

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Senate
Pasay City

Eighteenth Congress

First Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 53

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING
THE HEROIC SERVICES OF THE MEN AND
WOMEN OF THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD
IN THE COUNTRY'S FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19
UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ADMIRAL JOEL
SARSIBAN GARCIA, AND CONGRATULATING
HIM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD

WHEREAS, there is an urgent necessity for the
conduct of massive laboratory testing for COVID-19 to
rapidly identify, treat and isolate the positive patients, and
to ultimately stop the deadly transmission of the virus that
has claimed the lives of more than 950 Filipinos and
infected more than 18,000 of our countrymen;

WHEREAS, the men and women of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), under the strong leadership of Admiral Joel Sarsiban Garcia, heeded the call of duty and aided in the country's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, risking their lives by personally conducting the swabbing and specimen collection of thousands of repatriated Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and other returning Filipinos, as well as in overseeing several isolation and quarantine facilities;

WHEREAS, Admiral Joel S. Garcia (Hajji Muhammad Abdul Aziz Bin) is an officer who goes beyond the bounds of duty, as exemplified by his valor and dedication to aid the government in the gargantuan task of beating the deadly Coronavirus pandemic;

WHEREAS, before his retirement on 1 June 2020, Admiral Joel S. Garcia, as the Commander of the Sub-Task Group for the Repatriation of OFWs (STG RO), led the brave men and women of the PCG, in partnership with the Philippine Red Cross and the Task Force for Test, Trace and Treat, in the conduct of the massive COVID-19 PCR testing of more than thirty-six thousand (36,000) OFWs being repatriated due to the pandemic;

WHEREAS, born on 1964 in Bago City, Negros Occidental, Admiral Joel S. Garcia committed his life to the pursuit of knowledge and excellence culminating to a life dedicated to the service of the people;

WHEREAS, Admiral Joel S. Garcia studied in Bago City Elementary School and the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos for secondary education; finished his Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation majoring in Navigational Science at the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) as a full government scholar; earned his Masters of Science degree in Maritime Safety Administration from the prestigious World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmoe, Sweden and Masters degree in Shipping Management at PMMA; pursued further studies and obtained his Doctors degree in Philosophy in Public Administration from the Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute

of Science and Technology (EARIST) and likewise conferred a Doctors degree in Humanities (*Honoris Causa*) by the Sulu State College for his humanitarian services;

WHEREAS, Admiral Joel S. Garcia rendered invaluable service to the Philippine Navy, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and to the nation with outmost loyalty, bravery, integrity and competence;

WHEREAS, Admiral Joel S. Garcia is a licensed mariner who ranked second place in Professional Regulation Commission's (PRC) board examination and fourth place in the PRC's board examination for Master Mariner;

WHEREAS, before his retirement, he concurrently held the following positions: the Commandant of the PCG, the Executive Director of the National Coast Watch Center (NCWC), under the Office of the President, and the Chairperson of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Governing Council in Singapore;

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Admiral Joel S. Garcia performed other key roles: Officer-in-Charge of the PCG, Deputy Commandant for Administration of the PCG, Commander of the Coast Guard Maritime Safety Services Command (MSSC), Commander of the Coast Guard Marine Environmental Protection Command (MEPCOM), Commander of the Coast Guard Education and Training Command (CGETC), Commander of the Coast Guard Weapons, Communications, Electronics and Information Systems Command (CGWEISC), District Commander of four (4) Coast Guard Districts (CGD), namely: CGD National Capital Region-Central Luzon (CGDNCR - CL), CGD Western Region based in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, CGD Eastern Luzon Region (BICOL) based in Legaspi City, Albay, CGD Northern Luzon Region based in San Fernando, La Union, Chairman of the Committee on Islamic Religious Studies, Member of the Technical Panels in Humanities and Maritime Education of the Commission

on Higher Education (CHED) (2003-2010), Executive Director of the Presidential Task Force on Maritime Development Secretariat (1996). He also served as a professor of Maritime Administration and Environmental Economics in the PMMA Graduate School;

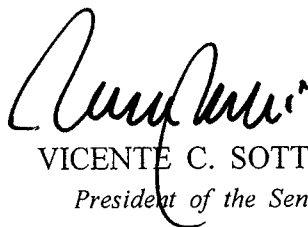
WHEREAS, Admiral Joel S. Garcia is a loving father, scholar, professor, leader and a true public servant;

WHEREAS, the crucial and immeasurable contribution of the members and officers of the PCG, under the leadership of Admiral Joel S. Garcia, to the successful completion of the COVID-19 PCR testing of more than 36,000 OFWs should be recognized and commended: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved, That the Senate of the Philippines commends and lauds the brave men and women of the Philippine Coast Guard and Admiral Joel Sarsiban Garcia for their role in testing more than 36,000 returning Filipinos and for risking their lives to save the Filipino people from the effects of the Coronavirus.

Resolved, further, by the Senate of the Philippines, To recognize the achievements and contribution of Admiral Joel Sarsiban Garcia to the Philippine Coast Guard and to the Filipino people on the occasion of his retirement from the Philippine Coast Guard.

Adopted,



VICENTE C. SOTTO III

President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on
June 3, 2020.



MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA

Secretary of the Senate

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