


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

'11 OCT -4 P3:15

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S.B. No. 2983

Introduced by: Senator Sergio Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Jessie Josephine Coe Lichauco, with all the rights, privileges, duties and obligations appurtenant to such grant under the Constitution.

Jessie Josephine C. Lichauco is an American who was born in Cuba but raised in Florida by her relatives after she was orphaned as a young girl. While working in Washington, she met Marcial P. Lichauco, then a young Filipino lawyer working with OSROX Philippine Independence Mission. In 1933, Marcial invited her to come to the Philippines. They were married that same year. She has lived in the Philippines since then.

Mrs. Lichauco joined the Asociacion de Damas de Filipinas and devoted her work to the Settlement House. During World War II, she cared for and provided shelter for those in need and supported efforts to reach prisoners of war. When Manila was bombarded during the liberation, she and her husband opened their Santa Ana home to fleeing citizens and provided a make-shift hospital to take care of at least 2,000 people.

After the war, she devoted her work to the Settlement House, of which she was the President for nine (9) years. She was one of the founding members of the Red Feather Agency (later known as the Community Chest), an organization that raises funds distributed to member charitable agencies. In her own capacity, she also helped over 100 young people complete their education.

Between 1963 to 1966 when her husband was appointed by President Diosdado Macapagal as Philippine ambassador to the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, she served as the Ambassador's hostess. She was the representative of the Philippines in international organizations, social events and activities involving the diplomatic corps. She and her husband opened their home at Palace Green to Filipino students, businessmen, travelers and workers. Their hospitality and assistance are

confirmed by the accounts of Filipinos whom they helped and welcomed to their home.

After her husband's death in 1971, she spent some years in the United States but still continued to help Filipinos by opening her home in Massachusetts to Filipino students needing a place to stay. Her century-old home by the Pasig River in Santa Ana remains full of historical memorabilia making it a repository of Filipino history and a haven for travellers, friends and local residents.

She considers Philippines as her home having spent seventy-five (75) years of her life here. She fluently speaks the Filipino language and embraces the Filipino culture as her own. She is now ninety nine (99) years old and seeks to be granted Filipino citizenship under Article IV, Section 1 of the Philippine Constitution.

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



SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

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**AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO JESSIE JOSEPHINE C.
LICHAUCO**

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

1 SECTION 1. Jessie Josephine Coe Lichauco is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with
2 all the rights, privileges, duties and obligations appurtenant thereto and with the same effects
3 and subject to the same conditions as provided under the Constitution.

4

5 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon approval.

6 Approved,