


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SENATE
P. S. Res. No. 1606

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced By SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING APO WHANG-OD OGGAY OF KALINGA FOR HER INVALUABLE ROLE IN PERPETUATING THE TRADITIONAL ART OF TATTOOING, THUS CONTRIBUTING TO THE RICHNESS OF THE COUNTRY'S HERITAGE

WHEREAS, Apo Whang-od of Buscalan in Kalinga, estimated to be born in the 1920s, is the oldest living *mambabatok* (tattoo artist) in the Cordillera province. She continues to do the art of *batok* (tattoo) using a pigment made of soot and water, a small bamboo stick with *siit*, and another short stick to tap the thorn into the skin;

WHEREAS, she has dedicated her whole life to her craft as she continues the art form and stands as its living archive in which she holds memory and mastery of Kalinga's tattoo practice and its visual symbolisms that depict the province's rituals - from childbirth, adulthood, marriage and death;

WHEREAS, in the early 16th century, traditional tattooing was widespread in the Philippines, especially in the Cordilleras, where it is best understood within the context of headhunting but actually serves as cultural symbols of intricate rituals brought about by the community;

WHEREAS, until recently, *batok* has been considered a fading art form, and with its slow demise, vestiges of valuable culture and tradition would have vanished and be forgotten were it not for Whang-Od, who became the subject of American tattoo anthropologist and TV host Dr. Lars Krutak in his *Discovery* television series *Tattoo Hunter*, catapulting her into the global spotlight;

WHEREAS, despite Whang-Od's old age and dwindling eyesight, her hands are steady and rhythmic while her concentration fierce - a portrait of an artist consumed with her work;

WHEREAS, people from all over the world pay homage to her and get inked with Kalinga's traditional tattoos, thus creating a global living canvas for the Philippine indigenous art form;

WHEREAS, it is but timely and fitting that Whang-Od be celebrated as a National Living Treasure or Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan (GAMABA) through Republic Act 7335, "a Filipino citizen or group of Filipino citizens engaged in any traditional art uniquely Filipino, whose distinctive skills have reached such a high level of technical and artistic excellence;"

WHEREAS, the awarding of the GAMABA will not only recognize Whang-Od's role as a steward of Kalinga's cultural heritage but will also aid her community and her apprentice in making sure that the art form be passed from generation to generation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to recognize and commend Apo Whang-od Oggay of Kalinga for her invaluable role in perpetuating the traditional art of tattooing, thus contributing to the richness of the country's heritage.

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA

Senator