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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 516

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Vicente C. Sotto III

RESOLUTION NAMING THREE NEW SENATE COMMITTEE ROOMS IN HONOR OF THE FOLLOWING PAST SENATE PRESIDENTS, NAMELY: SENATOR NEPTALI ALVARO GONZALES, SENATOR MARCELO BRIONES FERNAN, AND SENATOR BLAS FAJARDO OPLE

WHEREAS, to address the need of the Senate for additional committee rooms to accommodate numerous request from the various standing committees for a venue for public consultations, hearings and or meetings, three additional meeting rooms were constructed in the Senate, presently identified as Committee Rooms 1, 2, and 3;

WHEREAS, by tradition, the committee rooms of the Senate were named in honor of illustrious Senators of the past who served the institution and country with distinction and utmost dedication;

WHEREAS, three past Presidents of the Senate, Neptali Alvaro Gonzales, Marcelo Briones Fernan and Blas Fajardo Ople deserve such an honor for their invaluable leadership to the Senate and service to the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, Neptali Alvaro Gonzales or Neptali Gonzales, Sr., many times chosen as an "Outstanding Senator", was thrice elected to serve as President of the Senate. He was Senate President first, from January 1, 1991 to January 18, 1993, then, from August 29, 1995 to October 10, 1996 and was again elected for the third time on January 26, 1998 to June 30, 1998. He also served as the Minority Leader of the Senate's Progressive Coalition from October 10, 1996 to January 26, 1998;

WHEREAS, as a noted legislator, among the laws Senator Gonzales principally authored/sponsored include Republic Act (R.A.) No. 6735, a law providing for a system of initiative and referendum; R.A. 6826, a law authorizing the President of the Philippines to exercise powers necessary and proper during a national emergency; R.A. 6981, a law providing for a "Witness Protection, Security and Benefits Program;" R.A. 7309, a law providing for a victim compensation program to indemnify victims of violent crimes through a Board of Claims; R.A. 7323, a law institutionalizing the "Special Program for Employment of Students" (SPES) during summer and Christmas vacations; R.A. 8191, a law prescribing measures for the prevention and control of diabetes mellitus and providing for the creation of a National Commission on Diabetes; R.A. 8249, a law expanding the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan; and R.A. 8291, the Revised GSIS Act of 1997. He also co-authored several laws which are of vital importance to the country's economic, social and political well-being;

WHEREAS, as noted statesman and government functionary, Senator Gonzales was a permanent delegate of the Congress of the Philippines to the century-old Inter-Parliamentary Union and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO). He was also a delegate to the International Labor Organization (ILO);

WHEREAS, Senator Marcelo "Celing" Briones Fernan served as President of the Senate from July 27, 1998 to June 28, 1999;

WHEREAS, Senator Fernan held the distinction of being the only Filipino to head both as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and as President of the Senate of the judicial and legislative branches of government;

WHEREAS, as lawmaker, Senator Fernan he authored highly significant laws, among these are: Republic Act 8246 or the Court of Appeals Regionalization Act, RA 8493 or the Speedy Trial Act of 1998, RA 8557 of the Philippine Judicial Academy, RA 8525 or the Adopt-a-School Act of 1997 and RA 8558 or the Underground Mine Workers Act. He also sponsored RA 8247 or the Alien Social Integration Act of 1995. RA 8282 or the Social Security Act of 1997, and RA 8369 or the Family courts Acts of 1997;

WHEREAS, Blas Fajardo Ople served as President of the Senate from July 26, 1999 to July 12, 2000;

WHEREAS, Senator Ople held the distinction of being the first and only Filipino to be elected as President of the International Labor Organization;

WHEREAS, as then Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he facilitated the country's interaction with the rest of the world by facilitating the approval of more than fifty (50) bilateral and international treaties or conventions, and he was dubbed as the "Architect of the Philippine foreign policy in the finest tradition of enlightened and pragmatic diplomacy, a champion of peace, human rights collective security and rule of law;"

WHEREAS, in recognition of the inestimable contribution of Senators Neptali A. Gonzales, Marcelo B. Fernan and Blas F. Ople to the Senate the country and the Filipino people, the members of this august chamber, find it fitting to name the three (3) newly constructed committee rooms in their honor. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, to name, as it hereby names the newly constructed Committee Room Numbers One (1), Two (2) and Three (3) in honor of the following past Presidents of the Senate, namely Senate Presidents Neptali A. Gonzales, Senator Marcelo B. Fernan, and Senator Blas F. Ople, respectively.

ADOPTED,


VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Senator