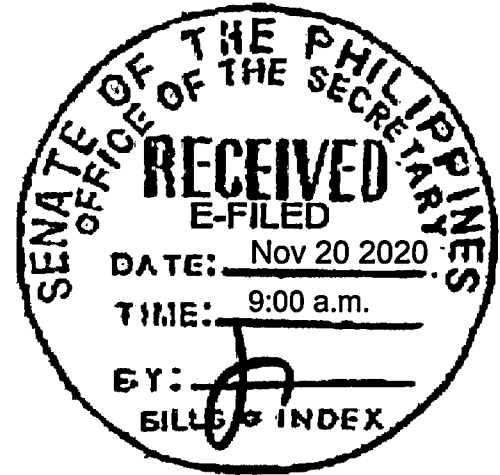


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. **577**

Introduced by Senator FRANKLIN M. DRILON

RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE 107TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF JUSTICE CECILIA MUÑOZ-PALMA AND HONORING HER INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION IN DEFENDING THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

1 WHEREAS, Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma was a revered jurist who topped the
2 bar examinations of 1937 with a rating of 92.6% and held the distinction of having
3 been the first woman appointed as Justice of the Supreme Court, the first female
4 prosecutor of Quezon City, the first female district judge for Negros Oriental, and the
5 second woman appointed as Justice of the Court of Appeals;

6 WHEREAS, Justice Muñoz-Palma is remembered as a legal luminary who
7 championed the truth, democracy, human rights, and freedom through her
8 illuminating *ponencias* and separate opinions and fought for the liberties of the Filipino
9 people through her landmark dissents from rulings affirming the declaration of Martial
10 Law and condoning the flagrant abuse of power;

11 WHEREAS, in 1986, Justice Muñoz-Palma was elected President of the
12 Constitutional Commission that framed a new Constitution, which she described as “a
13 Constitution with a vision – peace and happiness – for the Filipino people” and
14 “unprecedented measures taken to protect and defend our rights and freedoms,
15 uphold truth, justice and the rule of law, to give a better quality of life for the working
16 man, the sick, the elderly, disabled, the indigenous cultural communities who have
17 long been neglected and abandoned;”

18 WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution embodies the spirit of freedom and
19 democracy by reestablishing a presidential system of government with three branches
20 — the legislative, executive, and judicial — separate and independent of each other
21 to assure effective check and balance; creating the Commission of Human Rights; and

1 strengthening and expanding the Bill of Rights to secure and protect the basic
2 freedoms and liberties of Filipinos;

3 WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights and the new structure of government established
4 in the 1987 Constitution stand as safeguards against the return of authoritarian rule
5 and reaffirm the people's right to life, liberty and property, due process, equal
6 protection of the laws, freedom of religion, speech, the press, and peaceful assembly;


7 WHEREAS, under her leadership of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
8 from 1998 to 2000, Justice Muñoz-Palma pioneered feeding programs, scholarships
9 for indigent students, and social assistance for the less fortunate;

10 WHEREAS, Justice Muñoz-Palma's legacy endures to this day through the
11 Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma Foundation, Inc., which ensures that her ideals live
12 through the works of others who, like her, have chosen a life of service to their fellow
13 countrymen;

14 WHEREAS, it is the fundamental obligation of the Congress to promote the
15 rights and liberties of its people as enshrined in the Constitution. Now, therefore, be
16 it

17 RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines commemorate the life and legacy
18 of Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma and honor her invaluable contribution in protecting and
19 defending the rights and freedoms of the Filipino people on the occasion of her 107th
20 birth anniversary on 22 November 2020.

Adopted,


FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Senator