

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

8 JUL 22 P5 50

SENATE
S. No. 2460

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under Article IV, Section of the Constitution, Congress is empowered to pass laws granting Philippine citizenship to foreigners who have rendered outstanding service to the country and to the Filipino people.

This bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Edward A. Artis, with all the rights, privileges, duties and obligations appurtenant to such grant under the Constitution.

Edward A. Artis is a founding member of Knightsbridge International, a California-based humanitarian relief organization providing millions of dollars worth of food, medicine and shelter to the needy, including in the world's most dangerous locations. In the disaster that flash floods wrought in Guinsaugon, Leyte where whole barangays were buried in an enormous landslide, Edward A. Artis led Knightsbridge International, in partnership with non-governmental organizations, in distributing food, clothing, medical supplies, drug wells and water catchments for survivors. For his selfless dedication and concern for the unfortunate victims of Guinsaugon, Leyte, *no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo cited him for "his solidarity with the Filipino nation, especially the people of Guinsaugon, in time of great grief," and for "his generous heart and selfless spirit — offered when we needed it most."*

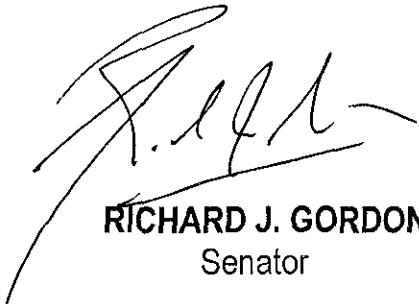
Aside from humanitarian services rendered to Guinsaugon victims, Edward A. Artis through his Knightsbridge organization has been involved in various civic action projects in various parts of the country for the last four years beginning April 2002, namely:

1. Participation in Balikatan 2002 resulting in the provision of \$2.28 Million worth of medicines and medical equipment donated in support of Medical Civic Action Programs mounted in Zamboanga, Basilan and physical delivery of medicines and equipment to Sulu;
2. Provision of more than a quarter million dollars worth of medicines personally delivered by President Macapagal-Arroyo to refugees in Tawi-Tawi from Zamboanga;

3. Active participation with valuable assistance in the rebuilding of the Department of Social Welfare and Development Orphanage in Talon-Talon, Zamboanga in partnership with other Philippine and U.S. NGOs;
4. Personal delivery and distribution of medical supplies and equipment personally solicited by him from various organizations and agencies in the United States of America for the years 2003 and 2004, such as hospital beds, heart monitors, X-ray machines, dialysis machines, suction pumps, incubators, all of which benefited various beneficiaries in Zamboanga City, Pagadian, Basilan, Jolo, Cotabato, Pikit, Davao, Digos, Cebu, Lanao del Norte, Iligan, Cagayan de Oro, Tawi-Tawi, Palawan, Olongapo, Subic and Angeles City;
5. Personal solicitation of free medical treatment in the United States for a significant number of Filipino children, including helping in the obtainment of surgical intervention for the separation of the conjoined Aguirre twins, among others, jointly with Philippine and U.S. NGOs; and
6. Provision of free medical equipment and supplies worth PhP 4 Million to the Philippine National Police General Hospital at Camp Crame.

True to his credo that life is most meaningful when lived in service to others, Edward A. Artis has made a commitment to continue providing coordination and logistical support to humanitarian and human improvement programs in the Philippines as long as the need arises.

In recognition of the invaluable service rendered to the Filipino nation, this bill proposes that Edward A. Artis be granted by Congress the honor of Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges, duties and obligations appurtenant thereto and with the same effects and subject to the same conditions as provided under the Constitution. For the foregoing considerations, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

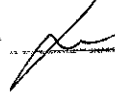


RICHARD J. GORDON
Senator

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AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO EDWARD A. ARTIS

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Edward A. Artis is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the
2 rights, privileges, duties and obligations appurtenant thereto and with the same effects and
3 subject to the same conditions as provided under the Constitution.

4 **Sec. 2.** This Act shall take effect upon approval.

5 Approved,