

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

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**Senate**  
Office of the Secretary

'19 JUL 29 P5:39

**SENATE**

S. No. 815

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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**INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS**

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**AN ACT  
DECLARING NOVEMBER 21 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY  
TO COMMEMORATE THE DEATH AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF FRANCISCA  
REYES-AQUINO**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Francisca Reyes-Aquino was an outstanding artist and was conferred the rank and title of National Artist for Dance in 1973. She had blazed the trail by becoming the first Filipina to have ever received the award. In addition, she was given the Republic Award of Merit in 1954 because of her outstanding contribution toward the advancement of Filipino Culture.

As a member of the UP President's Advisory Committee on Dance and Songs, she travelled to the most remote barrios in order to study every step and movement of Philippine dances. She fiercely advocated for the revival of folk dances through public schools during her appointment to the Department of Education. Her life's work as a staunch supporter and patroness of Filipino Folk Dances and Music established her as a great steward of the arts.

At this juncture in the country's history where its women are denigrated and where misogyny and machismo have become accepted and even endorsed in the corridors of power, it becomes even more necessary to remind the nation of the magnitude of their contribution in shaping the country's past and their capability to determine its future.

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

**RISA HONTIVEROS**  
Senator

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FRANCISCA REYES-AQUINO**

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Francisca Reyes-Aquino  
2 Day".

3 Sec. 2. *Francisca Reyes-Aquino Day.* – In recognition of the invaluable contributions  
4 of Francisca Reyes-Aquino to the Republic of the Philippines, November 21 of every year  
5 shall be declared a Special Working Holiday.

6 Sec. 3. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in  
7 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,