

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
Senate  
Pasay City

Sixteenth Congress

Third Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 104

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY  
AND SINCERE CONDOLENCE OF THE SENATE ON  
THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE ERNESTO F.  
HERRERA, FORMER SENATOR (1987-1998) AND  
MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
(1998-2001)

WHEREAS, the Honorable Ernesto F. Herrera, a distinguished legislator, a staunch and outstanding labor leader, a pillar of the anti-illegal drugs movement, and an advocate of law and order, passed away on October 29, 2015;

WHEREAS, although handicapped by polio during his childhood, the strong-willed native of Samboan, Cebu graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in law from the University of Visayas in 1966, and finished his Master's Degree in Public Administration major in Public Finance (*summa cum laude*) in 1995 and doctorate degree in Fiscal Studies (*magna cum laude*) in 1998, both at the Lyceum of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, dedicating his professional life to the cause of labor, he helped organize the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) in 1983 and served as the workers' representative in the National Wages Council, the Social Security Commission, and the National Manpower and Youth Council;

WHEREAS, committed to fight for the cause of Filipino workers here and abroad, he became the only Filipino member of the executive board of the International Federation of Free Trade and Union in Brussels, Belgium from 1988 to 1992, served as consultant on worker's education of the International Labour Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, and headed the Workers' Delegation to the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Organization where he delivered a major address on human rights;

WHEREAS, for his earnest efforts to alleviate the plight of the masses, the giant of Philippine labor earned him the rare distinction of being the first Asian and the second individual to receive the 1985 George Meany International Human Rights Award, after Lech Walesa, former President of Poland;

WHEREAS, he gained national prominence when he became a member of the Agrava Fact-Finding Board that investigated both the 1983 assassination of former senator Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. and the military-tagged assassin Rolando Galman, where he bravely exhibited his total willingness to risk his life and liberty in exchange for the freedom to expose the truth;

WHEREAS, he was first elected to the Senate in 1987 where he served as the Chairman of the Committees on Labor, Employment, and Human Resources Development, Tourism and Illegal Drugs, and was a member of the 1990 Congressional Commission on Education that reviewed the Philippine Education System and the 1992 Congressional Commission on Health;

WHEREAS, for his remarkable performance, the principled and distinguished public servant was re-elected senator in 1992 and served as Chairman of the Committees on Finance and Public Services and as member of the Executive-Legislative National Water Crisis Commission;

WHEREAS, focusing his legislative agenda on labor, employment, education, and law and order, he had 20 landmark pieces of legislation to his name during the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Congresses, notably Republic Act 6715, which amended the Labor Code in 1989, R.A. 7699 which instituted portability scheme in the social security insurance system", and R.A. 8042, otherwise known as the "Migrant Workers' Act of 1995", which undoubtedly has been benefiting 10 million Filipino migrant

workers across the globe, notably the provision mandating the government to set aside each year at least P100 million for the worker assistance units in consular posts;

WHEREAS, for his staunch anti-illegal drug advocacy to protect the youth from the pernicious effects of illegal drugs, the founding chairman of the Citizens' Drug Watch Foundation, Inc. and former head of the nongovernment group Crimewatch was conferred the 1992 *Gintong Ama ng Bayan* Award by the *Gintong Ama/Ina* Foundation of the Philippines and the International Award of Honor by the International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association of New York, U.S.A.;

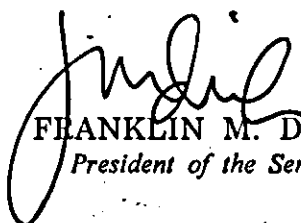
WHEREAS, after his Senate stint, he was elected and served as Representative of Bohol's First District from 1998 to 2001;

WHEREAS, the passing away of a great leader and trusted public servant who had led a life dedicated to promote the welfare and protect the rights of the working class is a great loss not only to his bereaved family but to the nation as well: Now, therefore, be it


*Resolved by the Senate*, To express, as it hereby expresses, its profound sympathy and sincere condolence on the death of Honorable Ernesto F. Herrera, former senator (1987-1998) and a member of the House of Representatives (1998-2001).

*Resolved, further*, that a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the bereaved family of the former Senator.

Adopted,

  
FRANKLIN M. DRILON  
*President of the Senate*

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on November 3, 2015.

  
OSCAR G. YABES  
*Secretary of the Senate*