

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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S E N A T E

S. No. 497

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the country's thrust towards democratic consolidation, our people should enshrine in their memories the noble sacrifices of countless brave and patriotic men and women who offered their lives during the long dark years of the Marcos dictatorship.

Senator Jose W. Diokno is a man who deserves to be remembered by our people. He carved a niche in the national consciousness as a crusading Senator, a brilliant lawyer, a staunch nationalist, who brought his insights and his expertise to bear on critical issues such as human rights, the nuclear arms race, and American intervention in Philippine affairs.

Voted as outstanding senator for several years, "Ka Pepe" as he was popularly known, championed the sanctity and dignity of the human person. His crusade for human rights during the Marcos regime made him one of Marco's foremost enemies. Thus he was one of the first to be arrested and held in detention upon the declaration of Martial Law in 1972. Senator Diokno was released in September 1974 after almost two years of detention. No charges of any kind were ever filed against him. His only fault was that he was a possible rival for the presidency.

From the time he was released from prison, Senator Diokno fearlessly and with grim determination fought for the restoration of Philippine democracy. He was a towering figure in the opposition rallies denouncing the Marcos regime from 1974 up to the "EDSA Revolution" in February 1986.

To honor the memory of this man, a true and acclaimed Filipino nationalist, who selflessly offered his life for the restoration of truth, decency, justice, and freedom in our land, this bill proposes to rename Taft Avenue to Senator Jose W. Diokno Avenue.

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

S. Osmeña III
SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

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AN ACT
RENAMING TAFT AVENUE IN MANILA TO SENATOR JOSE W. DIOKNO
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 Jose W. Diokno, the name of Taft Avenue in Manila is hereby
3 changed to Senator Jose W. Diokno Avenue.

4 SEC. 2. The Department of Public Works and Highways is hereby
5 instructed to place the appropriate street names and markers along Senator Jose
6 W. Diokno Avenue (**FORMERLY TAFT AVENUE**).

7 SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,