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SENATE

P. S. RESOLUTION NO. 1489

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

RESOLUTION
CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MR. EFREN
PEÑAFLORIDA FOR HIS SELECTION AS CNN'S 2009 HERO OF THE YEAR
IN THE THIRD ANNUAL CNN HEROES: AN ALL-STAR TRIBUTE AT THE
KODAK CENTER IN HOLLYWOOD, USA, IN RECOGNITION FOR HIS
EFFORTS IN BRINGING EDUCATION TO POOR CHILDREN IN
COMMUNITIES AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO GANG MEMBERSHIP
THROUGH HIS 'KARITON KLASRUM' PROJECT

WHEREAS, Efren Peñaflorida, Filipino teacher, volunteer and founder of Dynamic Teen Company, established the *Kariton Klasrum* (pushcart classroom), a project that brings basic education and learning to street and out-of-school children in poor and depressed communities; while conducting classes outside recognized educational institutions, using a pushcart;

WHEREAS, Efren Peñaflorida, whose humble beginnings, propelled him to form Dynamic Teen Company, with a mission to uplift the lives of the unschooled and out-of school children of indigent families by teaching them basic reading and writing, and preparing them to enter a formal educational system, giving them hope to have better and improved lives through education;

WHEREAS, the CNN 2009 Hero of the Year Award is a tribute given by CNN, an international news organization, to selfless humanitarian acts of individuals from different countries, and Efren Peñaflorida was selected the 2009 Hero of the Year making him the first Filipino to become a nominee of the annual CNN Heroes awards and the first Filipino to win the top prize;

WHEREAS, *Kariton Klasrum* has brought learning opportunities to street and out of school children, the project has made significant social impact in poor communities all over the country by keeping the unschooled away from drugs, crimes, and gang membership, which are the pressing issues in the depressed communities;

WHEREAS, the Dynamic Teen Company, was the one of the winners of the 2008 Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations organized by the Office of Senator Francis Pangilinan, National Youth Commission, under the auspices of the TAYO Awards Foundation, with the support of Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Team Energy Foundation, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, in recognition of

the innovativeness, ingenuity and relevance of the *Kariton Klasrum* project and the group's outstanding efforts in promoting the well-being of the Filipino youth;

WHEREAS, Efren Peñaflorida, who represents the true and sincere character of a modern-day hero, does not seek financial remuneration, prestige and fame for his efforts, despite being conferred international honor and recognition by CNN, a reputable international news organization. At age 28, he has chosen to sacrifice his personal interests to pursue his mission to help the underprivileged children and vowed to continue serving others and putting the interest of the needy above his own;

WHEREAS, the efforts of Efren Peñaflorida and his *Kariton Klasrum* project have served as an inspiration to many hence have been duplicated in other parts of the country and worldwide. Peñaflorida, CNN 2009 Hero of the Year top winner, continues to gain attention for his accomplishments, and inspires admiration and respect from the national and international communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to congratulate and commend Efren Peñaflorida for his selection as CNN 2009 Hero of the Year in the third annual CNN Heroes Award in recognition for his efforts in bringing education to out of school children in poor communities as an alternative to gang membership through his *Kariton Klasrum* project, and for raising the level of consciousness of the international community to the true essence of Filipino volunteerism at work.

ADOPTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lito Lita", is positioned on the right side of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.