horrible for her at 16. And so then she was released. After that, she remembered the unit that liberated the army unit that liberated the camp. My dad, of course, was was at the war until nine April 1942 when he was captured, a kilometer marker one for to die. He didn't say anything about that part of it until about four months before he died in July 8th, December 18th, 2011, because it wasn't important for him to tell us with my mother, who basically said your dad was a soldier here and the whole thing. I see pictures of him on the wall. We moved to Hawaii, but it was then and four months before he died and he had dementia, that I was thinking of him. I was caregiving for him. So I was trying to help stimulate. People with dementia are not stimulated mentally, emotionally. So I asked him what happened to you? And he said that at the war he had malaria and he was a truck driver. He was ferrying ammunition to the front lines and he would bring back the killed in action and also wounded in action. That's kind of traumatizing. It was about twenty one. Twenty two. He said that when it was time to give up because there was a public affairs announcement, P.A. system, that General King basically announced that we're going to surrender. And for those of you who wish to escape, you can escape now where you could escape because he was sick. So he

remained in place and that's where he was captured and spent about two or three days on the march along with his fellow soldiers. And he escaped.

Antonio Taguba [00:04:16] And on his record, he said that he did escape and he became a farmer. But that wasn't true. You just at the time of his repatriation, it was making up stories. They're fearful that they may not be repatriated back in the unit. So he made his way after escape to Manila, where he was trying to find his way. And that Japanese patrol supposedly got a hold of him and he was about to be taken because his age is a soldier age individual. And a policeman came to his aid and said this is not a soldier's trash because so he is masquerading around as a trash. Well, I didn't know that he was a guerrilla at that time because his record did not indicate that he was a guerrilla until about nineteen seventy two. You were watching President Marcos get deposed and Marcos made his way to Honolulu.

Antonio Taguba [00:05:20] And my dad and I was watching that on TV and he made a comment to me, this is a good man. Marcus is a good man and we served together, so I didn't take that, just came to me later when I asked him what happened to you. He said that the Japanese soldiers slapped and beat him. They took his watch and his wedding ring. Mind you, he wasn't married to my mother at the time. And so but then after that, he got away. And basically I said, what happened to you after that? I said, you are a girl. He said that he didn't want to talk about it. I assumed that he saw enough horrors of war that, you know, there's nothing that would change what happened to him. And he was rather reticent about it. And of course, I kept asking him and then asked him, so where are you? I knew he wasn't married to my mother because she was in a BMW camp. So I asked him, is mom your second wife because you had a wedding ring? So we assume he was married to wife number one, but he said, no, my mother was his third wife. Now, nobody knew that. So I kept it because he had dementia.

Antonio Taguba [00:06:47] So I said, no, mom is your second wife says, no, no. Your mother is my third wife. And he was very adamant about being married three times, something to be proud of because my grandmother, his mother always said your dad was a handsome man at the time and he had enough Möbius girlfriends. So when I asked him, do you remember their names? And he said, yes. So I took a notebook. I asked them, you said their names. And I had to ask the sixty four thousand dollar question, which was, do I have other brothers and sisters? And he said, as a matter of fact, no. But I was so curious that on the back of my mind, I said, you must be lying right to your teeth. But then the next day, the next morning, I should say, or having breakfast and said that wife number two had a baby boy during the war and that he was called back for Batangas, which is part of Bataan Peninsula. And the baby boy died and the wife also passed away. And then he went back to war. I said, did you give a name to the boy? And I said, no. It was just since he was already dead, we decided that he decided that he would go back to, you know, what happened to wife number one son. But he does know his wife.

Antonio Taguba [00:08:20] Number three is my mother. That's basically what she said. He was repatriated in July in nineteen forty five like everybody else, because all of the units that were decimated, there was no organization. So repatriation means trying to organize units. And since he was a Philippine scout, was repatriated as a United States Army soldier. And that was then he was assigned to a unit in nineteen forty six and he stayed on active duty. And one to one of the incentives at the time was an offer of U.S. citizenship. So he was offered U.S. citizenship in order for him to stay in the Army. And he said, you know, you said you wanted money, you didn't want his citizenship, but he failed. He told me he failed the exam twice. So I said, how can you fail a citizenship application

twice? He says, because they were it was in English. He didn't speak English. So he had to find a tutor to be able to answer the questions.

