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INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE MAR ROXAS

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A RESOLUTION

COMMENDING BRIAN VILORIA, REY BAUTISTA, AND MANNY PACQUIAO FOR WINNING THEIR RESPECTIVE MATCHES IN THE 10 SEPTEMBER 2005 BOXING CONTESTS HELD AT STAPLES CENTER IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, BRINGING HONOR AND PRIDE TO THE PHILIPPINES AND AFFIRMING FILIPINO EXCELLENCE IN THE SPORTS OF BOXING

Whereas, in a 1999 nationwide survey done by Social Weather Station, basketball, boxing, billiards and bowling were voted as the top four sports where Filipinos excelled;

Whereas, the Philippines has been able to produce world-class sports heroes in the persons of boxing legend Flash Elorde, five-time bowling World Champion Rafael Nepumuceno, and billiards multi-champions Efren Reyes and Francisco Bustamante, among others;

Whereas, on 10 September 2005, three Filipino boxers again proved Filipino excellence in sports when they scored a string of victories against their opponents during the series of boxing contests held at Staples Center in Los Angeles, California, United States of America;

Whereas, Mr. Brian Viloria, a Filipino-American raised in Hawaii by Ilocano parents from Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, defeated by way of first round knockout Eric Ortiz of Mexico during their match and won the World Boxing Council Light Flyweight crown;

Whereas, Mr. Rey Bautista, a native of the province of Bohol, defeated by knockout Felix Flores Murillo of Colombia during the third round of their match and thus, successfully defended his title as the World Boxing Organization Asia-Pacific bantamweight champion;

Whereas, Mr. Manny Pacquiao, a native of General Santos City, defeated Hector Velasquez through a technical knockout during the sixth round of their bout, winning the World Boxing Council's Super Featherweight title;

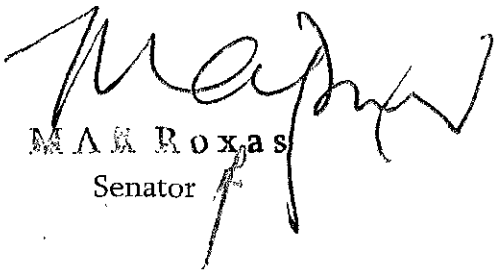
Whereas, the Filipinos' world-class excellence in boxing, a sport which dates back over 5,000 years to ancient Mesopotamia, began with Mr. Flash Elorde, who is recorded in history as one of the greatest fighters to ever come out of the Asia-Pacific region. Subsequently, the Philippines was able to produce other boxing greats, including world

boxing champion Luisito Espinosa and 1999 Atlanta Olympics silver medallist Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco, among others;

Whereas, the news of the triple knockouts scored by Vitoria, Bautista and Pacquiao were welcomed by Filipinos both here and abroad, as it provided a common ground for unity and national pride as well as a much-needed break from the negative publicity surrounding Philippine politics in recent months;

Whereas, the efforts of Vitoria, Bautista and Pacquiao, as well as other sport heroes before and after them who bring pride and honor to the Philippines, deserve to be recognized as they exemplify the Filipino people's ability to persevere in the face of insurmountable odds and to prevail over them.

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED*, to commend Brian Vitoria, Rey Bautista and Manny Pacquiao for winning their respective matches in the 10 September 2005 boxing contests held at Staples Center in Los Angeles, California, United States of America, bringing honor and pride to the Philippines and affirming Filipino excellence in the sports of boxing.

  
M A R O x a s  
Senator