

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City



**19TH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 850

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**Introduced by Honorable Michael L. Romero**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In the Philippines an ordinary professional athlete devotes his physical state for training to further enhance his chosen craft. Their main focus is winning every competition that comes in their way. They practice extraordinary discipline and rigorous training since the day they started the sport until they eventually retire from it.

But a soldier athlete has to deliver more than what a professional athlete gives. These soldiers were given the opportunity to pursue their passions as athletes, competing in international competitions in Asia for the past few years.

They believe becoming a soldier athlete brings twice the honor than just being an athlete does.

*"We are able to serve our country twice."*

**Sports programs**

These soldiers that avail of the sports programs are not only trained for competing as athletes but were also trained to serve the military and equipped with the needed skills that a soldier needs in serving the country. All of these soldier athletes are also capable of working on the field and military offices.

Last 2015, the highest number of athletes are concentrated on boxing with sixteen (16) members on the list, followed by softball with fifteen (15) and athletics (track and field, marathon, etc.) with fourteen (14).

The AFP plans to spread the love and practice of sports to these soldiers and their dependents through the Special Service.

Among the programs of the AFP special service is the Summer Sports Carnival that they set-up in Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo in Quezon City for the kids, and even grown-ups, to try their hands on various sports. The purpose of the fair is to showcase the sports programs of the AFP Special Service as well as encourage youth to practice sports that would suit them.

The AFP Special Service also organizes events which include civilian employees.

Other tournaments created by the AFP Special Service are geared towards strengthening the bond of AFP with other government line agencies like the Combative Sports Tournament between the AFP and Philippine National Police (PNP). Involving in sports tournaments organized by the civilian sector like the UNTV Basketball Cup is also part of the yearly agenda.

Among the purposes of AFP special Service, aside from training athletes for free to represent the Philippines, is the processing of their documents for international competitions set in overseas.

For these athletes who do not have the means to finance themselves and their passion for their respective sports, the free training and assistance are great help.

Thus topped with salary they receive from being soldiers, the decision to undergo the military training and serve as members of AFP are small contributions they were willing to pay in exchange for the chance to use their talents for the glory of the country.

The free use of facilities essential to their respective sports as well as having good coaches at hand, also for free, are advantages all athletes dream of, and should have.

As said that athletes who want to become soldiers still have to undergo the regular process of enlistment and training to gain their slot among the members of the AFP.

Some of the soldier athletes were recruited specifically for their skills and talents by officers in various units while others had voluntarily applied for enlistment. Others were already soldiers who pursued a chosen sport.

The AFP Special Services uses various gyms and stadiums in Baguio, Quezon, Manila and Pasig cities for the soldier-athlete's practice and training.

The AFP Special Service have sports programs for Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Canoe-Kayaking, Cycling, Judo, Karatedo, Pencak Silat, Rowing, Sailing, Sepak

Takraw, Softball, Swimming-Water Polo, Triathlon, Weightlifting, Wrestling and Wushu.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Romero', written over a horizontal line.

**MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D.**

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR  
PHILIPPINE ATHLETES WITH MILITARY SERVICES, GRANTING  
THEM ONE (1) TO THREE (3) RANKS HIGHER UPON ACHIEVING  
MEDALS IN ANY INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines  
in congress assembled:*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE** - This Act shall be known as the “***Special  
Recognition for Philippine Athletes with Military Services Act.***”

**SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY** - It is hereby declared that any  
Philippine athlete rendering service under the AFP that will win a medal in any  
international competitions will be given special recognition, thus he/she will be  
elevated one **(1)** rank higher for Bronze, two **(2)** ranks higher for Silver and three  
**(3)** ranks higher for Gold, to his or her current designation.

**SECTION 3. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.** – The  
Philippine Sports Commission (**PSC**) in collaboration with the Arm Forces of the

Philippines (**AFP**) shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

**SECTION 4. REPEALING CLAUSE.** All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 5. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** If, for any reason or reasons, any portion or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 6. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,