

PANEL I: PEFTOK: NARRATIVES AND RECOLLECTIONS

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS

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Good morning, everyone.

It is my distinct honor to introduce the speakers for the first session: PEFTOK Narratives and Recollections.

Let's begin with Ret. Col. Paterno V. Vilorio, who was born in Laur, Nueva Ecija on November 12, 1923. His father was a municipal treasurer, while his mother was an entrepreneur who managed a small retail store. He fought in World War II as a 20-year-old guerrilla with the Luzon Guerrilla Army Forces. After graduating with a degree in accounting from the Far Eastern University in 1949, he joined the Armed Forces of the Philippines as a field artillery officer the following year. He saw action in the Korean War with the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea as an artillery forward officer with the 20th Battalion Combat Team and was awarded the Gold Cross Medal by the Philippine government for conspicuous courage and gallantry in action. He is also the founder and former chair and chief executive officer of the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation and

serves as the President of the PEFTOK Veterans Association, Incorporated. Please give him a round of applause.

Ret. Maj. Maximo P. Young was born in Toledo City, Cebu on July 13, 1922. While working as a shipping clerk aboard the MV Legaspi, he got conscripted into the United States Army in the Far East when the Second World War broke out in December 1941. The crew successfully performed the difficult feat of transporting food supplies and fighting soldiers to and from the Visayas to Corregidor, despite strict monitoring by Japanese war ships. For this, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal by the US Army. After the war, he received a scholarship and went schooling at the Fort Knox Armored Tank School in Kentucky. With the onset of the Korean War, he was among the first combat soldiers dispatched to Korea as part of the 10th Battalion Combat Team of PEFTOK. He received the Gold Cross Medal for this. In the Philippine Army, he rose to the rank of Major and presently is busy helping and assisting his fellow war veterans in his capacity as Vice President of the PEFTOK Veterans Association, Incorporated, and currently as the President of the 10th BCT Chapter. Please give a round of applause to Ret. Maj. Young.

Ret. Col. Augusto S. Flores was born in Bongabong, Nueva Ecija on August 28, 1932. After graduating from FEU in 1950, Col. Flores enrolled at the Mapua Institute of Technology to pursue further studies. He enlisted in the 14th Battalion Combat Team and landed on Korean soil to fight the communist insurgency in March 1953. During the six months that he took part in the Korean War, he was promoted a number of times—three to be exact—from Private First Class

to Corporal, then to Sergeant. He was commissioned in the regular force of the AFP and retired as full Colonel in August of 1979. He is currently serving as President of the Katipunan ng mga Kawal na May Kapansanan sa Pilipinas, an organization of soldiers with disabilities, and the Director of the Alyansa ng mga May Kapansanang Pinoy, a federation of organizations of persons with disabilities. He's also formerly Secretary of PEFTOK Veterans Association, Incorporated. Please give a round of applause to Ret. Col. Flores.

And Ret. Gen. Miguel M. Villamor, who was born on March 27, 1926. Gen. Villamor finished his early education in Cebu, and after the Second World War, he was admitted to the Philippine Military Academy in 1947. He was among the first class of 62 brand-new Lieutenants who graduated in 1951. He was enlisted in the 2nd BCT and actively participated in the anti-dissident movement that time. From 1953 to 54, he took part in the Korean War, specifically being assigned near the Demilitarized Zone. After the war, he was among those who were sent to Fort Valley in Georgia to study at the Advanced Officers Infantry School, and since then, he has been involved in various positions in the Philippine Army, once serving as Camp Commander at Camp Aguinaldo in 1970. He retired in 1977. He then became Chief of Staff of Brigadier General Pelayo Cruz and acting Commissioner of the Finance Ministry in 1986. He then re-retired at the age of 65 in 1991. Nowadays, at the robust and active age of 90, he still serves as the Vice President for Operations for Well Cargo Customs Brokerage and as Public Relations Officer of the PEFTOK Veterans Association, Incorporated. Please give a round of applause to Ret. Gen. Miguel Villamor.