Antonio Taguba [00:09:34] And so the third time he passed the test and that basically routed our eligibility to join him in Hawaii in 1961. So he was assigned everywhere. And, you know, Korea, he was in Japan. So it would have been kind of a heavy burden for him to be picking up to family somewhere else. He was paid sixty dollars because he wasn't paid, was supposed to be paid sixty dollars when he was elected, but there was no money during the war. So after the war, the US paid sixty dollars. I have a copy of a payment for the Army to. Thirty eight dollars and 20 cents as some kind of a settlement. There's nothing on his record. That said, why does he owe thirty dollars and 20 cents? This is why I tell the audience. So for three and a half years of combat, as a guerrilla, as a prisoner of war, he gets paid twenty four dollars, you know, so he took it. There's no other money. But consequently, initially, he was affected by the recession. But later, when he was formally signed in to the United States Army, he was paid. But so it was a matter of getting money being paid. We didn't live with him because he was gone all that time from the time he was born to 1961, so there's a strange man living with us. I had two other brothers and a sister, and we were not comfortable with living with what a man that we barely knew. So there was no chemistry. It was my mom's husband, our father. And there was no, you might say, association. I kind of basically treated us as his troops. So the boys were on duty roster sister was she was babysitting for us. So it went like that. It was we didn't really after we hated them for not even say the word the word love. Right. Because Asians don't say love. I love you. So for let's say until I was about 17 when I was excused from doing dishes, then my brothers had to take over or we could go to socialize with our friends in high school or elementary school because it's foreign to him to go to school, come home, do your homework, deliver newspapers, go to bed, no TV. That's totally.

Antonio Taguba [00:12:42] And now we wanted our childhood to be until I went to college and one year in Hawaii and I transferred to Idaho State University because by then I had three other sisters that showed up. So, of course, you know, I call that the conjugal visit. Then my mom, my dad did for my mother and to me, to me mouths to feed on his sergeant's pay. And even when they retired. So I decided this first son, second born, that I go do my thing and enrolled in ROTC. When it all started, when I was in high school, I knew my dad was in the army. We polish his boots. We were like his squad of young privates polish his boots. We cleaned his tents so he didn't do any of that stuff. He said, You polish my boots and Junior ROTC. Army ROTC is mandatory at the high school that I went to, got lately a high school. So you had to take that in order to graduate. The boys and girls were volunteers and that somehow provided you with a value of organization discipline, you know, people marching in uniform, rifles, just kind of like the idea. But I also knew that my dad was in the army. Can you give us some inclination that we got to serve our country? And over time, of course, I continued in college and got commissioned as a second lieutenant after graduating from high school college.

Antonio Taguba [00:14:30] Well, history is my favorite subject, and we all knew about the Don growing about corporate law, but we didn't know anything beyond that. We knew that over seventy thousand soldiers fought in the like. So it's basically common knowledge. When I was growing as I was in the Philippines in high school, I said something that's very interesting here. So I looked into it more. But it didn't dawn on me until after I retired from the military. So this time we talked about heroism, talk about values, you know, soldiers and things of that nature, which is pretty common. After I started wearing the uniform and I was introduced to it, I was in nineteen ninety five, nineteen ninety seven by a group of people that said, you know, something happened. I didn't know anything about the religion

that I knew about the Titans, but the fact were just for to proceed with our independence would be that sense. But the precision that was missing in there somewhere else, I looked it up and I go, wow, you know, something was troubling.

