SENATE

S. NO. 2776

Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO STEPHEN DECATUR HAINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 1942, Fr. Stephen Decatur Haines was born in Philadelphia, USA. He later on earned his Master of Arts from the University of Freiburg, Germany in 1963 taking up Politics, Philosophy, and English Literature. In 1968, he obtained his Master of Theology degree from the University of Cambridge in England. He was later on ordained to the Anglican priesthood in 1971, serving a full-time priest for 7 years thereafter.

After receiving a permit to work in the secular world of banking, Fr. Haines worked for various financial institutions while still serving as a priest. He has worked for Chase Manhattan Bank, specializing in mergers, acquisitions, and securitizations in the insurance industry. He also served as a councilman in the City of London Corporation for 17 years, being able to Chair the Establishment Committee with 4000 personnel as well as the City London School for boys owned by the Council.
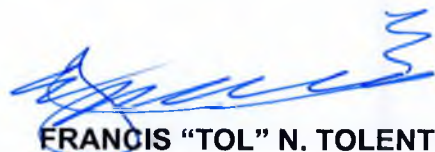
Fr. Haines' father was a US Lieutenant in the US Army and was part of the US contingent that liberated the Philippines during the Second World War. It was through his father's fond memories that influenced his good impression of the country. He had regularly been in the Philippines since 2007, and has integrated into his community in Barangay Namnama, Koronadal City.

In 2010, Fr. Haines joined the Roman Catholic Church and was ordained in 2013 by the Archdiocese of Southwark, London. For 10 years, he has served as a priest at St. George's Cathedral. It was then that he started to engage in occasional ministerial visits and later on worked under the Catholic Diocese of Marbel in South Cotabato. He has mentored the seminarians and is a benefactor to one of them. He held mass at the Christ the King Cathedral in Koronadal City and has helped the people in need in his community – by extending medical assistance and in construction of houses.

After having signified his intention to permanently live and work here in the Philippines, in the service of the church and the community, he was given full permission by the Archbishop of Southwark to embrace the Christian life.

The ministerial work of Fr. Haines in his community is a testament not only of his faith but also of his dedication to serve the Filipinos and the country.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of the bill is earnestly sought.

FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

SENATE

S. NO. 2776

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Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO STEPHEN DECATUR HAINES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress Assembled:

1   **SECTION 1. Grant of Philippine Citizenship to Stephen Decatur Haines. -**
2 Stephen Decatur Haines is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights,
3 privileges and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations appurtenant thereto
4 under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

5   **SEC. 2. Oath of Allegiance. -** Stephen Decatur Haines shall take the Oath of
6 Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines before an officer duly authorized for this
7 purpose. The Oath of Allegiance shall be registered with the Bureau of Immigration.

8   **SEC. 3. Certificate of Naturalization and Enjoyment of Philippine Citizenship.**
9 - Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration shall forthwith
10 issue a Certificate of Naturalization to Stephen Decatur Haines, who shall thereupon enter
11 into the full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

12   **SEC. 4. Effectivity. -** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
13 in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

      Approved,