

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Senate

Manila City

Seventeenth Congress

Second Regular Session



RESOLUTION NO. 68

RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY URGING HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE TO NOMINATE MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO FOR CONFERMENT OF THE QUEZON SERVICE CROSS, IN RECOGNITION OF HER EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATION THROUGH A LIFE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC SERVICE

WHEREAS, Joint Resolution No. 4 S. 1946 created the Quezon Service Cross "for exemplary service to the nation in memory of the late President Manuel L. Quezon";

WHEREAS, President Manuel A. Roxas, in urging Congress to create the Quezon Service Cross, intended for the award to be "the highest national recognition of outstanding civilian service in the gift of the Republic";

WHEREAS, Joint Resolution No. 4 S. 1946, states that the Quezon Service Cross is granted by the President of the Republic, with concurrence in each case by both the Senate and the House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, the Resolution states further that the service recognized through the Quezon Service Cross must be in "such a manner and such a degree as to add great prestige to the Republic of the Philippines, or as to contribute to the lasting benefit of its people";

WHEREAS, Miriam Defensor Santiago has dedicated her life to public service through her work in all the branches of government: judicial, executive, and legislative;

WHEREAS, throughout her 46-year career in the public service, Santiago embodied values that she herself demanded of leaders: academic, professional, and moral excellence;

WHEREAS, as Presiding Judge of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, Santiago implemented a no-postponement policy, allowing her to dispose of a record number of cases and unclog the court of old cases;

WHEREAS, as Immigration Commissioner, Santiago instituted reforms in the then notoriously corrupt Immigration Commission, earning her the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service, the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize, "for bold and moral leadership in cleaning up a graft-ridden government agency";

WHEREAS, as Agrarian Reform Secretary, Santiago stopped the so-called conversion scandal, wherein landowners lobbied to have their agricultural lands reclassified as commercial, industrial, or residential lands to subvert the law;

WHEREAS, as Senator for three terms, Santiago consistently filed the highest number of bills and resolutions, and authored some of the most important laws of our time, including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act
- The Data Privacy Act
- The Cybercrime Prevention Act
- The Anti-Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance Act
- The Anti-Bullying Act
- An Act Restructuring the Excise Tax on Alcohol and Tobacco Products
- The Fair Competition Law
- The Rare Diseases Act of the Philippines
- The Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act
- The Intellectual Property Code
- The Fair Election Act
- The Oil Pollution Compensation Act
- The Biofuels Act
- The Magna Carta of Women
- The Anti-Torture Act
- The Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity;

WHEREAS, as Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Santiago successfully sponsored treaties that now benefit the country, including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
- The United Nations Convention Against Corruption
- The ILO Convention on Migration for Employment
- The Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement
- The Revised Kyoto Convention
- The ASEAN Charter
- The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
- The ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution;

WHEREAS, Santiago's contribution has been recognized through the prestigious awards given her throughout her career, including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service, 1988
- The Outstanding Young Men Award for Law, 1985
- The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service Award for Law, 1986
- Philippine Judges Association Hall of Fame, 2015
- YMCA Philippines Gold Vision Triangle Award for Government Service, 1988
- Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippine Republic Anniversary Award for Law Enforcement, 1988
- Girl Scout of the Philippines Golden Jubilee Achievement Award for Public Service, 1990
- University of the Philippines Most Outstanding Alumna in Law, 1988
- University of the Philippines Alumni Association (Iloilo Chapter), 2015;

WHEREAS, Santiago is a highly esteemed expert in constitutional and international law and has, through such recognition, earned for the Philippines honor and respect from the international community;

WHEREAS, Santiago authored numerous law books, some of which have been cited by the Supreme Court in its decisions;

WHEREAS, in 2013, Santiago was elected by states party to the Rome Statute as Judge of the International Criminal Court, becoming the first Filipino and the first Asian from a developing country to hold such a seat;

WHEREAS, in 2016, Santiago became a member of the International Advisory Council of the International Development Law Organization;

WHEREAS, Santiago's crusade against the culture of corruption, steadfastness on the rule of law, and determination to hold public officials to a higher standard, reverberate across generations;


WHEREAS, bestowing upon Santiago the Quezon Service Cross will ensure that her legacy of dedicated, outstanding, and selfless public service will endure for Filipinos to emulate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To respectfully urge His Excellency, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to nominate Miriam Defensor Santiago for conferment of the Quezon Service Cross, in recognition of her exemplary contribution to the nation through a life dedicated to public service.


Resolved, further, That the Senate immediately concur with the conferment of the Quezon Service Cross upon Miriam Defensor Santiago, and urge the House of Representatives to do the same, once it has received the nomination by the President.

Resolved, further, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Office of the President, the House of Representatives, and the family of the late Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Adopted,


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on September 27, 2017.


LUTGARDO B. BARBO
Secretary of the Senate