

## Statement of Alma Kern, NaFFAA National Chair, on the Resignation of Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho)

We welcome Sen. Larry Craig's resignation as a member of the U.S. Congress, the nation's policy-making body that affects the lives not only of all Americans but people all over the world. As ranking minority leader in the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, Sen. Craig had strong views on how to resolve the Filipino World War II veterans' demand to restore their rightful status and benefits as American veterans. While affirming that Filipino veterans deserve to be recognized for their services to the United States, he objected however to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee's policy proposal to once and for all rectify 61 years of injustice inflicted by the 1946 Rescission Act. His stubborn opposition was a source of frustration and dismay to the 18,500 surviving veterans who look to America to restore their honor and dignity. We hope that Sen. Arlen Specter, who is expected to replace him in the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, will do the right thing and allow approval of S.1315 by unanimous consent. Filipino World War II veterans fought side by side with American soldiers to defend freedom and democracy. In the twilight of the years, they deserve nothing less than full equity.