Antonio Taguba [00:15:42] That one there were never paid to the US National. It was taken away from them. And over time, since I was still on active duty, I couldn't do anything to advocate for them. All I could do was talk about it. Right after I retired, I was recruited by some folks in Washington, DC to lobby for their benefits. And I was wondering why is that so important? I mean, why didn't they get their benefits after fighting the war? And at that time, I was already retired. And of course, my time got busier when they said that Filipino veterans equity compensation was being generated inside of Congress for to pay them the fifteen thousand dollars if they resided in the US in the nine thousand dollars that they decided, I wanted to know what was that payment for? That payment was constituted backpay that they never received, because instead of getting the annuity that they were entitled to after the war, which they did not receive, the US government offered two hundred million dollars as part of their compensation, which it was rejected. They wanted the entire annuity. So coincidentally enough, when President Obama signed the law in 2009 for the veterans equity compensation, it was one hundred and ninety eight million. But you had to apply for that. The veterans had to apply for that, which generated a lot of confusion. Why should they apply for that? Well, it's called verification of your wartime service. And that got me put that go after the that the money.

Antonio Taguba [00:17:46] But over time, know Congress and VA and Army were basically very reluctant, so they appropriated the money, but there are so many barriers, there was an applicant applying for the money to the point where. So what's the use of trying to apply? You're not going to give us to us anyway. And the story goes on forever like that. So we said enough is enough. There's so many legislation going inside of Congress to correct that portion of the law. But again, it's just very bureaucratic. And so I organized a group of us and said, let's do a leap ahead and go after the recognition. And they wanted to know what this was about. It goes back to my experience with the Japanese American Congressional Gold Medal. So I just used that model to go after you veterans Congressional Gold Medal at home. And here I am today. We're still in it for, you know, recognition means it's not just thank you. It's not just we welcome you. There's no apology associated with it that would take another executive order or another legislation.

Antonio Taguba [00:19:11] But explain to our group that in order for us to symbolize recognition, we have to go for the Congressional Gold Medal, which is the highest award Congress can bestow to a civilian or group who contributed historically and culturally to American history. And that comes with a Congressional Gold medal, very rare and also comes with a law, public law in this particular case, one one four two six five and a formal presentation by the House speaker of the speaker of the House to make a formal presentation as proof that one they'd be recognized to to be recognized as veterans of World War Two. And for the longest time, there's a lot of naysayers out there that this is going to be very difficult. It is more difficult if they rob you of your dignity, if they rob you of your honor and betray you on a promise that was made to you. They don't pay you and then they discount you. That's hard. You know, it's tantamount to being nonexistent, although fifty seven thousand were killed in action. So how do you how do you mitigate that? How do you reconcile the fact that this noble men fought for the United States of America and and they're going to go to their graves not knowing a country should be grateful because you could never repay what they did for a country to restore freedom.

Antonio Taguba [00:20:52] So we worked hard. We got sponsors in Congress and had to explain what we needed to do. We average about 15 to 20 minutes per staff and 17 months of walking around Congress. You interviewed Ben. That was one of our members and explaining each time why the Philippines mattered. We had to explain to them what the heck the Philippines this map, we developed videos, historical videos. That son is on the for us to put that all in perspective, that is contingent of two hundred and sixty thousand soldiers actually existed to save our country.

Antonio Taguba [00:21:39] So a veteran from San Francisco, his name is call Allen, who is a guerrilla, and his application for the fifteen thousand Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund was denied because he was not with the Philippine Commonwealth Army. He was not with the Philippine scouts. He was one of those young men that wanted to do something for his country. So he's trying to bribe me, literally bribe me that if he got the money, he will pay me half of it. He lived in San Francisco. He sent me his entire packet. So I went to the National Archives, College Park, Maryland, looking for his name for months. I just went to flip 14 boxes, a thousand pages apiece, and imagine how incredible that I needed to find. I found his name, his last name. But his first name is aqualina. This is. But the one on the roster from the unit that he belonged to was Folino, so maybe he used an alias, but he was very adamant that his name is Equiano. So fast forward, I needed something to counter the fact that even if he used his God given name, his commander might have known that he was a Folino as opposed to being an aqualina Delane. So I went to another archive, a center for military history, and I found a book. So I decided to go to another historical facility that's called the Army Center for Military History, which is at Fort McNair there provide all sorts of documentation since 1775.

