

10 JAN 20 12:10

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 1539

RECEIVED

Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

**A RESOLUTION
HONORING AND REMEMBERING PETTY OFFICER THREE (PO3) ARMAN BONIFACIO
OF THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD FOR HIS EXEMPLARY BRAVERY AND
COURAGE IN THE CALL OF DUTY**

WHEREAS, the Philippines has been witness to several maritime disasters, two of which, MV Catalyn-B and MV Baleno 9, happened successively on the month of December 2009;

WHEREAS, to address these maritime disasters and ensure the survival of victims of these tragedies, the Philippine Coast Guard, along with non-governmental organizations like the Philippine National Red Cross, have mobilized their personnel to conduct search and rescue operations as well as relief operations to aid these victims;

WHEREAS, to provide closure to the families of victims of the MV Catalyn-B and MV Baleno 9, the Philippine Coast Guard has ordered search and retrieval operations for the remains of the victims of these maritime disasters;

WHEREAS, among the divers assigned to participate in the mission was PO3 Arman Bonifacio, a Philippine Navy and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) – trained diver;

WHEREAS, PO3 Arman Bonifacio was chosen for the mission for his exemplary record, having participated in various Philippine Coast Guard operations such as search and retrieval operations for the victims of MV Baleno 9, MV Princess of the Stars and Super Ferry 14, and having been a team leader in rescue operations for victims of tropical cyclones “Ondoy” and “Pepeng”;

WHEREAS, despite the dangers associated with search and retrieval operations at more than 220 ft. below sea level, PO3 Arman Bonifacio, along with PO3 Saturnino Cahilig Jr., without hesitation or reservation, volunteered for three scheduled dives to recover the remains of victims of MV Catalyn-B;

WHEREAS, during one of the scheduled dives, PO3 Arman Bonifacio encountered difficulties underwater while conducting search and retrieval operations causing him to lose his consciousness during his resurface attempt and later on his untimely demise;

WHEREAS, the death of PO3 Arman Bonifacio has brought unexplainable grief to members of his family and has brought about a great loss on the part of the Philippine Coast Guard;

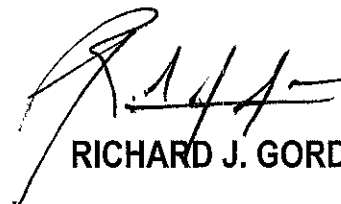
WHEREAS, true heroism was displayed by PO3 Arman Bonifacio by serving others, beyond the call of duty, at the cost of his life while conducting search and retrieval operations for victims of MV Catalyn-B off the coast of Cavite last 8 January 2010;

WHEREAS, PO3 Arman Bonifacio deserves to be honored and remembered for his unparalleled dedication to the service in conducting search and rescue operations; *Now therefore be it.*

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Philippine Senate honor and remember PO3 Arman Bonifacio for being a Philippine Coast Guard diver par excellence and for his valiant efforts in ensuring that the remains of victims of various tragedies are found and returned to their grieving relatives;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to provide copies of this Resolution to his family, and to the Philippine Coast Guard to guarantee its wide dissemination and enable the public to know how the late PO3 Arman Bonifacio went above and beyond the call of duty in search and retrieval operations of various tragedies;

Adopted,



RICHARD J. GORDON