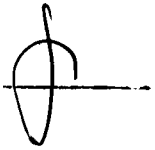


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**SENATE**

**P. S. Res. No. 908**

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**Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada**

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**RESOLUTION**  
**EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCEREST CONDOLENCES OF**  
**THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE PASSING OF MASTER**  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER ROMEO "ROMY" VITUG AND HONORING HIS**  
**INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO PHILIPPINE CINEMA**

1 WHEREAS, the Philippine Senate has consistently recognized Filipino artists  
2 whose outstanding body of work and passion for their craft have positively  
3 contributed to the growth of the Philippine film industry;

4 WHEREAS, Romeo "Romy" Vitug is a renowned Filipino cinematographer who  
5 passed away last 18 January 2024 at the age of 86;

6 WHEREAS, Romy Vitug was born on 27 January 1937 in Floridablanca,  
7 Pampanga and developed an interest in photography during his younger years after  
8 being exposed to the work of his father, Honesto Vitug, who was considered as the  
9 dean of Philippine photojournalism;

10 WHEREAS, before emerging one of the most prominent icons of Philippine  
11 cinema, Romy Vitug initially worked as a photographer for news publications, as a  
12 newsreel cameraman for a television network, and as stillman who was taking  
13 pictures of film's highlights for promotional materials;

14 WHEREAS, his early works as a cinematographer include the trilogy "Tatlo,  
15 Dalawa, Isa" (1974) and the period drama "Mga Bilanggong Birhen" (1977), for  
16 which he won his first Gawad Urian trophy<sup>1</sup>. From then on, he built a solid reputation

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<sup>1</sup> <https://manunuripelikula.com/2016-natatanging-gawad-urian/>

1 and became the most sought-after lensman for his expertise in lighting, framing and  
2 compositions;

3 WHEREAS, he collaborated with esteemed directors including National Artists  
4 for Film Lino Brocka and Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Celso Ad Castillo, Carlitos Siguion-  
5 Reyna, Laurice Guillen, and Olivia M. Lamasan, and produced some of the most  
6 memorable and epic scenes in Philippine cinema;

7 WHEREAS, he was behind the commercial success and critical acclaim of  
8 dozens of movies such as "Atsay" (1978), "Pagputi ng Uwak, Pag-itim ng Tagak"  
9 (1978), "Salome" (1981), "P.S. I Love You" (1981), "Haplos" (1982), "Kapag Langit  
10 ang Humatol" (1990), "Sana Maulit Muli" (1995), "Hihintayin Kita sa Langit" (1991),  
11 "Ikaw Pa Lang ang Minahal" (1992), "Saan Ka Man Naroroon" (1993), "Bakit May  
12 Kahapon Pa?" (1996), among others;

13 WHEREAS, throughout his stellar career, Vitug received numerous accolades  
14 and distinctions which catapulted him into becoming one of the most celebrated in  
15 his field. He was honored with Cinemania International Filmfest lifetime  
16 achievement award in 2000, Natatanging Gawad Urian in 2016, and Metro Manila  
17 Film Festival (MMFF) Hall of Fame award in 2019;

18 WHEREAS, aside from his impressive filmography, Vitug lent his stature to  
19 support advocacies which greatly contributed to the development of the local film  
20 industry such as the film restoration project "Sagip Pelikula," and the anti-piracy  
21 information campaign of the Optical Media Board (OMB);

22 WHEREAS, Vitug's exceptional creativity and technical proficiency honed  
23 through many years of hard work, innovation and discipline were indispensable  
24 moviemaking skills in effectively telling the stories of the Filipino people;

25 WHEREAS, Vitug's unparalleled artistry and eye for detail, uncompromising  
26 commitment to excellence, and mastery of the craft make him one of the leading  
27 figures in Philippine cinema who immensely contributed to its enrichment and  
28 advancement;

29 WHEREAS, the passing of a legendary lensman and celebrated  
30 cinematographer whose career spans more than four decades is a great loss to the  
31 film industry and the Filipino nation;

1           NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate,  
2 to express profound sympathy and sincerest condolences of the Senate of the  
3 Philippines on the passing of master cinematographer Romeo "Romy" Vitug and to  
4 honor his invaluable contribution to Philippine cinema;

5           RESOLVED FURTHER, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the  
6 bereaved family of the late Romeo "Romy" Vitug.

*Adopted,*

  
**JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**