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NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Third Regular Session

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Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

## RESOLUTION

## HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC CONTINGENT, FOR THEIR HISTORIC AND TRIUMPHANT CAMPAIGN IN THE 2024 SUMMER PARIS OLYMPICS

**WHEREAS**, the quadrennial Olympic Games stand as the world's most prestigious multi-sports competition, where over 200 participating countries aspire to break personal and world records;

**WHEREAS,** Team Philippines achieved its most successful Olympic campaign to date, claiming four medals – two gold and two bronze – solidifying the country's position as a rising force in the global athletic arena;

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 Summer Olympics, officially known as Paris 2024, marks a significant historical milestone, commemorating a century since Filipino athletes first competed in the Summer Olympics. The Philippines proudly represented Southeast Asia as the first nation from the region to participate in the 1924 Paris Games;

**WHEREAS,** Carlos Yulo's record-breaking triumphs with his back-to-back golden medals have brought unprecedented glory not only to the Philippines but also to the entire Southeast Asian region, defying the historical dominance of far wealthier nations in the sport of gymnastics.

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**WHEREAS**, Nesthy Petecio solidified her name in Philippine Boxing history as the first Filipina to secure multiple Olympic medals, adding a bronze in the women's 57-kilogram division to her already impressive Olympic resume;

**WHEREAS,** Aira Villegas, in a remarkable Olympic debut, demonstrated the promising future of Philippine boxing and women's sports with her bronze medal win in the women's (50kg) division;

**WHEREAS**, EJ Obiena, the world No. 2 pole vaulter, and the first Filipino to receive a scholarship from the International Athletic Association Federation, showcased incredible progress by securing a commendable fourth-place finish, building upon his 11th-place finish at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics;

**WHEREAS**, Bianca Pagdanganan, who soared to the highest Olympic ranking ever by a Filipino golfer and Dottie Ardina, whose spirited performance has dazzled us all, have made our nation proud with their outstanding achievements in golf;

**WHEREAS**, Joanie Delgaco, in a testament to the unwavering spirit of Filipino athletes, overcame physical challenges as the first Filipina rower to compete in the Olympics;

**WHEREAS**, Kayla Sanchez triumphantly broke the Philippine record in the women's 100-meter freestyle, while Jarod Hatch showcased his potential with a spirited performance in the men's 100-meter butterfly, indicating a promising future for Philippine swimming;

**WHEREAS**, Aleah Finnegan, Emma Malabuyo, and Levi Jung-Ruivivar, making their Olympic debuts, marked a return for Filipina gymnasts to the Summer Olympics after a 60-year absence. This historic participation underscores the growing prominence of Filipino gymnasts in the international arena.

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**WHEREAS,** Samantha Kyle Catarn, a trailblazing Filipina fencer, broke a three-decade-long drought by representing the Philippines at the Olympic Games in the sport, demonstrating exceptional skill and unwavering determination against formidable global competitors.

**WHEREAS**, Kiyomi Watanabe, a fierce competitor in the world of Judo, proudly represented the Philippines with unwavering passion and skill, demonstrating remarkable tenacity and grit.

**WHEREAS,** the Philippine flag was carried by three weightlifting warriors: Eldreen Ando, who battled her way to a sixth-place finish, and John Ceniza and Vanessa Sarno who each displayed exceptional strength and determination.

WHEREAS, the heart of a champion was on full display as Tokyo 2020 Silver medalist Carlo Paalam fought fiercely in this year's Men's 57-kg Boxing division. Likewise, Tokyo 2020 Bronze medalist Eumir Marcial and Olympic newcomer Hergie Bacyadan delivered powerful performances in their respective bouts;

**WHEREAS**, Lauren Hoffman proudly showcased her exceptional talent in the Women's 400m hurdles. Her determination and athleticism inspired the nation. Similarly, John Cabang Tolentino made a spirited Olympic debut in Paris, finishing sixth in his heat of the Men's 110-meter hurdles with a time of 13.66 seconds prior to having to pull out because of an injury;

**WHEREAS**, it is important to recognize the indispensable role played by the coaches, trainers, and support staff. Their tireless efforts, unwavering dedication, and expert guidance have significantly contributed to the team's success. Their commitment to excellence, often behind the scenes, has been instrumental in preparing the athletes to perform at their best, fostering a spirit of teamwork, and ensuring the overall well-being and development of each team member;

**WHEREAS**, this is a heartfelt tribute to the transformative power of sports in fostering national unity, bridging diverse communities, and igniting a sense of pride

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and belonging among all Filipinos. It celebrates the remarkable achievements of our athletes, whose dedication and perseverance inspire future generations to dream big and strive for excellence;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to honor and celebrate the Philippine Olympic contingent, for their historic and triumphant campaign in the 2024 Summer Paris Olympics.

Adopted,

**JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**