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SENATE

P.S. RES. NO. 1154

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Introduced by Senator **PIA S. CAYETANO**

RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINO BOXER AIRA VILLEGAS FOR BRINGING PRIDE AND HONOR TO OUR COUNTRY BY WINNING A BRONZE MEDAL IN THE WOMEN'S 50KG BOXING EVENT AT THE 2024 PARIS OLYMPICS

WHEREAS, on 7 August 2024, Filipino boxer Aira Villegas took home the bronze medal for the Philippines in the women's 50kg boxing event at the 2024 Paris Olympics, following her match against Turkish opponent at the Roland-Garros Stadium;¹

WHEREAS, she concluded her Olympic debut with honor, securing a podium finish and demonstrating exceptional skill and determination as she fought her way to the semifinals with her head held high;

WHEREAS, hailing from Tacloban, Leyte, Villegas started boxing at the age of nine, inspired by her older brother, Romnick, who was a multiple title-holder in their province;²

¹ Beltran, N. (2024, August 8). From Peanut Vendor To Olympic Medalist: Aira Villegas' Bronze Feels Like Gold. One News Philippines.
<https://www.onenews.ph/articles/from-peanut-vendor-to-olympic-medalist-aira-villegas-bronze-feels-like-gold>

² Fojas, I. (9 August 2024). Who Is Aira Villegas? 10 Things about 2024 Paris Olympics Boxing Bronze Medalist. Preview.
https://www.preview.ph/culture/who-is-aira-villegas-a5200-20240807?ref=article_feed_1&s=hdnrnfjim55ps27d1shkgvl76q#:~:text=She%20began%20boxing%20at%209,her%20to%20the%20Olympic%20podium.

WHEREAS, at sixteen, she embarked on her amateur boxing career, becoming the youngest member of the Association of Boxing Alliances in the Philippines (ABAP) women's boxing stable;³

WHEREAS, Villegas is one of six siblings and the breadwinner of her family, as she pools her monthly allowance and incentives as a national athlete to financially support them;⁴

WHEREAS, the 29-year-old Olympic neophyte rose from her humble beginning of selling peanuts for a living, to earning a degree in criminology at the University of Baguio, to now being an Olympic bronze medalist⁵ and a figure of inspiration to many Filipinos to chase their own goals and dreams;

WHEREAS, Villegas' experience of competing twice in the International Boxing Association (IBA) Women's World Boxing Championships paved the way for her bronze medal victory in the 2019 Southeast Asian Games;

WHEREAS, the Philippines achieved its greatest medal haul and highest Olympic ranking in six decades, finishing 37th at the 2024 Paris Olympics and establishing its position as the best performing Southeast Asian nation;⁶

WHEREAS, Villegas' valiant effort and performance embody the unwavering spirit of a true Filipino fighter, deserving of the entire nation's recognition;

³ Ramos, G. (2024, July 6). Aira Villegas living older brother's dream in Olympic debut. *Spin Philippines*.
<https://www.spin.ph/multisport/olympics/aira-villegas-ripe-for-paris-olympics-lives-dream-of-older-brother-a793-20240706>

⁴ Beltran, N. (2024, August 7). From peanuts to Paris: 'Magmamani' and now Olympic bronze medalist Aira Villegas rises to stardom. *Philippine Star*.
<https://www.philstar.com/sports/2024/08/07/2376144/peanuts-paris-magmamani-and-now-olympic-bronze-medalist-aira-villegas-rises-stardom>

⁵ Beltran, N. (2024, August 7). From peanuts to Paris: 'Magmamani' and now Olympic bronze medalist Aira Villegas rises to stardom. *Philippine Star*.
<https://www.philstar.com/sports/2024/08/07/2376144/peanuts-paris-magmamani-and-now-olympic-bronze-medalist-aira-villegas-rises-stardom>

⁶ Dioquino, D. (2024, August 11). Philippines basks in all-time best Olympic performance. *Rappler*.
<https://www.rappler.com/sports/philippines-basks-all-time-best-performance-paris-olympics-2024/>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines congratulates and commends Filipino boxer Aira Villegas for bringing pride and honor to our country by winning a bronze medal in the women's 50kg boxing event at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Adopted,


PIA S. CAYETANO