Antonio Taguba [00:23:35] So that I said, sir, we will find a book, but somebody took it from your tray. Kind of a short war story, but it was a 19th copy of a report. That recognition process for guerrillas in the Philippines is a copy of a copy. As I was reporting on that three hundred thirty five pages, it basically said that the army was faulty, that they did not do the due diligence and documenting all of the guerrillas, whether they're bandits or not. But I found a Ph.D. in there, one of the people who worked for me and is documenting something out of that report, which I did not see, stating that without any pay vouchers, there would not be eligible for any benefit, literally. So I took that issue. I took back the report. I went to the National Archives because it's a copy of a copy. And the administrator of the National Archives says there were twenty five copies of that that was made. One existed, a true copy copy number nine. So I went back to do more digging that the report was classified secret in nineteen forty eight. And, you know, by all means, nobody's ever going to see it because it's archives and then the army and their good moral state decided to declassify it in 1988 but didn't tell the world about it. So the one the copy I had was a declassified version of a copy and a historical.

Antonio Taguba [00:25:28] So I saw it in September of 2012 and I was carrying it with me when I was approached by two lawyers that I did not know who they were, but they knew who I was. And they said, you know, they're dealing with the benefits issue on the appeals. So I recommended to them to make a copy of the nineteen forty eight report declassified and to go to the White House and talk to the Cabinet Secretary. Chris Lu was his name. And I said to recommend that they stand up a White House interagency work group to go after the truth of why the Army VA was hell bent on not reopening the case in order for them to get there. But we also found that the V.A. did not know that report existed. Army did not know that that report existed. So the entirety of the work was to make everybody aware that a report existed. But even then, they would not consider the cases for the officials. So initially. But that report is now, you might say, parkade as good reference and it

keeps going back and forth for for the veterans to appeal their cases before the Board of Appeals, the veterans appeals. And then the federal circuit is a good piece of document. And one of the pages the Army actually apologized for not conducting a more thorough. Research on getting them ready. So there was a congressional hearing before the VA I'm sorry, the House committee on exactly the the veracity of a roster. They called it the Missouri restaurant, and they were asked how accurate that was. It was a roster of about a thousand names on it that were supposed to have detailed who would recognized Grill over that time. And Mr. Almeda was there and to his cause, now deceased Mr. Baltazar subject matter. And they were asked they had to present their case that even though they were not initially on that roster, they had records that they retrieved from the National Archives and that start started the ball rolling again, that more legislations were made to try and correct the process. But it seems like they were trying to correct the procedures on how to approve as opposed to going after repealing the rescission act because it was just hand in hand rescission act. Then you have a roster. If we all know about the rescission act, if you're not on the roster, you're not recognized as simple as that. So they asked a one star general who was seated behind him on the hearing room and he was asked if he would consider the veracity, one hundred percent accuracy of that roster, to which he said he could not accurately say it was 100 percent. So that in and of itself, if it's not accurate, then why are you why are you denying the veterans benefits, even though they had documentation that said I served like the Salimata, you had six or seven documents that he served with his name on it. And of course, he was this the last year that I can. But that was also part of the White House interagency deliberations. I was there are three of us Ben De Guzman final word meeting with Congressman Robert Filner.

Antonio Taguba [00:29:36] At the time, it was 2008 and I don't know which month. And they basically said the annuity recommendation that was provided by Senator Akaka from Hawaii to Senator Inouye, who was the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, was on the table. So sad face. Right. And so Senator Inouye somehow found new money or Ninety-eight billion. That was the offering. And so now when we meeting with Senate Congressman Filner, he said this is kind of like one time you take it or you leave it. So our position was taken. Convince the veterans I'm about twenty thousand of them here and in the Philippines, in the United States. But half of them did not want that. They wanted to stand firm that we are owed an annuity. Well, our position was take the money now and maybe there'll be money later. OK, but the money later did not come. But VA made it so difficult to get the money out of the hundred and that, again, you have to apply, you have to fill out two forms and if and then provide some documentation in the end, about forty six hours in the flight and in the Philippines. So we said, why are you doing in the Philippines a regional center. Is there what we said? Most of the records are there. Most of the records are at St. Louis. What they what they meant was there are records from the Philippine Veterans Affairs office in the Philippines that might help mitigate some discrepancies on the documentation. Know what happened? Just kind of describe for you.

