

**Speech of H.E. President Fidel V. Ramos
Unveiling of VFP Monument
Veterans Center, Taguig, M.M.
August 2, 1992**

INTRODUCTION

TODAY, WE STAND ON A BATTLEFIELD.

FORTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO, THE 47TH REGIMENT OF THE HUNTERS ROTC GUERILLAS FOUGHT ON THIS GROUND AGAINST THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION FORCES.

ALONGSIDE THE 11TH AIRBORNE DIVISION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, THIS GUERILLA UNIT WAS TASKED TO CLEAR THE AREA SOUTH AND EAST OF MANILA TO CONSOLIDATE THE CAPITAL CITY'S LIBERATION.

THE STRUGGLE WAS FIERCE, IT LASTED FOR TEN DAYS AND MANY MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE.

WE HAVE COME TO DEDICATE THIS MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY OF ALL OUR INTREPID GUERILLA FIGHTERS WHO HELPED

LIBERATE OUR LAND.

I, THEREFORE, COMMEND THE VETERANS FEDERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR ITS PROGRAM, IN COORDINATION WITH THE PHILIPPINE VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE AND THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE, TO MARK IMPORTANT BATTLEFIELDS AND HISTORIC SITES SO THAT OUR PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THE YOUTH, CAN HAVE PHYSICAL REMINDERS OF THE DEEDS OF OUR PATRIOTIC MEN AND WOMEN WHO UNSELFISHLY GAVE SO MUCH OF THEMSELVES SO WE COULD BE FREE.

THE GREAT ABRAHAM LINCOLN ONCE SAID THAT WE WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND CANNOT ADEQUATELY DEDICATE A HALLOWED BATTLEFIELD BECAUSE THE BRAVE MEN, LIVING OR DEAD, WHO STRUGGLED ON THAT PIECE OF EARTH HAVE CONSECRATED IT FAR BEYOND THE CAPACITY OF ANYONE TO ADD TO OR DETRACT FROM. HE SAID FURTHER THAT, INSTEAD, WE THE LIVING SHOULD DEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE PURSUIT OF THE IDEALS FOR WHICH THOSE BRAVE MEN FOUGHT AND DIED.

SOME OF THEM WHO FOUGHT ON THIS BATTLEFIELD ARE HERE

WITH US TODAY. OTHERS HAVE LEFT THIS WORLD AND SHALL RETURN NO MORE.

AS A TRIBUTE TO THEM, TODAY WE AFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL UNITY AND DEMOCRACY. IN YOUR PRESENCE, I REITERATE MY EXTENSION OF THE HANDS OF FRIENDSHIP TO OUR REBEL BROTHERS AND ASK THEM ONCE AGAIN TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS AND JOIN US IN OUR QUEST FOR PEACE, PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY.

WE ALSO HEREBY AFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING. WE HOPE WE CAN SETTLE AMICABLY OUR MUTUAL CONCERNS WITH OUR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES SO WE CAN DEVOTE MORE OF OUR TIME TO COOPERATIVE ENDEAVORS THAT WILL BRING ABOUT REGIONAL STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT.

THIS MUCH WE CAN DO SO WE CAN SAY THAT OUR HEROES DID NOT DIE IN VAIN.

AS LONG AS WE LIVE, WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE BRAVERY

OF OUR MEN. AS LONG AS WE ARE IN GOVERNMENT, WE WILL
ALWAYS UPHOLD THE IDEALS THEY FOUGHT FOR.

THANK YOU AND GOOD DAY.

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