

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 708

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
**HONORING AND COMMENDING THE FOUR TUBBATAHA MANAGEMENT
OFFICE RANGERS FOR WINNING THE 2023 INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR
THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED
AREAS INTERNATIONAL RANGER AWARD ON JULY 26, 2023 IN GLAND,
SWITZERLAND**

1 **WHEREAS**, in a ceremony held on July 26, 2023 in Gland, Switzerland, four
2 Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) rangers, Segundo Conales Jr., Noel Bundal,
3 Jeffrey David, and Cresencio Caranay, Jr., were recognized with the International
4 Union for the Conservation of Nature World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN
5 WCPA) International Ranger Award for their extraordinary commitment to marine
6 conservation;

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8 **WHEREAS**, according to the IUCN, the WCPA is the world's premier network
9 of protected and conserved areas expertise. It has over 2,500 members from 140
10 countries, who provide strategic advice to policymakers and work to strengthen
11 capacity and investment for protected areas establishment and management;

12
13 **WHEREAS**, the IUCN WCPA International Ranger Award is given to individuals
14 and teams in recognition of the outstanding work of protected areas rangers around
15 the world and to celebrate the dedication and bravery of people who protect and
16 conserve natural heritage;

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18 **WHEREAS**, according to tubbatahareefs.org, the Tubbataha Reefs Natural
19 Park (TRNP) is a 97,030-hectare Marine Protected Area in Palawan, the westernmost
20 Philippine province. It is located 150km southeast of Puerto Princesa City, at the heart
21 of the Coral Triangle, the global center of marine biodiversity. The TRNP is a United
22 Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Site, and
23 home to more than 181 species of marine life, most of which are either threatened or
24 endangered;

25
26 **WHEREAS**, the four TMO rangers are the core of the rangers assigned in the
27 TRNP. The award which they received for their dedicated service and commitment as

1 marine rangers was accompanied by a cash prize of USD10,000 to support the
2 conservation work of their organization;

3
4 **WHEREAS**, according to park superintendent, Angelique Songco, these
5 individuals have been park rangers for the last 20 years, where around ten 10 years
6 were spent in Tubbataha and they have sacrificed a lot being away from their family
7 and friends, missing significant occasions. She said that aside from safeguarding the
8 country's rich marine biodiversity habitat, the personnel manning the Tubbataha
9 ranger station have also been doubling as snorkeling guides to tourists and even offer
10 extra supplies during rough sea conditions;

11
12 **WHEREAS**, in a press release by the IUCN, the ranger team are all local
13 community members, who lived in isolation for extended periods far from their families
14 and from support. They have persevered in the face of COVID-19, personal problems,
15 typhoons, injuries, sickness, and threats. Alongside marine research and monitoring,
16 and assisting and educating visitors, the team works tirelessly to intercept illegal
17 fishers, and voluntarily assists in the education and rehabilitation of offenders;

18
19 **WHEREAS**, award winner Jeffrey David said that the honor belongs to all park
20 rangers manning the station in Tubbataha Reefs, from Philippine Navy, Philippine
21 Coast Guard, and the municipal government of Cagayancillo, who in one way or
22 another, has contributed to the conservation and protection of the park. He further
23 stated "We never thought that we will get noticed here in the middle of Sulu Sea. This
24 recognition for our efforts here in Tubbataha has given a boost to our confidence to
25 perform our jobs better.";

26
27 **WHEREAS**, this international recognition certainly helps TRNP to shine more
28 on the world stage, as well as attests to the dedication in service and commitment of
29 the awardees as marine rangers which ought to inspire Filipinos all over the world.

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31 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY**
32 **THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES**, to honor and commend the awardees of the
33 2023 International Union for Conservation of Nature World Commission on Protected
34 Areas International Ranger Award, namely:

- 35
36 1. Segundo Conales Jr.;
37 2. Noel Bundal;
38 3. Jeffrey David; and
39 4. Cresencio Caranay Jr.
40

41 for their extraordinary dedication and commitment to marine conservation.
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Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY