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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session

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### SENATE

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# P. S. Res. No. <u>362</u>

#### Introduced by Senator Franklin M. Drilon

FLAVIER AND PANGILINAN

#### RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SENATOR RICHARD J. GORDON, ON ITS ELECTION TO THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

WHEREAS, in 1859, Swiss businessman Henri Dunant, moved by the tragic human suffering at the Battle of Solferino between French and Austrian troops, attended to the wounded and dying without regard for nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions, and in so doing founded the *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*;

WHEREAS, in the course of its almost 150 years, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has spread across the world, and is now composed of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), and 183 member societies across the world;

WHEREAS, the IFRC is committed to mobilize the power of humanity to improve the lives of those who are at greatest risk from situations that threaten their survival, or their capacity to live with an acceptable level of social and economic security and human dignity, often the victims of natural disasters, poverty brought about by socio-economic crises, refugees, and victims of health emergencies;

WHEREAS, the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) was established in 1947, building on the work of earlier Red Cross societies in the Philippines and, as a member society of the IFRC, shares equally in the mission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;

WHEREAS, the PNRC, true to its commitment to the alleviation of human suffering in situations of conflict, natural disasters, health emergencies, and other crises, has become the country's premiere humanitarian organization, growing in its 60 years of history from blood services and rescue efforts into genuine rehabilitation efforts in both natural and manmade disasters, from earthquakes, storms and landslides, to assisting victims of conflicts and terrorist bombings, building partnerships with corporations and organizations, upgrading Red Cross equipment, training and personnel welfare, strengthening civic spirit by building on volunteerism, and, by achieving financial stability, evolving from a recipient of

international assistance to one that now assists in relief efforts throughout the world, from the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, hurricanes in the United States, to earthquakes in South Asia;

WHEREAS, because of the stature that it has achieved in the Philippines and in the international community, the PNRC, under the chairmanship of Richard J. Gordon, has been elected to the Governing Board of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society for the first time in PNRC history, as one of twenty member societies elected to the Governing Board;

WHEREAS, this unprecedented event in Philippine history must be recognized as proof that, despite the current crises facing the country, the Filipino can and will succeed in the face of adversity : Now, therefore, be it

**Resolved by the Senate**, to recognize, as it hereby recognizes, the outstanding and unprecedented achievements of the Philippine National Red Cross in the cause of humanitarian concern.

**Resolved, further,** to commend the PNRC, under the chairmanship of Senator Richard J. Gordon, on its election to the Governing Board of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Adopted, IN M. DRHON Senator Flavier Francis N: Pangilinan