

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

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

'04 JUN 30 P8 59

SENATE  
S. No. 641

RECEIVED BY: Jala

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

It has been told that if all Overseas Filipino Workers will go on strike for a day, the whole world may not be able to function. Imagine the Europeans without our nurses, doctors and nannies; or the Singaporeans and Chinese without our domestic helpers; or the Arabs without our engineers and construction workers; or the Canadians without our caregivers; or the Americans without our IT professionals, and yes, the international maritime industry without our seafarers.

Indeed, the Filipino worker has contributed much to the country's as well as the world's progress. These men and women are truly our modern day heroes who kept the Philippines afloat with pride and with their remittances.

It is for this reason that this bill proposes that the State designate a day to honor these heroes.

In view of the above, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

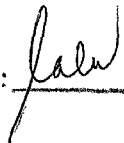
  
**MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.**

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**AN ACT  
TO DECLARE MARCH SEVENTEEN OF EVERY YEAR  
AS A WORKING SPECIAL HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN  
AS OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS' DAY**

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

SECTION 1. The seventeenth of March of every year is hereby declared as a working special Holiday to be known as "Overseas Filipino Workers' Day."

SECTION 2. To ensure meaningful observance of the holiday as herein declared, all heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned-and-controlled corporations as well as local government units, and employers in the private sector shall encourage and afford sufficient time and opportunities for their employees to engage and participate in any activity conducted within the premises of their respective offices or establishments to celebrate Overseas Filipino Workers Day.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*