



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'13 JUL -8 A11 :47

SENATE
S. No. 575

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 17 states:

The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

After joining 19 Summer Olympic Games, the Philippines has won two silver medals and seven bronze medals.¹ The nation is still waiting for its first gold medal. The performance in the Olympic Games is considered as the best measure of the athletic skill of a nation. Bud Greenspan used a quote from Barrie Houlihan that helps explain nationalism in the Olympics in his study called Olympic Orchestration: "nationalism is deeply embedded in the fabric of Olympic movement... it is the defining narrative of the Games themselves: the opening parade of athletes in national groups... wearing the colors on their kit... and the playing of the national anthems and the raising of national flags at medal ceremonies."²

The state of Philippine sports was not always this bad. The Philippines placed second in the 1954 and 1958 Asian Games. In the 2010 Asian Games, however, the country only managed to come in at 19th place, one spot worse than its 18th place showing in 2006.

There is still a lot of room for improvement in the 2012 Olympic Games in London. The Philippines is a country with a population of 97 million (12th most populous in the world) but has been consistent in sending a very small delegation. The country sent 14 athletes in Athens in 2004 and 15 in Beijing in 2008. The 1928 contingent in Amsterdam consisted of four athletes.

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All-time_Olympic_Games_medal_table, <http://www.olympic.org>

² Quinnipiac University Sports Studies, Fall 2009, <http://qusps.blogspot.com/2009/11/nationalism-in-sport-good-or-bad-thing.html>

This bill seeks to grant an Olympic Gold Medal of Valor to a Filipino athlete who wins a gold medal for the Philippines. It is a small token but it is a symbol of the appreciation of the country for the honor and prestige that will go with the achievement.³

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
MD

³ This bill was originally filed during the Fifteenth Congress, Third Regular Session.

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Senate
Office of the Secretary

13 JUL -8 AM 11:47

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1 AN ACT
2 GRANTING AN OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL OF VALOR
3 TO FILIPINO OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALISTS

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Olympic Gold Medal of
5 Valor Act."

6 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policies and Objectives.* – Pursuant to the Constitution,
7 Article 2, Section 17, the State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts,
8 culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote
9 total human liberation and development.

10 In addition to this, the Constitution, Article 10, Section 19, paragraph 1 provides that the
11 State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions and
12 amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline,
13 teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.

14 Towards this end, it is the objective of the Legislature to grant incentives to Olympic gold
15 medallists in view of the honor and prestige that their achievement brings to our country.

16 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as
17 follows:

1 (a) "Athlete" shall mean any resident citizen of the Philippines who is a member of the
2 national team as chosen by the appropriate national sports association recognized by the
3 Philippine Sports Commission; and

4 (b) "Commission" shall refer to the Philippine Sports Commission.

5 SECTION 4. *Olympic Gold Medal of Valor.* – An athlete who wins a gold medal at the
6 Olympic Games shall be awarded an Olympic Gold Medal of Valor by the Philippine Sports
7 Commission. He shall also be given a cash incentive of TWO MILLION PESOS
8 (P2,000,000.00), and this is in addition to the benefits provided by Republic Act No. 9064 or the
9 Sports Incentives and Benefits Act of 2001.

10 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision of this Act be found
11 unconstitutional by a court of law, such provision shall be severed from the remainder of this
12 Act, and such action shall not affect the enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Act.

13 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders and
14 rules and regulations or part thereof, contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act,
15 are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

16 SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
17 complete publication in any two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted,