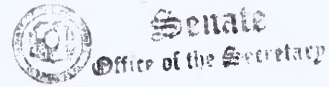


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



23 JUN 14 P3:48

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 655

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF FORMER ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES CHIEF AND SENATOR RODOLFO "PONG" GASPAR BIAZON

WHEREAS, Former Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief and Senator Rodolfo "Pong" Gaspar Biazon passed away on 12 June 2023 at 88 years old;

WHEREAS, "Pong" as he was fondly called, was born on 4 April 1935 in Batac, Ilocos Norte. He was an epitome of triumph over poverty. In his youth, he would go to school in the morning and work, including collecting seashells he could sell, in the afternoon;

WHEREAS, he took up mechanical engineering at FEATI (Far Eastern Air Transport Incorporated) University. Despite having passed the examinations in the West Point and the US Naval Academy, he entered the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in 1957;

WHEREAS, despite being considered the class "goat" — a cadet with the lowest academic ranking — of the PMA Class of 1961, he rose through the ranks to head the elite Philippine Marines in 1987;

WHEREAS, he served as Superintendent of the PMA (1986 - 1987), Commanding General of the NCR Defense Command (1988-1990), and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Vice Chief of Staff (1990-1991);

WHEREAS, he was a bemedaled soldier having received 26 personal and campaign medals, one of them is the Distinguished Conduct Star - the 2nd highest award next to the Medal of Valor during the defense of the Republic in Camp Aguinaldo in December 1989;

WHEREAS, prior to joining the Senate, he was the AFP Chief during the administration of the late President Corazon Aquino. He remains to be the first and only AFP Chief of Staff from the Philippine Marine Corps;

WHEREAS, Pong first became a member of the Senate in the 9th Congress. He became the first PMA graduate to win a Senate seat;

WHEREAS, Senator Biazon was again re-elected in the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Congresses. He chaired the Senate Committees on National Defense and Security, and the Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement, and co-chaired the Legislative Oversight Committee on Visiting Forces Agreement;

WHEREAS, he authored bills which were enacted into law including: Republic Act (RA) 9208 – Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, RA 9161 – Rental Reform Act of 2002, RA 7835 - Comprehensive and Integrated Shelter Finance Act, RA 7898 - An Act Providing for the Modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, RA 7742 - An Act Amending PD1752 (Mandatory Pag-ibig Membership), Joint Resolution No. 7 - Increasing the Subsistence Allowance of Soldiers and Policemen, RA 9040 - An Act Exempting from the Tax Certain Allowances and Benefits granted to the members of the AFP, and RA 9049 - An Act Granting Monthly Gratuity and Privileges to an Awardee of the Medal of Valor;

WHEREAS, Senator Biazon authored bills which centered on providing low-cost housing, and also advocated bills for the benefit of our tenacious soldiers. His value for hard work and perseverance made him a man to be revered and a legislator deserving of the mandate given to him by the people;

WHEREAS, Senator Biazon retired from politics in 2016 after serving two consecutive terms as Representative of the Lone District of Muntinlupa City;

WHEREAS, the day of his demise is as remarkable as the decades of genuine and outstanding public service he has offered our nation. Symbolically, it coincided with the celebration of the 125th Philippine Independence Day, which only further vivified a life well-lived, of "the soldier who dedicated his life and laid it on the line defending freedom and democracy has been set free from the pains of this world";

WHEREAS, we echo his fellow soldiers who shared that Senator Biazon left "a legacy worthy of emulation by current and future generations of Filipinos";

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to express the profound sympathy and sincere condolences of the Senate of the Philippines on the death of Former Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief and Senator Rodolfo "Pong" Gaspar Biazon.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the bereaved family of the late Senator Rodolfo "Pong" Gaspar Biazon.

Adopted,


RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.