Antonio Taguba [00:31:29] So the guy in the United States, a veteran, because of the application and sends it to the Philippines, they package it like 30, 50 and the package it and sent it to St. Louis. In Badghis, Philipines was not the region of the regional office, was not even prepared for that. They hired new process processing individuals did not know what the heck they were doing. So back and forth, back and forth to the point where some of the applications were being lost. The veterans here in the United States was call a number. I tried a number and nobody ever answers. There's a recording I appeal to the secretary of Veterans Affairs, General Shinseki. At the time, my former boss said, stop this nonsense. Why don't you just do it here for the bulk of Americans? Are the work that way? So forty two thousand applied. Twenty four thousand work is eighteen thousand were

approved. So what do you do with the remaining. So six thousand appealed and we still have about four thousand that's working now that law expired in two thousand and that. It's what, year two thousand nineteen and they're still appealing and some are still gravitating, you know, to appeals and they're in their 90s. I watch, too, Mrs. Reyes. She passed away in December. She's a woman. And at that time, women were not accepted into the service, regardless of whether they are a nurse. She was a nurse.

Antonio Taguba [00:33:25] Then she became a guerrilla. And so she applied for that. Fifteen thousand disapproved to all three levels of appeals. Her class was Seth Watkins, one of our board members, is a lawyer pro bono appeal before a three judge panel with the Federal Court of Appeals and said, you know, that because of the law that was constructed, that's not the case for her to be approved. So she dies and the judge panel did not make a written decision. So she's languishing in there somewhere because she doesn't have a survivor. The other one is Mr. De La Cruz. He's still alive. This case goes before the three judge panel last month and the same process. So, you know, I'm getting my teeth that somebody makes a decision. And the decision would be, as far as I'm concerned, is expunge the law giving a waiver. Common sense, what is fifteen thousand dollars of ninety six year old veteran have waited almost 70 years just to get that money. Well, you've got a rate of inflation. What is it that determines people not to be compassionate? You know, what makes people to just say, well, stick to the law? Why would the army did this day? The army I served in for thirty four years would not just write it off. It's not new money because it's fifty thousand dollars that was set aside for these appeals.

Antonio Taguba [00:35:25] Right. And Congress and their state of mind today should enact a law that says if you rescind the rescission, perhaps they will roll over to this decision making process and force the army to force the army to change their policy change. As the proponents of the benefits to follow an independently approved our benefit because VA is relying on the Army's decision. People will never understand, and that's how ridiculous and incredible, incredibly frustrating this for them. So that angers me. And that kind of reminded me when when I presented the first check in 2009, April of 2009 to Mr. Bacani. I'll look back on. Jack, he thought that that was redemption for him. Because he finally got a check. I said, what are you going to do with that money? And he said, I'm going to give it to my grandmother. He just sat stoically in the corner, puts it in his pocket. And I said, you know, said, I'm going to die. And I'd rather do that. Mr. Almeda, where your interview tomorrow, his appeal was granted October twenty four thousand seven, the day before Speaker Ryan presented him with the medal. When they finally went, VA finally relented and says, we are granting you your appeal approval of your appeal. When that was that was not a truth that those fake news because he had appealed at four different times. So when I asked Mr. O'Mara, what did you do with that money that I deposited in my bank the next day, I wrote a check for fifteen thousand dollars and gave it to my son. So did you do that for us just because he's on Medicaid and you can't have all that money in your bank, you know?

Antonio Taguba [00:37:40] It's it's amazing how people would not even consider that when he actually he refused to accept the money the first time, I said. Why is that? Because he says that's because they're not acknowledging me as a veteran, to which I said, yes, they did. President Obama signed that law publicly, along with four to six five that says you get the medal, you get the money, you get a piece of legislation. And he says, veteran said, OK, I'll take you tomorrow. Hundreds and two years old.

