

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Senate
Pasay City

Eighteenth Congress

Second Regular Session



RESOLUTION NO. 76

RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 107TH
BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF JUSTICE CECILIA
MUÑOZ-PALMA AND HONORING HER
INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION IN DEFENDING
THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF THE
FILIPINO PEOPLE

WHEREAS, Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma was a revered jurist who topped the bar examinations of 1937 with a rating of 92.6% and held the distinction of having been the first woman appointed as Justice of the Supreme Court, the first female prosecutor of Quezon City, the first female district judge for Negros Oriental, and the second woman appointed as Justice of the Court of Appeals;

WHEREAS, Justice Muñoz-Palma is remembered as a legal luminary who championed the truth, democracy, human rights, and freedom through her illuminating *ponencias* and separate opinions and fought for the liberties of the Filipino people through her landmark dissents from rulings affirming the declaration of Martial Law and condoning the flagrant abuse of power;

WHEREAS, in 1986, Justice Muñoz-Palma was elected President of the Constitutional Commission that framed a new Constitution, which she described as “a Constitution with a vision – peace and happiness – for the Filipino people” and “unprecedented measures taken to protect and defend our rights and freedoms, uphold truth, justice and the rule of law, to give a better quality of life for the working man, the sick, the elderly, disabled, the indigenous cultural communities who have long been neglected and abandoned”;

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution embodies the spirit of freedom and democracy by re-establishing a presidential system of government with three branches – the legislative, executive, and judicial – separate and independent of each other to assure effective check and balance; creating the Commission on Human Rights; and strengthening and expanding the Bill of Rights to secure and protect the basic freedoms and liberties of Filipinos;

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights and the new structure of government established in the 1987 Constitution stand as safeguards against the return of authoritarian rule and reaffirm the people’s right to life, liberty and property, due process, equal protection of the laws, freedom of religion, speech, the press, and peaceful assembly;

WHEREAS, under her leadership of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office from 1998 to 2000, Justice Muñoz-Palma pioneered feeding programs, scholarships for indigent students, and social assistance for the less fortunate;

WHEREAS, Justice Muñoz-Palma's legacy endures to this day through the Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma Foundation, Inc., which ensures that her ideals live through the works of others who, like her, have chosen a life of service to their fellow countrymen;


WHEREAS, it is the fundamental obligation of the Congress to promote the rights and liberties of its people as enshrined in the Constitution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Philippines commemorate the life and legacy of Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma and honor her invaluable contribution in protecting and defending the rights and freedoms of the Filipino people on the occasion of her 107th birth anniversary on 22 November 2020.

Adopted,


VICENTE C. SOTTO III
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on November 23, 2020.


MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA
Secretary of the Senate