

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

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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 1495

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
COMMENDING MR. EFREN PEÑAFLORIDA
FOR BEING NAMED THE 2009 CABLE NEWS NETWORK (CNN) HERO OF THE
YEAR

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 23 provides, "The State shall encourage non-governmental, community-based, or sectoral organizations that promote the welfare of the nation";

WHEREAS, various media reported that a Filipino street educator, Mr. Efren Peñaflorida, who hails from the province of Cavite, has been named the 2009 CNN Hero of the Year for starting a "pushcart classroom" in the Philippines to bring education to poor children as an alternative to gang membership;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Peñaflorida created a program that brings books to children in slums and on the streets, and the 10,000 members of his Dynamic Teen Co. have brought reading, writing and hygiene to 1,500 youngsters;

WHEREAS, the CNN Heroes Campaign salutes everyday people whose extraordinary accomplishments have made and continue to make a difference in their community and beyond;

WHEREAS, Peñaflorida was selected after seven weeks of online voting at CNN.com where more than 2.75 million votes were cast;

WHEREAS, the Top Ten CNN Heroes were chosen by a blue-ribbon panel from an initial pool of more than 9,000 viewer nominations;

WHEREAS, it was reported Peñaflorida will receive \$100,000 and will pledge the prize money to the children that his group, the Dynamic Teen Company, is helping;

WHEREAS, in his acceptance speech, Peñaflorida was quoted as saying "Serve, serve well, serve others above yourself and be happy to serve. As I always tell my co-volunteers... you are the change that you dream as I am the change that I dream and collectively we are the change that this world needs to be";

WHEREAS, Efren Penaflorida is a sterling example of an ordinary Filipino, who rose above his humble background to pursue noble goals in helping others reach their aspirations;

WHEREAS, Efren Peñaflorida showed the country and the rest of the world that truly "if everyone will light one little candle, what a bright world this would be";

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to commend Mr. Efren Peñaflorida for being named the 2009 CNN Hero of the Year.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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