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SENATE

S. Jt. Res. No. 7

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Introduced by
Senator Edgardo J. Angara

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DECLARING OCTOBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR AS A
NATIONAL SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY TO COMMEMORATE THE "DÍA DEL
GALEÓN"

Whereas, on October 08, 1565, explorer and astronomer, Fray Andres de Urdaneta, while on board the San Pedro galleon, discovered the first *tornaviaje*, the return route from the Philippines to America, proving that the world could be navigated in two directions;

Whereas, in its General Conference in Paris last 2009, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) passed a resolution institutionalizing the Dia Del Galleon every 8th of October, and noting in the said resolution that for 250 years (1565-1815), the Galleons plying between Manila and Acapulco linked Asia with America, Europe and even Africa, and served not only as carriers of trade, but also as transmitters of cultures;

Whereas, October 08, 1565 marked the birth of globalization in Manila and made Manila the "center of the Universe" and Manila became the most important port in Asia;

Whereas, the trade route bridged Asia to Europe and the Americas. It gave the Philippines a place in world history like no other economic feature of the country, while trading products such as ylang-ylang, abaca, the Barong Tagalog, sampaloc, achuete, avocado and cacao;

Whereas, the celebration of Dia Del Galleon will resurrect our long and fruitful ties with the Ibero-American countries which the galleon trade had forged and will pay tribute to our roots and reunite ourselves with a greater family of nations with which the Manila Galleons historically connected us;

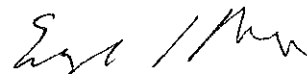
Whereas, our 16th century relations with the Ibero-American countries brought trade, investment, agriculture and the enrichment of our culture and language;

Whereas, through the efforts of the Philippine Dia Del Galleon Steering Committee, the Philippines has been lauded by the Director General of the UNESCO for organizing the Dia Del Galeon festival this year, and for arranging the arrival of the replica of the Andalucia Galleon (Galeon Andalucia) at the Manila Bay in time for the celebration;

Now, therefore in view of the foregoing, be it

RESOLVED, by the Senate and the House of Representatives in Congress assembled, that the "Dia Del Galleon" shall be commemorated on the 8th of October of every year as a special working holiday.

Adopted,



SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA