

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

P. S. RES. NO. 29

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Introduced by Senator FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

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**RESOLUTION**

**EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCE OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEMISE OF HONORABLE ARTURO M. TOLENTINO, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**

**WHEREAS**, the nation just lost a great man and an outstanding leader. The Honorable Arturo M. Tolentino, a man of conviction and integrity, peacefully returned to his Maker on August 3, 2004;

**WHEREAS**, an outstanding and brilliant statesman, legal luminary, parliamentarian, scholar, diplomat, law professor, renowned author, and public servant, Honorable Arturo M. Tolentino devoted his life to public service;

**WHEREAS**, he exhibited academic excellence by consistently garnering top honors, namely, as valedictorian in high school; class Valedictorian and *Cum Laude* at the University of the Philippines College of Law in 1934; second place in the 1934 Bar examinations; *Cum Laude* in Bachelor of Philosophy at the University of the Philippines in 1938; Master of Laws (*meritissimus*) and Doctor of Civil Law (*meritissimus*) from the University of Santo Tomas;

**WHEREAS**, he distinguished himself not only in his scholastic endeavor but likewise in extracurricular activities by achieving numerous first places in writing competitions, garnering gold medals in debates, argumentation and oratorical contests, and winning the "Inter-Collegiate Oratorical Champion of the Philippines" in 1934;

**WHEREAS**, an intellectual whose heart was with the masses, he served as member of the Code of Commission in 1948 tasked to revise all existing substantive laws of the Philippines and codify them in conformity with the customs, traditions and values of the Filipino people;

**WHEREAS**, his exemplary service in Congress started when he was elected member of the House of Representatives for two (2) consecutive terms from 1949 to 1957, where he also served as Majority Leader from 1953 to 1957 and authored and/or sponsored over two thousand (2,000) bills. In 1949, after his nomination as Representative by the Nacionalista Party, he was offered a position in the Court of Appeals but he declined because he could not sacrifice principles for personal convenience;

**WHEREAS**, he was elected to the Senate for three (3) consecutive terms from 1957 to 1972, where he served as Majority Leader from 1963 to 1966 and from 1970 to 1972; and as Minority Leader from 1967 to 1969;

**WHEREAS**, he was elected during the Sixth Congress as the Tenth President of the Senate from 1966 to 1967 during which he guided the passage of laws, vital to national development and public welfare;

**WHEREAS**, he served with distinction as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1984 to 1985. As a noted constitutionalist, he fought for the right of every Filipino to travel and to a Philippine passport;

**WHEREAS**, as member of the Batasang Pambansa from 1978 -1986, he was awarded the "Most Outstanding Member of the Batasang Pambansa (1978-1983)";

**WHEREAS**, in appreciation of his exemplary and committed public service, the nation again elected him Senator in 1992 where he served his term until 1995 with distinction. He was Chairman of the Committees on Electoral Reforms and Social Justice and member of the Commission on Appointments;

**WHEREAS**, in the Senate, he authored and/or co-authored landmark measures to promote national interest and good government and to alleviate the plight of civil servants which includes among others, the landmark piece of legislation, Republic Act No. 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act; Republic Act. No. 1079 providing that Civil Service eligibility shall be permanent; Republic Act 1080 and 1844 which grant Civil Service eligibility to those who passed the bar and board examinations; and the law regulating the practice of optometry and in 1992;

**WHEREAS**, as a top diplomat, he represented the Philippines in various international meetings and conferences, served as Chairman of the Philippine delegation to the First (1958), Second (1960), and Third (1973-1982) United Nations Conferences on the Law of the Sea, marked by a very significant achievement through the international recognition of the "Archipelago Doctrine" in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, thereby adding a total of 3,742,275 hectares to the seas as part of the national territory;

**WHEREAS**, a recipient of various awards and citations as a writer, professor, diplomat and legislator, among others, "Ka Turing" as he was fondly called, was a man of integrity and high principles and kept his reputation as vigilant fiscalizer, unstained with graft and corruption, impropriety or irregularity;

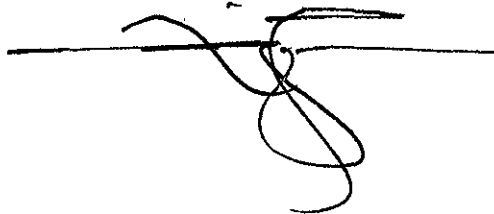
**WHEREAS**, respected for his sober and enlightened brand of politics, he was elected Vice-President of the Philippines in the snap elections of 1986;

**WHEREAS**, even after his retirement from public life, he maintained his interests in national issues and made himself available for advise, information and counsel on critical problems facing the country, thereby, continuing his public service to the Filipino people: Now, therefore, be it

**Resolved by the Senate,** To express, as it hereby expresses, the profound condolence of the Senate of the Philippines on the demise of Honorable Arturo M. Tolentino, former President of the Senate.

**Resolved, further,** That a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the bereaved family of Honorable Arturo M. Tolentino.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a horizontal line with a large, stylized flourish that loops back and ends in a small hook.