

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines

Senate

Pasay City

Eighteenth Congress

First Regular Session



RESOLUTION NO. 24

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND
SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF
THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE
DEATH OF JOHN LIM GOKONGWEI JR.

WHEREAS, Mr. John Lim Gokongwei Jr., entrepreneur, industrialist, philanthropist, banker, family-oriented man, and founder and chairman emeritus of business conglomerates JG Summit Holdings, Inc. and Robinsons Retail Holdings, Inc., passed away on 9 November 2019, at the age of 93;

WHEREAS, he was born in Xiamen, China on 11 August 1926 to a scion of a wealthy Filipino-Chinese clan

based in Cebu, was orphaned at an early age of 13 when his father died, and had to help his mother in providing for the needs of his siblings by selling roasted peanuts, soap, candles and threads;

WHEREAS, he began trading goods from Cebu to Manila in 1943 and, shortly after the end of World War II, he established Amasia Trading which imported flour, onions, fruits, used clothing, and old newspapers and magazines from the United States of America;

WHEREAS, he established a corn milling plant in 1957 and named it Universal Corn Products, the cornerstone of Universal Robina Corporation, which is now one of the country's largest food and beverage companies;

WHEREAS, known for his pioneering ideas, he set up the country's first integrated petrochemical plant and first low-budget airline carrier, which made domestic and foreign travel affordable to more Filipinos;

WHEREAS, his work ethic, perseverance and vision led to the establishment of other major companies in the country, such as Robinsons Land Corporation, Robinsons Bank, Cebu Air, Inc., JG Summit Petrochemical Corporation, and Global Business Power, which made him the third richest man in the country in 2019;

WHEREAS, in 1992, he and his brothers donated significant portions of their shares of stock in JG Summit to establish the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation to support education in the country. He donated half of his fortune to the said foundation when he turned 80 in 2006;

WHEREAS, in 2008 and 2013, he was one of the four Filipino philanthropists included in Forbes Asia's list of annual Heroes of Philanthropy for his contributions to the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation, one of the country's most endowed foundations;

WHEREAS, he led the Legacy Awardees of ASEAN Business Awards in 2017 and was named “Man of the Year” by the Management Association of the Philippines “due to his business acumen and management qualities that steered the Gokongwei Group into remarkable growth through his foresight and exceptional ability to launch new venture and transform existing ones to better adapt to challenging times and an unpredictable future”;

WHEREAS, Filipinos can learn and emulate great life lessons from Mr. John L. Gokongwei Jr. whose hard work, business philosophy and philanthropy helped open doors of opportunities to his fellow Filipinos: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, as it is hereby resolved, To express its profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the death of Mr. John Lim Gokongwei Jr.

Adopted,

VICENTE C. SOTTO III

President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on November 11, 2019.

MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA

Secretary of the Senate