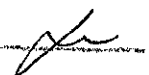


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE
P.S. RES. No. **598**

Introduced by Senator **ALFREDO S. LIM**

RESOLUTION

CONVEYING AN ACCOLADE OF RECOGNITION TO FORMER PRESIDENT CORAZON AQUINO, Ms. EUGENIA APOSTOL and LETTY JIMENEZ - MAGSANOC FOR BEING ROLE MODELS OF FEMININE COURAGE, UNYIELDING PRINCIPLES AND MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN TRIUMPHING OVER THE REGIME OF DEMOCRATIC CRISIS, FOR WHICH THEY WERE ACCLAIMED AMONG THE PANTHEON OF HEROES IN ASIA.

WHEREAS, in 1983, the slain Sen. **BENIGNO AQUINO** was survived by his widow, **CORAZON COJUANGCO AQUINO**, who grew up in a privileged family but she refused to be a part of her husband's politics, until she relented because of the gathered **ONE MILLION** signatures of people who urged her to be the opponent of the then dictator, President Ferdinand E. Marcos, in the snap election of February 1986, under the banner of the **LABAN** Coalition;

WHEREAS, amidst protest of widespread election fraud, **CORAZON AQUINO** was officially declared the loser, contrary to the popular consensus, thus, she established a rival government at Manila Hotel and became the First Filipino Woman President of the Philippines on February 25, 1986, consequently marked by the flight from the country of the deposed President **FERDINAND MARCOS**, as the bloodless **PEOPLE POWER** in **EDSA** reigned;

WHEREAS, the fitting award as **WOMAN OF THE YEAR** was bestowed to President **CORAZON AQUINO** in 1986 by the **TIME** Magazine and she was the **FIRST** to be nominated for the **NOBEL PEACE PRIZE** after leading the peaceful **EDSA**-revolt, aside from being the recipient of the 1986 **ELEANOR ROOSEVELT** Human Rights Award and other prestigious global awards;

WHEREAS, despite the euphoria following the overthrow of the Marcos government, President CORY AQUINO faced the massive challenges of restoring the nation when she established a revolutionary government under the Freedom Constitution, which legally framed the structure of the government as drafted by a Constitutional Commission and ratified by the people on February 7, 1987, followed by Congressional and local elections setting up a government based on popular and democratic mandate;

WHEREAS, President CORAZON AQUINO found difficulty in ruling over a fractious nation ruined by 20 years of corruption and abuse, yet, she could not refuse the country's call to steer its ship of state in a tribute to her late husband's infallible behest: "**the country before his own needs**", thus, she accepted the responsibilities of leadership without hankering after the privileges, as she remained in deep simplicity strengthened by her usual prayers, while the country underwent a rocky transition to democracy;

WHEREAS, although she was qualified to run for a second term of presidency, she left the helm of the government on June 30, 1992 but her self-imposition to become an ordinary citizen in her retirement was short-lived, as she directed projects aimed at furthering the spread of democracy in Asia for which she received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding in 1998 and other similar citations;

WHEREAS, Pres. CORAZON AQUINO deserved to be acclaimed as a HEROINE of ASIA, in the November 2006-issue of TIME Magazine, however, her greatness is more of universal magnitude as she aimed not to just rekindle the country's moral fabric but she incessantly protect the rights of the masses who always remember her for uniting the Filipinos in their fight for freedom and transforming the military dictatorship into a liberal democracy, which was an exercise without precedent by this compassionate but compulsive woman-leader of moral and spiritual rather than political or military authority;

WHEREAS, today, President CORAZON AQUINO remains a political and moral force who has not surrendered her boundless courage in advocating respect to the sanctity of the constitution as she publicly condemned the present administration for rigging the 2004-electoral process by joining street protest with voiced wish that the democracy she resuscitated with Filipino identity and great pride be not ruined;

WHEREAS, then President CORAZON AQUINO was dauntless in censuring the orchestration in mangling the constitution, slyly, indiscriminately and with temerity. by those inebriated with political intrigues, self interest and selfish motives, proving that only

leaders like her, of such valor, honesty, integrity and dignity, can again set the Philippines down the path towards a graft-free, politically mature, self-sufficient and progressive nation;

WHEREAS, on the other hand, a couple of lady-journalists, EUGENIA APOSTOL and LETTY JIMENEZ MAGSANOC, were similarly proclaimed as HEROINES in ASIA in the same Special Edition of TIME Magazine, in recognition of their unwavering and fearless war against autocracy, through their print media, thus, they were said to have **“set the template for courageous journalism for a nation which is still very much in need of it”**.

