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

RECEIVED BY: Quib

SENATE

s. No. 496

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On August 10, 1998, our people commemorated the 100th birth anniversary of the late Senator Lorenzo Martinez Tañada, a man who championed many great causes in his long and unblemished record in public service.

Tañada began his government service as Assistant City Fiscal of Manila in 1929 and served until 1935. He joined the Judiciary as Judge of the Court of First Instance of Manila in 1945 and became Solicitor General and Chief Special Prosecutor of the Japanese collaborators from 1945 to 1947.

Thereafter, with the reputation and respect he gained in government service, he ran and won as Senator in 1947 and served for four consecutive terms until 1971, the longest continuous record of service of any Filipino Senator. As a legislator, he distinguished himself as a fearless, hard-hitting and uncompromising advocate and defender of civil liberties, labor rights, clean and honest government and the protection of national patrimony and sovereignty.

When then President Ferdinand E. Marcos imposed Martial Law on September 21, 1972, Tañada, despite being already 74 years old and without concern for his personal convenience and safety, openly challenged the legality of the regime, spearheaded protest rallies and extended legal assistance to political prisoners and victims of human rights abuses. He became one of the towering figures in the broadening opposition front that led to the unprecedented and historic People Power Revolution of February 1986 and drove Marcos out of power and dismantled almost two decades of authoritarian rule.

Throughout his public life, particularly at the height of martial rule and during the difficult period of transition to democratic governance, Tañada distinguished himself for his untiring and steadfast advocacy for genuine national sovereignty. To his great satisfaction, he lived to see the very symbol of foreign domination and national subservience – the US military bases – dismantled with the rejection by the Senate on September 16, 1991 of a treaty extending the stay of the US military bases in the country.

For all these sterling achievements, his intense commitment to civil liberties, human rights and nationalism and his exemplary dedication to public service, Tañada deserves to be honored and remembered.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

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S. No. 496

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

AN ACT
RENAMING ESPAÑA BOULEVARD LOCATED IN THE CITY MANILA TO
LORENZO M. TAÑADA AVENUE

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 SECTION 1. In recognition of the eminent and patriotic services of the
2 late Senator Lorenzo M. Tañada, the name of España Boulevard located in the
3 City of Manila is hereby changed to Senator Lorenzo M. Tañada Avenue.

4 SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
5 the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation,
6 whichever comes earlier.

Approved,