8-25-1984

Letter from a Supporter in the Philippines to Geraldine Ferraro

Geraldine Ferraro

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Congress Woman Eveline Anne Ferraro  
1725  House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Madam,

I am an old woman who has served the United States Forces of the Far East as a food supplier here in the Philippines during World War II. To assert this I am enclosing herewith my two claim papers.

My purpose in writing you is to ask contribution as donation for my subsistence because I cannot work any more as homemaker for several persons.

I have written several persons already including President of the United States of America for a reconsideration of my claim but all my efforts brought only frustration to me. That's why I resorted to writing you.

I cannot ask Jesus to help me because I have never rendered services, rich my life and given to them all the goodness in my store but to the United States of America the richest country in the world may I have. To certify it you can read it in my claim papers which is permitted to the United States Government.

I know I am justified in asking this,

To sum it all, that was not our war, yet I have suffered so much already. The most lamentable is that of a supplier to serve as a maid for several years.

When my mother was sick, I wrote Pres. Reagan for financial help even to buy my medicine, milk and food, begging him for mercy for any amount but I receive no answer.

Then again when she died last June 11, I sent both Pres. Reagan my mother's death certificate and his wife Nancy, begging for mercy for any amount but I receive no answer until now, that shows that my plea was disregarded.

I also wrote to the millionaries in Pres. Reagan's cabinet asking them for financial help but they answer in the negative while some did not answer.

I resorted to writing you that is if it will not inconvenience you any amount that you deem it wise to give me.

I hope and pray that you will be generous enough to do this.

I will appreciate it very much. You know I have many unpaid obligations when my mother died. She was also a supplier of the United States Forces of the Far East.
As a sign of gratitude what I can do only is to pray to the Lord Almighty for your good health always.

Praying that I will be called by conquest to cite my actions during the war I will willingly do so. I will name the Army Officers whom I have supplied and the different designates I have.

I hope and pray that you relay my letter to your fellow senators and representatives who will sympathize with me and is willing to help me in my present predicament.

Is it not in the Bible "Ask and you shall receive" "Be merciful and you will obtain mercy. Love thy neighbor as you love yourself. If you do this to the least of your brother, you are doing it unto Me." "Give because a cheerful giver."

Last but I will be waiting for your reply answer.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

My Address

[Redacted]

Davao City, Philippines Island
INTEGRATED BAR
OF THE PHILIPPINES
DAVAO DEL SUR CHAPTER
ROOM 211, CARLOS VILLA-ABRILLE BUILDING
C. M. RECTO AVENUE CORNER E. JACINTO STREET
DAVAO CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NOS. 7 (PLDT 0:000) (DCTS)

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DEAN PEFROO C. QUITAIN
CORAZON NUREZ-MALANYAON
Internal Auditor

August 20, 1984
To the Good People of the USA,
United States of America

Gentlemen:

In a certain

pole Tail, Davao City, Philippines has sought our assistance in
relaying to you her plea for financial assistance.

She is now 70 years old

with no one to lean her shoulder
on for help. She served your

armed forces in the Philippines
during World War II on a food

carrier but her claims with

the U.S. Foreign Claims

Settlement Commission were denied simply

because she filed her claim at

a much later date.

Any help extended to her

by the U.S. Government and/or

by generous American citizens

would be appreciated very much.

"PEACE and JUSTICE for All"
IBP Human Rights & Legal

Program

[Signature]
Matina, Davao City
Philippines

Dear [Name]

The Vice President's office forwarded your letter of July 30, 1975 to me as it mainly concerns a claim which you had asserted in the 1950's with respect to goods commandeered during World War II. As your letter notes, the claim was asserted before a Trial Judge of the United States Court of Claims. You note that you had not been informed as to the Court's disposition of your claim. I am enclosing a copy of the page of the Court's Journal for March 18, 1953 which notes that your suit (Court of Claims No. [redacted]) was dismissed on that date.

Also, I note from your letter that you had been informed that "... it is not in the statute of Congress to pay me." This may have had reference to the decision which was rendered on January 14, 1957 by the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Soriano v. United States. This decision is reported in Volume 352 at page 270 of the Supreme Court reports and held that claims such as yours were barred unless filed within the statute of limitations period. The Supreme Court's opinion contained this language (352 U.S. at 277), "We are not unmindful that the enforcement of this rule might result in hardship in some cases, and perhaps frustrate the expectations of some Philippine citizens who in good faith supplied recognized guerrilla units. Such considerations are not for us, as this Court can enforce relief against the sovereign only within the limits established by Congress."

Accordingly, I can only inform you that your own case was dismissed by the Court of Claims on March 18, 1953 and that the subsequent decision of the Supreme Court in the
Soriano case ruled, in any event, that such claims were barred as not filed within the period permitted by the applicable legislation.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

bcc: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

United States Court of Claims
717 Madison Place, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

My commander's goods claim amounted to $43,000 and was dismissed.

This is the bulk of all that I have. I gave it freely and even accompanied it to the causes in Mani Lumberco for the future use of the United States Forces of the Far East.

I love America very much that when the Japanese went for me I didn't go back to town. I keep on feeding the guerrillas.
FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20579
September 23, 1976

VIA AIR MAIL

Matina Davao, Del Sur
Philippines

Re: PWDC Claim No. 

Dear [Name]:

The Vice President of the United States, who is the President of the U.S. Senate, has referred your recent letter to the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission for reply regarding your property losses in the Philippines during World War II.

An examination of the records of the former Philippine War Damage Commission discloses that you filed a claim under the Philippine Rehabilitation Act of 1946 for losses sustained by you in the operation of a general merchandise store located at the Public Market, Pototan, Iloilo. Your losses included an inventory of certain food stocks. The claim was allowed with the exception of certain grains and other goods which you had supplied the military forces. These items were not covered under the Philippine Rehabilitation Act of 1945.

Claims for supplies furnished the military forces were handled on a separate basis by the Office of the Judge Advocate General, Department of the Army, Washington, DC. The Commission has no information concerning the disposition of the claims filed with the Army. However, it has been informed that such claims were closed many years ago. It appears that in case you have not received a settlement, it is unlikely that you would receive one at this late date. No cross reference was made regarding your USAFFE claim.

The records reflect that you have received payments on your war damage claim award in the amounts of $1,906.76, $680.09, and $340.04 on December 21, 1949, September 12, 1950, and August 31, 1964, respectively. No additional payments have been authorized.
The Commission regrets that it can be of no further assistance to you regarding the matter. However it is suggested that the Office of the Judge Advocate General, Department of the Army, Washington, DC, may still have a file relating to your claim for losses based on the supplies furnished the Army.

Very truly yours,

[Redacted]

General Counsel

My War Damage claim amount P[13,000] and only P[2962.86]. The grains and other goods were not paid because according to this letter it is to be filed to the Judge Advocate Gen.

Dept. of Army Washington D.C.

[Redacted] Army officials certified for this claim