

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Third Regular Session



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SENATE  
P. S. Res. No. 1738

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced By SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

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**RESOLUTION**

**EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE  
CONDOLENCE OF THE PHILIPPINE SENATE ON THE DEATH OF  
RENOWNED CORDILLERAN WEAVER AND OUTSTANDING  
ENTREPRENEUR LEONARDA "NARDA" OLAT-CAPUYAN**

**WHEREAS**, Leonarda "Narda" Olat-Capuyan, a renowned Cordilleran artist and entrepreneur who promoted traditional ikat weaving, passed away on 11 March 2016;

**WHEREAS**, born in the mountain village of Besao, Mountain Province to Didaco Olat, an Episcopalian missionary teacher and to weaver Ina Dam-ay, Olat-Capuyan opened Narda's Handwoven Arts and Crafts in 1972 at La Trinidad, Benguet as a social enterprise aimed at encouraging weaving among women in order "to keep them busy from making more babies";

**WHEREAS**, as the visionary, proprietor and designer behind Narda's, she initially began operations by buying recycled and leftover acrylic yarns and weaving them into blankets. Making use of an *ikat*—the old tradition of tying and dyeing segments of threads before actual weaving—she made use of a wide array of colors and pursued non-traditional designs;

**WHEREAS**, Narda's products were first featured in Bloomingdale's in New York in 1982 during an all-Philippine sales exhibition which opened the doors for Narda's *ikat* to be featured in Japan, Europe and Canada, with Neiman Marcus, Lord and Taylor, and Marshall Fields in the US and Hudson's Bay in Canada serving as her initial buyers;

**WHEREAS**, her key role in the revival of the traditional *ikat* weaving and as a woman entrepreneur merited several awards—the Golden Shell Award (1982) by the Philippine Ministry of Trade, the Countryside Investor Award (1989) for providing livelihood to 600 indigenous women weavers and sewers, the Agora Award for Export

Marketing by the Philippine Marketing Association, her inclusion as one of 100 Women of the Philippines (1999) for contribution to national development, the Philippines Ernst & Young Small Business Entrepreneur of The Year (2013) by the EY Global and SGV Foundation, and recognition as one of 21 extraordinary women economic leaders from 21 economies for the 21<sup>st</sup> century during the "APEC Women and the Economy 2015" conference;

**WHEREAS**, her success story was featured by the Development Bank of the Philippines in a series of television advertisements to promote entrepreneurship among women;

**WHEREAS**, her works have been featured in international exhibitions like the "2006 World Eco Fiber and Textile (W.E.F.T) Exhibition at the Petronas Towers Galeri in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, New York's Couture Fashion Week held at Waldorf Astoria Hotel, and at the World Eco-Fiber & Textile (W.E.F.T.) Exhibit Fashion Show, "From Waste to Wealth" - Narda's Magic of Woven Waste Leather in *Ikat* held at Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia in September 2012;

**WHEREAS**, Capuyan's dedication to the Mountain Province tradition of *ikat* weaving has preserved a tradition that may have been in danger of dying, and her life story serves as an inspiration to indigenous peoples, being the first Igorot woman who made a thriving business promoting indigenous practice and culture;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Senate of the Philippines, to express its profound sympathy and sincere condolence on the death of renowned Cordilleran artist and outstanding entrepreneur Leonarda "Narda" Olat-Capuyan.

Adopted,



**LOREN LEGARDA**