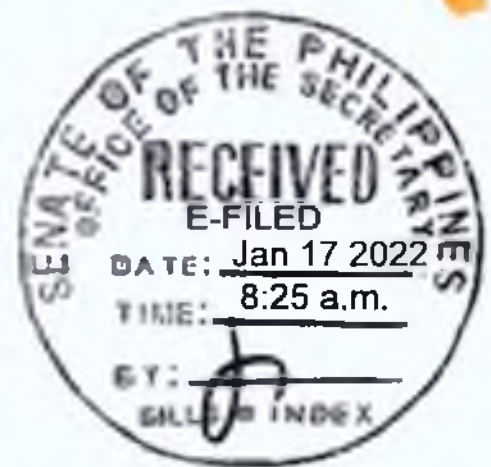


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



SENATE
P.S. RES. No. 975

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LATE NATIONAL ARTIST F. SIONIL JOSE FOR HIS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN PHILIPPINE LITERATURE, AND HIS IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTELLECTUAL DISCOURSE ON FILIPINO SOCIETY, CULTURE, IDENTITY, HISTORY, POLITICS, CONTEMPORARY AFFAIRS, AND ULTIMATELY OUR EVER-PRESENT STRUGGLES FOR FREEDOM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

1 WHEREAS, F. Sionil Jose is considered the most prolific Philippine novelist,
2 having published more than 20 books, including the five-novel Rosales saga, which is
3 comprised of *The Pretenders* (1962); *My Brother, My Executioner* (1973); *Mass*
4 (1974); *Tree* (1978); and, *Po-on* (1984). With his works translated in up to 28
5 languages, Jose has also been described as the most widely read Filipino author in
6 English;

7 WHEREAS, throughout his life, Jose has garnered several awards and
8 accolades, both in the Philippines and abroad. Five of his works earned the Carlos
9 Palanca Memorial Award for Literature. In 1980, he was bestowed the Ramon
10 Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts. He
11 also received the Cultural Center of the Philippines or CCP Award (Gawad para sa
12 Sining) for Literature in 1989, and the CCP Centennial Award in 1999. Then in 2000,
13 the French government knighted him "Chevalier dans L'Order des Arts et Lettres" for
14 his significant achievements in arts and letters. In 2001, the Emperor of Japan honored
15 him with the Order of Sacred Treasure. In the same year, the Philippine government
16 hailed him as a National Artist for Literature. Then in 2004, he received the Pablo
17 Neruda Centennial Award in Chile;

18 WHEREAS, generations of writers, essayists, poets, and novelists—even social
19 activists and academics—have benefited from Jose's patronage and guidance. In

1 1957, he founded the Philippine chapter of PEN, the worldwide association of poets
2 and playwrights, essayists and novelists, through which he helped cultivate an active
3 community in Manila of individuals well-versed in arts and letters. And since 1964, he
4 was the main proprietor of the Solidaridad Bookshop, long considered the top
5 independent and literary bookstore in the country, which served as a hub for the local
6 (and even international) literary community;

7 WHEREAS, prior to his career as a novelist and essayist, Jose studied at the
8 Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas (UST). He also
9 served as editor-in-chief of the *UST Varsitarian* from 1948 to 1949. As an
10 undergraduate, he already worked as a staff member of *The Commonwealth* from
11 1947 to 1948 and Assistant Editor for the United States Information Service from 1948
12 to 1949. Ultimately, he chose to no longer pursue his studies at the UST, and began
13 working fulltime as a journalist. From 1949 to 1960, he worked as the Managing
14 Editor of the *Manila Times Sunday Magazine*;

15 WHEREAS, Jose was born on December 3, 1924, in Rosales, Pangasinan. Many
16 of his works and writings invoked the settings of his hometown and depicted the
17 struggles that poor farmers and working class have had to endure all throughout
18 history—from foreign occupation to modern times. It was with these images in mind
19 that Jose trained a critical eye on the persistent inequalities of Filipino society, and
20 constantly shared his analysis and observations as a columnist. Throughout his life,
21 he remained outspoken and incisive—though fundamentally patriotic—with his
22 opinions about our country, and how it could be transformed for the better;

23 WHEREAS, even in his advanced age, Jose worked to spark discussion and
24 discourse on how the country could evolve and flourish. On December 2011, on the
25 occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of national hero Dr. Jose Rizal, he convened a
26 National Conference on Nation and Culture, which gathered national artists,
27 academics, government workers, and public thinkers for a reexamination on prevailing
28 ideas about culture and the arts, and how they can be used to build a nation and a
29 just society. Then in 2017, Jose and the late Senate President Edgardo J. Angara put
30 together the Academia Filipina—an organization aiming to promote, preserve, and
31 protect Filipino culture as the bedrock of the Filipino nation, by serving as a fora for

1 dialogue, debate, and discussions among the country's thought leaders and
2 influencers towards building a just and prosperous Philippines;

3 WHEREAS, on January 6, 2022, a month after his 97th birthday, Jose died in his
4 sleep while waiting for an angioplasty at Makati Medical Center. He is survived by his
5 wife Teresita Jovellanos Jose, their five children, 11 grand-children, and seven great-
6 grandchildren;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, as it is
8 hereby resolved, to honor the late National Artist F. Sionil Jose for his outstanding
9 achievements in Philippine Literature and immense contributions to intellectual
10 discourse on Filipino society, culture, identity, history, politics, contemporary affairs,
11 and ultimately, our ever-present struggles for freedom and social justice.

Adopted,



SONNY ANGARA