

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



16 MAR 14 P3:08

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. RES. NO. 1734

Introduced by Senate President Franklin M. Drilon

RESOLUTION

**EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE
CONDOLENCE OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH
OF ITS BELOVED FORMER PRESIDENT, THE HONORABLE JOVITO R.
SALONGA**

1 **WHEREAS**, Honorable Jovito R. Salonga, a patriot and nationalist,
2 former Senate President, three-time topnotcher in senatorial elections, former
3 Member of the House of Representatives, first Chairman of the Presidential
4 Commission on Good Government (PCGG), former law dean, author, bar topnotcher,
5 and an outstanding public servant, passed away on 10 March 2016 at the age of 95;
6

7 **WHEREAS**, born on 22 June 1920 to humble parents Esteban Salonga,
8 a Presbyterian pastor, and Bernardita Reyes, a market vendor, the young Jovito from
9 Pasig, Rizal grew up to become an outstanding student and champion debater and
10 orator at the University of the Philippines College of Law, joined the guerrilla
11 movement during World War II, was incarcerated, tortured and later freed by the
12 Japanese;
13

14 **WHEREAS**, he was a co-topnotcher in the 1944 Bar Examinations with a
15 grade of 95.3%, and then pursued his graduate studies in the United States on
16 scholarship grants, earning his Master of Laws (LL.M.) from Harvard Law School in
17 1948 and Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D.) from Yale Law School in 1949;
18

19 **WHEREAS**, in 1961, at the peak of his law practice and teaching career, he
20 ran and was elected Representative of the 2nd District of Rizal and distinguished
21 himself as Chairman of the Legal Committee at the Anglo-Philippine talks and the
22 powerful Committee on Good Government which investigated the celebrated
23 Stonehill case;
24

25 **WHEREAS**, despite the lack of financial means, he would run and top the
26 senatorial elections held in 1965 and would repeat this feat during the 1971 and 1987
27 senatorial races, thus distinguishing himself as the only person in the history of
28 Philippine politics who emerged at the top of three senatorial elections;

1 **WHEREAS**, when Martial Law was imposed on 21 September 1972, he was
2 among those who openly and vigorously opposed the closure of Congress and the
3 imposition of one-man rule and would serve as counsel to prominent opposition
4 leaders arrested and detained during the the dictatorship;

5
6 **WHEREAS**, he was then implicated in the series of bombings in Metro
7 Manila and was arrested and incarcerated for more than 7 years but was allowed to
8 leave with his wife in March 1981 to attend several international conferences and
9 undergo medical procedures in the United States where they were later forced to live
10 in self-exile in Hawaii and California as subversion charges were filed against him;

11
12 **WHEREAS**, he returned to the Philippines on 21 January 1985 to help unite
13 the democratic opposition and when President Corazon C. Aquino assumed power in
14 1986, he was appointed PCGG Chairman and as such he had accomplished the
15 recovery of ill-gotten wealth consisting of billions of cash and bank deposits, and
16 several titles to real property and their turnover to the government;

17
18 **WHEREAS**, when a restored Congress opened its sessions on 27 July 1987,
19 under a constitutional democracy, he was elected Senate President by his peers who
20 saw in him a respected leader with an untainted record in public service, a leadership
21 which combines power and conscience, authority and selflessness;

22
23 **WHEREAS**, on 16 September 1991, he led a group of 12 senators who
24 rejected the extension of the the RP-US Military Bases Agreement and ended 470
25 years of foreign military presence in the country;

26
27 **WHEREAS**, a 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Government Service
28 and a recipient of numerous international and local academic and civic awards and
29 citations, Senator Salonga left an indelible mark of his statesmanship authoring vital
30 measures such as the State Scholarship Law, the Disclosure of Interest Act, the
31 Magna Carta for Public School Teachers, the Code of Conduct and
32 Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, the Anti-Coup d'état Act and
33 the Act Defining and Penalizing the Crime of Plunder;

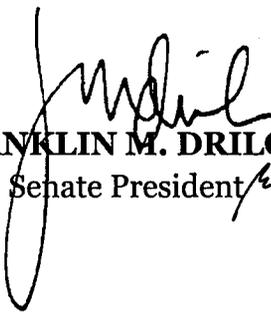
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35 **WHEREAS**, he founded the Bantayog ng Bayani Foundation, a private entity
36 that honors the nation's martyrs who fought and sacrificed their lives against the
37 tyranny of a dictatorship, and, after his retirement from politics, organized
38 the *Kilosbayan* and *Bantay Katarungan*, both independent, non-partisan, ethics-
39 oriented organizations that sees to improve governance in public service and the
40 administration of justice in the country;

41
42 **WHEREAS**, the members of this august Chamber join the whole nation and
43 his family in their moment of bereavement over the departure of an extraordinary
44 leader and statesman who served as a shepherd who eased the fears of a people
45 transiting from dictatorship to democracy and who stood as a bright lamp that
46 rekindled a nation's nationalist fervor: Now, therefore, be it

47
48 **RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES**, To
49 express, as it hereby expresses, its profound sympathy and sincere condolence on
50 the death of its beloved President, the Honorable Jovito R. Salonga;

1 **RESOLVED, FURTHER,** That a copy of this Resolution be furnished the
2 bereaved family of the Honorable Jovito R. Salonga.

Adopted,


FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Senate President