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RECEIVED BY: ji

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

COMMENDING FILIPINO FIGURE SKATER MICHAEL CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ FOR MAKING HISTORY AS THE FIRST FILIPINO AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN TO QUALIFY FOR THE WINTER OLYMPICS IN SOCHI, RUSSIA, RAISING THE PHILIPPINE FLAG IN THE GLOBAL SPORTING EVENT WITH COURAGE AND BRINGING HONOR TO A TROPICAL NATION IN A SPORT HARDLY KNOWN TO MOST FILIPINOS

Whereas, Section 17, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that “the State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress and promote total human liberation and development;

Whereas, 17-year-old **MICHAEL CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ**, dubbed in the skating world as the “Future Star,” made his appearance and performance in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia not only his Olympic debut but the Philippines’ first;

Whereas, the homegrown Filipino athlete—considerably the youngest to compete in figure skating—gained international attention as Southeast Asia’s lone competitor in Sochi Winter Olympics and had a breakthrough 19th overall finish against seasoned figure skaters for a tropical country where the sport that he plays is hardly known for most Filipinos and where skating rinks are only seen in malls;

Whereas, the Filipino skater qualified for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics when he finished 7th overall in the men’s singles in the 2013 Nebelhorn Trophy held in Oberstdorf, Germany on September 26-28 last year;

Whereas, **MICHAEL CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ**, one of the Philippines’ top figure skaters, made news in 2009 after capturing the figure skating gold medal in the advance novice boys’ category of the Timnavia Ice Cup in Trnava, Slovakia;

Whereas, **MICHAEL CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ** is currently ranked 28th in the world according to the International Skating Union, the international sport federation administering ice skating sports in the world;

Whereas, the lack of government support for **MICHAEL CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ**, his family’s shoestring budget to send him to the Olympics and an asthma did not undermine the young blood’s determination to compete in the Winter Olympics;

Whereas, **MICHAEL CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ**, who began skating in 2005 in ice rinks in malls in Metro Manila, is reportedly traveling to Moscow, Russia to train for another week before heading to Sofia, Bulgaria in March for the International Skating Union's World Junior Figure Skating Championships;

Whereas, **MICHAEL CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ** also carried the national flag when he competed in Figure Skating event during the 1st Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2012 held in Innsbruck, Austria, together with Abel Tesmafarlam, a Filipino-Eritrean based in Switzerland who competed in the Alpine Skiing event. The Filipino figure skater, who finished a remarkable 7th overall—3rd in the short program and 7th in the free program—was also the lone Southeast Asian in the 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games¹;

Whereas, the Filipino athlete, who started competitive skating in 2008, received several medals and awards:

Competition	Rank	Place	Date
Junior Grand Prix	3 rd	Tallinn, Estonia	October 2013
Nebelhorn Trophy (Senior Level)	7 th	Oberstdorf, Germany	September 2013
USA Classic International	6 th (Senior)	Utah, USA	September 2013
Junior Grand Prix	4 th	Riga, Latvia	August 2013
World Junior Championships	5 th	Milan, Italy	March 2013
New Year's Cup (Senior)	3 rd	Bratislava, Slovakia	January 2013
Volvo Cup (Senior)	5 th	Riga, Latvia	January 2013
Crystal Skate (Senior)	1 st	Brazov, Romania	November 2012
Junior Grand Prix	6 th	Zagreb, Croatia	October 2012
Junior Grand Prix	4 th	New York, USA	September 2012
Pasadena Open (Senior)	2 nd	California, USA	September 2012
Southern California Invitational Series Final (Senior)	3 rd	California, USA	September 2012
Orange County Open Championship (Junior)	1 st	California, USA	August 2012
World Junior Championship	3 rd (Preliminary) 15 th (Overall)	Minsk, Belarus	February 2012
Winter Youth Olympic Games	3 rd (First Event) 7 th (Overall)	Innsbruck, Austria	January 2012
Asian Junior Figure Skating Challenge	1 st	Hong Kong	October 2011
Junior Grand Prix	8 th	Brisbane, Australia	September 2011
Skate San Francisco (Junior)	2 nd	California, USA	September 2011
Hollins Trophy	1 st	Sydney, Australia	June 2011
Golden West	3 rd (Junior)	California, USA	September 2010

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Figure_skating_at_the_2012_Winter_Youth_Olympics_%E2%80%93_Boys%27_singles

Championship			
Glacier Falls Summer Classic	4 th (Junior)	California, USA	August 2010
Tirnavia Ice Cup	1 st	Trnava, Slovakia	October 2009
Ice Challenge	1 st	Graz, Austria	October 2009
Skate Celje	1 st	Slovenia	November 2009
Asian Junior Skating Challenge	1 st	Shenzen, China	July 2009
Asian Junior Skating Challenge	1 st	Hong Kong	May 2009
Asian Junior Skating Challenge	1 st	Bangkok, Thailand	October 2008
Broadmoor Open	Gold (Short Program) / Bronze (Free Skate)	Colorado, USA	June 2008
Asian Junior Skating Challenge	1 st	Hong Kong	May 2008

Whereas, observers note that his remarkable finish will generate enough momentum for the Philippines to qualify and finally grab the Olympic medal in the next Winter Olympics in South Korea;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate of the Philippines commend and congratulate Filipino figure skater **MICHAEL CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ** for making history as the first Filipino and Southeast Asian to qualify for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics in Russia, raising the Philippine flag in the global sporting event with courage and bringing honor to a tropical nation in a sport hardly known to most Filipinos.

Adopted,


GRACE POE