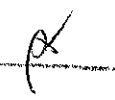


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
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SENATE
P.S. Res. **359**RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay, Jr.

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES TO RECOGNIZE ATTY. HAYDEE YORAC, AN OUTSTANDING FILIPINO, FOR HER ACHIEVEMENTS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND THUS, BE ACCORDED THE HONOR OF BEING LAID TO REST AT THE LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI

Whereas, on September 13, 2005, in the United States of America, Atty. Haydee Yorac passed away leaving a legacy of sterling accomplishments as Chairperson of the Presidential Commission on Good Government and Chairman of the Commission on Elections;

Whereas, under existing laws and policies, the following may be laid to rest in Libingan ng mga Bayani:


1. well-known personalities in the government;
2. veterans;
3. guerillas; and
4. retired and active military personnel

Whereas, more than being a well-known personality in Philippine government, Atty. Haydee Yorac is recognized as an outstanding Filipino known for her feisty conviction, high principles and her building confidence in government through service of exceptional integrity and rigor and her unwavering pursuit of the rule of law in the Philippines, the same is declared in her 2004 Ramon Magsaysay Award citation:

"Democracy has deep roots in the Philippines, yet its authority continues to be tested. Years of dictatorship, graft in high places, and the corruption of the electoral process by "goons, guns, and gold" have left many Filipinos cynical not only about democracy but about government itself - all the more so because government seems repeatedly to fall short of its promises and goals. In such a climate, serving in government can be thankless. Yet, Haydee Yorac, a lawyer and professor of law, has repeatedly answered the call to serve. In doing so, she has confounded the cynics and shown that even the most intractable problems can yield to solutions if they are attacked honestly and with vigor.

Haydee Yorac hails from a small Visayas town where her father was mayor and her mother taught school. She moved on to the University of the Philippines and its College of Law and passed the bar in 1963. As a young law instructor at her alma mater, she became politically active and opposed the Vietnam War. When Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law, she was jailed for over three months and, afterwards, moved to the forefront of the legal fight to restore democracy. People came to know her as outspoken, incorruptible, and fearless.

After the People Power Revolution, Yorac served seven years as a national election commissioner, organizing elections in contested, far-flung areas of the country and lending her considerable reputation to the hopeful project of restoring integrity to the



country's electoral process. As chair of the National Unification Commission in 1992 and 1993, she met face-to-face with the government's armed opponents and astutely identified grounds for negotiation and peace; her commission's insightful report became a trusted blueprint for the country's peace process. Yorac then shifted to private practice until, in 2001, she was named chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, or PCGG.

In 1986, President Corazon Aquino created the PCGG in her very first executive order. Its mandate was to restore to the Philippine vast amounts of wealth stolen by Marcos and his family and friends. This was a difficult task. The commission launched case after case and the years passed. By the time Yorac was named its eleventh chair, it had recovered only two billion out of an estimated ten billion dollars of the Marcos board. Many people said that the PCGG was on a fool's errand. Yorac proved them wrong.

Advancing on all fronts, she strengthened the commission's staff with talented young lawyers. She cultivated good working relations with the commission's collaborating agencies. She brought order to its chaotic files, computerizing them for the first time. And she stoked the fires under hundreds of stalled cases and long-running legal battles.

Stunning victories follows. On her watch the PCGG recovered for the national treasury \$689 million from Marcos's Swiss bank accounts. It also secured court decisions favorable to the government regarding shares worth billions of pesos in the United Coconut Planters Bank and San Miguel Corporation. These are the commission's largest gains since its establishment, a boon both for the Philippine agrarian reform program and, not incidentally, for the country's faith in justice.

Even so, many hundreds of PCGG cases unresolved. Yorac continues to move them through the courts impatiently. Slowed by recent illnesses, the feisty, sixty-three-years-old Yorac has had to work from her sickbed. She knows she will not complete the task herself. Others will rise to it. "No one is indispensable," she reminds us all. "Making a difference is enough."

Whereas, in honor of a truly Outstanding Filipino, this resolution is being submitted:
Now therefore be it

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved, To express the sense of the Senate of the Philippines to recognize Atty. Haydee Yorac, an Outstanding Filipino, for her remarkable achievements in government service and thus, be accorded the honor of being laid to rest at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani.

Adopted,


RAMON B. MAGSAYSAY, JR.