WHEREAS, their fight against the tyrannical rule, consequent to their despised assassination of Sen. BENIGNO AQUINO, was commenced by EUGENIA APOSTOL who was then publishing her Mr. & Mrs. Magazine from which she printed an anti-government tabloid-version of her said magazine and called it Mr. & Mrs. Special Edition, with LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC as its editor;

WHEREAS, the female-duo were obsessed to break local media's complicit silence on the despotic military rule, thus, they exposed their journalistic revolt with their publication of its 16-paged photographs depicting the slumped shot body of BENIGNO AQUINO at the tarmac of the NAIAI as well as the massive funeral parade of mourners on the streets, which inevitably incited the wrath of the people for such brutal tragedy that undoubtedly helped in the overthrow of the discredited martial law -regime in 1986;

WHEREAS, at the time when any criticism against the government is a radical act, LETTY JIMENEZ MAGSANOC was undaunted and defiant, as in fact, on the third inauguration of President FERDINAND MARCOS, she unfalteringly prophesied that **“he shall reign forever and ever”**, which was a feigned affront that exasperated the dictator and she was fired;

WHEREAS, these women-partners blatantly refused to be shackled with their pens and muzzled in their opinions, views and criticisms against the dictatorship which were always hard hitting as they remained in the forefront of journalism for the restoration of democratic processes until they succeeded along with the others, three (3) years later;


WHEREAS, in late 1985 they phased out Mr. & Mrs. Special Edition and launched the Philippine Daily Inquirer which is the country's largest newspaper - never flinching in the coverage of the ills in the government, thus, it became a focal point for tough-minded criticism of local and national government, a critique from which no one in the government was spared until eventually the flight from the country of the detested dictator was made compelling;

WHEREAS, this country is once again the testing ground of political upheaval, economic crisis and fragmented peace and order, as in fact, it was unfortunately tagged as the most dangerous country for reporters after at least 13 were killed in a span of 2 years with libel suits maligning some media people, yet, because of the inspiring example of the now 81 year old EUGENIA APOSTOL and LETICIA JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC, in her mid-60s, the young journalists who inherited their fortitude, cling courageous in the media, repulsing subservience to any pressure and intimidation;

WHEREAS, it is beyond cavil, therefore, that these **THREE (3) OUTSTANDING** women of the Philippines, former President **CORAZON C. AQUINO**, **EUGENIA APOSTOL** and **LETICIA JIMENEZ MAGSANOC** are peers of fidelity, whose intrepidity, loyalty and perseverance were the cardinal virtues in their crusade for democratic processes, at whatever costs, for which they distinctly surfaced as **HEROINES** in **ASIA**, bringing honors, prestige and dignity to this country, thus, it is imperative that they be extolled. Now, therefore, be it -

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, To convey as it hereby conveys, unto then President **CORAZON AQUINO**, **Ms. EUGENIA APOSTOL** and **LETTY JIMENEZ - MAGSANOC**, this accolade of recognition for their priceless, indispensable and heroic contribution, not only in restoring **DEMOCRACY**, but in incessantly proving their dauntless and contagious devotion to its processes and values which inspire our people in this state of political crisis, thus, the compelling optimism that their bequest of valor, dedication and integrity will be handed down for the succeeding generations to emulate and perpetuate.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That copies of this **RESOLUTION** be furnished to then President **CORAZON AQUINO**, **Ms. EUGENIA APOSTOL** and **LETTY JIMENEZ - MAGSANOC**.


ALFREDO S. LIM
Senator