Antonio Taguba [00:38:21] Here's the medal. Already there are three faces on the medal, this one, the one on the on the right side with his World War Two helmet represents the initial well, the Philippine scouts in their pre World War Two, the one with the helmet and the medal represents the Commonwealth Army and the United States Army, where there were two helmet, just to say, and the one on the left hand side represents the recognized guerrillas with his bobo knife. And then, of course, the signage on top of that is a Filipino veterans of World War Two. And the bottom here is a soldier, this kneeling down, guarding the beachhead at late day, which represents the liberation. And on the back is the. Chronicles the organization, which is the US Army forces Far East, we prompted that ought to be called duty, the country and the heads of four campaigns, major campaigns throughout the islands of the Philippines. And the date that the flag is, you have the Philippine flag on the left hand side and the flag on the American side. And also the dates, nineteen forty one time of war, nineteen forty five time of liberation and nineteen forty six is the recision at three key points on there. And it's indicative of the seventy five years of history to do that. And as I mentioned earlier, there were eight artists that was hired by the US Mint to put together forty seven drawings. We whittle it down to eight, further whittled down to four and we presented our case on why it should be like this and why should be on the backside to Fine Arts Commission, which actually it was grueling because I'm not a fine arts kind of person.

Antonio Taguba [00:40:30] But what we did was instead of talking about the war, we showed a film, a six minute video, and some of them did not know that a war had actually fought in the Philippines, let alone the recision that I. So before we finally had this approved, we presented it to the veterans like Mr. Antinous and everybody asked us to not to have them take a look this that really represent the faces of war, but that actually represent what they what they fought under. And unanimously they said, yes, we went back to the U.S. Mint and the secretary of Treasury approved it and it was minted by the Philadelphia Mint. I don't know if you've been to the Philadelphia I, the only one that produces metals like this. And it was presented to the the Filipino and American war to veterans and also three members of three three spouses and a daughter that represented the families. And it's one of the better looking ones. This is the bronze replica. Congress is so cheap that they only made one gold medal that's housed at the Smithsonian in a vault. And we want to have it to be exhibited sometime in the near future.

Antonio Taguba [00:42:31] Our first ceremony was October 25th to turn 17 to 21 living war to veterans, men and women, and I believe there are at least two hundred and forty next of kin to that's our first one. Since then, we've done 60 other ceremonies. The last one was in Hawaii, June 13th, 2000, 19 to three next of kin, because they're all disappearing. And we think we have another two hundred three hundred out there somewhere. We think those are done here in the United States. The Philippines had three ceremonies, of course, there with more tenuous because they're trying to find them in different islands. And not every veteran has a laptop in the Philippines, but we intend to phase that out and get into the education program like what we're doing today after the last seventy five years. We all know about D-Day. We all know about that part of the world. We know about Iwo Jima, the Marines father. We know about the Pacific fleet that liberated, but not too many know what the Philippines was about, that it was a colony colonized twice by the Spaniards in the Philippines. And US imperialism basically said, we want to use this as a base to protect ourselves from Japanese aggression of Chinese aggression. And over time, a lot of the history has been obscured by big mask. And nobody celebrates a day, which is October of nineteen forty four, which is the liberation. Yes, they do celebrate that in the Philippines, small contingent, but we want the Philippines

to at least be in the same same scale as D-Day. We want it to be on the same scale as what had happened in the European theater.

Antonio Taguba [00:44:38] And we want our veterans. Two hundred and sixty thousand of them, both Americans, Canadians, British. That's what they're and not just the U.S. Army and the Marines, the Coast Guard, the Navy that fought in the Philippines to defend the United States. It didn't say defend the Philippines, defend the United States. So why not? You know, we want the American public to know that there was another side of World War Two was fought by all these noble men and women that created our country a lot greater than usual. And for us to chronicle the stories of both Filipino and American soldiers, how they fought to save the United States.